

## *Preserving California's Japantowns*

### **Sample Topics for California Japantown Oral History Interviews:**

1. Describe your family home and the neighborhood around it
2. Stories your parents told about coming to the United States
3. Your parents' jobs and a description of the places they worked
4. Your tasks around the house and any jobs you held as a teenager
5. Your family's church or temple -- describe the building and memories of religious and community activities held there
6. Memories of childhood friends and playmates – where did they live, what were their homes like, what did you like to do with them and where
7. Recollections of elementary and high school – memorable events and teachers
8. Sports activities – what formal and informal sports were popular, were you on any teams, where were games played
9. Language school classes—where were these held, who attended, who was the teacher, what did you learn
10. Memories of Nikkei-owned businesses
11. Organizations your parents or you belonged to -- what was their purpose, what kinds of activities did they sponsor, where did they meet
12. Meals your family ate on special occasions, and where your mother or father got the ingredients
13. The moment you heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor
14. Memories about the months leading up to relocation

15. Arrangements your family made for your home and possessions
16. What happened to your parents' businesses
17. The assembly center and internment camp where your family sent to
18. If any members of your family released for work and military service and where they went
19. Whether you and your family returned to your pre-war community and home
20. Nikkei businesses that were revived after the war
21. The role of your church or temple after the war