Washington State JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Powered by Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle

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Chava Mirel

SUMMARY

Chava Mirel reflects on her childhood experiences of celebrating Jewish holidays, emphasizing how these events connected her to history and shaped her understanding of Judaism. She highlights her family's active involvement in the Jewish community, her early exposure to Jewish music, and ongoing efforts to preserve Jewish traditions through mentorship and historical remembrance. These experiences fostered a deep sense of community, cultural continuity, and personal identity rooted in Jewish history and practice.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Just to get a little. Um, break in the test, and, um, I'll ask you just, like, 3 or 4 questions and just make sure I watch the time. Okay, great. So this is Ruth Kodish-Eskind, and it's May 7th. Can you state your name, please?

Chava Mirel: I'm Chava Mirel.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: And may I have your consent to record this conversation?

Chava Mirel: Yes.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: Thanks. So we're here today to talk about the importance of preserving Jewish history. Can you remember being taught about Jewish history when you were growing up, and how were you taught?

Chava Mirel: Um, I was taught about Jewish history from before I can remember. It's been a part of my life from, you know, the first day. I can't really separate my understanding of Jewish history from my understanding of Jewish present, because it seems like it's always been kind of combined-that the history and the present are happening at the same time, in a way. So that's been my experience.

Ruth Kodish-Eskind: I love that. Do you want to talk about that more?

Chava Mirel: I think a lot of it has to do with celebrating holidays and the way that holidays, you know, as an early childhood person, my first contacts with Judaism were through holiday celebration, I think Shabbat.