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Oral History Project

Interview of Nina Reddy

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Interviewer: Cindy Tsai

Contributors: Jada Thompson, Noah Saskowski, Malika Winkfield

Cindy: In your upbringing, how has that influenced your career path, your mission, and your aspirations, and what made you want to do grassroots organizing and activism full-time?

Nina: I definitely think that being someone who has lived in Georgia her entire life, like being born and raised in Georgia, has influenced a lot of my perspectives and the ways that I think. Especially growing up predominantly in white neighborhoods and going to school around... just being one of the few people of color within my environment, definitely influenced a lot of my perspectives that I have when it comes to organizing. And I think a big thing that I've thought about throughout college has been the personal is political and relating some of my perspectives and my identity as a woman of color to, you know, politics and that's definitely influenced some of the long term like activism that I hope to pursue. And I also think that just being someone in the South and being in Georgia, I think a lot of times, something that's been hard for me and a lot of other organizers in Georgia, is a lot of times we hear things a lot about like, "Oh, it's the South, of course that happened in the South." Or I think it fails to see how much work and effort and organizing has gone into the South that has gone into, you know, voter advocacy, voter outreach, voter mobilization in the South. These things that have been happening for so, so many years. I think Georgia especially has had a lot of attention in the past couple of months, but I think it's really important to address and acknowledge the amount of work that has gone into, you know, how much visibility we've gotten. And I think also, being in the specific political landscape and getting to see how some legislators react to a lot of things that have been happening in Georgia have also made it, I don't know, it's made being passionate about these issues very, very easy and also very, very clear, if that makes sense.

Cindy: Right, yeah, I definitely get that. I'm wondering, having grown up in Georgia, I don't know what generation you are, but did you grow up with a vast Asian community,

and specifically a South Asian community? Did you really have that sense of identity for yourself?

Nina: Yeah, I would definitely say I'm very in tune with the second generation Indian American immigrant side of me. I think it, of course, depends on the community that you grow up in. At least in the beginning, like the first couple of years, my education, I definitely did not have very many Asian people around me at all, especially no Indian people. I was the only one for a very long time and after a while that changed and it was a lot easier to connect with the people around me for sure, but I think that definitely influenced the way I think, just like feeling so different from the people around you. I think it's just a big part of identity creation and identity formation. That has definitely shaped my perspective on a lot of things, and has definitely taken a lot of time to unpack and reflect on as well.

Cindy: Yeah I can imagine. Just another question off of that, cause I grew up in a predominantly Asian community actually, so I don't know what it's like to grow up only around white folks. So I'm wondering if there was a moment that clicked for you where you decided, you know, I want to go into activism, I want to go specifically into Asian American activism, and kind of when that awakening happened. Can you explain a little bit more about that?

Nina: Definitely. To be honest, while I always definitely had thought and reflected on, you know, being an Asian woman of color does affect my life. I don't think I really thought too much about it or really analyzed what that meant until I took my first gender studies class in college. That was actually very eye-opening for me. I think that first step was just literally understanding, oh, intersectionality is a thing, you know. Sometimes it really does take, you know, a breakthrough class like that for me to really try and understand my experiences within an intersectional lens, that was a really big eye-opening moment for me. Actually, I think another thing was I took, I specifically took an Asian American feminism class with, actually Dr. Herles, who I think I got connected to you all through. I think that was very eye-opening for me because I think a lot of times, even within the gender studies space at the school that I went to, I did feel like I wasn't really looking at things, you know... I still felt like Asian Americans are somewhat invisibilized when it comes to like the dichotomy that we use in America more when we're analyzing gender and we're analyzing race. So that was also very eye opening and I was like wow, this is a class that I related to more than anything. I felt like my experiences were very, very like... yeah it was just such a relatable experience and that was when I was like this is this could be a really, really interesting space for me to go into and explore the nuances of Asian American advocacy like how politically engaged this community is. Also, breaking down the monolith that is, you know, Asian American

people in the country. So, a lot of different small awakenings but I think those two classes were very big eye-openers for me and pushed me to want to keep exploring this work.

Cindy: That's wonderful. I'm wondering what you majored in college then and then what led you to then working for the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum and what the work that you do primarily is about or if it changes from project to project. I'm wondering, what is the most rewarding work that you've done?

Nina: Yeah so the first part of the question, how do I find myself there? It was actually very random. I think COVID... I was all set, I was actually going to leave to go to India and do some teaching there for a year through this U.S. State Department program and it didn't work out because of COVID obviously. And I was honestly just looking for a way to engage in the 2020 election cycle because it was just like... this is something that I was very, very passionate about and if I was gonna stay in the country that I wanted to do something around the election cycle and I honestly saw this opening at NAPAWF and it was exactly what I was looking for and the type of voter work that they do is the type of integrated voter work that I believe in. You know, not just pushing communities to get out and vote for the purpose of voting, but really building power within those communities and seeing voting as one of the many tools that you can use to build power within your communities. That's what I really liked about NAPAWF. And I remember, even when I was thinking about working there, one of the questions I asked was, "Is this a part time position where after like November, you know, we're gone, and that's all you're really interested in?" and they were like, "No, this is something that we want to do that spans beyond elections. We want to keep building relationships with communities. We want to keep having conversations and understanding what are the needs, what are the things that people are thinking about, what do they want, what are the issues that they care about?" and I think that's the biggest thing that drew me into this organization, is the way that they go about their voter work.

Cindy: That brings us to our next question. Obviously there's been all eyes on Georgia this past year, and just wondering what kind of work you did in this past election especially with the Senate race. I just notice there's so many hands on deck there and what kind of role did this organization play?

Nina: Yeah we did a variety of different things. I think one of the biggest things that I really love to see is that-- primarily we did contact the majority of the AAPI Women Voters in Georgia-- but I think we really do try and build relationships specifically with the Clarkston, Dekalb area in Georgia. I don't know if that means that much to y'all since you're not from Georgia but specifically trying to engage people with lower voter

propensity. So like people that aren't necessarily as active or civically engaged, people that aren't really outreach too as often. I remember reading something like 70% of like AAPI women weren't engaged in the 2016 election. Largely they have one of the lowest voter turnout as a group so we're really trying to tap into that community and I think one of the biggest ways that we were able to do that but I really think is promising is that we have such good like in language outreach. I think that a lot of times it's just that the information is inaccessible. it's almost always in English and sometimes it's translated into Spanish but I've never really seen those informational pages translated into a bunch of South Asian languages or a bunch of a bunch of East Asian languages or Southeast Asian languages. A big thing that we do is a lot of in person canvassing and phone banking and text banking then also having all of those things translated when we're explaining things. We also do in language postcards, sending rides to the polls, all of your normal Geo TV things but then with the hope of base building on top of that. I think when we have a conversation about are you voting? Do you have access information? it's also like do you want to come to our meeting? and keep working on our issues about health care, about voter suppression, about all these different things that we're continuing to work on.

Cindy: Yeah, I think I saw somewhere that people considered the Asian American population in America as an insignificant percentage when it comes to voting and I feel like that was kind of proven wrong with this last election in Georgia because Asians showed up am I wrong about that or?

Nina: No I mean I think that's extremely true. I mean it's also, for me, on a more cynical note, a little bit sad to see that we are being targeted because of the political leverage that we have at times. But yeah I think that like it was a big statement that we showed up in the largest turnout, the largest numbers that we've ever had before, and really really did influence the results of this election. I think the biggest thing though is keeping the momentum there and making sure that just because a new administration is in office we're not just losing the momentum or not holding these people accountable and we're actually getting the change that we are looking for in our communities. That's the big thing. So many people want to fund voter work but that's not the only kinds of work that we need to see in our communities.

Cindy: Oh I completely agree. I'm someone who very much wants to focus on my community and social work version versus the political aspects of everything. I completely agree that no matter what party is in office they have to be held accountable. So I guess that brings me to: what kind of work does NAPAWF do that isn't voter or political centralized and how it gives back to the community of AAPI women and girls.

Nina: yeah so we do it a lot of different pools of work. I will say everything we do we kind of operate under the reproductive justice framework. I think some things that I've been the most passionate about is that we run different campaigns every year. One of the big things that we're doing nationally I know is our HEEL ACT-- the HealthEquity for immigrant woman families that's something that we've been pushing. The way that we do things we assess the needs in the communities first. A lot of the people in our communities are like immigrant mothers, right now there's a five-year bar to accessing affordable health care or government healthcare like Medicare, Medicaid, chip so that's something that we're trying to do- to get rid of that five-year bar. It happens in a variety of ways for instance in Georgia we were targeting our senators and our representatives we've had meetings with like an awesome awareness office like last week about it. That's some of the policy sides of some of the things that we do. Our canvassing team, like I mentioned when we're talking to people on the ground, we ourselves are not a direct service organization our mission is more so like to build power with our communities like policy and structural change Alongside those communities. We do definitely connect people to any of the relevant resources as we're talking to them on the phone within the language that works best for them. We have a bunch of leadership development trainings throughout the year so we have voter suppression, voter defenders program that's tackling voter suppression within our communities and building up those leaders that are knowledgeable and are able to like spread that information. We also have our reproductive justice leadership Institute, just a variety of different programming things throughout the year.

Cindy: That's so cool! Oh my gosh, I just think that the AAPI population down there is really lucky to have you all. So we all did a bit of research and we saw that NAPAWF has an arm in New York City. We're just kind of wondering what kind of projects the organization is focused on nationally versus specific to Georgia or specific to New York.

Nina: Yeah, so I think there are definitely some things that are common across chapters for instance the HEEL act is something that we're all pursuing in different states. We're all trying to target the representatives of our states. Actually, I don't think they actually do too much voter work at all in New York. A lot of their things are more community-based organizing. I think they're building a reproductive justice leadership Institute there. I know that this weekend they just had a really really amazing and powerful rally, I think it was in Chinatown as a response to like the AAPI hate that happened in Georgia. They had that happening in so many different languages so we do a lot of similar things with the same mission but I think it also is tailored because we're such a member-led organization. The members in New York kind of drive that work and depending on the needs of the members or the needs of the community in New York that drives the New York work. So like yeah I don't think they actually do any

voter work in New York as opposed to Georgia where that's one of the bigger things that we do in Georgia.

Cindy: You bring up it's really all eyes on Georgia in these past few months. Obviously the tragedy of the eight victims in Georgia and how six of them were Asian women. It impacted our community greatly and I'm just wondering specifically how your org you know being in Georgia how you kind of held space for that and the ways in which that you mobilized and took action or even if it was just like a processing group healing however you all went about that.

Nina: Yeah that's definitely a great question. Some of the response has been definitely processing and also providing spaces for people to process multiple different spaces because of course people process things in different ways. Whether that's a visual or processing circle or small groups or small one on ones with people who were on our staff or work with us. There's that side of things and there's also the ways that we want to respond structurally so we're definitely in the process of building out campaigns that address the root causes of the violence. I think there are some messages being thrown out there and that's another big thing that we want to get our message out there that this isn't a one-off issue. This isn't something that just randomly happened at a spa in Georgia is not going to happen again. This isn't something that's just a race issue it's like very very specific a racialized gendered violence also intersects with class and I think that's something that has been a little bit missing from some of the things that I've been seeing. I think a lot of people have been seeing, we see and- yeah hashtagging is great like stop API hate let's that's very very fair but I also think sometimes it does lose the dimension of how intersectional this issue is, and how it goes into gender issues, race issues, and class issues about immigration status and sex work like all very relevant things that I think nap awfully wants to highlight just how much of, you know intersectional issue this is. That's also been something that we're trying to focus on and have been trying to build into you know building out a campaign that targets that root cause, We're also working on teachings right now that also address the needs of the community whether that's safety- we are hearing a lot of our base members saying that they are feeling nervous to go back into work because they work in the service industry and something like this happened. We're trying to think very thoughtfully and center the community's needs when it comes to addressing the structural cause of those things.

Cindy: I agree with so much of what you just said. I think this past tragedy is just been obviously hard for me to process as an Asian woman and seeing the one dimension that people see it as like stop AAPI hate when you're right, like these women were immigrants. They were working class, they're women and they may be bilingual or trilingual and there's so much more to them than just being Asian. There's so much

more to this discrimination than just hate right and I think that like people see it so one dimensionally 'cause it's just like stop aapi hate versus like no this is racism and sexism and fetishization and classism and capitalism all at play versus just like oh this is just you know phobia. This is just hate, I really really just commend you for doing that work because I think that is the next step for us. I think there's a lot of people who just see it as one thing right now and the people are pretty stagnant with the hashtag with just like seeing things as oh there's just violence going on versus what's the root cause of that violence and how does it appear in our daily lives. Now I'm going on a tangent but yeah I really really am passionate about that too and just making sure that we all see the nuances of and the intersectionalities of the event versus just like this was just an Asian hate crime. Thank you for speaking about that. I know it can be hard to right now so moving on and our next question is how can the justice system or other projects better aid in protecting AAPI women and girls and what policies could be implemented and what kinds of approaches should we all consider and like what has NAPAWF really been looking at?

Nina: Nationally we're calling on a response to add centers of course like the needs in the community and then flows like the people who need it the most especially like the Asian American women, elders who have been disproportionately affected by these issues. I know we're asking federally that there's money pouring into the ground and the communities that are the most impacted. And of course also calling it what it is and calling out white supremacy as the root of this issue. I think the biggest things also we're not calling on a response that centers around getting more police on the ground or like more law enforcement. A big response that we saw very soon after was that the Atlanta Mayor hired on 200 more police as a response to the attack and that's exactly the opposite of what organizations like ours are calling on. That doesn't really help people in our community feel safer. That's definitely not centering the needs of the community so I think that's the biggest thing is you know like finding culturally competent resources. Whether that's like mental health services, economic services, economic justice also is like a big problem sometimes that we're seeing. So those are the kinds of things that we're calling on and also the things that we're not calling on specifically.

Cindy: Yeah for sure. I think that's what's complex about the Asian American identity- is our place within white supremacy in the ways that were used as tools. Even in this last year how we've been used as tools to furthermore policing or pro-cop rhetoric in order to keep safety. It's really just once again, we're being used and violence against us is being used. So I once again commend you for really digging into that because I feel like it can be hard for some orgs to kind of combat against that especially political orgs. I don't know a single politician who has like said actually like, "defund the police" so it can be definitely really hard to breakthrough to that side, I understand. Going off of that we

know that the organization has brought a lot of awareness specifically to this community of AAPI women and girls. I know we spoke a little bit before on how people see Asian Americans as an insignificant political group, and what's your experience and why do you think that such issues don't matter for everyone else like that people kind of treat Asians as like this foreigner. I'm just like well your issues are not American issues. Like your issues are not only things that you should care about.

Nina: Yeah, I think one of the biggest reasons is, If I'm answering your question correctly... I think one of the biggest reasons is because of things like the "model minority" myth or like you know proximity to whiteness. Things like that have really made it seem like these aren't issues that impact the Asian American community. Like a lot of the issues that NAPAWF directly works on. Like access to healthcare or like access to reproductive rights and reproductive justice and one of the biggest reasons I think this is, is because of the lack of disaggregated data when it comes to the AAPI community. I know for instance we talk a lot about the gender pay gap. On the surface when you look at how many cents to the dollar like an AAPI woman makes, looks very different. Like when drawn together versus what is disaggregated. So I think also recognizing differences within like different groups in the Asian community is a big reason why sometimes those voices are invisibilized, not heard or not taken seriously. That's not something traditionally that the government prioritizes together. So, I think that's like a big thing that I think about a lot. Sorry, I think there's another part of your question that I don't know if I'm fully answering?

Cindy: Well, actually have a question off of that too because I know I've been thinking about this a lot recently like when people say "Asian", they're talking about like 48 different countries. Especially when they say AAPI. We have indigenous Pacific Islander cultures also being put under the same umbrella. It's kind of like making us all a monolith of one singular experience and I very much understand like that's just a grouping that we have to be under in America. But I'm wondering what kind of things you observed about like... I know that Asian Americans in general are usually invisibilized, but like you said there are specific groups within the Asian community like the South Asian community, like West Asians. Who are even more invisibilized on how that really plays out in the work that you do.

Nina: Yeah! that's a great question. That's actually something I really love about NAPAWF. Like the work that we do in Georgia, I really feel like that is something that I thought a lot about. Like the other workers in our Georgetown have thought a lot about is like when organizations say "Asian" what are they referring to. What they mean by that I think traditionally it has looked like a lot of East Asian or like that has been like the most visible probably. Especially like with other voter word groups. Like when I see a hotline

for you know, “call if you need information” in these languages, sometimes it's like 3 in Vietnamese, Chinese or you know. So I think that's something that we really try and prioritize. Also like making sure *especially* 'cause the communities that we work in there are a lot of like the South Asian Southeast Asian communities specifically that we are working with that really *do* operate at the intersection of like you know, the directly impacted base that we're working with. Like in Clarkston a lot of the communities that we work in are Bangladeshi communities, or Bengali communities. Or people from the Rohingya community, ronya community, Burmese. So it's definitely trying to go even further into that like you know “Asian-turn-visualized” but within this group of people who are the most invisible... like where the people who traditionally, we aren't paying attention to that. That's like a big thing. I think seeing our canvassing team and how many South Asian voices or languages were able to incorporate has been really cool for me 'cause that's something that I haven't traditionally seen before. So in addition to like like having Mandarin, and Cantonese, and Korean and Vietnamese we also do have you know like Bangla, and Arabic, and like Bulgu, and Canada, Themil and Hindi and Urdu. It's really nice to see the Pan Asian way, like the *very very* Pan Asian approach that NAPAWF takes to their AAPI organization.

Cindy: I love that. That's definitely a deal breaker for me as well. I mean, as someone who's East Asian, I feel like my experience has been centered when it comes to Asians, so that's something I'm trying to pay more attention to. Like is this really being inclusive? Are South Asians allowed to call themselves Asian without the South? and like you know little things like that that really make them feel like they're part of the community. Versus just a subcategory of the community. So, like I said, that's like becoming a deal breaker for me when it comes to words. It really has to be inclusive. Okay, where am I here? I've just been so like enveloped in all the things you're saying. The work that you do, in what ways can *us* like *we* support from New York? and then like how can others be encouraged to support as well?

Nina: Yeah, I mean I think that really depends on who you are of course. Like some people have been supporting us by like...obviously like we've got a lot of donations but I think what NAPAWF looks for more than that is like taking action with us. Something like signing a petition, you know like showing your support for like you know calling this what it is. Like white supremacy, like yeah standing on one of our petitions. Also like base building with us. Becoming a member, joining one of our working groups. We always like love when people are able to, you know, join into our community. And like we have a chapter in New York. We have a chapter in like, chapters across the country that's like a really big thing. I think like also if you follow us on social media there's like also like a lot of other asks that do support our community. For instance, like I know, like calling your legislators. And a big thing in Georgia that we love, like even if people aren't

able to join NAPAWF, you know like join a working group and actually like you know, campaign with us, they're still able to support by signing the Heal Petition and showing their support for the Heal Act. Or they're able to support by calling their legislators and like saying like "SB 202 really harms our communities"'. So things like that like. You know like holding your elected officials accountable, you know coming to our events if you want to share, sharing your story. Like all these different things are definitely ways that you can get involved and yeah work with us. Our issues.

Cindy: Cool! I'll definitely be looking into that. And then so like mentioning like your work in the community, we're just wondering how the Covid pandemic has really impacted that work and has it made it harder or easier to reach out to communities? And have you turned to different methods of like I don't know; more social media electronics to continue to outreach efforts and like how that really impacted the work that you all are doing?

Nina: Yeah, it's definitely made it different, I will say. Like a lot of our Geo TV efforts for instance. During the voters seasons have had turned completely like virtual all digital, organizing, we phone banked instead of like doing very much in person canvassing. Text banking was a big thing. That's also like how we were to build a lot of relationships was like virtually as opposed to like in person where a lot of like, you know in person years have been like you know, multiple door knocks to people so that's changed. But on the other hand it's also meant that we're able to outreach to a lot more people than we have in the past 'cause it's a lot easier to like dial number than it is to you know like knock on multiple doors and like drive between communities. That's a positive change we've seen and we've also been able to just engage people outside of like the two specific areas that we work in in person. So it's been really cool for me at least to like be able to expand beyond just these two like Atlanta communities. We also like have been getting members from all over Georgia so that's been really cool to see. The other big difficulty has been transitioning I think a lot of our leader development, like educational training programs online especially because we really really try and emphasize like outreaching, you know doing leadership development in our directly impacted base. So like you know our aunities or immigrant like mothers, like people who don't necessarily have access to childcare, people don't speak English, people who aren't college educated you know like Asian immigrants but like literally like second gen or third gen immigrants. But like you know, like the first generation people who like don't necessarily have citizenship yet. Those are the communities that we're trying to engage and a lot of times they don't have access to like Zoom. Even if they do have access to Wi-Fi and technology they don't like know how to use it in the same ways that's like you know like when you sent me a zoom link on email, like, it's like the assumption that I know how to use zoom and I can enter the passcode and, you know, come onto this meeting. But

that's, like, been the biggest thing is like – for trying to create a website group, it's like we have to create culturally competent videos that like, walkthrough how to access zoom, how to download WhatsApp, like in Burmese, in Arabic, in Bangla, and really have had to try and like figure out like, “how can we make the same stuff very accessible to a wide range of full with a wide range of Accessibility needs?” I know for like, our RJ (Reproductive Justice) live, for instance, like we notice a lot of our directly impacted members who wanted to take part in the program just could not because they didn't have Wi-Fi. So we had to like figure out like “how can we get a grant for getting tablets with Wi-Fi to each of the Burmese members?” like they're doing our RJ live in Clarkston, as an example. So, that's been just like a very large thing that we've been thinking about – that I think we found that we're going to stick with virtual organizing but just figuring out ways to make it as accessible as possible.

Cindy: I feel like obviously social activism this past year has looked a lot different and it seems kind of like all encompassing because we're always like in social media. Have you found that it has had an effect of like – do you feel like you're doing more, doing less? Do you feel like it's not as impactful because it is very much virtual and like on the web? Or are you feeling like you know you're getting more contact with more communities and you feel like you're feeling more connection?

Nina: I think it's a double edged sword definitely, where like, we are getting a lot more contact with a lot of community members, but it's also harder to make that deeper connection. But I think that like, one of the ways that we've been doing it has been like, we'll have that phone conversation – but we really try and transition it to a one-on-one, which is one of our primary ways of doing base building: is like, doing that initial one-on-one relational meeting, where we really try and uncover like this person's self-interest. What are those issue areas that they care about? Like, how were they like, how did they learn about NAPAWF? So we're trying to make it as similar to an in-person, you know, relationship building session as we can. And I think that's also just been growing to as like: we are, you know, returning, doing some in person work. It's just been getting better and better since then. But yeah, definitely, was like a thing in the beginning where we were really like, *it's struggling to figure out like, how can we also keep people motivated to do things completely virtually during this time?* Because like, you know, like in in the past, it's like: you get to like come and you get to like, at the same time, like yeah, you are doing work on NAPAWF issues, but you're also like being in community with other people. There's space for like, small talk, and like, you know, we'll get dinner afterwards or coffee – and this is just like: when you come into a zoom meeting, there's not as much space for like, small talk. We have tried to like, find out ways to build like spaces, even virtually, just for that community building side of things. But I think that's one of the big things that we're thinking about: is *how do we keep*

people continuously engaged amidst things like zoom fatigue, and like, you know, just like a general lack of motivation in this time period also to be honest?

Cindy: Yeah, for sure. I can definitely relate to like, the lack of inspiration. Well, yeah, we only have one more question, but basically... so it sounds like you only recently started with NAPAWF, like maybe within like the last couple years?

Nina: Yeah, actually the last year.

Cindy: Last year, yeah. So, and you've spent your whole life in Georgia. We were just wondering what you see for your future? You're obviously like, very young and like, you know, what kind of aspirations do you have as an activist? Do you plan on continuing to be a full-time activist? And if so, do you plan on continuing in Georgia or in other states or in other countries? Yeah, what are your plans?

Nina: Yeah, I'm at the place where I really don't know. I know that I definitely want to continue working on these issues, like issues that like, address larger systems of equity or inequity in some ways. But like, I'm not exactly sure how I want to continue to engage whether that's like, from an organizing perspective, which is what I'm doing now, or whether it's from more of like a legal perspective, which is something that I thought about a lot... whether it's more of like, a direct service perspective, or even more like heavily into like, in-the-weeds policy perspective. There's a lot of different ways that I know like, organizations or nonprofits or institutions interact with these issues, and I'm not necessarily sure what's the best fit for me just yet. But I'm very excited to like, play around with different things. And as far as staying in Georgia, I think working in Georgia for the past year – I think it would be really great to get out of Georgia for a little bit, but like, ultimately, this my goal is just to stay in the South and keep organizing in the South and keep building power within southern communities. I think working at NAPAWF for the past year: that's like the one thing that I've definitely like, learned about myself.

Cindy: That's so cool, you know, I hardly think about Asians in the South. I grew up in LA, but I actually was born in the South, in New Orleans. So I think about, and like, part of the reason my parents moved was because of the anti-Asian racism that they experienced. So like, yeah, that makes me really interested in also like, exploring Asian communities in the South and exactly who they are, what they need, and what they bring to our country and our culture. So, yeah, we are all very admirable of the work you've done and are continuing to do. And we can't wait to see what else you do – like you're just starting so... yeah!

Nina: Thank you so much for taking the time to all be here and like, you know, yeah, I really appreciate it as well.

Cindy: We appreciate you truly so much and we're all gonna look more into NAPAWF and see how we can support!