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Title: Lisa Doi Interview
Narrator: Lisa Doi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Date: September 6, 2019
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-20-10

<Begin Segment 10>

- AT: 00:38:31 Um, let's see, um, if you had to kind of do an on the spot, maybe like brief analysis of how, um, cause it's interesting how, um, you've kind of separated different parts of, or aspects of your identity at different times in your life. And I noticed that, um, kind of follows your trajectory of education as well. Like if you had to kind of like briefly analyze why, why that might've been and, and how, um, how specifically you kind of like you said you came back to your Japanese American identity when you returned to Chicago and you like, maybe just say a few words on that or explain that a little further.
- LD: 00:39:31 Yeah. As I think about the way my own racial identity has changed over the course of my life, I think a lot of it was influenced by what kinds of maybe external opportunities or external, maybe, pressures were sort of shaping me at that moment. So I think when I was, because I went to a high school that did not have a lot of other Asian American or Japanese American students, um, exploring a multiracial identity I think was the easiest resource that teachers and peers could provide me. That there were other multiracial people at the school who I could begin to explore that identity with.
- LD: 00:40:13 Um, and I think also at the time, um, maybe, maybe, I dunno, I guess that there's sort of a way that developmentally that made sense for me where it was sort of the most obvious, physically verve- visibly obvious part of my identity that I feel like other people often grappled with. Um, and so I think it made sense that as sort of an eighth grader through 12th grader, um trying to understand what it meant for me to be multiracial made a lot of sense. Um, and that I always, you know, living at home at the time with my parents and I was sort of daily sort of considering what this family structure meant. Um, when I went to college, I think similarly, there were not, there were a lot more Asian American students who went to Penn with me. Um, but there were not a lot of Japanese Americans particularly, um, no

Yonsei Japanese Americans. Um, so I think that that's really where I was given a lot more opportunities to participate in Asian American programming and, and have resources like an Asian American Pan, Asian American cultural center. Um, so I think that's sort of why in college, um, sort of grew more into exploring my Asian American identity.

LD:

00:41:33

Um, my senior year or the summer between my junior and senior year of college, I participated in, um, JACL Chicago's Kansha Project. And unrelated to that, I also, um, like that same summer I was talking to a friend of my mom's and she was like, you have to take a class with this guy named Ichiro Azuma if you ever get a chance. And he was teaching a class that fall that was about, um, internment history. And so sort of unrelated to each other. I ended up having these two experiences really close together. Um, and I think that that kind of set up the next transition, which was circling back to exploring a Japanese American identity that I had felt really strongly as a kid, um, but then hadn't really thought about as much in high school and certainly not in college. Um, so that sort of set up, coming back to Chicago and then really having a great opportunity to reconnect to the Japanese American community.

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