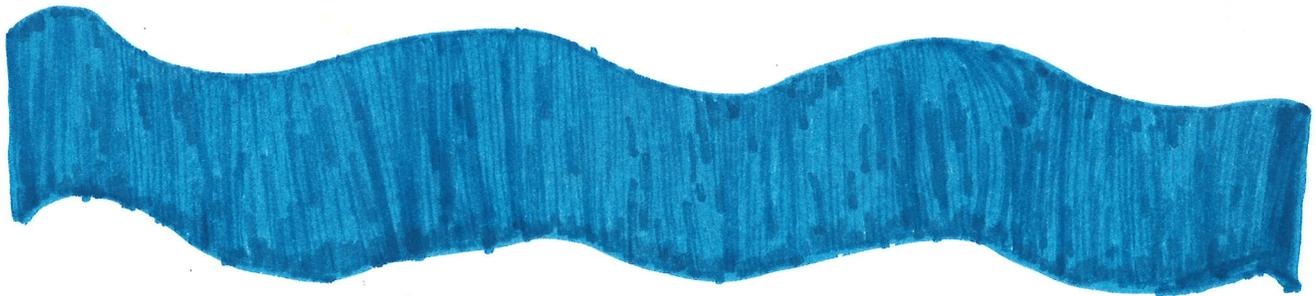


# My Generations

by Alex McDonald

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On Christmas day I went to my great Aunt's house in Hohokus, NJ where lots of relatives on my mother's side of my family came for the afternoon. There is were I talked to Uncle Bill. He is my mother's cousin but he is my grandparents' age so I going to count him as among my grandparents' generation. Bill's mother is Mae Savage, who is 95 and my oldest living relative.

## Uncle Bill

I was born in Newark, New Jersey. My mother was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and my father was born in Waterborne, Connecticut. My paternal grandfather was born in Mount Rathe, Ireland, and my maternal grandmother was born in Strasbourg, New York. Before that everyone was born in Ireland. There were 2 kids in my family.

I was taught to be polite to elders, to say "yes sir," "no sir," and to ask people if you can help them. My chores were to take out the garbage, take the ashes from the furnace, cut the lawn with an old fashioned lawn cutter, rake leaves, get the groceries, and keep my room clean. If I did not do all of those things I wouldn't get my allowance. My mother was the housekeeper, my dad worked, and I started to work at age 15.

On festive occasions, our family would get together and have dinner parties on the holidays like Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter. My favorite foods were meatloaf, potatoes, string beans, and butterscotch pudding. We also went to church.

For school I went to Sacred Heart grammar school, St. Benedict's prep school, and Villanova University. My favorite teachers were Sister Esther, Father Nickolai, and Father Dunne. The boys had to wear ties and girls had to wear uniforms. All my parents wanted me to do was go to college.

High school fads back then included rolled-up sock cuffs and letter sweaters. The cool hairdo around then was a crew cut.

I listened to Dixieland and modern mood music. Some of my favorite singers were Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby, and some of my favorite songs were "Red Sails in the Sunset," and "Little Brown Jug." The comics I used to read were "Magi and Jigs" and "Katzenjammer Kids."

In my spare time I played baseball during the spring and fall. In the winter I went ice skating and sledding. My sports heroes were Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Sid Luckerman, and Joe Dimaggio. When I was a kid, I wanted to be a baseball player but I did not grow up to be one.

Some of the childhood diseases I remember were the measles, mumps, and the whooping cough.

The cars I saw all the time were Essex's and Hudson Terrapin's. My dream car was a Cord. A gallon of gas cost \$0.20 when I started to drive.

The major political leaders I remember were Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and Governor Edison of New Jersey.

I remember the crash of the Hindenburg which happened not too far from my house in New Jersey. It was the largest blimp ever made only it was

filled with hydrogen. And we all know that hydrogen is highly explosive so when the Hindenburg hit some electrical lines it literally exploded.

I served in World War II. A major natural event I remember was the New Jersey hurricane in 1938.

My advice to the youth of this country is to stay away from any kind of foreign substance.

After I left Hohokus on Christmas day, we flew to Tucson, Arizona. There I interviewed several relatives on my Dad's side of the family at a family gathering celebrating my Grandmother's 75th birthday. My grandmother's great-great grandfather was a Native American who lived in Massachusetts. That makes me 1/128 Indian.

## **Grandma Betsy**

I was born in Alton, Iowa in 1920 and my mother, Blanche, was born in Redoak, Ohio. Her family name was Seefeldt and her grandfather had emigrated from Mecklenburg, Germany in 1857. My father's name was Smith Hunt and he served in the military in both World Wars I and II.

There were 6 children in our family; I was the second. We grew up in Torrance, California. We were taught to not talk back to our parents and always to eat together. In our family the males did the mechanical work and the females did the house work. My responsibilities around the house were to dust, to do the dishes, to supervise the younger kids, and to sew.

In school I took Latin, algebra, and journalism. My journalism teacher was my favorite because I liked that subject. I wanted to be a reporter when I grew up, but even though in college I took some classes in journalism I never became one. All my parents wanted me to do was graduate from college; I graduated from Berkeley shortly after Pearl Harbor was bombed.

I played after school whenever I had the chance. We listened to popular music. One of my favorite singers was Bing Crosby, and one of my



1948, BEGGS, OKLAHOMA. GREAT-GREAT GRANDMA NONA SAVAGE HUNT,  
GREAT-GRANDMA BLANCHE SEEFEDT HUNT, GRANDA BETSY, DAD, & AUNT RONNIE



1948, AMES, IOWA.  
GREAT GRANDPA SMITH HUNT,  
MY DAD, A FRIEND OF HIS, &  
AUNT RONNIE



1948, AMES, IOWA, TOM HUNT, MY  
GRANDMA BETSY'S YOUNGEST BROTHER,  
GRANDMA BETSY, MY DAD, & AUNT RONNIE



NOV. 1945 GRANDPA JAMES  
MCDONALD & GRANDMA BETSY,  
JUST AFTER MY DAD WAS BORN



FALL 1955, TUCSON, ARIZONA, GRANDPA & GRANDMA  
MCDONALD, MUNT NANCY, UNCLE LEE, AUNT JAM,  
DAD, AUNT RONNIE, AUNT GAIL



AUG. 1985. GRANDMA BETSY & ME





AUG. 1985. PRINCETON. GRANDMA BETSY, DAD, MOM  
ME & OWEN



AUG. 1986, PRINCETON. GRANDMA BETSY, ME &  
THE QUEEN.



1990, TUCSON. ME, DWEN & GRANDMA BETSY



DEC. 1995, TUCSON. GRANDMA BETSY & ME

favorite songs was "Buddy Can You Spare a Dime." The comics we used to read were "Katzenjammer Kids" and "Blondie."

In my day the thing to do was wear a barrel sweater, but during school we were supposed to wear uniforms: middies, and skirts. Hair styles back then were the Marseilles and the Bob.

Polio and lockjaw were two diseases that were still common when I was a child.

We celebrated special occasions such as Christmas and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July by having a large family gathering. My favorite foods were mashed potatoes, homemade noodles, and homemade donuts. We also hiked together.

When I started to drive a gallon of gas cost \$0.25. My dream car was a Studabaker. My sports heroine was Babe Dedrickson.

The political leader I remember was Franklin Roosevelt. The major national events I remember were World War II, in which I served in the Navy, and the Great Depression. The natural disaster I remember was the Long Beach earthquake of 1933.

My advice to kids is to think for yourself and to have confidence in yourself.

At our family gathering in Tucson between Christmas and New Year's Day I also interviewed two of my aunts and one of my cousins. Aunt Jan is my father's youngest sister. She is married and lives in Tucson with her husband Allen Tollin and 5-year-old son Ian where she is a graphics artist.

## Aunt Jan

I was born in Ames, Iowa in 1953. There were 6 kids in my family.

In our family the boys had to take out the garbage and the girls had to sew. My jobs were to wash the dishes and other household jobs. My parents taught me table manners. Some of my favorite foods were lemon meringue pie, cream of mushroom soup, and grilled cheese sandwiches. At dinner I had to finish my meal, but if I didn't like the meal I would secretly drop it in my milk or stuff it in my cheeks and later spit it out in the garbage.

When our parents fought we shouted "divorce, divorce."

When I was a kid I didn't know what I wanted to be. My parents wanted me to have babies when I grew up.

I liked to listen to solo songs. Some of my favorite singers were the Beatles and Van Morrison. One of my favorite songs was "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."



DEC. 1995, REDDINGTON RANCH. AUNT JAN, COUSIN IAN,  
JEANETTE SCHLOSS, GRANDMA BETSY



DEC. 1995, REDDINGTON RANCH, ARIZONA. UNCLE LEE, GRAND MA BETSY,  
AUNT GAIL, AUNT NANCY, AUNT JAN



DEC. 1995, REDDINGTON RANCH. JEANETTE SCHLOSS, COUSIN TERRA,  
OWEN, COUSIN IAN, AUNT JAN, AUNT GAIL, ME, COUSIN IRA



1990, TUCSON. UNCLE LEE McDONALD, UNCLE ALLEN TOLLIN,  
AUNT JAN McDONALD



1990, TUCSON, UNCLE LEE & AUNT JAN



AUG. 1990, TUCSON, UNCLE LEE, UNCLE ALLEN & AUNT JAN



DEC. 1995, MULESHOE RANCA, ARIZONA. AUNT JAN, LIZ SCHLOSS,  
AUNT RONNIE, UNCLE LEE, AUNT GAIL, AUNT NANCY  
GRANDMA BETSY

Some of the fads back then were beads and tie dyed shirts. The hairdo that was in style was long straight hair. One of the popular comics when I was a kid was Batman. In their play time kids liked to use the telephone. During school kids wore miniskirts and jeans.

Some of the subjects I took in High school were English, German, Spanish, algebra, trigonometry, PE, dance, biology, chemistry, and agriculture. My favorite teacher was Mr. Palmer. I dropped out of high school as it was too boring and went on to college.

On the Fourth of July we got up on the roof and watched the fireworks.

The diseases that were around when I was a kid were the mumps and the measles.

Some of the cars I remember were the 1965 Chevy, the Dodge Dart, the Ford Falcon and the Plymouth Valiant. My dream car was a VW Bus. When I started to drive gas cost \$0.29.

My sports heroine was Martian Navritalova, who played tennis.

Some of the political leaders I remember were J. F. K. and Malcolm X. One of the major national events I remember was the shooting of Bobby

Kennedy. One of the major natural disasters I remember was the tornado in south Tucson.

My advice to kids is "Grow up."

Next I interviewed my Aunt Gail who is a doctor in Cheticamp, Nova Scotia. She works there because there is a Tibetan Buddhist monastery nearby where she can meditate on her days off. My family visited her in Cheticamp two years ago and we went to the monastery on a day when everyone there had vowed not to speak

## **Aunt Gail**

I was born in Ames, Iowa in 1951, the fifth of six children.

Some of the things my family did together when I was a kid were to sing and play wordgames in the car on long trips. At dinnertime each of us children had to make a short report after reading the encyclopedia on a person chosen by my Mom.

My jobs around the house were to wash the dishes and vacuum. If I didn't do them I wouldn't get an allowance.

I was taught to be polite. In my family the boys had more pressure to do and be things while the girls did the household jobs. I never knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. All my parents wanted for me was to get an education and be happy.



DEC. 1995, AUNT JAN'S HOUSE IN TUCSON. ME, COUSIN IRA,  
AUNT GAIL, GRANDMA BETSY. JENNETTE SCHLOSS IN BACKGROUND.



DEC. 1995, MULE SHOE RANCH. LOUSIN IRA, COUSIN TERRA, NEICE ADANNE,  
ME, & AUNT GAIL



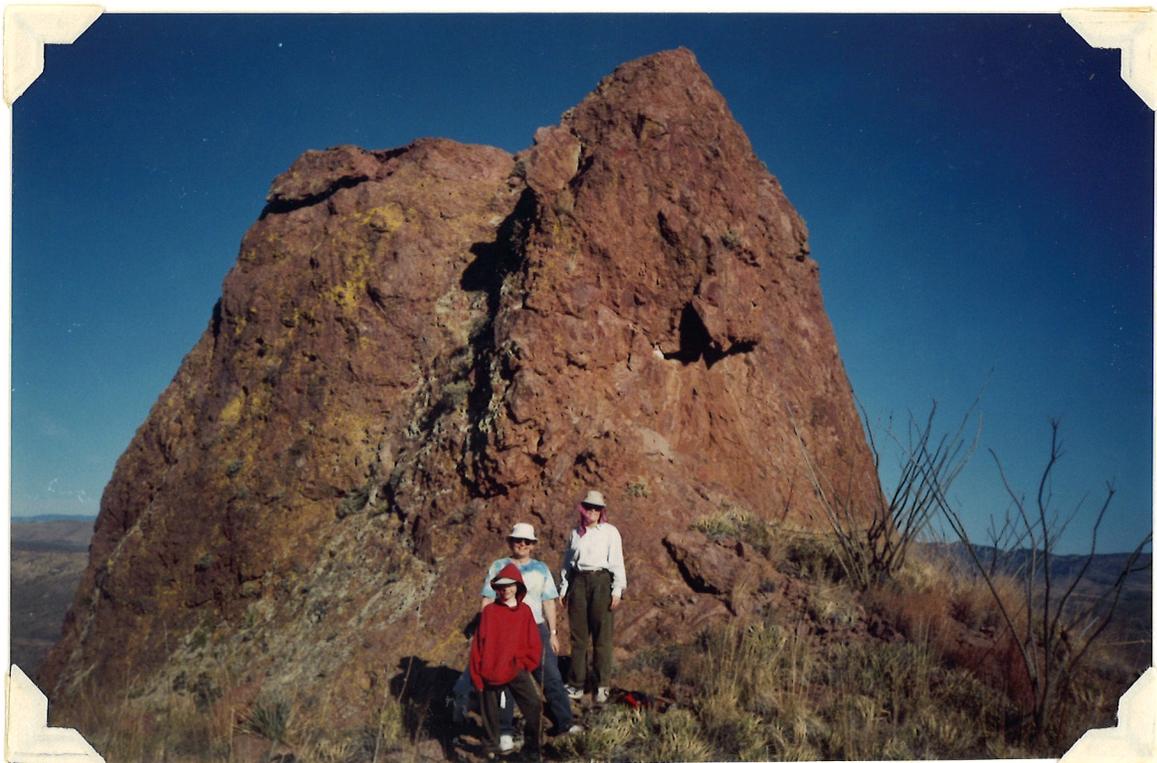
AUG. 1993, CAPE BRETON ISLAND, AUNT GAIL & MOM.



AUG. 1993, CAPE BRETON ISLAND, ME, OWEN, AUNT GAIL, MOM & THE BOATMAN'S GIRLFRIEND



DEC. 1995, BEHIND MULESHOE RANCA, AUNT GAIL, ME, & UNCLE LEE



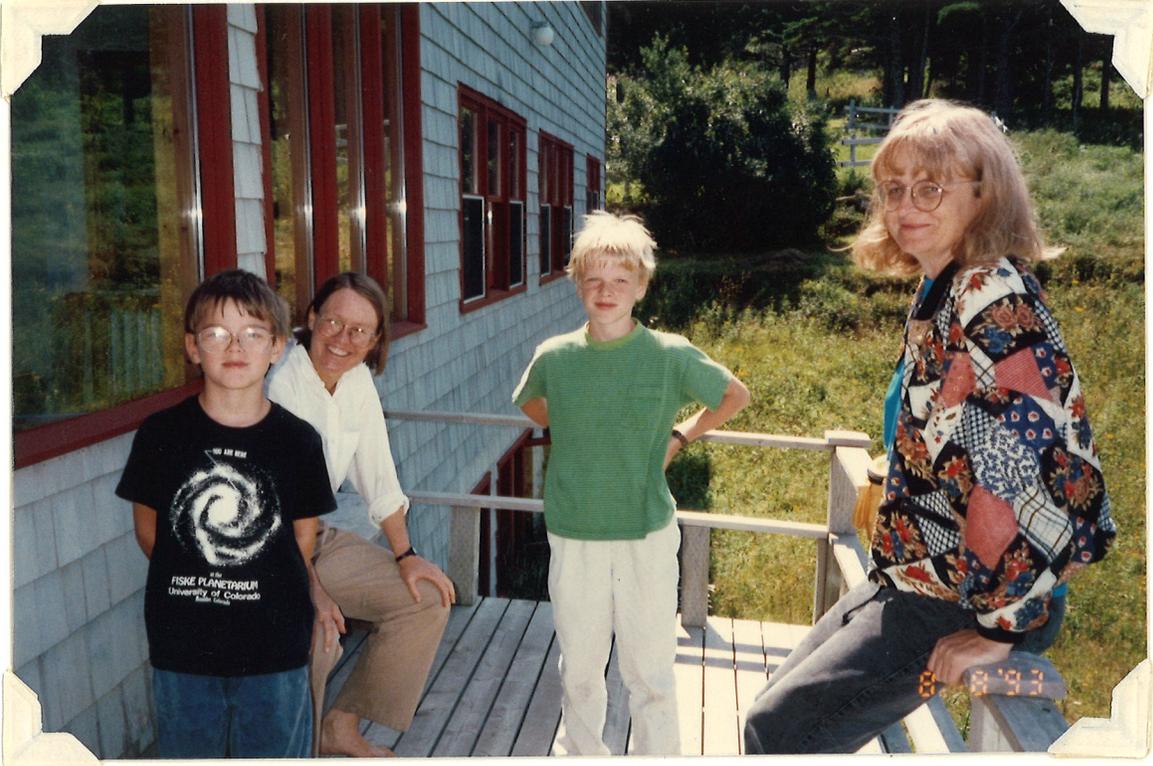
DEC. 1995, BEHIND MULE SHOE RANCA, ME, AUNT GAIL & UNCLE LEE



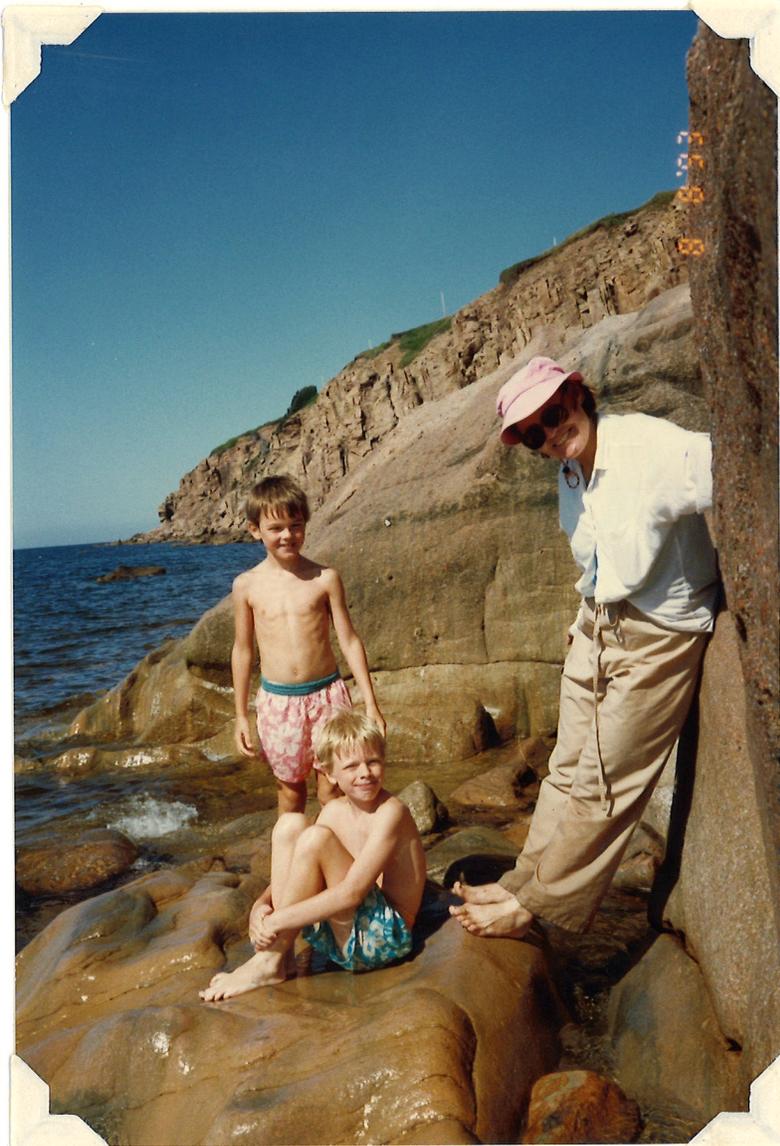
DEC. 1995, MULESHOE RANCH. GRANDMA BETSY, AUNT GAIL, COUSIN IRA,  
NIECE ADARNE, & ME



DEC. 1995, MULESHOE RANCH, NIECE ADARNE, AUNT GAIL, ME, & COUSIN IRA



AUG. 1993, CAPE BRETON ISLAND. OWEN, AUNT GAIL, ME & MOM



AUG. 1993 | CAPE BRETON ISLAND. OWEN, ME & AUNT GAIL



AUG. 1993, MUSIC ROOM, TIBETAN MONASTERY, CAPE BRETON ISLAND  
AUNT GAIL, OWEN & ME



AUG. 1993, MEDITATION ROOM, TIBETAN MONASTERY, CAPE BRETON ISLAND  
OWEN, AUNT GAIL, ME, & MOM

I didn't like school that much; I was a smarty pants. My favorite teacher was Mrs. Hughes, the art teacher. I liked her because I liked art and because she liked me. Some of the high school fads around when I was a teenager were skateboarding and ~~mary~~ jane. Girls didn't wear pants, they wore miniskirts. The boys wore bellbottoms and patched jeans. The hair styles around were the Twiggy and the Beatles.

In my spare time I watched TV and played. I used to read "Highlights" and "Weekly Reader." When I was young I listened to records made by the Childrens' Record Guild, and as a teenager I enjoyed musicals such as "West Side Story." My favorite singer was Bob Dylan. Some of my favorite songs were "Blowin' in the Wind" and "I Want to Hold Your Hand."

On special occasions we had a nice meal and talked. I like to eat brownies and corn.

Some of the diseases I remember were the measles and the mumps.

I didn't have any sports heroes. I became interested in mountain climbing and have climbed Mt. McKinley in Alaska, Mt. Kenya in Nairobi, and the three high volcanoes around Mexico City: Popocatepetl, Iztaccihuatl and Orizaba. I have also trekked in Nepal to which I was led by my interest in Buddhism.

The cars on the road that I remember were Mustangs and Jaguars. Gas cost \$0.25 when I started to drive.

The political leaders I remember were J. F. K., Khrushchev who was the leader of Russia, and Castro who ruled Cuba.

Some of the major national events I remember were the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., and Bobby Kennedy. Some of the natural events I remember were the dust storms in Tucson.

My advice is to be kind to yourself and to others. I'll also pass along some precepts our parents taught us:

“Speak the truth,

Create beauty,

Act in kindness,

Do the needful thing.”

My last interview was with my cousin Kalani who is 20 and lives in Tucson, Arizona. Her mother is Nancy McDonald, my father's sister. Kahlani has a daughter, Adanne, who is 18 months old, so I am already an uncle! Kalani means "heavenly star" in Hawaiian.

## **Cousin Kalani**

I was born in Tucson, Arizona in 1975. My mother was born in Ames, Iowa and my father was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut. I am an only child, not counting my 5 half brothers and sisters.

I had to do house chores as a kid such as doing the dishes and repairing my clothes. The men ran the house and the women did the house chores. If I didn't do them my mother and I would have a big fight. I had to eat sitting down and I was supposed to eat quietly. My favorite food is a cheese burger.

We have parties on special occasions. On Easter my Easter basket was hidden and I was given a clue which lead to another clue and so on until a final clue led to the basket.

My parents wanted me to get an education and support myself when I grew up. My mom wanted this so she could move to Tibet and go into retreat because she has become a Buddhist like my Aunt Gail.

I listened to alternative, rap, and international music. Some of my favorite singers were Michael Jackson and AZ. Some of my favorite songs were "White Lines" and "Billy Jean." My sports hero was Michael Jordan. During the year I lived in the countryside in Brazil I loved to go horseback riding by myself.

Some of the fads in high school were baggy jeans which we would cuff three inches once. People dressed the way popular singers dressed. The afro was a popular hair style. In their leisure time kids liked to dance. People read "Archie" when I was a kid.

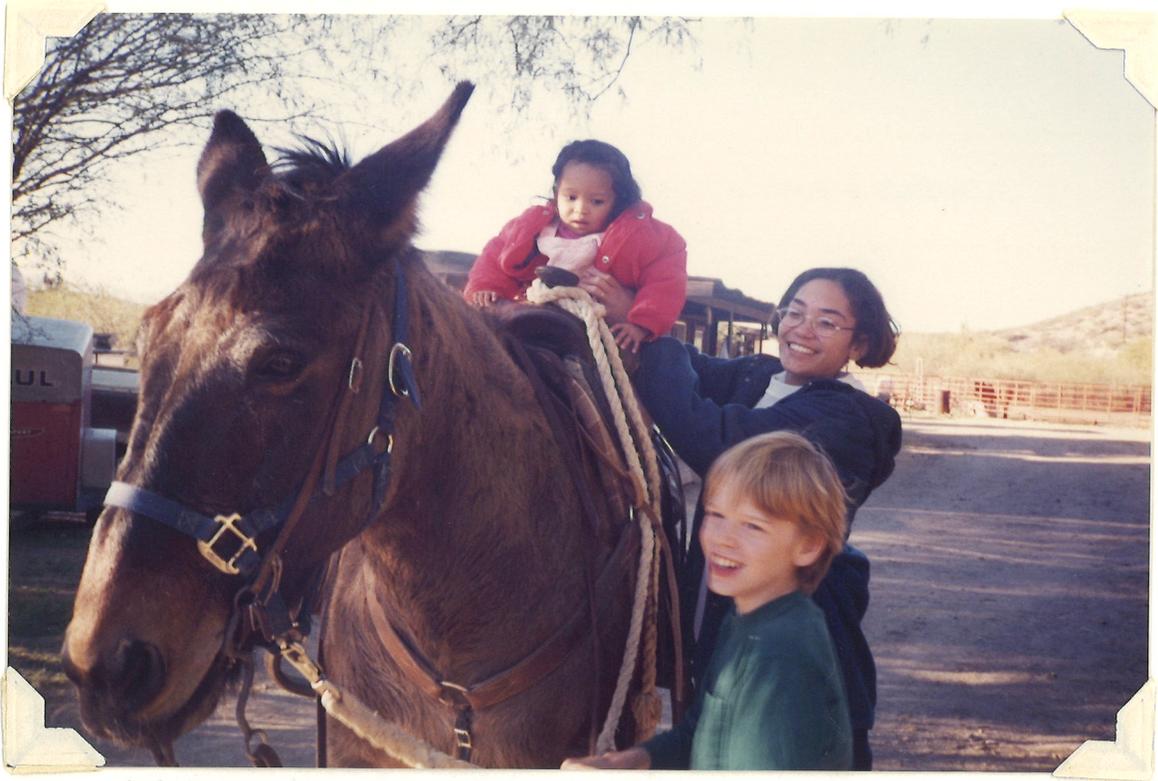
The cars haven't changed much from when I was in high school. Gas cost about \$1.23 when I started to drive.

I had the regular curriculum in school, but I never had a favorite teacher. I wanted to be a psychiatrist but I never became one.

I remember Reagan as the president when I was growing up. One of the major national events I remember was Desert Storm. Some of the major natural events were the Oakland fires and San Francisco earthquakes.

AIDS was and is the major disease around.

My advice is to stay in school and stay off drugs.



DEC. 1995, REDDING TOW RANCH, NIECE ADANNE, ME, & COUSIN KALANI



DEC. 1995, MULE SHOE RANCH, ME & NIECE ADANNE



DEC, 1995, TUCSON, COUSIN IAN, ME, NIECE ADANNE, & OWEN



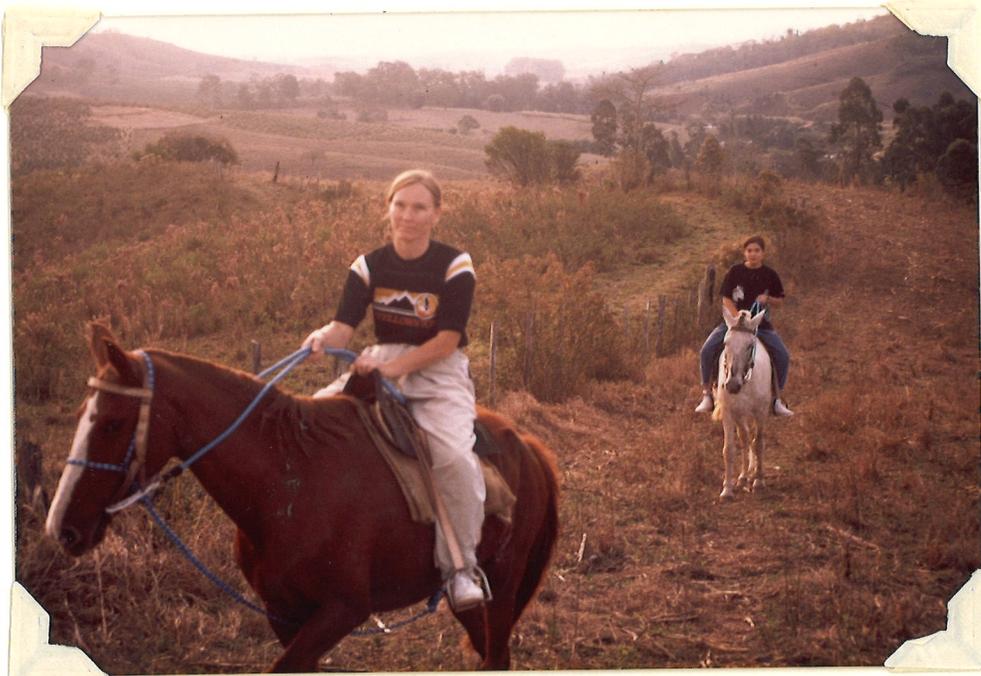
DEC. 1995, MULE SHOES RANCA. ME & NIECE ADANNE



DEC. 1990, TUCSON, AUNT NANCY, COUSIN KANLANI



DEC. 1990, TUCSON, ME & COUSIN KANLANI



~1991, BRAZIL, AUNT NANCY, COUSIN KALANI

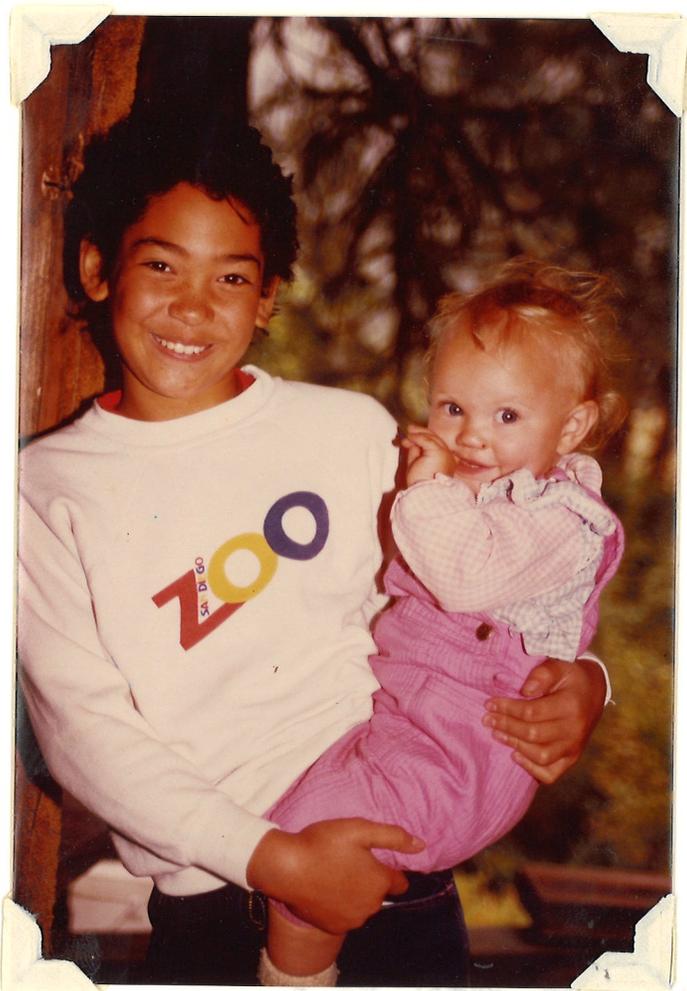


DEC. 1995, TUCSON, COUSIN IAN, COUSIN IRA, COUSIN TERRA,  
GRANDMA BETSY, COUSIN KALANI

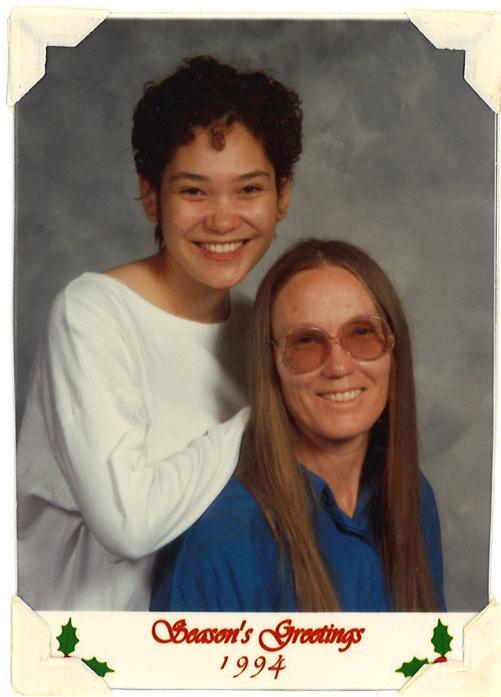


~1987, COUSIN KAHLANI

2000-2001



~1987 COUSIN KAHLANI & COUSIN TERRA



*Season's Greetings*  
1994

COUSIN KAHLANI & AUNT NANCY

2000-2001



1989, OLD TUCSON . OWEN & COUSIN KAHLANI



1988, OLD TUCSON, KAHLANI'S GIRLFRIEND, OWEN, ME, &  
COUSIN KAHLANI

# Conclusion

Alex McDonald

You have seen three of my Generations, Five people .My Family is mostly German and Irish. On my dad's side most of my close family grew up in Tucson . On my mom's side most of my close relatives grew up in New Jersey. On my dad's side his family encouraged education and supposedly the boys got less work. One odd coincidence was that both of my grandfathers had the same first and middle names which were James, Edward. This fast makes me fell special.

The

End.