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Title: Lois Shikami Interview
Narrator: Lois Shikami
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location:
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<Begin Segment 10>

- AT: 01:04:33 And so when you came to live in Chicago, where were you living?
- LS: 01:04:40 Well then I joined my sister's at their place and it was a three story apartment place. So they were living in different apartments, but they were all in that same building. And so I joined them and I got a single room there.
- AT: 01:05:01 Was that the one across from the Aragon?
- LS: 01:05:04 Yeah, or around the corner from it.
- AT: 01:05:06 And, and where was Carson Pirie Scott or where was work?
- LS: 01:05:12 It was downtown. Yeah. Um, I mean it was a big deal, you know, I loved that job. I got dressed up every morning and take the L downtown, you know, always had breakfast down there and, and I liked the work very much. Uh, and so I was there four years and then, um, a year after we were married we had our first child, so I just stayed home for 18 years.
- AT: 01:05:45 And where were you living?
- LS: 01:05:48 We lived at on Melrose off of Broadway in a one bedroom apartment. And we stayed there for, until our, after our third child was born. I mean we were way too crowded. We had kids sleeping in the dining room and one in the living room, one in the bedroom with us, but we were saving to buy a house and the rent was really reasonable and it was uh, you know, we liked the apartment and the neighborhood, but then we were ready to move. So we moved to a Lunt, Rogers Park and um into a big house so it was worth a squeezing ourselves for awhile because now our fourth, fourth child, we had three boys and now our fourth child, a girl was born. So we were happy in that

neighborhood for awhile and until we were worried about schools, so then we look for a house in the suburbs and ended up in Glenview in the New Church District. And so that's where our kids grew up.

AT: 01:07:19 So the year that you came to Chicago, after college, what year do you think it was?

LS: 01:07:33 It was 1953. 1953, I came to Chicago and it for three years, it was great fun. I had always wanted to be in a Japanese community but I never had a chance. And um, and I really didn't know anyone except my sisters and their close knit group, but all they did was play poker every, well, that's what I thought. All they did was play poker and, and go bowling and you know, and my mother didn't want me to come because she didn't want me to become a poker player. And so she really, I had a, I had a job, actually had the job up in Minneapolis for the same type of position up in Minneapolis, and I was ready to go there when I was recruited from Chicago. But um, so my mother really had hopes for me up in Minneapolis, but anyway, I ended up in Chicago and I only knew my sisters, but for some reason or another I, I kept meeting people every time I'd go anywhere I'd meet somebody who wanted to go somewhere together and these are men. And so every weekend after that I was busy having fun. So those are happy years.

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