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Title: Kathy Yamaguchi Interview
Narrator: Kathy Yamaguchi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: San Francisco, California
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<Begin Segment 2>

NW: So first you said it happened in UC San Francisco's Medical Center?

KY: It was in UC, it was at the, the Ambulatory Care Center.

NW: Okay. And when did it shift over to Saint Mary's?

KY: I think, you know, I'm trying to remember, it shifted over because of the problem of Monday. Cause they used to do it in three days. They used to start Friday night and do it Saturday, Sunday and then Monday. And we couldn't . . . UC could not give up that space on a Monday. Understandably, I mean, everyone's short of space. They couldn't do it, so I remember one year, we did, we did Saturday and Sunday, we did it at UC and Monday, there was one time we actually came here. Before this clinic was what it is now; it was just a public health site . . . they just did public health things and then in the late '80s, we became a primary care clinic. So that's, so. God, you know, I don't remember, I don't remember the years at all. Jerry might have data, I don't know. I kept things, but. So one year it was, we did UC for two days and then we did here. And then there was another time where we did two days at UC and we did a day at CPMC – California Presbyterian Hospital.

NW: Oh okay.

KY: Doing it once, the Monday, and it was very short. Just, very few people on Monday. And then, we just kept saying, "Let's try to do it in two days. Let's try to do it in two days."

NW: Right.

KY: And then, no, first, then we did it at Saint Mary's. Because John Umekubo . . .

NW: Right, right

KY: . . . was, you know. He was a staff physician at Saint Mary's. and so that was a great, great to get that. I'm pretty sure we were happy to do that because we could use their, we could use them Monday morning. So, there were maybe one or two where we did Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning. And then they got better and they could just do it Saturday Sunday, which really helped.

NW: Yeah.

KY: That really helped, yeah, it really helped.

NW: Do you know if Doctor Umekubo has been involved in this since the beginning? Around when did he become?

KY: I would say he got involved, um, you know, I, when did he get involved? Did he just get involved when we went to Saint Mary's? I don't know.

NW: I was told that he, because of the affiliation that he has with Saint Mary's, it was really a nice link that he . . .

KY: No, no . . .

NW: . . . was able to offer

KY: I'm trying . . . I don't know if he was involved before then.

NW: There might have been some form of contact . . .

KY: That's, I think that he probably was, I think he probably was involved before. And it makes sense. He's a primary care physician; he's an internist right in Japantown.

NW: Hmm, That's right.

KY: So, yes, no, no. I'm pretty sure he was involved during the UC times, too. Although, um, he was, the way I look at it, Richard and I did more of the, the kinda the, y'know, the . . . oh, I don't know, I don't have a good word for it. We did the more . . . details, organizing it. He was, had bigger. He was sort of more a . . .

NW: Yeah.

KY: Overall planning, but we –

NW: You did it more . . .

KY: Richard and I took care of, y'know, all the letters, the communication, the organizing . . .

NW: Right.

KY: The scheduling, yeah.

NW: Yeah. That's fascinating.

KY: I'm just sad. This year, Richard's, Richard and his wife are not here, so I'm a little bit worried.

NW: Oh. Wait, wait, where are they?

KY: They have been, y'know, you never know when this is going to happen, right?

NW: Right.

KY: They had vacation.

NW: Oh I see.

KY: So they're gone this weekend and *my* thing was that's been hard is that I had a family reunion. I have relatives still here, so most of the reunion was last weekend, and this weekend was not the best weekend for me either, but . . .

NW: Yeah.

KY: . . .you don't have

NW: Yeah

KY: You don't really

NW: Your own life as well.

KY: We don't really have any say, and . . .

NW: Right. Yeah, they are coming from Japan, so I guess they . . .

KY: Right.

NW: . . . they have to decide based on their schedules.

KY: Right. They have to . . . Yeah, yeah.

NW: Right. Probably, you can tell me a little more about this East Bay Socialist Doctors' Group

KY: I know [laughs]

NW: And then probably it sounds very interesting to me!

KY: It's funny . . . it's, we were just a study group, and . . . and it was a time when we really wanted, we wanted a single-payer national health plan. Y'know, we wanted something like Japan.

NW: We are still working on it [laughs]

KY: Yeah, but we're still working on it!

NW: Yes.

KY: And since we were all working at community clinics with pretty progressive politics, we just all got together to do reading. You know, to read the literature and discuss it, and, one of the

people in the group, in fact, the person who got me involved, is the husband of the mayor of Oakland now.

NW: Ah, okay.

KY: Floyd Huen, he's married to Jean Quan.

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