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**Oral History Project Collection** 

Title: Keith One Interview Narrator: Keith One Interviewer: Anna Takada Location: Chicago, Illinois Date: October 28, 2017

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AT:	23:09	Have you visited, um, Japanese American communities or like Little Tokyos or Japantowns on the West Coast?
KO:	<u>23:17</u>	Oh yeah, oh yeah, yeah. Because I, I enjoy Japanese food. So, um, yeah, Japantown, both in San Francisco and LA. I've been there and I had an aunt that lived in Japantown, one of my mother's sisters still lives in San Francisco. And so we'd go there, we were there last year, my wife and I, and we strolled around J-town and ate some ramen, and did, you know, did some things like that. Went shopping at the Daiso store, things like that. So, yeah, we, we still, um, yeah, yeah.
AT:	<u>23:56</u>	What has that felt like for you? Go- visiting those, um, those types of ares or communities?
KO:	<u>24:05</u>	Oh, yeah, it seems familiar to me, right? I mean, it doesn't feel like it's a distant thing at all. Um, but it's not an everyday thing that I, that I experience. One thing that we've always wanted to do was travel to Japan because- never been there. And so we have the opportunity next month to go, my wife and I and my brother and his wife, Oh, we're going, we're going to go, it's a tour, but we're gonna go for two and a half weeks. We just have to go. It's, it's our heritage. It's our, um, it's the homeland in many ways. So we'll see. We'll see how that, how that goes going there. Not speaking the language is gonna be, makes it a little harder. And I, I wish my parents would have taught us Japanese growing up- it would've been so easy for us to, um, to learn as young children. But again, I think it's, they wanted to be, embrace becoming Americans. So they didn't focus on that. They didn't focus on teaching us Japanese. They didn't tell us about their experience in camp. I think that was, stays in with the theme of, you know, let's just become Americans. So I think they were successful.
AT:	<u>25:28</u>	Do you have any, uh, expectations or feelings about this upcoming trip? Having never been?
KO:	<u>25:37</u>	Um, I, I think I'll find it, um, even not having been there, I think I'll still find it familiar in many ways. Because, you know, even growing up, I mean, I, I've heard Japanese words all my life, individual words that we call things. Um, I understand to a degree the culture of politeness, being reserved, um, being clean, being neat. I mean, all those things are still things that I learned from my parents, right? That's probably very Japanese, um, and I, I expect that, I'll see all

that also in Japan as well. So I think it'll be familiar, but also very different experience.

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