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Title: Kathy Yamaguchi Interview
Narrator: Kathy Yamaguchi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 14>

NW: Do you think, what do you think that your parents thought about your kind of new interests in this history of . . .

KY: Oh, of the Japanese?

NW: They are Japanese Americans and they were part of it!

KY: Oh, see, see, my father, well, not nothing, he would not, he doesn't have anything to say but for my mother, my mother grew up in Alameda and she was part, there was a very, there were a lot of Japanese Americans in her neighborhood. So she had a lot of ties with Japanese Americans. And, then she . . . they went to camp. So she was Buddhist. She stopped going to church, and she will not, she said it was too far away. I don't buy that, you know. I think that, you know in camp it was probably better to be Christian because it wasn't, it was more loyal. You know to be Buddhist was to be more Japanese.

NW: Oh! To be . . . more Japanese?

KY: And, I don't know—maybe—I don't know what it was

NW: Oh absolutely.

KY: But she stopped going to church and then she met my father, who considers himself Christian but doesn't go to church. So when she married my father, after the war, she was sort of cut off from her community. We used to go, when I was a kid, we'd go to Alameda, so it was kind of a coincidence that that I would play with the kids across the street who went to the Methodist church, the Buena Vista Methodist church. I used to play with them, my brother and I and my brother and I didn't like it. We had other interests. We didn't . . . By the time I think we were in high school, we didn't want to have anything to do with the Alameda Japanese Americans, and . . .

NW: Right, right.

KY: . . . we didn't, he and I, neither of us fit in.

NW: Oh.

KY: And so, we kind of you know. And, so for my mother, I think it was really something that I went back, you know.

NW: Right, right.

KY: Like, umpteen, thirty, forty years later, I go back to Alameda and my focus going to Alameda.

NW: Yeah.

KY: So I think she was really, it was very nice for her. That this happened before she died. You know, because I, and then she would also give a lot of money, to the Sansei Legacy Project . . .

NW: Oh, wow.

KY: She would always donate and . . .

NW: Great.

KY: . . . She and my father came to all our anniversary dinners. She was, she, she got to know all the friends that I'd made because now I have a bunch of, you know I have a bunch of Japanese.

NW: Right, Japanese American, right yeah

KY: You know Sansei friends, bunch of Japanese American friends.

NW: Right.

KY: Yeah.

NW: Wow, wow. That's a very interesting part of history.

KY: Yeah, yeah, So, I'm really happy that that happened. I'm very grateful that it, that it happened.

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