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Title: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney Interview  
Narrator: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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**<Begin Segment 1>**

Anna Takada: 00:00:00 Thank you. Could start by you stating your name.

Hiroki Keaveney: 00:00:04 Yeah. My name is Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney. Um, yeah, my middle name is my grandma's name, and then Hiroki I recently changed my name to, um, yeah.

AT: 00:00:15 And, and where are you from?

HK: 00:00:18 Uh, I grew up in Ohio, but I was born out in California and I've been living on the west coast, um, in different cities for the past like eight years or so. And recently came back to the Midwest.

AT: 00:00:31 Okay, and just for context, can you help me out with where you were in Ohio and then California and when you came to Chicago?

HK: 00:00:40 Yeah, so I was born in LA area. Um, when I was four we moved out to Ohio. I lived there till I was 18. I went to school in Seattle. And then, um, I moved to LA to be near my grandparents actually cause I wanted to learn, um, my history, cause I grew up in the Midwest with my Irish family, but I didn't really know anything about my Japanese American family. I knew we were part of the internment, but I, I mean, you know how it is. So I honestly didn't really know the full story. And so really the choice of moving there was to record their stories, to learn it from them. And I'm really lucky because my family has recorded a lot in the Densho website, which is a gift that I know a lot of people don't have. Um, so anyway, um, so I lived in LA and then I moved to the Bay Area, like San Francisco/Oakland, and I went to school there and then I moved to Washington DC and Donald Trump became the president. So I'm really lucky with work that I was able to leave Virginia and moved to the Midwest, to Illinois, for my job. So yeah, I hope that helps with the -

AT: 00:01:48 Yeah, of course.

HK: 00:01:49 Okay.

AT: 00:01:49 And, so when, when exactly did you arrive to Chicago then? How long have you been here?

HK: 00:01:54 Uh, April. So, is that half a year now, or five months? Six months. April, May, June, July, August, five months. Yeah.

AT: 00:02:04 Okay. Um, awesome. Yeah. So then if you want to, I'd love to hear more about your family story and, and what you have learned about your family's history.

HK: 00:02:19 Yeah. Um, sometimes you wonder why you are the way you are and like why none of your family lives near each other, and why there were so many family secrets and why your family is dysfunctional to be honest. And learning my family story about internment and their deportation cause they were no-no boys and um, yeah, like it just, it gave me so much compassion for my family and for my mom and for myself. And that's why these are so important because it's like this is the historical context that like heals because, yeah, it sucks that our community kept it silent for so long. Um, yeah. So yeah. Cause it's crazy how I think a lot of people, non-Japanese people always want to learn this sensational like internment story of like you didn't have bathrooms or like the stalls didn't, you know, like salacious. Is that a word? Salacious details? Um, I dunno if it cause it makes people feel sad or connected or what, but it's not really that interesting. It's sad. But, um, I was actually talking to, I did an ethnic studies program at San Francisco State and I was talking to my coordinator who is super awesome. She like helped found ethnic studies and she and I were talking about how, um, what's more interesting about the internment is the after effects of the generations following. Um, because like, yeah, it's amazing how much it psychologically wounded us as a community. Um, amazing is the wrong word. It's, um, yeah. Um, I'm don't think I'm answering your question.

AT: 00:04:11 No, that's, that's all good.

HK: 00:04:13 What was your question?

AT: 00:04:15 It doesn't matter. I don't know.

HK: 00:04:17 It does matter. Wait your question.

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