

Lynne Yamaichi Santo interview

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De Anza College Winter 2024 quarter

Steve Nava interviewer

Spaces of Belonging Project: Hidden in Plain Site/Sight  
NEH Grant

Link to interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHZu6tWMnY8>

Summary:

Lynne Santo Yamaichi shares her experience growing up in a tight knit Japanese American Betsuin Buddhist church centered community. She is part of a second generation whose parents immigrated to the United States to experienced order 9066 internment or concentration camps during WWII in the 1940s. She reflects on the effect the camps had on her generation and her parents' generation as well as her current life as director of a childcare facility in San Jose's Japantown. This oral history is a description of the ideal aspects of generational transmission of culture in a space of belonging that is currently challenged by the forces of change through gentrification although Santo Yamaichi does not directly address gentrification. It is my hopes that the reader reflect on the importance of generational connection and community support as well as the resources ethnic communities lose when neighborhoods are gentrified and local ethnic groups are displaced. Many second generation members leave their ethnic communities in search of more lucrative life opportunities as their local economies are squeezed by inflated property costs. This is the social context in which this oral history series takes place.

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00:00:03.122 --> 00:00:12.981

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: My birth date is January 20, third, 1960. I am Asian Japanese American?

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00:00:13.031 --> 00:00:16.732

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: third generation. And

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00:00:20.322 --> 00:00:25.042

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: was there anything else? Oh, yeah. So can you tell us a little bit about your occupation?

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00:00:25.112 --> 00:00:28.881

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Oh, okay, did you want the background first, or just?

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00:00:29.182 --> 00:00:32.522

Steve Nava: Yeah. So occupation. My occupation is preschool director.

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00:00:33.252 --> 00:00:36.911

Steve Nava: Yeah. And how did you end up in this field?

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00:00:37.192 --> 00:00:41.532

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: In college I studied child development

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00:00:41.942 --> 00:00:48.312

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: actually was a human development degree. But emphasis in child development and became very interested

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00:00:49.852 --> 00:00:52.112

saw a need here at the

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00:00:52.332 --> 00:01:02.991

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: in the Japantown area and being part of the Buddhist church, I knew that there were rooms available and so we kind of partnered up and became part of the

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00:01:04.352 --> 00:01:06.322

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: preschool at the [Betsuin](#).

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00:01:06.942 --> 00:01:11.511

Steve Nava: Oh, nice! So can you tell me a little bit about your family background?

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00:01:11.632 --> 00:01:17.352

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Yes so I am third generation. So my maternal

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00:01:17.392 --> 00:01:35.891

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: grandparents, the they came from Hiroshima, and they settled with their family in Southern California. Actually they raised their family there and then, my paternal Santo grandparents. They're from Shimane [prefecture], and they raised their family in San Jose, California.

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00:01:36.002 --> 00:01:47.212

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Then, with the signing of the [Executive Order 9066](#), and along with a hundred 20,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans, my mother's family.

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00:01:47.492 --> 00:01:52.632

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: They were incarcerated at Jerome, Arkansas, and too, Lee Lake.

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00:01:52.822 --> 00:01:56.741

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and in my father's family. They were incarcerated at

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00:01:56.952 --> 00:01:58.612

Hart Mountain, Wyoming.

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00:01:58.992 --> 00:02:08.611

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Then, after 4 years of incarceration, both families were released, and they began to start their lights over in San Jose.

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00:02:08.832 --> 00:02:12.181

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: My parents. They married in 1959.

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00:02:12.302 --> 00:02:17.011

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I have 3 siblings, and we were all born and raised in San Jose.

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00:02:18.162 --> 00:02:27.191

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I married, and I have 3 adult daughters, and, like myself, my daughters grew up in the San Jose Japantown and continued to be involved as well.

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00:02:27.902 --> 00:02:28.822

Steve Nava: oh, wow!

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00:02:29.282 --> 00:02:40.642

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So are they involved in business or teaching, or something. They so we have a family store, [Santo Market](#), and they have

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00:02:40.802 --> 00:02:42.012

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: always

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00:02:42.152 --> 00:02:55.741

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: vault well helped out when help was needed. Maybe during the busy time for [Oshogatsu](#) the New Year's time everyone is there with hands on hands on deck, helping out

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00:02:55.812 --> 00:03:00.701

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and they would also help out with just different things that

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00:03:01.062 --> 00:03:02.042

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: where needed.

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00:03:02.192 --> 00:03:06.621

And most recently they're helping with

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00:03:06.942 --> 00:03:16.032

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the social media and trying to bring new items to the store that will help But the word about Santo.

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00:03:16.492 --> 00:03:22.022

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And so yeah, it's been great having them being part of that. They're also part of the church community and

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00:03:22.112 --> 00:03:24.152

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the greater Japantown community as well.

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00:03:24.532 --> 00:03:30.292

Steve Nava: Hmm! So you said it's called Oshogatsu. Is that yeah, New Year's.

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00:03:31.172 --> 00:03:36.312

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Do you know what the words mean themselves?

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00:03:37.232 --> 00:03:48.661

Steve Nava: No, I'm sorry. I was curious. If there was a a yeah, so it has to do with New Year. So what kind of invested do they do, or what kind of activities do you all get involved in?

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00:03:48.742 --> 00:04:04.921

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: they and actually we would all make sushi for the New Year's we would make it on the thirty-first and families would pick it up, and they would serve it on New Year's Day.

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00:04:05.242 --> 00:04:06.972

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: but also

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00:04:07.272 --> 00:04:17.441

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: They were involved with prepping all that, getting it all together, you know, days beforehand, and they also were very, very helpful many years with

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00:04:18.232 --> 00:04:21.431

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: making mochi. So mochi is

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00:04:22.172 --> 00:04:23.332

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: a

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00:04:23.561 --> 00:04:42.392

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the rice cakes that are Eton at New Year's as well, and so we would make many, many, many batches. And so the kids, yeah, learned how to run the machine with their grandpa and mount them and form them, and then you cool and

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00:04:42.922 --> 00:04:47.251

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: pulled them down and packaging. So they were quite involved, and they

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00:04:48.132 --> 00:04:53.022

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: as much as it was work. They enjoyed doing it. So it was nice.

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00:04:53.232 --> 00:04:59.832

Steve Nava: It's great. How? How important is that? The tradition to you? And and do you feel like the kids are also

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00:05:00.832 --> 00:05:04.491

Steve Nava: wanting to. Your kids are all wanting to continue that

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00:05:04.702 --> 00:05:07.582

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: tradition, or they

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00:05:08.442 --> 00:05:15.802

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: they are. And there have been changes at the store where we're not doing so much of that kind of preparation anymore.

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00:05:16.082 --> 00:05:20.621

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So they were rather saddened. But they just had.

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00:05:20.682 --> 00:05:24.361

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: you know, changes were needed. But we continue to do that at home.

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00:05:24.632 --> 00:05:26.421

So it's been, it's been good.

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00:05:28.532 --> 00:05:35.141

Steve Nava: So so one of the things that we're interested into is like, the continuity of the

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00:05:35.382 --> 00:05:46.001

Steve Nava: family legacy built. Businesses and buildings, you know. and as there's new, you know, social forces affecting the local community.

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00:05:46.292 --> 00:05:53.132

Steve Nava: the culture is going to shift and change. And so imagining

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00:05:53.212 --> 00:06:05.871

Steve Nava: you could talk a bit about like the sort of social strains that you might feel, or. you know, running a business, a family business, and helping with that. How? How is that? Is there strains? Or is that?

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00:06:05.982 --> 00:06:11.822

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Yeah, you know how you affected by kind of? And how do you see? Sort of changes happening around the community.

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00:06:13.552 --> 00:06:16.241

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Or do you see, do you see a kind of rapid change?

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00:06:17.452 --> 00:06:26.022

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think it's well, the pandemic and Covid really put a change into our business.

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00:06:27.432 --> 00:06:34.521

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And the changes were made. And it it has been working out well, whereas before we was more of a

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00:06:34.632 --> 00:06:42.531

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: a store where you can come in and buy Japanese goods, dell Hawaiian goods, and you know.

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00:06:43.122 --> 00:06:55.492

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: general groceries. And then with the pandemic we closed the inside of a store. And we're just basically selling daily items, a few grocery items and

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00:06:55.542 --> 00:07:06.941

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: like poke and things like that through our what we call our. We used to have a coffee window, so we were selling things through the coffee window. So that's been a big change. It has.

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00:07:07.002 --> 00:07:21.951

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think, sat in a lot of people because of the store used to be a place where they gathered. And you might see, friends. That you hadn't seen in a long time. So I think a lot of that is missing for a lot of people.

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00:07:22.022 --> 00:07:26.301

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: But with the social media and

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00:07:27.102 --> 00:07:30.341

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the interest in poke and things like that.

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00:07:30.382 --> 00:07:38.532

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Just a new generation of customers have been coming in. So you know, there's there's been changes, but it's been.

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00:07:38.572 --> 00:07:39.712

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: It's been good.

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00:07:40.552 --> 00:07:41.212  
Steve Nava: Hmm!

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00:07:42.792 --> 00:07:51.831  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And do you see similar kinds of changes made in other businesses of folks that you know on the the block or in the neighborhood.

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00:07:54.732 --> 00:07:58.101  
Steve Nava: Are you privy to kind of what's going on with the other folks?

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00:07:58.582 --> 00:08:01.142  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Yes. Oh, let's see.

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00:08:02.592 --> 00:08:05.921  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I know they all had to make some changes, but

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00:08:06.522 --> 00:08:14.431  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: during the pandemic and but they are persevering. And have worked through a lot of those challenges.

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00:08:14.642 --> 00:08:22.181  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah, I think everyone is pretty much back to operating as they were. Prior.

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00:08:22.352 --> 00:08:23.502  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: which is great.

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00:08:25.172 --> 00:08:27.892  
Steve Nava: Oh. and

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00:08:28.992 --> 00:08:41.442

Steve Nava: So you did. You grow up in the neighborhood like? What was it like growing up during a time and place of your childhood like how do you? Yes, my childhood years were in the 1960s.

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00:08:41.532 --> 00:08:44.691

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and I grew up

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00:08:44.842 --> 00:08:50.492

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: a mile from Japantown, and which is also

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00:08:50.762 --> 00:08:55.501

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: our store, is in Japan as well. So yeah, [we just grew up right here](#). I feel like

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00:08:55.762 --> 00:09:03.551

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: just being that close. It was just really nice it was. It was very nice. But

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00:09:04.042 --> 00:09:04.982

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So

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00:09:05.082 --> 00:09:10.111

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: where life for me, when as a child, I mean. It was really wonderful.

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00:09:10.472 --> 00:09:15.642

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: family was very important. My mom helped out with the PTA

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00:09:15.682 --> 00:09:28.731

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Parent Teachers Association at school, and both parents are very supportive with our school activities. Church was very important. We attended Sunday School at the San Jose Buddhist church Betsuin.

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00:09:29.242 --> 00:09:34.061

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: My parents wanted to expose us to a variety of

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00:09:34.372 --> 00:09:36.201

activities,

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00:09:36.442 --> 00:09:44.272

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and culture. So we were very fortunate to have so much available to us. So learning about

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00:09:45.002 --> 00:09:46.512

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the culture.

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00:09:46.992 --> 00:09:58.522

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: my sister and I were involved with Japanese language school, and we also studied buyō, which is classical Japanese dance, or odori and

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00:09:58.822 --> 00:10:02.952

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: our Sensei, our instructor was Madame Bondomitsusa.

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00:10:03.102 --> 00:10:08.061

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and we have continued that for many, many years, and my brothers were involved with

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00:10:08.092 --> 00:10:09.822

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Judo at the Betsuin.

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00:10:10.192 --> 00:10:17.062

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: We were all involved with scouts at the Betsuin and my father. He was the first cub master or the pack. Excuse me.

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00:10:18.232 --> 00:10:29.172

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: cub master, for Pax. 611. So that was really cool. we all participated in a San Jose community youth program

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00:10:29.212 --> 00:10:30.652

and

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00:10:31.792 --> 00:10:39.122

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Excuse me. It's called the [San Jose Community Youth Service, CYS](#). And this is with a lot of our Japanese American friends.

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00:10:39.192 --> 00:10:52.331

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And we got to participate like with tap and ballet, basketball, baseball. and so I'm very grateful that my parents got me involved in the community that they cherished.

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00:10:53.062 --> 00:10:56.571

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and they shared the Japanese culture that they had cherished.

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00:10:58.882 --> 00:11:01.412

Steve Nava: That's nice.

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00:11:01.852 --> 00:11:13.042

Steve Nava: Do you feel like you had a firm community? You felt really connected to like can you talk a little bit more like the relationships that were primary and important to you in the community.

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00:11:13.742 --> 00:11:15.412

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Yes,

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00:11:17.592 --> 00:11:27.081

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I feel very well connected to the Betsuin community and the stanza. Japantown community, and both communities feel like home to me.

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00:11:27.202 --> 00:11:38.541

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: This is where I grew up. And it is still a very important part of my life. I grew up as Santo Market, Santo Market was established in 1946,

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00:11:38.612 --> 00:11:40.322

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: but my father's uncle.

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00:11:41.022 --> 00:11:47.302

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: my father, worked there in high school and he was drafted into the military.

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00:11:48.302 --> 00:11:54.111

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and upon his return he worked at Santo Market, and he eventually became the owner.

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00:11:54.402 --> 00:12:02.872

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So it's been a family business with my mother doing the bookkeeping. and I'm currently one of my brothers runs a day-to-day operations

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00:12:02.942 --> 00:12:11.521

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and the 3 remaining siblings we have our roles and responsibilities that we do to help maintain the business.

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00:12:13.072 --> 00:12:19.911

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So it's a group effort. So the the siblings all kind of pitch in in some way.

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00:12:20.132 --> 00:12:26.151

Steve Nava: Has it always been that way, and did you? Did you feel like that? Was the way it was since childhood?

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00:12:27.132 --> 00:12:29.792

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: There

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00:12:30.562 --> 00:12:38.292

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: have been different times when we had either come back to help. or we needed to step up to help

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00:12:38.452 --> 00:12:47.241

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: for instance, my mother did the bookkeeping for many, many years, and when it was time for her to give it up, my sister with her.

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00:12:48.102 --> 00:12:59.992

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: with her background, she was able to come in and fill in that roll. I have another brother who does wonderful stuff with a maintenance. So he's there to do things, and I'm there to fill in whenever needed.

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00:13:02.812 --> 00:13:08.201

Steve Nava: Were there places you went to as a child in Japantown that you still find yourself

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00:13:09.162 --> 00:13:13.531

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: frequently going there. Yes, [Kogura Company](#).

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00:13:13.682 --> 00:13:27.681

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: This is a place that we used to go to to buy this and that. A lot of cool, cool, cultural things, and we'd always walk by Roy's station and we'd wave to Mister [Murotsune](#) (1925-2021).

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00:13:28.612 --> 00:13:34.772

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Roy Station is now a coffee shop, so we have that we frequent a lot.

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00:13:34.852 --> 00:13:39.682

And so I grew up with the children of these businesses, and we are all still

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00:13:39.792 --> 00:13:50.331

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: active with our family businesses. We all have a strong sense of having our roots in Japantown. So it's really nice.

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00:13:52.192 --> 00:13:53.811

Steve Nava: that's great.

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00:13:56.402 --> 00:14:09.322

Steve Nava: So as you were growing up, and you were connected to these different community businesses or these like sort of places that were central to people meeting and talking.

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00:14:09.572 --> 00:14:20.942

Steve Nava: how would you describe the sort of interactions that you saw as a child like in the stores or in the spray station or did you feel like it was kind of, or

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00:14:21.182 --> 00:14:24.562

Steve Nava: it certainly was. It was

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00:14:26.042 --> 00:14:28.162

Steve Nava: I think a lot of the

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00:14:28.802 --> 00:14:31.471

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Japanese and Japanese Americans.

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00:14:32.202 --> 00:14:39.882

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: had a strong sense to be a part of the community, and whether they shop there came to either of the churches.

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00:14:40.672 --> 00:14:53.171

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think we just saw many more then. and it was nice they a lot of them just

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00:14:53.802 --> 00:15:04.702

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: grew up together where they, whether they were made friendships here, or perhaps they came from the same areas in Japan. and they, you know, have formed their what's called.

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00:15:04.712 --> 00:15:07.541

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: They call them kens. And so it's like

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00:15:08.002 --> 00:15:10.182

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: my grandparents, were

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00:15:10.222 --> 00:15:22.581

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: My dad's side were from Shimane, and so that [Shimane-ken](#) there was a strong sense of all them who have relocated to this area. And so I know they did a lot for the Betsuin.

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00:15:22.682 --> 00:15:25.222

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And so it's really neat that

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00:15:25.532 --> 00:15:30.541

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: a lot of the members from the [Shimane-ken](#) who were niseis

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00:15:30.632 --> 00:15:44.962

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: have donated many of the pieces that are in the altar, the onaijin so it's really neat. And I remember coming to Japanese school when we'd have our resources.

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00:15:45.252 --> 00:15:56.762

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I would see my grandpa if the members of the Shimane-ken. They were there cleaning the temple, and so they would do it outside, but they would also go into the inside, and you know, polish or

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00:15:56.852 --> 00:16:04.261

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: or clean up the the alter area as well, so it was kinda neat to see those different groups. And I know

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00:16:04.692 --> 00:16:17.791

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: there's a lot of those different groups who had continued to meet. or there were like classes on side classes, and she came the singing classes. They would all meet here. So

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00:16:17.892 --> 00:16:21.991

now let's call all coming back to me because I would see them as I

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00:16:22.402 --> 00:16:24.921

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah came to Japantown.

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00:16:27.162 --> 00:16:34.071

Steve Nava: So you feel like your relationship between the Japantown community and San Jose was

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00:16:35.362 --> 00:16:39.572

Steve Nava: was strong or

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00:16:39.752 --> 00:16:44.862

Steve Nava: connected to Japan. Because you mentioned there's the ken

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00:16:44.912 --> 00:16:48.041

Steve Nava: sort of connection of families,

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00:16:48.542 --> 00:16:51.802

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: but how would you describe the relationship between

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00:16:51.912 --> 00:16:54.471

Steve Nava: your generation growing up

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00:16:54.542 --> 00:16:58.111

Steve Nava: to Japan. How did you think about Japan as a child?

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00:17:03.692 --> 00:17:04.512

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I

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00:17:06.042 --> 00:17:11.641

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: think that my connection was basically cultural.

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00:17:12.002 --> 00:17:15.492

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And just to learn

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00:17:15.922 --> 00:17:27.442

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the different cultural things like we've did the language, or we've done the Japanese dancing. but also learning the traditions

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00:17:27.592 --> 00:17:30.472

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and celebrating the holidays.

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00:17:30.542 --> 00:17:40.392

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: That has been very important, and it, you know, exciting parts of the years, whether it's New Year's or the Girl's Day.

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00:17:40.432 --> 00:17:41.942

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Boy's Day.

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00:17:41.962 --> 00:17:46.962

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah. So that was that was nice. My parents

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00:17:47.462 --> 00:17:50.962

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: would display the Japanese dolls for Girl's Day and

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00:17:51.142 --> 00:17:58.952

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: fly the the carp, the Koi koi. Nobody for boys, day and special.

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00:17:59.412 --> 00:18:02.461

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: They would bring us special dolls for the Boy's Day as well.

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00:18:04.172 --> 00:18:11.302

Steve Nava: Hmm! And when you were growing up as a kid, did you get news from Japan about family members, that you

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00:18:11.362 --> 00:18:14.692

Steve Nava: may may may not have met, but that we're

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00:18:14.752 --> 00:18:21.521

Steve Nava: in Japan? Or did your did your parents sort of like talk about their their family or friends in Japan.

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00:18:22.162 --> 00:18:23.251

Steve Nava: and you're

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00:18:23.532 --> 00:18:26.861

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: When I was young

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00:18:27.512 --> 00:18:42.821

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I do remember family members from Japan coming over to visit, like our uncles, or the or my grandma's sisters would come over, and so we got to meet them

165

00:18:42.962 --> 00:18:47.452

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: that way, but I did not personally

166

00:18:48.952 --> 00:19:00.482

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: communicate with them, I think, you know, is that my grandma's level and of course, she primarily spoke Japanese, but would share it with my parents, with my mom or my my parents, and so

167

00:19:01.232 --> 00:19:05.762

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: we just. I think I'm learning more and more about it now

168

00:19:06.032 --> 00:19:15.512

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: as my mom, when and their sisters get together. They you know chat. And they share more stories. So it's it's good still learning

169

00:19:15.692 --> 00:19:20.182

Steve Nava: would you say that there was a kind of central

170

00:19:20.402 --> 00:19:25.442

Steve Nava: person who held the community together, or groups of people that held the community together.

171

00:19:25.822 --> 00:19:38.021

Steve Nava: Because the reason I'm asking is because I noticed that in in my community growing up. Everybody started off really close, and then over time, because of the forces that be right, that

172

00:19:38.462 --> 00:19:52.602

Steve Nava: people ended up moving away from each other and the neighborhood kind of split up. So my question is, is. did you feel like there were certain figures in the family that held the core of the family together, or the community together.

173

00:19:54.192 --> 00:19:54.992

Hmm!

174

00:19:55.312 --> 00:19:58.601

Steve Nava: Like, whether it's a matriarch or patriarch, or some one

175

00:20:00.192 --> 00:20:06.551

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: in my, in my family.

176

00:20:10.282 --> 00:20:15.231

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think it was my grandmother, my maternal grandmother, who

177

00:20:15.362 --> 00:20:24.762

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: showed us, by way of example, that she was involved with the church. It was involved with different groups within the church

178

00:20:24.832 --> 00:20:30.102

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: as well as she was an ikebana teacher [flower arranging meditative practice]. She taught

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00:20:31.092 --> 00:20:37.922

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: how to do flower arranging that she's also shared with us

180

00:20:39.572 --> 00:20:47.671

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: like how to make kimonos and the kimono dressing and things like that. So to me she was like quietly

181

00:20:48.112 --> 00:20:55.282

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: figure that we had learned a lot from, and I think was very impactful in her quiet ways

182

00:20:55.442 --> 00:21:10.342

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and in the community. I cannot think of anyone in particular, but it was probably just the organizations, maybe through the church, and I know at the Wesley United Methodist as well.

183

00:21:10.772 --> 00:21:12.652

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: They, too, have

184

00:21:14.122 --> 00:21:14.782

oops.

185

00:21:15.652 --> 00:21:20.121

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Community leaders that have. you know, kept the community together.

186

00:21:20.372 --> 00:21:22.351

Steve Nava: or community leaders.

187

00:21:22.422 --> 00:21:24.012

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: not one per se.

188

00:21:25.502 --> 00:21:30.882

Steve Nava: So when when your grandmother passed on, did you feel like

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00:21:30.982 --> 00:21:38.352

Steve Nava: there were other people that kind of filled in that roll or those rolls as as people passed on. And generationally.

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00:21:39.012 --> 00:21:46.892

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yes, actually, I feel like my mom and her sisters continue to

191

00:21:48.172 --> 00:21:51.381

do the oshogatsu and all the New Year's cooking.

192

00:21:51.502 --> 00:21:54.102

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: My mother

193

00:21:55.332 --> 00:22:06.881

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: was really into the otobori part, because, you know, we all participate, me and my sister participated. So you know, for her it was like bringing everyone together for Obon festival dance. So

194

00:22:07.132 --> 00:22:09.102

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: after my grandmother passed away.

195

00:22:09.342 --> 00:22:21.611

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: she had made all these poppy coats that were all the same colors, with the help of my aunties. So it was her way of, you know, bringing us together and keeping this

196

00:22:21.842 --> 00:22:23.762

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: important

197

00:22:24.682 --> 00:22:32.942

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: part of the Obon festival together for our family. And we continue to do that. So it's it's been really nice.

198

00:22:33.492 --> 00:22:39.832

Steve Nava: that's great. And as you transition into a teenager, did you join

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00:22:39.982 --> 00:22:50.111

Steve Nava: a community or group of similar interests, or did you feel like there was a kind of continuing of the same sort of sets of central traditions that you would just take a different role in.

200

00:22:50.642 --> 00:22:52.301

Steve Nava: got older.

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00:22:52.622 --> 00:22:57.582

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: let's see. Well.

202

00:22:59.282 --> 00:23:12.161

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think overall that transition from my, the young adulthood. was pretty natural, and it's like a continuation. But

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00:23:13.992 --> 00:23:15.002

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: let's see.

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00:23:17.472 --> 00:23:20.841

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think, okay, can you repeat the question again.

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00:23:20.922 --> 00:23:29.841

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah, so can you talk about your teenage years? Did you join a community or group with similar interests? Yeah. And and the the second part was just kind of like.

206

00:23:30.322 --> 00:23:35.461

Steve Nava: did you? Or did you kind of fill yourself switching roles to more like leadership role

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00:23:35.482 --> 00:23:40.802

Steve Nava: in the same community? Or did you sort of branch out into different communities as you became a young adult.

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00:23:41.552 --> 00:23:58.531

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: so my teenage years. I continued, with like Girl Scouts and Sunday school and the the dancing but I did participate in the Betsuin. High School group called the Junior YBA, the Young Buddhist Association.

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00:23:58.812 --> 00:24:11.162

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and actually, it was a time for the friends to gather. And you meet new friends. we went to conferences and church activities, community service activities

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00:24:11.502 --> 00:24:17.152

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and things like that. But it was an opportunity to also to fill in some

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00:24:17.592 --> 00:24:25.932

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: leadership roles within that Junior YBA. So it was a learning experience to to become leaders.

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00:24:26.112 --> 00:24:29.921

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And so that was that was important.

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00:24:30.492 --> 00:24:31.702

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and my.

214

00:24:32.362 --> 00:24:37.861

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: or in my authority community. We continued to grow there, and it was

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00:24:38.882 --> 00:24:47.142

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: It was a good experience learning how to not only dance, but the traditions, and but that

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00:24:47.252 --> 00:24:55.991

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: whole aspect of putting on the performance. So we would do the background and all the stage

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00:24:56.042 --> 00:25:08.131

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: props. Yeah, I mean, got to, you know. do their whole performance. And yeah, it was really neat. So that that continued on, and we really felt good to be a part of that.

218

00:25:11.022 --> 00:25:23.681

Steve Nava: Did you feel like the so so by the time you were in your teen years. Was it like the late sixties early seventies was was? There's changes happening around y'all, that maybe shifted or changed the cultures

219

00:25:28.312 --> 00:25:29.212

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: at that

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00:25:29.502 --> 00:25:30.202

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: bye.

221

00:25:30.942 --> 00:25:35.601

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I don't recall anything that might have affected any change.

222

00:25:38.542 --> 00:25:40.792

Steve Nava: Okay? And

223

00:25:42.172 --> 00:25:53.551

Steve Nava: when you think about that childhood and that youth. And then you think about things. Now, do you feel like things have changed a lot, or do you think they've stayed the same in in many ways like.

224

00:25:54.382 --> 00:26:03.202

Steve Nava: how do you think things have sort of shifted and changed it in terms of the the culture especially around Japantown and your roles there.

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00:26:03.342 --> 00:26:12.071

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think overall the transition for myself, like from

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00:26:12.112 --> 00:26:14.822

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the young adulthood years

227

00:26:15.412 --> 00:26:16.792

to now.

228

00:26:17.292 --> 00:26:27.991

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: [The transition was pretty easy and smooth because of the foundation](#) that was already in place, and I felt comfortable. So it was, you know, felt

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00:26:28.082 --> 00:26:31.862

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: good to come back to that community.

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00:26:32.662 --> 00:26:43.671

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: let me see. There were years, though, during college, and several years after college, where it was kind of a pause, and I kind of did my own things, and, you know, trying to get settled back into

231

00:26:44.382 --> 00:26:47.291

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: to the area and home and friends. And

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00:26:47.312 --> 00:26:52.131

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: so there was a pause. But yes, but now we're totally back

233

00:26:52.742 --> 00:26:55.612

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and enjoy the community communities.

234

00:26:58.832 --> 00:27:06.421

Steve Nava: When I was talking to Rory Fukuda about his childhood, he did mention that middle school and high school there was a lot of

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00:27:06.722 --> 00:27:20.162

Steve Nava: community in those areas like of life like school. And I guess it was baseball games and things like that. Did you feel there was a parallel there with schooling, and that you know, how. How would you describe the experience of schooling

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00:27:20.222 --> 00:27:22.982

Steve Nava: as a as a child like a middle school child, or

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00:27:24.742 --> 00:27:31.822

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: my experience in in middle school. Yeah, like, well, how was that in terms of the neighborhood? And you, you kind of moving.

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00:27:31.892 --> 00:27:38.452

Steve Nava: you know, going to school and and then having your community at home, but then, also having this school community, what was that like for you?

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00:27:39.072 --> 00:27:43.292

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: At

240

00:27:43.522 --> 00:27:45.661

at middle school?

241

00:27:48.652 --> 00:27:50.481

it was

242

00:27:51.772 --> 00:28:03.341

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: that's a big change going to middle school. Yeah, it wasn't that exciting for me. But that school, we did, you know, participate in the different sports programs.

243

00:28:03.642 --> 00:28:11.451

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and so we're active with things like that after school or participate with the some of the activities that were happening at school.

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00:28:11.532 --> 00:28:12.811

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: But

245

00:28:13.382 --> 00:28:22.992

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think that was not a highlight during those years. For me. I would say that

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00:28:23.072 --> 00:28:32.811

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: it was nice to still have the communities at the Church and the But and Japantown to participate in that kind of made balance

247

00:28:32.822 --> 00:28:35.612

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: to my junior high school years.

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00:28:36.472 --> 00:28:37.262

Steve Nava: Hmm.

249

00:28:38.332 --> 00:28:41.922

Steve Nava: And then was high school similar in that sense.

250

00:28:42.952 --> 00:28:46.182

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: high school.

251

00:28:47.422 --> 00:28:54.582

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think I just grew up a little bit more in high school, so I I enjoyed high school. I enjoyed

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00:28:55.272 --> 00:29:00.722

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the friendships and just [being involved in many activities](#).

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00:29:01.182 --> 00:29:20.681

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I went to San Jose High School, which was a very small school, but it allowed us to try different things. You could go out for sports teams, and you'd make it right. It it you didn't have to have years and years of experience in a certain sports to make the team.

254

00:29:20.762 --> 00:29:26.881

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Or, you know, if it's yeah, just nice to join different clubs. And

255

00:29:28.152 --> 00:29:32.432

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah, it was. It was a very good 4 years.

256

00:29:33.752 --> 00:29:40.811

Steve Nava: and do you feel like the school is pretty diverse, or did you feel pretty comfortable as a Japanese American in the school?

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00:29:42.522 --> 00:29:48.971

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: [I felt very comfortable](#). San Jose High is a very

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00:29:51.322 --> 00:29:57.432

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: inner city school, which we had a lot of minority students and so

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00:29:57.742 --> 00:30:08.512

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: it was nice that you know. All the groups, the different ethnicities they all got along and shared our cultural

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00:30:09.412 --> 00:30:14.122

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: offerings at different events. And so it was, it was real nice.

261

00:30:17.342 --> 00:30:26.702

Steve Nava: Yeah, that that question kind of came up. Because in, you know, there's a lot of cities where the minority groups and they don't get along as well right here about that. And

262

00:30:27.012 --> 00:30:32.052

Steve Nava: When I when I first took the tour of Japantown with

263

00:30:32.311 --> 00:30:43.551

Steve Nava: Robert Ragsac I was asking the question, you know, is, was there tensions? Because there were different waves of of Asian Americans, you know, groups

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00:30:44.002 --> 00:30:50.542

Steve Nava: and Pacific Islander groups sort of coming through and living in the area, right?

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00:30:50.622 --> 00:30:58.352

Steve Nava: And he said that there really wasn't that much tension between the groups which I think may or may not be, I am not sure.

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00:30:58.382 --> 00:31:03.022

Steve Nava: I'm not sure what the trend is across you know the different sort of

267

00:31:03.332 --> 00:31:07.001

Steve Nava: Chinatowns and Japantowns, and you know,

268

00:31:08.042 --> 00:31:14.712

Steve Nava: you know, enclaves. So what was your sense of that like as of different waves of

269

00:31:15.092 --> 00:31:18.811

Asian American groups coming living in the area. Did you feel like

270

00:31:19.142 --> 00:31:20.831

Steve Nava: people got along pretty well?

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00:31:21.742 --> 00:31:28.031

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Yes, I do feel that I don't recall any

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00:31:29.352 --> 00:31:31.072

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: *differences* or

273

00:31:32.772 --> 00:31:39.922

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: feelings that like "Oh," "there's a big change going on," but no, it just seems like,

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00:31:40.932 --> 00:31:53.582

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah. They wanted to partake in things that were happening in Japantown. And of course, we were like welcome, welcome. That. Yeah. So yeah, I think it was very nice

275

00:31:54.632 --> 00:32:07.592

Steve Nava: from my perspective. Yeah. And so growing up, did you hear stories about the different waves? And did you hear about you know what Japantown was like before when there was more of a Chinese American space.

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00:32:07.722 --> 00:32:15.961

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Did you know about that history, or I did learn about that. Not as a child.

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00:32:17.062 --> 00:32:20.572

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: probably more so like in college. But

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00:32:22.902 --> 00:32:24.602

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah, I know my

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00:32:24.622 --> 00:32:41.752

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: dad would talk about a certain restaurant that he would go to, and this particular cook with make this wonderful Chinese dish. And I think, though I can't even remember the name of the restaurant. But it was on Sixth Street. And so.

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00:32:43.072 --> 00:32:45.682

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah, there were

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00:32:47.922 --> 00:32:48.991

just from

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00:32:49.432 --> 00:32:54.762

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: vague stories that I would hear from my dad, but not a whole lot.

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00:32:54.932 --> 00:32:57.502

Steve Nava: Umhm. Yeah.

284

00:32:59.442 --> 00:33:05.502

Steve Nava: did you would. Did you go to Heinlenville Park?

285

00:33:06.172 --> 00:33:10.731

Steve Nava: Is that something you did as a child or as an adult?

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00:33:10.952 --> 00:33:12.042

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: No.

287

00:33:12.132 --> 00:33:16.681

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: you mean that the area it was.

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00:33:17.052 --> 00:33:18.881

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Is it there in the 60s.

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00:33:19.412 --> 00:33:25.662

Steve Nava: Not sure exactly that that particular history? But I know there was a park there. And now there's housing there.

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00:33:25.722 --> 00:33:31.001

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Oh, yeah, right now there is. Yes. And have I gone to the current park?

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00:33:31.062 --> 00:33:46.441

Steve Nava: Oh, in the past was there like parks you liked to go to kind of like in that area like to play sports or something like, what were they? Sort of hangout spots for kids and teenagers like when they're in Japan. Yeah, near there in there.

292

00:33:48.132 --> 00:33:50.301

I think it was just at the churches.

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00:33:50.512 --> 00:33:55.842

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Okay? And the church guards and stuff like that. Yes. and

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00:33:57.112 --> 00:34:11.172

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Yeah. I believe the like. The youth groups would have their activities at each church. But they would have basketball through the Japanese

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00:34:11.532 --> 00:34:15.762

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: CYS. And those

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00:34:15.802 --> 00:34:17.572

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: activities were

297

00:34:17.812 --> 00:34:21.861

spread out through the city in different gyms and different fields.

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00:34:22.312 --> 00:34:23.012

Steve Nava: Hmm.

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00:34:26.062 --> 00:34:27.622

Steve Nava: and

300

00:34:29.132 --> 00:34:30.832

Steve Nava: kind of thinking about

301

00:34:31.992 --> 00:34:42.882

Steve Nava: the whole of your sort of past and your relationship to San Jose, Japantown. What does it mean to belong to a community in your and your perspective like, what does that really mean to you?

302

00:34:43.422 --> 00:34:44.692

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: To be part of

303

00:34:45.302 --> 00:34:47.092

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: right?

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00:34:48.642 --> 00:34:57.251

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: to me? To belong to a community is like you coming together with common interests, common goals. It's like a place to

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00:34:58.762 --> 00:35:08.661

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: feel welcomed. a place where you can grow, learn experience and participate...

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00:35:09.002 --> 00:35:18.362

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and also to have fun. But I think it also, when you are a part of a community.

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00:35:18.652 --> 00:35:23.291

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: it teaches you to give back, maybe within your community or to other communities.

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00:35:23.562 --> 00:35:31.462

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And it's a place where relationships are formed and also partnerships, um.

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00:35:31.972 --> 00:35:36.891

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah, I think

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00:35:37.902 --> 00:35:42.561

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: that's how I feel about the communities. And why it's so important to me.

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00:35:45.212 --> 00:35:51.631

Steve Nava: And what do you think? What do you see yourself as (like your role) in the community, now, in this capacity?

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00:35:51.872 --> 00:35:55.381

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Let me see.

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00:35:58.542 --> 00:36:05.772

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So I've always been involved with the between community growing up, but also

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00:36:05.802 --> 00:36:08.872

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: once I finish college

315

00:36:08.962 --> 00:36:21.552

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: we opened up a preschool at the church. and it's called Lotus Preschool, and started in 1986. Excuse me so.

316

00:36:23.252 --> 00:36:26.741

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: sharing the goodness that I feel from

317

00:36:27.052 --> 00:36:29.352

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: my, Betsuin community

318

00:36:29.412 --> 00:36:33.272

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: with the Lotus children and their families has been very heartwarming.

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00:36:34.762 --> 00:36:47.091

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: The children like attend daily service at the temple with the [Riban Sakamoto or \[Etsuko\] Mikame sensei](#) and the families are encouraged to participate in Betsuin activities as well.

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00:36:47.312 --> 00:36:59.111

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and a lot of times there are families that come to us who have grown up in the community. But there are families who have not. So it's oftentimes a nice first step into either the bed swing

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00:36:59.272 --> 00:37:08.781

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: or the Japantown community. So excuse me, that's been really good. But I also feel a strong connection to the Japantown community.

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00:37:08.902 --> 00:37:14.402

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and personally, my family, and I continue to support. You know the businesses, the causes, and

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00:37:14.802 --> 00:37:16.531

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the events.

324

00:37:18.082 --> 00:37:19.002

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Excuse me.

325

00:37:19.202 --> 00:37:23.542

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: that my work at Lotus Preschool

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00:37:23.972 --> 00:37:29.151

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: has been very fortunate to be part of the Japantown community. Over the years

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00:37:29.432 --> 00:37:35.871

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: we have had friendships and partnerships with them the following organizations. And it's been wonderful.

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00:37:36.112 --> 00:37:40.031

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So like [Yu Ai-Kai Senior Day Center](#).

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00:37:40.552 --> 00:37:44.441

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: The children would go twice a month, and we have this wonderful

330

00:37:44.982 --> 00:37:49.032

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: collaboration with

331

00:37:49.132 --> 00:38:01.711

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: activities and songs with both the seniors and the children. It's been wonderful. We've collaborated with the Wesley United Methodist jazz band or songs that we would sing together for the Yu Ai-Kai

332

00:38:02.152 --> 00:38:03.662

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: seniors.

333

00:38:03.752 --> 00:38:13.592

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: There's like earthquake preparedness with a Japantown Prepared, and that takes place at [Roy's Station](#) every October

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00:38:13.752 --> 00:38:22.451

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and our children get to perform at Taiko at the San Jose. Taiko 's Halloween in Japan.

335

00:38:23.142 --> 00:38:35.421

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and then we sing our collection of Japanese songs at Yu A--Kai's Kadokai event, and that is a celebration to celebrate the seniors in the community, show our appreciation.

336

00:38:35.522 --> 00:38:42.022

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And like we just love being in Japantown, for instance, for letter M is a wonderful week that we celebrate

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00:38:42.102 --> 00:38:46.242

where [Minato's restaurant](#) invites the children over for

338

00:38:47.582 --> 00:38:56.112

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: for a meal, and she talks about the menu, and then miso soup and the misu the water. Everything that starts with 'M'. So it's just a lot of.

339

00:38:56.492 --> 00:39:10.192

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and then we continue and we go to [Shueido Manujim](#). Another m word to eat their manju on the monument which is across the street on Fifth and Jackson.

340

00:39:11.112 --> 00:39:18.591

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: We also get invited to Kokura's company, and they share their Hino monkey display and and story.

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00:39:18.622 --> 00:39:19.951

and then

342

00:39:20.502 --> 00:39:23.062

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: we also do grandparents day at

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00:39:23.192 --> 00:39:29.261

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And Hinamoti at the Japanese American Museum. And these are a lot of things that we have done

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00:39:29.832 --> 00:39:38.712

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: in the past, maybe 10 years. But prior to that, you know, we've done collaborations and partnerships with different community groups. And it's been wonderful.

345

00:39:38.952 --> 00:39:39.722

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Yes.

346

00:39:39.872 --> 00:39:49.522

Steve Nava: wow, that's wonderful. I didn't know that you had such a tight connection to these really sort of central family run businesses that are generational.

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00:39:50.062 --> 00:40:00.981

Steve Nava: So what do you think? The future of Japan is based on your experience and your sense of how things like I mentioned earlier, like certain social forces are shaping the environment.

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00:40:01.102 --> 00:40:07.532

Steve Nava: And you particularly have experienced a lot of particular connection to

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00:40:07.962 --> 00:40:20.112

Steve Nava: different I guess institutions there that are very central to the life of the community. So you kind of have this very particular point of view like, How do you see the future of Japan?

350

00:40:21.412 --> 00:40:37.281

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I would like to see our Japantown remain as much as possible like it is today with family run businesses versus having the like. The well known retailers come in with their

351

00:40:37.342 --> 00:40:40.342

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: coffee shops or restaurants or stores.

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00:40:40.362 --> 00:40:43.442

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and that would really change

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00:40:44.062 --> 00:40:56.721

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: our historic Japantown. And so I think a lot of us feel the same way, so hopefully we'll we'll be able to maintain and persevere.

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00:40:56.862 --> 00:40:58.571

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and I had a good sense.

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00:40:58.672 --> 00:41:11.011

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: but with those whose hearts and souls are into persevering and maintaining and looking forward for our future, that they will continue their excellent work

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00:41:11.022 --> 00:41:14.221

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and keep us on the right path.

357

00:41:14.362 --> 00:41:18.841

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think, for a while it's it's nice that there's so many of us

358

00:41:19.542 --> 00:41:26.952

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: who have been here for a long time, or or families have been here for a long time, or. you know, really feel the same. So I am very hopeful

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00:41:27.092 --> 00:41:34.912

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: that there will be changes. Of course there'll be good changes. But yes, hopefully, the integrity and

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00:41:35.372 --> 00:41:39.212

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: of you know, our Japan will remain the same.

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00:41:39.562 --> 00:41:41.441

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Hmm, okay.

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00:41:42.652 --> 00:41:53.862

Steve Nava: And if you were to sort of list 2 or 3. I guess, elders that you feel like have a really strong role in building community or holding it together or guiding it.

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00:41:54.222 --> 00:42:01.921

Steve Nava: Who would you think of when you think of like the main sort of community builders in your network of folks from the community.

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00:42:03.382 --> 00:42:07.142

Steve Nava: Maybe people that should be sort of recognized or

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00:42:08.392 --> 00:42:11.641

Steve Nava: celebrated, you know. Supported it.

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00:42:13.782 --> 00:42:19.812

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: One that comes to mind right now is Jim Nagareda.

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00:42:20.742 --> 00:42:29.151

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Jim's family has a business here in Japan as well.

368

00:42:30.302 --> 00:42:42.031

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: [Kay's Shiseido](#) that's on the corner of Fifth and Jackson. Jim is involved with so many different projects.

369

00:42:43.692 --> 00:42:45.871

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and it all comes back to

370

00:42:47.802 --> 00:42:57.332

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: how we can better Japantown, how we can keep together. And how do we bring people in to share what we have here? And so I think he is

371

00:42:58.272 --> 00:43:02.641

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: someone of my generation who's been working hard

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00:43:04.862 --> 00:43:06.942

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: to keep us together

373

00:43:08.252 --> 00:43:10.231

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: trying to think of others.

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00:43:23.102 --> 00:43:25.771

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: sorry. There are many I just can't

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00:43:26.212 --> 00:43:30.911

Steve Nava: in terms of Jim, I mean, does he have multiple hats that he wears

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00:43:31.232 --> 00:43:41.822

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: in the community? He does he? Is a business. He has been a business owner himself. a

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00:43:42.682 --> 00:43:49.771

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah. Has. Most recently in a part of the Japanese American Museum. He might

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00:43:50.732 --> 00:43:56.661

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: have been the Executive director. He has

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00:43:56.932 --> 00:44:00.162

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: just released a film with

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00:44:02.532 --> 00:44:08.272

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Kerwin Burke that we just showed at the Temple

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00:44:08.702 --> 00:44:13.241

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Annex the other week. It's called *Kintsukuroi*.

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00:44:13.252 --> 00:44:17.172

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and so that's about keeps you.

383

00:44:17.522 --> 00:44:28.422

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Joy is like the art of when something is broken like right? And then you put it back together, and then you would fill in the cracks with gold. So it's like

384

00:44:29.532 --> 00:44:32.942

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: again. And so the movie just showed how.

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00:44:33.462 --> 00:44:35.411

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: when lives have been broken

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00:44:35.692 --> 00:44:40.801

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: through the experiences that the issei's and nisei's had gone through

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00:44:40.892 --> 00:44:43.402

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: that you know they have persevered, and they

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00:44:44.302 --> 00:44:49.601

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: they have put their pieces back together and have lived the

389

00:44:49.902 --> 00:44:53.041

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: a much better life. And so Jim was.

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00:44:53.462 --> 00:45:01.842

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: was instrumental with bringing that movie. He also had a small role in it. And he was. Yeah, so he, Jim, does a lot

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00:45:02.212 --> 00:45:03.292

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: he does not.

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00:45:06.952 --> 00:45:13.081

Steve Nava: And So in terms of the idea of kintsukuroi, what does that mean for you

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00:45:13.562 --> 00:45:21.472

Steve Nava: when you think about your community, what are some times you felt like the community had to heal or pull it together

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00:45:22.392 --> 00:45:28.342

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: it. When I saw that movie, it was just such a reminder of

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00:45:28.402 --> 00:45:36.982

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: what my grandparents had gone through. And it's it just kind of hurts it, I mean hurts a lot to know that they had that struggle. And

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00:45:37.292 --> 00:45:42.932

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: you know, just 4 years of their lives just taken away. So.

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00:45:43.162 --> 00:45:44.582

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: seeing that

398

00:45:45.652 --> 00:45:49.721

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: brought back, you know, very sad feelings, but then

399

00:45:49.972 --> 00:46:05.041

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: also on the flip side, knowing how hard they work to get their lives together, and to provide, you know, stuff for my parents, and now for us, you know just very a good sense of gratitude.

400

00:46:05.222 --> 00:46:08.091

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: an appreciation, for you know what they have been through.

401

00:46:10.162 --> 00:46:16.391

Steve Nava: Well, has there been discussions about reparations to the families that went through that? Did you heard about?

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00:46:17.922 --> 00:46:22.782

Yes, there were reparations given back, and I believe, 1980 or 1982.

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00:46:23.602 --> 00:46:25.432

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Where the

404

00:46:27.052 --> 00:46:32.291

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: people who are incarcerated received \$20,000.

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00:46:32.772 --> 00:46:33.522

Steve Nava: Um.

406

00:46:36.892 --> 00:46:43.701

Steve Nava: And do you feel like the community saw that as enough? Or is there a sense that it was just

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00:46:43.982 --> 00:46:47.162

Steve Nava: not enough? Or how did that play out? You think?

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00:46:47.432 --> 00:46:58.672

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think. Of course it was not enough. I mean to take away from 4 years of your life. is just hard to

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00:46:59.662 --> 00:47:02.301

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: understand how they could that could have happened.

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00:47:02.452 --> 00:47:06.642

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think it was sad in that

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00:47:08.062 --> 00:47:10.702

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: many had passed on already.

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00:47:10.792 --> 00:47:16.422

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and did not receive that. So my. I think 3 of my grandparents

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00:47:17.312 --> 00:47:23.922

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: did not receive that because they had passed on. So, it does not go to the family. But so, you know, they never saw that

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00:47:23.932 --> 00:47:28.472

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: an apology, and even that token amount.

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00:47:28.552 --> 00:47:31.742

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah, I believe people felt that.

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00:47:33.192 --> 00:47:35.091

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Yeah, it was

417

00:47:35.962 --> 00:47:40.911

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: nice to get the apology. But however, you know, \$20,000 was nothing.

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00:47:41.222 --> 00:47:42.362

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Yeah.

419

00:47:42.592 --> 00:47:44.751

Steve Nava: So how do you think that?

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00:47:45.882 --> 00:47:53.012

Steve Nava: the community could be compensated for such an attack on the community like.

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00:47:53.202 --> 00:47:54.292

is there

422

00:47:54.342 --> 00:48:03.052

Steve Nava: ways that you could see the community being supported, that are, it's not being supported as a compensation for that. Or how do you kind of imagine that?

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00:48:04.922 --> 00:48:08.822

Steve Nava: maybe government helping, make up for the past?

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00:48:11.302 --> 00:48:12.892

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I don't know if

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00:48:16.102 --> 00:48:18.262

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I

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00:48:18.762 --> 00:48:28.251

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: have not heard of any groups asking for any kind of reparations now, but I think it is very

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00:48:28.552 --> 00:48:37.502

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: important that groups like the [Nihonmachi Outreach Committee](#). They continually

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00:48:37.832 --> 00:48:41.162

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: present the

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00:48:42.862 --> 00:48:44.772

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: day of remembrance

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00:48:45.292 --> 00:48:53.202

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: that they just had this past weekend. And so, it brings people together to educate

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00:48:53.302 --> 00:49:01.902

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: to honor and to remember, what had happened during the incarceration and years following.

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00:49:01.952 --> 00:49:12.661

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And so it's very nice that others from the different communities come and to learn, and with hope

433

00:49:12.742 --> 00:49:16.402

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: that this could never happen again to any other groups.

434

00:49:17.622 --> 00:49:24.781

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So if we can keep that part up, I think that would be huge. I don't see the reparations coming. But yeah, just

435

00:49:26.712 --> 00:49:28.012

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: educated there

436

00:49:32.202 --> 00:49:39.492

Steve Nava: and think I already kind of asked you a bit about your childhood. I mean, we talked a bit about it.

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00:49:39.572 --> 00:49:45.582

Steve Nava: but I was also wondering, like, what are your some of your happiest memories of being a kid and

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00:49:45.622 --> 00:49:48.252

Steve Nava: Japantown area like. What? What

439

00:49:48.382 --> 00:49:53.121

Steve Nava: could you share a little bit about one of the happy days that you had.

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00:49:53.332 --> 00:49:56.822

Steve Nava: or a couple of them just being in the community? And....

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00:49:59.012 --> 00:50:08.781

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Um, I had a good time going to Japanese language school.

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00:50:08.852 --> 00:50:13.102

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: If my really good friend and I we we

443

00:50:13.202 --> 00:50:15.682

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: went to Japanese school for

444

00:50:15.752 --> 00:50:25.702

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: many, many years, so you might be fluent. But I'm not. But I had gone from maybe like first grade all the way through sixth, seventh grade

445

00:50:25.732 --> 00:50:31.561

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and it was just a nice time to come together to learn

446

00:50:31.602 --> 00:50:47.172

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the language and part of the culture, but we would have a grand time during our recesses because we would get to go around Japantown, and there used to be like the drug stores that would sell, you know.

447

00:50:47.332 --> 00:50:51.641

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: candies and snacks and stuff like that. So that was a fun time I could remember. Yeah.

448

00:50:52.442 --> 00:51:00.381

Steve Nava: was there diners back then, like like Burger joints and kind of malt shops, or anything like that there was

449

00:51:00.942 --> 00:51:17.142

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Fourth Street pharmacy, which was a little bit further, because it was on Fourth and Jackson. It was a little bit too far to go within our 15 min, but they they sold. They had like a a counter where they sold or made sandwiches, and

450

00:51:17.642 --> 00:51:19.842

probably some soups and stuff like that.

451

00:51:20.012 --> 00:51:24.982

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So that was kind of nice. But then they were more of restaurants, but not so much

452

00:51:26.302 --> 00:51:27.442

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: diners.

453

00:51:28.252 --> 00:51:32.181

Steve Nava: What was the how important were these like

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00:51:32.432 --> 00:51:40.922

Steve Nava: sort of food, places that were sort of like more, for towards youth and teenagers and middle schoolers. how important were they to the community?

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00:51:42.062 --> 00:51:44.582

Steve Nava: And do you feel like there's that now, like

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00:51:44.622 --> 00:51:49.312

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: important to us as children for us.

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00:51:49.652 --> 00:51:55.831

Steve Nava: you know. Maybe, like middle schoolers like, or high schoolers like like central

458

00:51:56.292 --> 00:52:01.152

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: food places that were kind of fast fast hang out and then leave. And

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00:52:01.412 --> 00:52:08.382

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: oh, I remember Tom and Mary's was a coffee shop. There's the diner that I grew up with.

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00:52:08.452 --> 00:52:14.142

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and now Gombe is there but they would have

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00:52:14.872 --> 00:52:16.252

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Shape ice

462

00:52:17.072 --> 00:52:19.501

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: they probably called it ice

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00:52:20.222 --> 00:52:21.322

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: shape, ice.

464

00:52:22.092 --> 00:52:35.502

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: snow cones, but yes, or ice cream. And I think they had a pinball machine. So I think people are kids like we like to go in there, and we we'd have our snacks and treats

465

00:52:36.012 --> 00:52:49.602

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: more at different times, more so than our 15 min recess from Japanese. Yeah. So I think they would feel there. And I think people would go to the drugstores because, I've heard they had really good comic books.

466

00:52:49.812 --> 00:52:51.172

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So

467

00:52:51.742 --> 00:52:57.962

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I I've heard others. Yeah, they would congregate there because they they like to read the comic books or buy them.

468

00:53:00.632 --> 00:53:05.441

Steve Nava: Did you feel like there was Hawaiian influences to the culture there?

469

00:53:05.832 --> 00:53:07.191

Steve Nava: Or do you see that

470

00:53:07.842 --> 00:53:09.182

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: back? Then

471

00:53:10.222 --> 00:53:13.091

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: back then, when I was growing up no.

472

00:53:13.322 --> 00:53:15.621

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: but not when you look at it

473

00:53:17.502 --> 00:53:23.082

Steve Nava: and was your family kind of connected to families that were from Hawaii Islands.

474

00:53:23.352 --> 00:53:25.552

My family?

475

00:53:26.812 --> 00:53:37.032

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: My brother, had a friend who helped them with getting some recipes like like a poke recipe my parents had gone to Hawaii to

476

00:53:37.222 --> 00:53:44.912

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: vacation, and they brought back this wonderful what we call it strawberry mochi, and so we now make it at this

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00:53:44.992 --> 00:53:46.261

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: at the store

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00:53:46.342 --> 00:53:53.601

Steve Nava: has a reputation. There's people really. Just

479

00:53:53.732 --> 00:54:04.461

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: they fetishize this stuff. Yes, yes, but my dad was really good about just trying different things. So in terms of Hawaiian things he would make like laulau.

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00:54:04.772 --> 00:54:09.382

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and so that was quite impressive. And you know I enjoyed it, but I

481

00:54:09.402 --> 00:54:20.792

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I saw his recipe recently, but it was like I should really have learned how to make it from him, because that was a really good Hawaiian thing, and we've always had, like

482

00:54:21.582 --> 00:54:26.701

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: a business connection in Hawaii, because that's where they would get the Kamaboko

483

00:54:27.062 --> 00:54:29.061

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the rice cake.

484

00:54:29.302 --> 00:54:38.181

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the fishcake, the fishcake, and different items like that would come from Hawaii, and so then they would also send poi

485

00:54:38.882 --> 00:54:47.072

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: boy over, and sometimes tea leaves. So I yeah, I don't know for how long we've been doing that, but it's quite a while that we the store had

486

00:54:48.092 --> 00:54:50.542

provided that to the customers.

487

00:54:54.372 --> 00:55:00.502

Steve Nava: And what's your relationship to the voice station? Do you? Do you go there, or do you have friends there?

488

00:55:00.762 --> 00:55:10.461

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: So the preschool is like 2 buildings away, and so we are there a lot. So we're in Roy's Station.

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00:55:11.532 --> 00:55:13.682

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Roy station lot.

490

00:55:14.112 --> 00:55:17.031

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I've grown up with

491

00:55:17.472 --> 00:55:18.362

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Carol.

492

00:55:18.642 --> 00:55:26.382

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: who is my age, and her daughter Jasmine is running Roy's Station, as well as the siblings are there as

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00:55:26.762 --> 00:55:28.151  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: has there

494  
00:55:28.262 --> 00:55:32.231  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: hands in helping out the business as well. But

495  
00:55:32.472 --> 00:55:43.892  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: so yeah, we and Carol and I are good friends. And so that's our relationship not related, but just have grown up together. We dance together in CYS and tap and ballet.

496  
00:55:43.922 --> 00:55:47.632  
Steve Nava: Oh, it's children that's cool

497  
00:55:47.852 --> 00:55:49.681  
as well as Kogura company.

498  
00:55:49.792 --> 00:55:53.561  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: you know the the daughter who is running the store now, yeah.

499  
00:55:53.662 --> 00:55:59.411  
Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Danced with her played basketball and Sunday School and YBA, and yeah.

500  
00:56:00.682 --> 00:56:08.491  
Steve Nava: and what do you know about Nijiya grocery store? Is that something that popped up when you were child, or was it already there?

501  
00:56:08.982 --> 00:56:13.891

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: [Duboshi's market](#) was there for many, many, many years.

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00:56:13.922 --> 00:56:16.531

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and then, when they retired,

503

00:56:17.562 --> 00:56:19.022

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Nijiya came in.

504

00:56:19.402 --> 00:56:25.681

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And I think it's not a family based store like a chain from Japan.

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00:56:26.092 --> 00:56:27.052

Steve Nava: Okay?

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00:56:29.862 --> 00:56:36.652

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And where's the where the Dobashi's a family that you knew about

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00:56:36.802 --> 00:56:38.662

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: The Dobashis. Yes.

508

00:56:38.802 --> 00:56:43.351

Steve Nava: were they? Yeah. Family that your your family knew about? Oh, yes.

509

00:56:43.442 --> 00:56:46.851

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yes, and even though we had the same types of businesses.

510

00:56:47.432 --> 00:56:49.861

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I know my dad would

511

00:56:50.142 --> 00:56:57.672

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: talk to them about this and that, you know prices or where to get this and that, and they'd help each other.

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00:56:58.892 --> 00:57:01.361

Steve Nava: and they they live right in the neighborhood, too.

513

00:57:02.752 --> 00:57:08.021

Steve Nava: Wow! And do you remember kind of what year it was that they finally retired.

514

00:57:08.322 --> 00:57:10.592

Steve Nava: or what? Generally

515

00:57:16.852 --> 00:57:19.862

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: 2,000. Ish? Okay.

516

00:57:20.162 --> 00:57:20.992

Steve Nava: wow.

517

00:57:22.352 --> 00:57:23.882

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: maybe a little bit later.

518

00:57:24.162 --> 00:57:27.541

Steve Nava: Hmm. so Nijiya market has been there for a while, then?

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00:57:27.642 --> 00:57:29.462

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Well, yes, yes.

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00:57:34.182 --> 00:57:35.512

Steve Nava: And

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00:57:38.132 --> 00:57:44.671

Steve Nava: Did you have family members that went to the to military service at all.

522

00:57:45.082 --> 00:57:47.052

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: My father was drafted

523

00:57:47.992 --> 00:57:49.352

after he

524

00:57:50.012 --> 00:57:56.532

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: after they came back from camp. He was. he went to San Jose High.

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00:57:57.352 --> 00:58:00.222

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: maybe 4, 3, 4 years.

526

00:58:02.502 --> 00:58:07.352

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: maybe 4 years. and then was drafted.

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00:58:11.412 --> 00:58:12.971

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and my uncles too.

528

00:58:21.422 --> 00:58:33.251

Steve Nava: and then when he when he returned. Did he just continue back with the businesses, the the business work

529

00:58:33.682 --> 00:58:35.102

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: he did. He went back to. He took a few classes business classes at San Jose state

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00:58:35.502 --> 00:58:42.262

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and I think night classes, too. Business night classes. But he did go back to the store, and he worked there.

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00:58:44.682 --> 00:58:46.682

Steve Nava: and did he seem to?

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00:58:47.322 --> 00:58:50.151

Steve Nava: I don't know. Did he seem to thrive in that and that work?

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00:58:50.352 --> 00:59:00.322

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: But he did. He he enjoyed He enjoyed the the customers coming in. He enjoyed working with the

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00:59:00.522 --> 00:59:02.052

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Salespeople

535

00:59:02.452 --> 00:59:04.052

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: and

536

00:59:05.292 --> 00:59:16.891

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: he trained a lot of young workers to how to work is oftentimes their first job. And so yeah, he was really patient. With that

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00:59:18.252 --> 00:59:20.022

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And he really

538

00:59:20.192 --> 00:59:24.832

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: [taught me and showed me how he gave back to the community.](#)

539

00:59:24.992 --> 00:59:27.181

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: And you know, I just grew up

540

00:59:27.262 --> 00:59:33.471

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: seeing this, but you don't really think about it to your'e older, but he would

541

00:59:33.802 --> 00:59:36.621

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: help out community groups by

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00:59:37.642 --> 00:59:48.291

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: gathering their their items that they needed, you know, instead of having that group go out and buy all this different stuff, so he would help gather things, he would give them discounts.

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00:59:48.992 --> 00:59:57.762

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: He would do special orders for like turkeys for the the golf clubs for every Thanksgiving. So he did that for many, many years.

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00:59:58.592 --> 01:00:11.732

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: He would deliver things to the churches to, you know the different organizations instead of having them pick it up, you know he would deliver, and what he was. I think he really enjoying

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01:00:11.812 --> 01:00:15.222

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: enjoyed doing, was bringing the

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01:00:15.602 --> 01:00:17.162

ice cream cups

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01:00:17.342 --> 01:00:20.521

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the store to our Oban festival

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01:00:20.782 --> 01:00:23.451

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: at the right moment when the dancing stopped

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01:00:23.732 --> 01:00:34.471

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: so that they could pass out all these little ice cream cups to the to the participants. So, he did that for many, many, many years I think he enjoyed it.

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01:00:34.672 --> 01:00:43.921

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: That was, that was, that was his contribution to the Oban, even though the church paid for the the ice cream cups, you know. That was his job, but I think he liked helping out.

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01:00:44.172 --> 01:00:45.132

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Place like that.

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01:00:45.792 --> 01:00:48.311

Steve Nava: Do you feel like that's a trend in the community

553

01:00:50.702 --> 01:00:52.382

to give back.

554

01:00:53.062 --> 01:00:55.172

Steve Nava: Yeah, to have a certain.

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01:00:55.722 --> 01:01:00.721

Steve Nava: you know, certain contribution that just sort of captures that spirit like.

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01:01:00.792 --> 01:01:02.251

Steve Nava: For example, I was.

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01:01:02.532 --> 01:01:10.491

Steve Nava: I was interviewing, or just actually just talking to someone about about the community and the Rast family. And

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01:01:10.792 --> 01:01:23.812

Steve Nava: and I know, like there's at least 2 or 3 Rast family members that will sweep the whole street in the and cover up any graffiti, and that to me sort of stood out, and I was like, well, this sounds very similar, and I'm wondering if you see a trend

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01:01:24.152 --> 01:01:32.122

Steve Nava: where there's sort of this contribution that people kind of take control of and do it themselves, you know. Take, take initiative.

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01:01:32.772 --> 01:01:36.651

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: We are so appreciative of the Rasts because they are the

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01:01:38.122 --> 01:01:46.921

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: they just give and give and give and keep doing to for the betterment of everyone and there are others who will go out and help, but

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01:01:47.332 --> 01:01:54.002

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: they are like at the top. They're at the top level who just continue to do so much.

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01:01:54.932 --> 01:01:59.922

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I think the different groups and the different businesses you know with

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01:02:00.342 --> 01:02:04.161

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: they will try their best to try to, you know, help out

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01:02:05.802 --> 01:02:11.161

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: in different ways with the community here, with the churches or events. Yes.

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01:02:12.722 --> 01:02:15.982

Steve Nava: yeah. It seems like people find their their niche or their

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01:02:16.042 --> 01:02:22.631

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: the way they can contribute and enjoy it. which seems to be ideal in many ways. Do you feel like

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01:02:23.502 --> 01:02:32.851

Steve Nava: I don't know? Do you feel like Japantown? San Jose is is unique. Or do you feel like you know of other communities like this? Or do you? I mean? Do you feel like it's unique?

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01:02:34.312 --> 01:02:41.582

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yes, I think, in comparison to the other Japantowns. The

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01:02:41.902 --> 01:02:47.292

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: 2 other remaining Japantowns. Ours is much smaller

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01:02:47.712 --> 01:02:55.372

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: down to San Francisco and Los Angeles, but I think ours is unique in that. It's because it's smaller. A lot of

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01:02:55.862 --> 01:03:04.222

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: generational stores are still here, or stores that have been in business, for, you know, 20 or 30 years, maybe not as long as ours, but

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01:03:04.282 --> 01:03:12.852

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: They have been, you know, the cement of the Japantown community. And so there's that cohesion. And

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01:03:15.402 --> 01:03:16.642

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: yeah, I

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01:03:19.212 --> 01:03:22.392

I think it's it's it's really good. I think

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01:03:22.572 --> 01:03:33.012

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: ours is very unique compared to the others, and I hope it stays. But you know who who knows but we just hope for the future that yes, we will continue

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01:03:33.722 --> 01:03:40.361

Steve Nava: alright. Thank you so much for answering all these questions and giving me so much to think about giving us, you know

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01:03:40.372 --> 01:03:41.772

Steve Nava: so much to think about.

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01:03:42.222 --> 01:03:55.181

Steve Nava: Is there any questions you have? Or actually, should I say is there anything you would like to say that we didn't cover that you feel like it's important for

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01:03:55.672 --> 01:04:02.872

Steve Nava: for this set of sort of interests. And like community change and continuity.

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01:04:03.182 --> 01:04:08.062

Steve Nava: is there something that you feel like you. You want to share that we didn't cover

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01:04:08.312 --> 01:04:17.032

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: I don't think so, but I think I'm just very appreciative to

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01:04:17.272 --> 01:04:30.282

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: you as a professor, but also sharing this with your students, and when you do that that will maybe not spark everyone to be part of their community and and help out. But you know, if you

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01:04:30.372 --> 01:04:38.462

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: get a handful out of each of your classes each year, I mean, that is like amazing. So yes, I'm very appreciative to what you are doing.

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01:04:38.962 --> 01:04:39.503

Lynne Yamaichi, San Jose: Oh, thank you.