

Steve Fugita

Oral History interview

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Tom Izu and SOC 14 student interviewers: Minh-Thuy Cao; Michael Hickam; Aiden Maciel; Tak Ying (T.Y.) Chan

Spaces of Belonging Project: Hidden in Plain Site/Sight

NEH Grant

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYHJzSANDSE>

Summary:

In this oral history interview retired psychology professor, Dr. Steve Fugita who has worked at the Japanese American Museum since the 1990s, shares his experiences growing up as a Japanese American navigating changing national reception of Japanese Americans. Dr. Fugita analyzes how *ethnicity* changes in meaning over time. He emphasizes the effects of war, discrimination, stereotypes, and segregation on his and his communities' sense of belonging to local community spaces of recreation, work, and civic engagement. He addresses home ownership and career opportunities in terms of a growing career field for Asian Americans and a shrinking homeownership structure of opportunity. Another notable point Dr. Fugita makes is how one feels *Japaneseness* shifts and changes as these social structures change, reflecting on a conversation with a white military colleague he spoke with during his time as a military researcher at the Army Research Institute in Arlington Virginia, who noted that the stereotype of the "silent thoughtful Asian" was an advantage for Generals in the military since a white General who might have the same personality traits would be seen as weak and not assertive enough. Dr. Fugita points to the ambivalence of racial stereotypes and the historically fluid dynamics of reception as related to social opportunities and access within personal interactions.

Steve Fugita: um let's see I was born in 1943 a long time ago I'm 80 going on 81 very
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Steve Fugita: soon uh let's see I grew up in the Midwest uh in
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Steve Fugita: Cleveland um not by our family's own choosing but because of the incarceration
etc. (which

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Steve Fugita: we can go into in a bit) uh let's see went to Ohio State as an undergraduate as
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Steve Fugita: a business major went to UC Riverside as a uh grad

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Steve Fugita: student in Psychology particularly social psychology uh taught at the University

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Steve Fugita: of Akron, was at a Research Center at the University of Illinois,

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Steve Fugita: Chicago uh then ended up in Santa Clara [University] so I had a joint appointment there in

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Steve Fugita: Psychology and Ethnic Studies um and let's see been involved

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in the community, and this is where Tom comes in and the History Center is that uh he and I have been working

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Steve Fugita: together at the Japanese American Museum San Jose so I'm a newcomer basically to

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Steve Fugita: the San Jose Community uh moved here in 1990 so I don't have a really deep knowledge of

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Steve Fugita: the community but I've been involved pretty much since uh I've been I've moved

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Steve Fugita: here so that's kind of the overall current history I guess you might call it.

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Steve Nava: thank you for sharing that sure can you tell me a little bit about your family?

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Steve Fugita: Family, sure um I think we have a pretty uh kind of

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Steve Fugita: standard Japanese American family in the in the sense that uh my parents

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Steve Fugita: were working in Hanford California before the war they were working in a

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Steve Fugita: Japanese American Grocery Store uh and they were um sweethearts if you want to call

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Steve Fugita: it that uh in 1944 and when the war came they hurried

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Steve Fugita: up to get married because they knew that, at least right before so-called

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Steve Fugita: evacuation that uh they wanted to be together. So, they got married

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Steve Fugita: um so they got sent to the same camp and so from Hanford they moved

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Steve Fugita: to uh Fresno because the Fresno Fairgrounds was the Assembly Center that they were

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Steve Fugita: sent to and they were there about six months and then the central Cal people

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Steve Fugita: were sent to or a lot of them were sent to Jerome Arkansas which was one of the 10 War

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Steve Fugita: relocation Authority camps and the um so they knew a lot of people in

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Steve Fugita: both the Fresno Assembly Center and the uh uh Jerome War relocation Authority uh

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Steve Fugita: Camp so they were there from at Jerome which was the permanent W

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Steve Fugita: Camp from 1942 until

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Steve Fugita: 1943 Jerome was in the swamp land of Arkansas and it was the first Camp to be

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Steve Fugita: closed in 1943. So, my dad at that point left camp for Chicago and my mom moved to Amache

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Steve Fugita: which was in Colorado which is the second their second camp and I was born

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Steve Fugita: in Jerome in 1943 uh so we moved to

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Steve Fugita: Amache then uh my sister was born uh in

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Steve Fugita: 1945 uh again my dad moved to Chicago Toledo and then finally Cleveland

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Steve Fugita: because uh there was a job available there they used to post jobs in the

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Steve Fugita: camps on a bulletin board and uh my dad had some experience uh in high school

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Steve Fugita: and also in after he graduated high school working in a garage in Hanford so

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Steve Fugita: he got a job as a bodyman in Cleveland and so he went there first

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Steve Fugita: kind of got a sta established and when the camps closed down in 1945 we moved out to Cleveland to join

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Steve Fugita: him and so basically we stayed in Cleveland or, I stayed in Cleveland um

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Steve Fugita: until 19 let's see

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Steve Fugita: 1965 when I moved to Riverside when I

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Steve Fugita: started grad school there in 1965. Actually, I went to undergraduate school

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Steve Fugita: in Psychology for one full year because I was a business undergrad had no

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Steve Fugita: courses in Psychology except for uh one General site course so they uh they said

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Steve Fugita: well we can't accept you as a grad student psych until you get some psych so I said okay I'll take a year of Psych

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Steve Fugita: year of all undergraduate psych and then they said that they'll look at me at that point and if they didn't want me

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Steve Fugita: then I could go on to another school uh but fortunately I bumped into a guy who

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Steve Fugita: just started at UCR and he I guess spoke reasonably

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Steve Fugita: well for me so I just stayed at Riverside and graduated from

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Steve Fugita: there so uh but let to go back a bit

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Steve Fugita: um let's see uh so our my family was in Cleveland uh which is a very different

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Steve Fugita: experience than people who returned immediately to San Jose of course um

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Steve Fugita: Cleveland had no Japanese Americans maybe in Northern Ohio there were a dozen

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Steve Fugita: Japanese uh so approximately 10,000 moved to the Cleveland area uh

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Steve Fugita: after the war principally because uh the worry location Authority encouraged Japanese

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Steve Fugita: Americans uh in the same way they encouraged Vietnamese to disperse because the kind of ongoing philosophy

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Steve Fugita: of the W and I think even social scientist assimilation theory was of

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Steve Fugita: course the kind of predominant way of thinking about these things so they wanted Japanese Americans rather than to

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Steve Fugita: come back to reform uh Japan towns uh like there were something like

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Steve Fugita: 40 Japan towns in California Before the War uh they wanted them to disperse and

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Steve Fugita: to because because uh they thought that uh the larger population would be much

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Steve Fugita: more accepting of them if if they didn't um Clump together because that was seen

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Steve Fugita: somehow as threatening I guess in fact the W told the Evac so-called evacuees

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Steve Fugita: that don't even go around town in groups because um that doesn't look good so uh

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Steve Fugita: they're was an active attempt to assimilate people both geographically

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and psychologically I think too so we ended up in Cleveland I went to

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Steve Fugita: Elementary School junior high uh sort of equivalent to middle school here high

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Steve Fugita: school went to Ohio State as an undergraduate and then like I said moved

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Steve Fugita: to California UCR but I think the the experience of

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Steve Fugita: growing up in C in the midwest was really different than growing up in in a

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Steve Fugita: place like San Jose and clearly different than growing up uh in Hawaii

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Steve Fugita: because I think you can think about it as uh kids who grew up in that era in

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Steve Fugita: the midwest to the east kids grew up in California kids will grew up in h

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Steve Fugita: Hawaii uh because of the numbers of Japanese Americans so in a place like

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Steve Fugita: Cleveland uh which is pretty similar to probably Minnesota uh

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Steve Fugita: Minneapolis Cincinnati Chicago um places that has substantial

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Steve Fugita: number of uh relocatees but not a huge number in

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Steve Fugita: Cleveland there about 10,000 right after the war and

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Steve Fugita: um I would say that um the Cleveland Comm Japanese American Community was

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Steve Fugita: pretty tight in other words instead of being geographically located close to together we were we were initially on

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Steve Fugita: the East forced to live on the east side of Cleveland but then quickly we spread out um

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Steve Fugita: partly due to kind of getting our uh foot on the ground in terms of

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Steve Fugita: economic mobility but also uh I think Japanese Americans quickly absorb the

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culture wherever they landed so in Cleveland they picked up uh African American

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Steve Fugita: anti-Jewish uh the Working Class People pretty quickly so like I can remember we

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Steve Fugita: lived in a lower middle-class Jewish neighborhood with and I had the aspiration of being Jewish when I was a

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Steve Fugita: kid because I saw them as being successful and

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Steve Fugita: uh uh so I think the kind of

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Steve Fugita: main thing that I can remember about growing up in a place like Cleveland for

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Steve Fugita: Japanese American after the war and in the 1950s and 60s is that I think uh you get and this

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Steve Fugita: is probably not unique to Japanese Americans in fact I know it's not unique to Japanese Americans it's just kind of

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Steve Fugita: being um uh not part of a larger community and

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Steve Fugita: especially after the war when Japanese Americans had a a pretty high

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Steve Fugita: sensitivity to how they were being reacted to so I think growing up in a

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Steve Fugita: place like that you um you always are conscious of being different and kind of

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Steve Fugita: looking around seeing how other people are reacting to you so I think it's very

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Steve Fugita: different than growing up in California a place like Gardenia with a bunch of Japanese Americans where they had a you

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Steve Fugita: know comfortable subculture or San Jose for that matter and clearly that's different than Hawaii where they were

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Steve Fugita: the majority in a sense or almost the majority and uh they had none of the

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Steve Fugita: kind of uh what I would call kind of hyper sensitivities of those of us who grew up in the Midwest and East so I

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Steve Fugita: think it's kind of one of the main kind of psychological things you're always kind of looking around to seeing

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Steve Fugita: how you're fitting in in a sense and uh in the 50s and the 60s you

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Steve Fugita: know we didn't have have an ethnic consciousness movements

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Steve Fugita: or uh the Black Power or Civil Rights Movement had occurred

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Steve Fugita: so um there was no alternative model I think for most of us in terms of uh how

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Steve Fugita: we should be except to be like the majority

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Steve Fugita: culture uh and so I can remember thinking in uh I I'm sorry College

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Steve Fugita: undergraduate um that you know I had a lot of white friends, male friends in

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Steve Fugita: fact, most of them were but, the kind of line was drawn at

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Steve Fugita: uh intergender gender relationships so I kind I think my kind of uh ideal

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Steve Fugita: female as an undergraduate was uh like a like a

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Steve Fugita: successful attractive blonde sorority

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Steve Fugita: girl that was my sort of uh that was the prize I suppose never was fully

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Steve Fugita: successful that uh but I had that in the back of my mind I

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Steve Fugita: think uh but, I think you know things have changed a lot obviously since then

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Steve Fugita: but that that was kind of the ten of the times I think for me anyways and growing

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Steve Fugita: up in the Midwest yeah

Steve Nava: Aiden did you have any probing

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Steve Nava: extra questions about anything that you wanted to learn more about uh personally no I feel like you um Professor Fugita

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Aiden Maciel: you've really gone depth into what happened during that era and what happened during your life during that time so thank you for sharing that

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Aiden Maciel: sure um but actually oh actually one probing question sorry um during that

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Aiden Maciel: time specifically with I would say the interesting thing that's way different from back then and now is, I

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Aiden Maciel: would say the cost of things so affordability back then in terms of now

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Aiden Maciel: how would you feel differs um you mean in terms of like getting started as a young person um or

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Aiden Maciel: yeah getting started

Steve Fugita: yeah um I you know it's hard to

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Steve Fugita: disentangle where you were and you know how the

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Steve Fugita: economic conditions changed concurrently with your change in

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Steve Fugita: circumstances I think I think it was it was hard in a sense but

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Steve Fugita: um but somehow like to get a to buy a house obviously in Santa Clara

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Steve Fugita: Valley now right we all as aspired to get a house and so

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Steve Fugita: we got a house in Akron Ohio where we were which was

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Steve Fugita: \$29,900 um it's it and it was affordable I mean we could make the payments and so

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Steve Fugita: forth it's not like we had to wait 10 years to get a down payment or something like that when I got my first job pretty

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Steve Fugita: quickly we were able to buy a house but again that's the Midwest versus California it's 19 1972 versus uh you

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Steve Fugita: know now all of that so yeah in a way our aspirations were lower but in a way

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Steve Fugita: they were more easily met than these days I think in a way yeah

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Steve Fugita: getting into college was a lot easier my time I mean it was no problem to get into UCLA I mean if you want to go to

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Steve Fugita: UCLA you could go to UCLA um which is really different than

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Steve Fugita: today of course. I went to Ohio State only because uh

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Steve Fugita: I didn't see myself as a great student uh and it was, I had gone to a very small

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Steve Fugita: suburban school had 60 or 70 people in their in my graduating class. I wanted

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Steve Fugita: to go a big school to try to get a feel for that so, I went to Ohio State which

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Steve Fugita: was the largest campus in the country at the time something like

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Steve Fugita: 35,000 and I had a hard time kind of adjusting from the small school to the big school I thought I could handle it a

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Steve Fugita: lot easier but um I finally did kind of adjust and kind of move forward

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Aiden Maciel: gotcha thank you.

Steve Fugita: Sure. Oh, Michael you're muted I

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Steve Fugita: think ah.

Michael Hickam: thank you so much I have kind of two questions for you one to follow

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Michael Hickam: up uh what Aiden said and did you you said it was easy to get into any college

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Michael Hickam: you wanted but as a Japanese you know citizen, did you encounter any

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Michael Hickam: problems getting loans for a house when they came back or business did you do you did you choose the school

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Michael Hickam: specifically because you know you wouldn't receive any um resistance right

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Steve Fugita: really good question yeah uh at the time um we came out of Camp so

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Steve Fugita: to speak uh my we lived uh in East Cleveland which was kind of a

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Steve Fugita: workingclass neighborhood at that time. Um, we had a black neighborhood which was extremely

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Steve Fugita: unusual for that period and in that neighborhood and that guy when he first

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Steve Fugita: bought the house he was a painter um in the 40s he had to actually defend himself

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Steve Fugita: with a with a pistol because the neighbors would try to tried to push him

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Steve Fugita: out. So that's how Cleveland was in the 1940s uh so my dad somehow was able to

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Steve Fugita: buy house there uh and then by the time I hit um (being a Freshman in high school)

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Steve Fugita: uh the blacks were kind of moving into Cleveland, East Cleveland (I'm sorry) East

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Steve Fugita: East Cleveland and I think not all but quite a few Japanese

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Steve Fugita: Americans cuz they were workingclass folks right uh uh were affected by white

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Steve Fugita: so-called white flight just might call it yellow flight or whatever but in the same way so my dad was worried about the

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property value of the house he had so we moved out in further out in the sticks in uh in the suburbs partly because he

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Steve Fugita: could afford it wanted a new house and all that sort of stuff uh but the first

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Steve Fugita: place we tried to get a house we wanted to build a house uh after we saw the lot the neighbors

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Steve Fugita: passed a petition this is in 1957 passed a petition around and said

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Steve Fugita: they didn't want any Japanese moving into that property so the realtor told my dad that and rather than fight

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Steve Fugita: it he said I don't want to move into a place where people don't want me so we

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Steve Fugita: moved further out into the stick so to speak and we found another subdivision

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Steve Fugita: um bought the lot no problem at all had really good relations with the neighbors

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Steve Fugita: and so forth so it's kind of that hit and miss kind of thing I think

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Steve Fugita: right after the war um both the discrimination and Japanese

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Steve Fugita: American sensitivity about being Japanese Americans was really heightened because uh you know they're they thrown

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Steve Fugita: into the camps so they knew that they were quotes undesirable to the larger white

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Steve Fugita: population and I think a lot of Japanese Americans in some ways

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Steve Fugita: um thought that us to a degree thought that they were partly responsible for

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Steve Fugita: the uh for being thrown into the camps at least in the back of their minds

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Steve Fugita: because uh some people used to say well we should have we should have assimilated more we should have tried to

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Steve Fugita: reach out to the larger White Community before the war that kind of thing and so

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Steve Fugita: after the war people were very sensitive to you know riding the bus because

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Steve Fugita: people would stare at them or sometimes even say something nasty um and so there was that really

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Steve Fugita: heightened sensitivity to that sort of thing so um let's see what were we going with

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Steve Fugita: that um um so no thank thank you so much yeah

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Steve Fugita: we were wondering if there was any Financial uh you know ramifications of just simply being Japanese and it sound like they're

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Steve Fugita: selective that happened and so my second question was you know you grew up in Cleveland like you say and then you went

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Steve Fugita: to Riverside then Ohio where's the first place that you actually felt a sense of community you know seeing how you were

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Steve Fugita: in Cleveland you were very few yeah um this is a good a great question I um you

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Steve Fugita: know even though I didn't think about those things then uh in retrospect I

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Steve Fugita: would say that I felt a sense of community in Cleveland only because the Japanese American Community

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Steve Fugita: all all the so-called evacuates or incarcerates um they when they moved to

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Steve Fugita: Cleveland they immediately sort of tried to come together even if they couldn't

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Steve Fugita: geographically all live in the same spot like in a Nihon Machi or Japan Town they

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Steve Fugita: quickly um for example started up a newsletter that went to all the Japanese

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Steve Fugita: Americans through the Japanese American citizens League called a cadose scope and they would write about uh uh where

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Steve Fugita: people were moving uh who was being successful where you could get a job so

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Steve Fugita: I think in a sense because uh the they needed help they had a history of

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Steve Fugita: working together in California before the war because all of the uh like a lot

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Steve Fugita: of Japanese American farmers like in Santa Clara Valley would work with a Japanese American Packer shipper would

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Steve Fugita: work with a Japanese American uh Fruit Stand owner something like that so it's kind of a community

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Steve Fugita: that was reinforced by economics I think in California before they moved so when

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Steve Fugita: they got pushed together in the incarceration they even got closer in a

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Steve Fugita: sense because they all had the Sim had similar experiences and so when when they left the camp um they had the same

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Steve Fugita: tendency to want to be together because it was they were accepted felt comfortable and there was some there

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Steve Fugita: were some economic ties people who knew of jobs would tell other people about where the jobs were where they could buy

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Steve Fugita: a home and that kind of thing so um I think all of those things kind

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Steve Fugita: of made them or reinforced actually the original

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Steve Fugita: immigrants kind of, what do you want to call it, "groupness"

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Steve Fugita: and Japanese are known for their quotes groupness right as opposed to rugged

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Steve Fugita: individualism in America so I think that original cultural orientation and the

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Steve Fugita: fact that they all had the same kind of jobs like in agriculture or in small business which reinforced their

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Steve Fugita: groupness or the cultural orientation. The fact that the incarceration pushed them all together

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Steve Fugita: made them really aware of their japaneseness. So, when we went to a new place like

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Steve Fugita: Cleveland with very few Japanese Americans they kind of formed organizations that kind of link them

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Steve Fugita: together so when I was a kid we used to go to uh Japanese American picnics we

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Steve Fugita: used we my dad was a fisherman on Lake Erie and so um he found fishing buddies

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Steve Fugita: that he didn't know from before the war and we had three families that always used to go fishing together and uh they

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Steve Fugita: used to kid around and say and each of these families had a boat that they would trailer to the bass islands and

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Steve Fugita: they would joke among themselves and say things like well "we beat the white guys with

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Steve Fugita: our Jap Navy," you know with the three boats lined up and so forth so uh it's

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Steve Fugita: kind of like kind of like they had that kind of Japanese second generation sense of

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Steve Fugita: humor in a sense of kind of making fun of you know the ethnic differences I

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guess to kind of handle it. The um the interesting thing is that as a kid I

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Steve Fugita: used to try to I used to listen to them talk about the camps yeah there's all the stuff about uh Japanese Americans

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Steve Fugita: never were talking about the camps because it was a bad experience which I think is basically true but I used to

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Steve Fugita: hear my parents talk about camp in a humorous way they would they would talk

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about it um. Like one of the first thing they would do one with Japanese American who

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Steve Fugita: would meet another Japanese American they would say which Camp were you from which Camp did you go to and then once

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Steve Fugita: they established that then it would be

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Steve Fugita: uh like uh uh what did you do in Camp uh

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Steve Fugita: my my dad was a baseball player before uh he went to Camp he was a three-letter

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Steve Fugita: guy in high school and so forth so he ran the camp athletic distribution

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Steve Fugita: things and so

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Steve Fugita: um that's sort of a was I trying to drive at here now

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Steve Fugita: again senior moments I can't tell you um

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Michael Hickam: um you were talking about a place that you felt a sense of belonging?

Steve Fugita: oh yeah yeah yeah right so as a kid I can

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Steve Fugita: remember you know always going to recreational things with these free

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Steve Fugita: families or in a community setting like uh a community picnic uh a JCL meeting a Japanese

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Steve Fugita: American Citizens League meeting or they had a seniors group that would get together so I think as far as intimate

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Steve Fugita: friends they are mostly Japanese Americans even though they were you know isolated in the

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Steve Fugita: suburbs. Uh so yes, I do remember that I didn't think about it as "community" I just thought they were you know friends

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Steve Fugita: at that time right but in retrospect thinking about it. I would say it

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Steve Fugita: fulfills the definition of a community. So, I think Japanese Americans

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Steve Fugita: in a sense are fortunate in having uh sort of built into themselves

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Steve Fugita: as it were and also being kind of pushed together and reinforce in this way uh

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Steve Fugita: the idea that they should in some sense hang out

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Steve Fugita: together they feel more comfortable and they can help each other out uh

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Steve Fugita: so yeah so I think even in a place like in the midwest we we had a small but a

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Steve Fugita: viable Community not like you know people who came back to San Jose who had a physical Japan Town uh but uh we had a

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Steve Fugita: community in terms of the social links between people which I think is the core

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Steve Fugita: core thing anyway well.

Michael Hickam: thank you very much direct you you

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Michael Hickam: give such rich stories when you answer these questions and you actually have touched upon a lot of our

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Michael Hickam: questions I don't know how our professor is gonna handle it from here good luck thank you yeah thank you

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Steve Fugita: yeah just keep throwing them we'll try to answer em

Steve Nava: Minh-Thuy is next

Minh-Thuy Cao: yeah so can you talk a little bit

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Minh-Thuy Cao: about your teenage years like did you join a community or a group with similar interests

Steve Fugita: yeah just keep yeah good question uh I was kind of a nerd uh my

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Steve Fugita: yeah just keep dad was a jock when he was in high school and kind of seen by others as a

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Steve Fugita: yeah just keep kind of a leader I was never unfortunately gifted with athletic talent so I was a nerd maybe that's

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Steve Fugita: yeah just keep partly why I went into kind of tilted toward academics and maybe

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Steve Fugita: even ended up in Psychology in part because of that um but uh so I was uh

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Steve Fugita: kind of a good but not great student I would characterize it um in high

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Steve Fugita: school and Junior High uh but I can like I said I always

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Steve Fugita: remember feeling a sense of differentness I can remember in first

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Steve Fugita: grade for example the teacher asked us all to bring a game into class so that

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Steve Fugita: uh we could all play them so my mom bought me a marble game and it was one

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Steve Fugita: of these deals where you know you flick a marble and it goes into a slot that has a certain value to it and somehow

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Steve Fugita: compared to some other kids who had uh full-blown Monopoly sets and that kind of thing I just thought that that was

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Steve Fugita: kind of a not a very good game it was kind of a cheesy game you

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Steve Fugita: know cheap and not you know not very uh top of the top of the heap kind of game

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Steve Fugita: and so I can clearly remember feeling that you know this was going to accentuate my Japanese

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Steve Fugita: Americanness that somehow uh I wasn't part of I wasn't doing the right thing to be part of the

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Steve Fugita: gang um so that's kind of like from an early

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Steve Fugita: memory I think um uh through junior high in high

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Steve Fugita: school I can always I can remember being um part of a small knot of average white

30:16

Steve Fugita: guys uh but we were all nerves um we not uh not part of the uh the winning gang

30:23

Steve Fugita: so to speak uh. Didn't have the football quarterback on our in our little knot of

30:28

Steve Fugita: friends we used to go to the library and hang out and read read things like motor trend

30:36

Steve Fugita: um and kind of U self-conscious self-conscious with uh with with the

30:45

Steve Fugita: dating I always remember it was easier to date other

30:51

Steve Fugita: Japanese American girls and to date white girls uh that took a lot more

30:58

Steve Fugita: courage to ask a white girl on a date that persisted in the college too

31:07

Steve Fugita: just uh like I said um so I think the gender relations

31:12

Steve Fugita: is the is the kind of more

31:18

Steve Fugita: difficult Intergroup barrier in the same way that inter marriage is probably a

31:24

Steve Fugita: more difficult barrier than some other ones um so uh yeah I guess I don't know just

31:34

Steve Fugita: I guess a I describe my childhood and growing up as being uh kind of nerdish

31:42

Steve Fugita: uh interested in fishing because of my what my dad was doing interested in

31:47

Steve Fugita: like had being on the rifle team in junior high school we had a range

31:53

Steve Fugita: underneath the high school I'm sorry underneath the junior high school and uh

31:58

Steve Fugita: so I really got into that got an expensive target rifle with the gloves

32:04

Steve Fugita: and the glass yellow glasses and had the gunsmith uh put a hair trigger on the

32:11

Steve Fugita: thing and all all the the things you do to to be a good target shot person

32:17

Steve Fugita: so um but that kind of fits in with that kind of general nerdish kind of approach

32:23

Steve Fugita: to life I guess oh um

32:28

Steve Fugita: not not a horrible horrible existence for sure but uh I guess if I had my brothers I would

32:35

Steve Fugita: have changed some things for sure oh I guess I should mention

32:43

Steve Fugita: that in terms of like groups that I was close to uh we did form a Japanese

32:50

Steve Fugita: American like a teenagers club in high school and we would we

32:56

Steve Fugita: invited other Japanese Americans from like Detroit and

33:02

Steve Fugita: Chicago so that was another way to kind of expand our social network was to

33:08

Steve Fugita: uh you know try to get together with uh other Japanese Americans from different cities if there weren't

33:14

Steve Fugita: enough Japanese teenagers in Cleveland right expander network sort of like before the

33:20

Steve Fugita: war the Japanese American baseball players used to go town to town and check out the girls all right in each

33:28

Steve Fugita: town uh that was one of the major things that they used to do so maybe this was

33:35

Steve Fugita: our version of that uh so I

33:42

Steve Fugita: guess we sort of kind of made our own social social network social world in a

33:49

Steve Fugita: sense um and I think at that time our Japanese American parents wanted their

33:56

Steve Fugita: kids to marry other Japanese Americans. Intermarriage was not as okay it is as

34:02

Steve Fugita: it is now um. So, they encouraged us to

34:08

Steve Fugita: hang out with other Japanese Americans that's of course pretty different

34:14

Steve Fugita: than the pre-war people who were forbidden to intermarry right, some people

34:21

Steve Fugita: were thrown out of their own families because uh they intermarried so,

34:29

Steve Fugita: a big change over the years.

34:39

Steve Fugita: Um so I'm not sure what to say to that about that I think um

34:45

Steve Fugita: culturally when the first generation came over here in the 1910s and

34:50

Steve Fugita: 1920s they of course, in Japan, had a

34:56

Steve Fugita: pretty hierarchal society and they had a very clear pecking order among the among

35:01

Steve Fugita: the Asians and of course Japanese were at the top of that pecking order in their in their eyes um so I think we always grew up

35:11

Steve Fugita: because of that having in the back of our minds transmitted very subtly uh to us

35:18

Steve Fugita: that the Japanese were the best of the Asian groups um I think there was a with

35:25

Steve Fugita: regard to white folks at least in our social circles

35:31

Steve Fugita: um the, it was kind of complicated. I think in a lot of ways the

35:39

Steve Fugita: Japanese uh felt themselves in inferior to white folks but at another level they

35:46

Steve Fugita: felt themselves superior um so you know I think it's

35:51

Steve Fugita: some other groups like that my guess is like Jews have some of that same thing

35:57

Steve Fugita: that I think that sense of that deep level of sense of

36:04

Steve Fugita: superiority can have one of the good things about it there a lot of course bad things about it but one of the good

36:10

Steve Fugita: things about it acts as kind of a prophylaxis when you get um assaulted

36:18

either psychologically or whatever it's sort of protects you so that you don't kind of

36:24

Steve Fugita: prophylaxis have that psychological and sociological disorganization if you have that

36:31

Steve Fugita: sense of superiority at some level. But again, I think that whole

36:38

Steve Fugita: thing is really multi-layered a lot of ways.

Aiden Maciel: um if I may interject with another

36:46

Aiden Maciel: question um then in that case um was there a time or something you can talk

36:51

Aiden Maciel: about in the sense of where in a community you were a part of um most

36:56

Aiden Maciel: recently that you felt a strong sense of belonging to and do you think that some

37:02

Aiden Maciel: of the work that you do currently can help shape helps or affects the way

37:08

Aiden Maciel: that you shape your community life

yeah great question yeah I do that

37:14

Steve Fugita: I do feel a sense of uh community uh uh especially with the people at the

37:21

Steve Fugita: Japanese American Museum since I hang out and try to do my little thing with

37:27

Steve Fugita: them um and in a sense that broadens out the

37:33

Steve Fugita: larger Japanese American community in Nihonmachi and also the burbs so to

37:39

Steve Fugita: speak um uh so I in my old age I've

37:45

Steve Fugita: really come to appreciate that um because I

37:51

Steve Fugita: think um the that sense of community again in no way is this unique

37:59

Steve Fugita: I'm sure it goes to a lot of other groups maybe based on different factors but uh feeling that sense of

38:08

Steve Fugita: ease uh that sense of trust uh

38:14

Steve Fugita: the the sense of being a being much more spontaneous and not having to be careful

38:20

Steve Fugita: about what you say um really does uh

38:26

Steve Fugita: provide uh something good for one's [mental health](#) especially again I guess I'm a critic

38:34

Steve Fugita: of of American individualism in a lot of ways um I I think it's just

38:42

Steve Fugita: uh um I think we need more community in American society in general I sort of go

38:49

Steve Fugita: along with that guy who wrote the book [Bowling Alone](#)

38:54

Steve Fugita: um I think we need not only strong interpersonal ties in the friendship

39:01

Steve Fugita: sort of way but we need weak ties in the sense of knowing

39:06

Steve Fugita: people uh so that we can get different kinds of resources not only

39:11

Steve Fugita: psychologically but it helps us you know to navigate

39:17

Steve Fugita: Society um so um so I think we you know there is

39:25

Steve Fugita: something good about Asian Japanese cultures in the sense that if we could now of course there some bads obviously

39:31

Steve Fugita: but one good thing I think to preserve is is the the groupness or the

39:37

Steve Fugita: collectiveness or whatever I think if we could selectively pass that

39:43

Steve Fugita: piece on to the larger society that would be helpful I in my

39:49

Steve Fugita: opinion because of the individualism, the kind of rampant individualism that we have

39:56

Michael Hickam: now I guess that kind of leads to next

40:02

Michael Hickam: question uh you know has that the space where you grew up and and the

40:07

Michael Hickam: times that you've experienced do you think that's no longer possible do you think you know time has changed so much

40:13

Michael Hickam: and if there are changes like that how do you think they affect your community

Steve Fugita: uh you mean in terms of

40:20

Steve Fugita: subtle discrimination and maybe

Michael Hickam: not so subtle discrimination sense of isolation or no the the sense of being able to

40:27

Michael Hickam: form a community you know has that changed over time it's as easy to form a community today as it was back in your generation

Steve Fugita: yeah good question again um yes I did my guess is that it has and uh

40:42

Steve Fugita: I think you even see it in most Japanese American organizations these days the museum being one of them

40:50

Steve Fugita: um prior to the uh covid thing um the of directors was made up

40:58

Steve Fugita: mostly of uh teachers small business people uh and there was a much

41:05

Steve Fugita: more uh sense of um community in the on

41:11

Steve Fugita: the board because they were drawn from community people who knew each other all had the same or had pretty much the same

41:19

Steve Fugita: experiences uh had the same background so it's easy to form relationships where you could trust

41:26

Steve Fugita: other folks you didn't have to explain yourself because people understood right away now I think with the newer

41:33

Steve Fugita: generation of folks um they're much they're more

41:38

Steve Fugita: successful um than the the earlier folks in the sense

41:44

Steve Fugita: that they're all not all but most of them are like uh fairly high up in like

41:50

Steve Fugita: in Google, KPMG, Apple...all you know the techie

41:56

Steve Fugita: large corporations um they're well educated very confident

42:01

Steve Fugita: professionally but of course they grew up a further apart away from the

42:07

Steve Fugita: community and so they when they come together and and say want to preserve Japanese American

42:14

Steve Fugita: history it's harder for them not due to any fault of their own but big fact that

42:20

Steve Fugita: they growing up in a suburban setting for example where their sense of community and their

42:27

Steve Fugita: ties to the community and their knowledge about Japanese American history is much weaker than the previous

42:34

Steve Fugita: generation. So, it's they have to in order to form tight relationships they have to

42:41

Steve Fugita: work at it more I think than the earlier folks who naturally because of their

42:48

Steve Fugita: common experiences and common socialization clump together and could

42:53

Steve Fugita: could work with each other trust each other get things done and it's it makes a lot makes things a

42:59

Steve Fugita: lot easier even in an organization if you trust people right or have some kind

43:06

Steve Fugita: of higher levels of trust and so I think the younger generation because of their

43:13

Steve Fugita: removal further distance from their community further distance from the

43:18

Steve Fugita: culture have to work harder to form those kinds of bonds so and so it they

43:26

Steve Fugita: have to yeah work harder to to kind of form a

43:32

Steve Fugita: collective functioning group so to

43:44

Steve Fugita: speak

Minh-Thuy Cao: Sorry, what do what do you think it means to belong to a community and do

43:51

Minh-Thuy Cao: you think this has changed in your opinion um

43:58

Steve Fugita: Yeah um to me again I'm a advocate of the

44:03

Steve Fugita: *Bowling Alone* kind of philosophy I do think that people need groups and

44:09

Steve Fugita: you uh it's not to said you know you shouldn't be able to be an astronaut at

44:15

Steve Fugita: some point in your life but I think um you should be you should have strong

44:22

Steve Fugita: personal ties when based whether based on ethnicity or whatever it is

44:29

Steve Fugita: you um so, I think um we just have

44:36

Steve Fugita: to uh it's changed in the sense that I think discrimination helped some groups

44:42

Steve Fugita: form more effective groups maybe it also caused some groups because of

44:48

Steve Fugita: their historical [experience to kind of become more alienated](#) from each other um

44:55

Steve Fugita: which I think is a tremendous problem but I think for a group like the Japanese Americans because of

45:01

Steve Fugita: their their experience working together

45:07

Steve Fugita: um it was easier for them to kind of keep on um with your groups

45:14

Steve Fugita: although again I think it's it's with a younger generation it's becoming more and more

45:21

Steve Fugita: difficult but you know that on the other hand they can do whatever ever they want

45:27

Steve Fugita: occupationally right uh after I graduated business school I told my dad

45:32

Steve Fugita: I was going to interview Proctor and Gamble which has a their headquarters in Cincinnati and he said oh we never

45:39

Steve Fugita: thought about that he said we never even it was never conceivable that they could work

45:45

Steve Fugita: for a large corporation and so now,

45:55

Steve Fugita: especially the you know young people can have all

46:01

Steve Fugita: kinds of open horizons. Maybe this is one other thing I

46:07

Steve Fugita: could say about the ethnicity thing is that uh sometimes people ask me if being a Japanese American is an advantage in

46:15

Steve Fugita: certain situations not a disadvantage. And I think it was for me in certain

46:23

Steve Fugita: cases and because during the kind of uh

46:29

Steve Fugita: um ethnic awakening so to speak in the 70s and the

46:35

Steve Fugita: 80s, I was a uh one of my little things I

46:41

Steve Fugita: was an Army Reservist and uh I remember taking

46:47

Steve Fugita: ROTC in at Ohio State and uh really not being very good at it and uh but uh

46:55

Steve Fugita: eventually stick with it because I could get a job at the time I think being

47:01

Steve Fugita: occupationally successful was important to my parents myself. I didn't want to fail so knowing that I could get a be a

47:09

Steve Fugita: commissioned officer and spend two years in the army that would be at least a safe haven for a while. So I did that uh

47:18

Steve Fugita: and eventually after serving a couple years during the Vietnam War uh I disavowed

47:26

Steve Fugita: anything to do with the military uh and so I wasn't doing anything with the with

47:31

Steve Fugita: the military until four years later I got a postcard saying, "Hey would you like to take a a job at Fort Watuka (I think)

47:39

Steve Fugita: is a in a psychological lab," and I said Hey why not just try that because it I had

47:47

Steve Fugita: the summers to kill and so forth. So I did and I ended up in the Army Research Institute for the behavioral and social

47:54

Steve Fugita: sciences and was then Arlington Virginia and I just stayed with them for 24 years

48:00

Steve Fugita: they kept pushing me up um until I became the

48:06

Steve Fugita: uh was it Deputy Commander uh as a reservist because I had mostly civilian

48:11

Steve Fugita: psychologists there but anyway I can remember talking to this guy who was a

48:18

Steve Fugita: white guy who was a the speech writer for lieutenant general Ono. Ono was the

48:24

Steve Fugita: deputy chief of personnel who was a three-star general and he when he

48:30

Steve Fugita: retired he went back to Hawaii and ran a bank but in any case uh this white speech

48:39

Steve Fugita: writer said you know uh something something to the fact that you Japanese Americans are are lucky because uh you

48:47

Steve Fugita: know like Ono was very quiet and uh uh and he's also a short guy you like

48:55

Steve Fugita: your the Army likes their generals to look strack right, tall uh physically fit

49:00

Steve Fugita: and all that good stuff. Um so I said you know um Ono uh couldn't have risen to

49:11

Steve Fugita: the place he did rise to a three star general um

49:17

Steve Fugita: because if a white guy was as quiet as he was that would be a sign of kind of

49:24

Steve Fugita: weakness but, to um to for an Asian to be

49:34

Steve Fugita: quiet uh was seen as being thoughtful uh you know reflective uh thinking about

49:40

Steve Fugita: things in a deeper way so he saw that being an

49:47

Steve Fugita: Asian uh in that sense was an advantage so I've always thought that

49:54

Steve Fugita: maybe uh in that small way I was fortunate in the

50:00

Steve Fugita: sense that probably you know I always thought being quiet was a good good thing right you're just kind of being strong silent type uh but

50:10

Steve Fugita: um if it if it was somebody else maybe they would thought that person didn't have anything to say it was stupid or

50:16

Steve Fugita: would say something inappropriate or something like that so maybe there are a little wrinkles.

50:25

Steve Fugita: Maybe sometimes not complimentary stereotype that whites have of Asians

50:30

Steve Fugita: and Japanese that sometimes work in their favor oh I don't know I think it's a

50:38

Steve Fugita: complicated story that and that's of course is in a particular time period too when

50:44

Steve Fugita: uh we were kind of shifting our attitudes toward minorities

51:02

Michael Hickam: TY are you there?

Steve Nava: Number 9.

51:08

Tak Ying Chan: How do you account for a changing sense of community?

Steve Fugita: I'm sorry how do I count

51:15

Steve Fugita: for wa was it uh

Tak Ying Chan: a changing sense of community?

51:22

Steve Fugita: Oh yeah um uh gee that's a really

51:29

Steve Fugita: complicated one right um okay um I would start with the with

51:37

Steve Fugita: the first generation that came here right they um they uh

51:44

Steve Fugita: had uh a very strong sense of being Japanese but unlike a kind of stereotype

51:50

Steve Fugita: I think uh because they came from different prefectures in Japan they're they were lot more

51:59

Steve Fugita: heterogeneous than we normally assume we normally assume the Japanese are all pretty homogeneous from our point of

52:06

Steve Fugita: view they are right but of course if you talk to a quotes real Japanese uh

52:11

Steve Fugita: they're kind of offended by the fact that we think that they're so homogeneous uh even though they're in an

52:17

Steve Fugita: island and uh they don't have to us they don't seem to be very different but uh

52:25

Steve Fugita: uh obviously the language is nuanced by the area that they're from and when

52:31

Steve Fugita: they came to the US I think they U reflected that because they put a lot of

52:37

Steve Fugita: emphasis on the prefectural differences between Japanese other words if you from

52:45

Steve Fugita: Hiroshima or Kumamoto you might not go to that doctor because he was from a

52:51

Steve Fugita: different prefecture than you were so they made a big deal out of you know those differences and I think uh even up

53:00

Steve Fugita: to the 30s the uh Japanese American Community was split

53:07

Steve Fugita: by those kinds of uh prefectural and other differences

53:13

Steve Fugita: so uh when the war happened and it pushed everybody together and it also

53:19

Steve Fugita: inverted the leadership of the community before the war it was the first generation that was the leader the

53:26

Steve Fugita: were the leaders you know they were the elder statesmen or the male leaders uh

53:32

Steve Fugita: after the war because the authorities wanted to talk to the English-speaking folks who were more Americanized than

53:38

Steve Fugita: the original immigrants the community inverted in

53:44

Steve Fugita: terms of its leadership so when they came they came back to places like San Jose [the second generation the](#)

53:50

Steve Fugita: [born-in-America-generation took over because they were kind of used to being](#)

53:55

Steve Fugita: leaders in the camps and they were coming of age right in their 20s and maybe early 30s and so in San Jose in

54:04

Steve Fugita: particular I think they were fortunate because some of the Nisei second

54:10

Steve Fugita: generation leaders consciously tried to diminish

54:17

Steve Fugita: the differences between different elements of the community have one Japanese American community so the

54:24

Steve Fugita: [Buddhist Protestant split uh they people tried to erase that the](#)

54:30

Steve Fugita: [newer leaders tried to erase that the more Americanized younger leaders so for](#)

54:36

Steve Fugita: example before the war the Buddhist Church was the kind of key organizer of

54:42

Steve Fugita: baseball and uh basketball and so if you were

54:48

Steve Fugita: a Wesley Methodist guy it was hard for you to play in the league

54:54

Steve Fugita: so specifically after the war the nisei formed CYO as Community Youth

55:00

Steve Fugita: Organization because they wanted the youth to have good wholesome quotes

55:05

Steve Fugita: Recreation but they wanted to break down those kinds of fissures in the community

55:12

Steve Fugita: and so there was a big shift in the Japanese American community at that

55:18

Steve Fugita: point and so subsequently of course um uh Japanese

55:24

Steve Fugita: Americans became much more acceptable in the society right in fact people say about talk about them and other Asians

55:30

Steve Fugita: as [so-called model minorities](#) right and so people are fighting against that but

55:35

Steve Fugita: uh but uh the occupational and other

55:41

Steve Fugita: kinds of opportunities were much greater after the war and became tremendously much more open you

55:49

Steve Fugita: know after the Civil Rights Movement so I think as a result of that there was a

55:55

Steve Fugita: force to kind of pull them away from the community to get involved in the larger Community more. As opposed

56:02

Steve Fugita: to being walled off or blocked off or pushed together by discrimination

56:07

Steve Fugita: earlier on to varying degrees. So, the nature of the community

56:13

Steve Fugita: changed a lot because of those I think structural historical, political

56:25

Steve Fugita: changes.

Aiden Maciel: A follow-up question to that, relating to the question I was just

56:30

Aiden Maciel: asked um in that sense of change and the direction that's going towards what places or spaces do you

56:37

Aiden Maciel: find yourself going to these days uh

56:43

Steve Fugita: You mean um what do I think in terms of what direction the community is going or I personally hang out at or

56:48

Aiden Maciel: Well I mean in in the sense of being in the community there's most likely places or spaces that they usually meet or hang

56:55

Aiden Maciel: out around around what places are those and what places do you usually go to yeah good question I think um the kind

57:05

Steve Fugita: Uh places that people hang out at are

57:11

Steve Fugita: changing and you know because I think in the postwar generation like the

57:18

Steve Fugita: so-called nisei you know that uh. Have you been to for Fourth Street Bowl for

57:23

Steve Fugita: Example? Um that's a run bowling alley right it's was kind of

57:30

Steve Fugita: a hangout or is a kind of a hangout uh and lots of communities have that a bowling alley that's a hangout like in

57:38

Steve Fugita: Seattle they have Beacon Hill that's same kind of thing as Fourth Street Bowl and and it's a great place to

57:46

Steve Fugita: see the old community so to speak because uh you know for the for the

57:53

Steve Fugita: second generation bowling was an affordable easy to do thing and they

57:58

Steve Fugita: could form bowling leagues and they could hang out and chum around a lot so

58:05

Steve Fugita: um uh each Community had bowling leagues softball leagues and so forth and there

58:10

Steve Fugita: was a kind of a very easy sense of community there people would go there and just hang out

58:19

Steve Fugita: you know go go to lunch there go to bowl there partly to eat but also just to

58:25

Steve Fugita: meet their buddies right people just go there and feel comfortable do that so I

58:31

Steve Fugita: think there is a little bit of that I feel that when I go to the museum I feel that when I go to Fourth Street Bowl um I go to

58:39

Steve Fugita: Buddhist Church events or Wesley events um but I think it's it's reducing I mean

58:45

Steve Fugita: it's getting smaller and I think even in the museum now for example the board meets by Zoom they're all busy right in

58:53

Steve Fugita: the middle of their careers and all kinds of family demands on them and so shaving off a couple hours traveling in

59:00

Steve Fugita: and traveling out and doing it more efficiently is good we never used we never had Zoom right so we used to get

59:07

Steve Fugita: together as a board and used to be kind of a semisocial Gathering people would

59:12

Steve Fugita: bring food we'd be *B.S.ing* about all kinds of weird stuff and the interaction was

59:18

Steve Fugita: more informal you know now I think the tendency is to save time to be efficient

59:26

Steve Fugita: um is to do things like do a Zoom meeting and be and the meetings are more

59:33

Steve Fugita: like um what I would call a department meeting you know where

59:40

Steve Fugita: people want to be efficient look like they're not falling off shuffling

59:46

Steve Fugita: off their duties not knowing things having a redface kind of effect whereas

59:52

Steve Fugita: before it was more like it had more of the characteristics of like a bunch of

59:57

Steve Fugita: buddies getting together and doing business informally in a

1:00:02

Steve Fugita: sense um so that's kind of that that's kind of an extreme sort of like a

1:00:08

Steve Fugita: department meeting of you know colleagues versus a bunch of friends

1:00:14

Steve Fugita: getting together to hang out in a sense so uh we see less of the the hanging out

1:00:21

Steve Fugita: kind of model these days I think and I think there's an attempt

1:00:26

Steve Fugita: so people know that and I think people are trying to preserve that to the degree but it's not an easy thing right

1:00:33

Steve Fugita: you just can't will it into place.

1:00:40

Michael Hickam: That that actually does great leading into our next question and I think it's actually the last question for a student so we'd really like to

1:00:46

Steve Fugita: thank you so much for your time today so what do you think you know what would you do to preserve [San Jose] Japantown or where

1:00:53

Michael Hickam: would you actually like to see the direction of Japantown go?

Steve Fugita: Yeah great question of course and

1:01:00

Steve Fugita: things that uh is what everybody's pondering about these days

1:01:06

Steve Fugita: um um yeah I I yeah I think we've got to preserve

1:01:13

Steve Fugita: the social connections and one of the ways to do that is

1:01:18

Steve Fugita: through preserving the history not only of the group but of the community

1:01:26

Steve Fugita: uh and at the individual level also or at the I'm sorry organizational level um

1:01:34

Steve Fugita: uh because it's kind of a microcosm of that uh, thinking of the

1:01:40

Steve Fugita: museum um the new group has come in and they're very positively motivated in

1:01:47

Steve Fugita: trying to keep the museum growing and preserve the history of Japanese Americans Japantown San Jose's Japan

1:01:54

Steve Fugita: town, etc. um but since their ties with the community are much

1:02:02

Steve Fugita: weaker they unless someone tells them the history of not only the museum but

1:02:10

Steve Fugita: also um nion Mai uh and the Japanese American Community

1:02:17

Steve Fugita: uh there's just kind of it's going to get distorted one for one and it's not

1:02:23

Steve Fugita: going to be preserved really uh there'll be some sort of General

1:02:30

Steve Fugita: recollection and and that won't be enough to preserve uh the community in a real

1:02:36

Steve Fugita: sense and so uh I think uh we have to be cognizant

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Steve Fugita: of the economic realities of the stores in Japan town or the other businesses and and that's sort of the core with

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Steve Fugita: some of us in the nonprofits part of Japan Town kind of forget that but we have if we want to reserve the

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Steve Fugita: geographic thing of Japantown which I think is great uh not everything but it's it's

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Steve Fugita: great uh we have to think creatively about the economic foundations of the

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Steve Fugita: place but, we also have to think about um how we're going to

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Steve Fugita: preserve the actual history and the traditions um that have gone before us

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Steve Fugita: people have gone before us and you know of course a lot of us are thinking gee whiz, we should have uh we should have asked

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Steve Fugita: Harry about this a long time ago and he's gone now right and we're never going to be able to really get at it

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Steve Fugita: sort of like you want to go back and ask your parents a lot of interesting questions

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Steve Fugita: that as growing up you just never occurred to you right just uh a lot of interesting stuff was kind of boring or

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Steve Fugita: These Guys these old people are talking about the same old thing again right and uh but now I sort of say wow I should

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Steve Fugita: have should have listened should have written it down and should have thought about it but that's just growing up I

1:04:03

Steve Fugita: guess but uh yeah I think so like people like Tom [Izu] and Susan [Hayase] are trying to uh

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Steve Fugita: think about ways that to creatively uh

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Steve Fugita: keep uh the kind of essence of Japantown and even that's kind of hard to define right

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Steve Fugita: exactly what it is um but uh somehow to have some control over how it develops

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Steve Fugita: so yeah I think all of those pieces are important

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Steve Fugita: um the economic commercial part of it the geography so I think the uh [San Jose Japanese American] museum of

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Steve Fugita: course is an important part of it but also probably the core the most important organizations in Japantown

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Steve Fugita: are the churches right and so how to preserve the

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Steve Fugita: Wesley Methodist and also the uh Buddhist Church those are the things that have

1:05:02

Steve Fugita: been least I think impacted of all the things in Japantown to the churches. Those

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Steve Fugita: are the things that people probably when they think about leaving money when they they pass away the church is going to

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Steve Fugita: get the majority of the money that's an easy gift um and so there that's going

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Steve Fugita: to be the most persistent thing I think um but we we hope that it doesn't Japantown

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Steve Fugita: be doesn't become hollowed out to the point that it's just you know two churches that people drive into and on

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Steve Fugita: when on their way home they stop at the stores to pick up some ethnic food and go home hopefully it'll be more in terms

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Steve Fugita: of uh of activities and so sort of like LA's Japantown they built that big

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Steve Fugita: gymnasium right because they knew that they wanted to draw people from the suburbs to uh and good way to do that

1:05:56

Steve Fugita: was through kids sports um so I got to be thinking about those kinds of things

1:06:07

Steve Fugita: right

Steve Nava: Alright, thank you so much for all your answers and um it's about 2:37 so I

1:06:14

Steve Nava: think I'm gonna say thank you and goodbye to the student and

Steve Fugita: great talking with you all good

1:06:22

Steve Fugita: question very good question good luck

Steve Nava: thank you everyone thanks thank you you

1:06:32

Steve Fugita: sure and for

Steve Nava: For You Stephen um tomorrow we're gonna meet up at 10am at the Issei

1:06:39

Steve Nava: Memorial building and we're gonna have like a walking tour with the students um great great um with Tom and

1:06:47

Steve Nava: Robert Ragsac and and uh Connie Young Yu, Susan and

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Steve Nava: we're going to you know they're going to show them some of the key buildings and sites to um do some visual mapping I

1:07:04

Steve Nava: guess historical mapping there's a there's a you know application that they're working on where they can pin I

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Steve Nava: don't know if you've seen those maps you can pin a place and then touch it and it gives you like some history so we're

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Steve Nava: going to try to get them to create a map with some historical data and then share that link out um as an assignment so

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Steve Nava: they're going to meet you know folks and they're going to look around great yeah we'll be there at 10am well

1:07:31

Steve Nava: Tom's gonna lead us yeah

Steve Fugita: terrific yeah because Connie and the Bob Ragsac are

1:07:38

Steve Fugita: really great folks on the Filipino and Chinese thing right and that's good great yeah

Steve Nava: so you know if you're around

1:07:46

you're welcome to stop in and and check it out yeah

1:07:51

Steve Fugita: I would except my my wife has vertigo and so she's got to go see a uh Doc tomorrow I think oh I see okay

1:07:58

Steve Fugita: well well thank you so much and I appreciate your time sure and uh if there's anything else I can try to scrounge

1:08:04

Steve Fugita: up for you please do let me know

Steve Nava: and yeah there'll probably be kind of like a group discussion like focus group kind

1:08:10

Steve Nava: of conversation um in future maybe in the next three weeks I'm gonna try to get that together with Tom and see what he thinks...

1:08:16

Steve Fugita: Right sounds good sure evening take care.