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Title: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney Interview  
Narrator: Hiroki Kimiko Keaveney  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
Location:  
Date: September 2, 2017  
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-3-2

**<Begin Segment 2>**

HK:

Oh, my family story. Okay. So, it kind of like came out of, um, I did a lot of organizing when I lived in Seattle, like with Queer and Trans, um, like Asian-Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders and specifically Japanese Americans. And I did like a lot of pilgrimage work when I was there. Like I went to Minidoka, the internment camp that Seattle lights were incarcerated in and Bainbridge people, near Seattle, they were incarcerated and Manzanar, and then many petitioned to be moved to Minidoka. So it was interesting like having that connection because my family was incarcerated in Manzanar. But um, so anyway, I always knew since I was like in fourth grade when we learned about World War II that I wanted to go to an internment camp with my family. Like I knew we were incarcerated, but growing up in Ohio really isolated, like it was hard. It was hard. I didn't really know any other Japanese students. There was one person named Kelsey Miyahara and her brother and then my sister and my school had like 3000 students, like my high school and we were like the four Japanese American students, um, to my knowledge anyway. And, yeah, it was just hard, like being so disconnected. And so by the time I got to California and like had done like a lot of organizing and being really politicized in Seattle, um, like as a queer person of color. Like I came down to LA and I tried recording my family story. Even had like fucking, oh sorry, language. I even had like cassette tapes and stuff. I was like trying to like record their stories. But my grandmother had dementia pretty bad by then. So, but what was interesting about her dementia was she could remember the past, she couldn't remember the present and so, or like she, she was always in the present. That's weird. What about Alzheimer's. They're always in the present, which is like in Buddhism the ideal. But anyway, it had its good and bad moments. But um, but yeah, she always told me stories about World War II. I learned that, so my grandma, she, how do I say this? I like want to tell you my story, but it's so complicated that I don't, yeah, I'm not sure chronologically what would make the most sense,

but basically the short story is like what I learned is that my family has been through a lot and they're really amazing. The amount that they've survived and like how they were able to make meaning out of just being handed a really bad deal. Like, and how they tried to uphold their family values even though, yeah, it's just really complicated. Um, like my grandfather became a no-no boy because my great grandmother wanted him to. He would have fought in the 442nd, but he wanted to be a good Japanese son. He was the oldest son and you know, um, each of the siblings chose different paths. One sibling Anna, she stayed, oh, Anna, she stayed here in the states. She got married in an internment camp, cause they would have been undocumented citizens if they had stayed, um, because they lost their citizenship with the, um, questionnaire.

HK: 00:07:32 And so she stayed here. She moved to Hawai'i with her husband who she married I think in Tule Lake. And my great aunt grace and my great uncle Benny. And then my great grandfather and great grandmother and my Grandpa, they all were deported to Japan after being in, um, Bismark, North Dakota and Fort Lincoln because they were a part of the Hoshidan in Tule Lake, so, um, so like even just like learning that, like learning that my family got deported. I was like, oh my God. I was like, cause like you know when you're a kid and you hear stories like Oh your grandpa met your grandma in Japan. I was like, what were they trying Japan or like or like, oh your uncle gene's born in Japan. Um, but your mom who's adopted from Japan cause they couldn't get pregnant. So that's why she's an American citizen.

HK: 00:08:16 And like when I hear these stories like now as an adult and like learning them and piecing the stories together, it all makes sense why my family didn't have Japanese American friends. It all makes sense why, like they love white. It all makes sense why... really why we don't have Japanese American family friends. Um, being not only no-no boys but like being in the Hoshidan and deported. I was like, oh my God, like, and like, and I think right now, especially now that DACA is about to be taken away, it's like separating families and deporting people. It's like, how do I say, like I am a living example of why it's not good to deport people. Like, cause sometimes I like think about how screwed up my family is cause they were messed up already. Like lots of abuse in the family, but it's like internment magnified the already existing interpersonal dynamic problems and it just exacerbated the trauma.

HK: 00:09:23 And I think, um, yeah, I think, yeah, it's never good to deport people. I don't, I don't really, it's just, it's so heartbreaking, like, just everything happening with undocumented immigrants

because immigration status is so, you know, and Asian-Americans have a long history of trying to get around the system and I think about undocumented Asian-Americans who are like so invisibilized like on triple levels and quadruple levels for being Asian and undocumented in a movement that's doesn't see them as, yeah, like the model minority and stuff. And um, and I think about how my family was undocumented and I think about how like, how do I say, like I think about Chinese Americans too, and the paper sons and it's just like, yeah, immigration status is just so... anyway, but yeah, of course.

AT: 00:10:23 Thank you for, for sharing all of that.

HK: 00:10:25 Yeah.

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