## Densho Digital Repository Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society (CJAHS) Oral History Project Collection Title: Gary Yamagiwa Interview Narrator: Gary Yamagiwa Interviewer: Anna Takada Location: Date: October 11, 2017 Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-7-10

## <Begin Segment 10>

AT:	<u>38:14</u>	What are your hopes for, for future generations, for your kids? Grandkids?
GY:	<u>38:32</u>	Uh, well, what I have noticed and what I appreciate, or the intelligence and the, uh, the heart of the young young adults now. So smart, so dedicated that uh, there's great hope. You know, we, you know, we're going to have to put our hand. I mean put our lives and in their hands and um, there's no doubt in my mind they can get the job done. It's, it's, um, it's nice to see and you know, I see all these young kids out there, you know, trying to, to change things. So there's great hope. I feel great hope. Although it is pretty much at a low point right now given our current administration.
AT:	<u>39:54</u>	As far as the, the Japanese American community. How, because you've been involved for such a young age, imagining you consider yourself still. How have you seen it change or evolve over the years? What are some of your observations maybe? How would you describe it in those early years? And then how would you describe it now?
GY:	<u>40:29</u>	Well, I just there's not a need for this kind of community to be together like this. Um, in the earlier years when I was young, you know, I think there was a need for her, my parents and their friends, you know, to be together. That need I think as, as lesson. But um, for some people there's still a draw, you know, so be part of a community, a Japanese American community. So whereas, um, the need might not be there. I think nowadays are developing and have a desire to be together.
AT:	<u>41:40</u>	Can you say more on what that means actually was like why? Why was there a need in the earlier days?

GY:	<u>41:49</u>	Well, there was a lot of anti Japanese sentiment. Even I'm in the Midwest, we felt it a little bit growing up, you know, being called names. And I think that's one of the things that drove us into having groups of friends that were Japanese American. I think people were just earlier, people would just finding a way to go on without, you know, without any difficulty. And your rank. Kinda lay low, you know, not make waves, raise your kids.
AT:	<u>43:08</u>	One more question before wrapping up and I'm curious to know, um, well, well, first I'm interested in hearing your thoughts about um, the resettlement to Chicago and that, that migration of people in that move with your family from, you know, being put into camps and then moving to a different part of the country. Is that, have you felt in your own experience but that experience of your parents as you know somehow shaped you in any really serious ways or is it just
GY:	<u>44:30</u>	Well, sometimes I, I'm, how things might've been different if they didn't all come to Chicago, I would have loved to grow up and live in Washington, Bellevue, Washington if they had gone back there, but then realistically, yeah, all the things that happened and ended up with me being here. So to speculate, otherwise would be meaningless. I think it was good that they all were able to come here because it allowed this community though develop to grow, to make life for themselves. Although when I go to the West Coast, they have nice lives there too. Uh, I don't know how, how else to say?

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