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Title: Ryoko Kobayashi Interview
Narrator: Ryoko Kobayashi
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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- AT: 01:01:34 If you could pass down any kind of message or legacy for future generations, what's something that you would want to leave behind?
- RK: 01:01:45 Yes. I like to say that, um, young people, y'all very fortunate. You could go to college, you could get, you know, nice jobs, nice paying job. You can get, you can marry into a good family. And uh, you could uh. There are so many things you could do that we couldn't do. You could become a engineer. You could become a fire woman or firearm man, uh, scientists. And uh, a lot of things that you could become. Well, I couldn't get that chance. It was like secretary housewife or nurse or something of that sort. We'll look more or less, you know, have few choices, but you have all kinds of choices, you could wear what you want, you could really speak fine English or you could speak American language, you know, like go for it this and that. But you have a lot of freedom where other countries don't have that, so make use, make good use of what you have your life, make yourself, you know, present of all, don't, don't get out of the way, you know, Get yourself to somebody too, take care of the elderly and, you know, volunteer for something good purpose and oh, I don't know there's so many things you could, you have choice to do. And uh, if I was your age, I will be doing all, all the things I just spoke right now trying to be something, or another thing. When I was in camp, the biggest thing that helped me was the roar federated church. Going to Sunday school and going to church and then become a choir member. And there was one beautiful song that the choir have to sing and I could never forget it. I thought how beautiful. And that's a lady. Um, her name was, the last name was Griffin. What did I think she had a beautiful voice and she sang this. I just knelt down. It was so beautiful. I had this knelt-down and uh, when I came to Chicago, I looked down before that music that one founded in, uh, so the church helped me quite a bit and uh, I found beautiful people in the church because they were more

like, you know, even kio with me. But, um, I don't know. That's my life.

AT: 01:04:35 Well, thank you so much for coming in and sharing. Um, before we wrap up, is there any last thing that you'd like to add or that I might've missed?

RK: 01:04:44 Pardon me?

AT: 01:04:45 There are any last thing you'd like to add or that, anything on me have missed in this conversation?

RK: 01:04:50 Yes. I, I wanna say this is a beautiful, uh, exhibit. And I am surprised so many people have come. And I have invited so many people. I took a bunch of those cards and I took, wrote down the time and the date and the free parking. So people came and uh, uh one of the other girls. She said, uh, she went to, she belonged to a group and she said, tell the whole group to come and look, this is history. So, uh, I think it was, the set up is beautiful. Yeah. beautiful, large and uh, in large photos. Well it grabs the people. And I've, I'm glad that it is the history came alive and uh, the people finally got to know what the Japanese went through. And I want to thank the Alpha Wood in the Japanese American citizen lean or service, I guess, would their efforts to put up the beautiful set up like this. It's a beautiful exhibit and then, you can, can help but to become emotional inside. So, thank you. Alphawood. Thank you, Japanese American Service Center. I'm, I have more things to donate too, you know. To the American, and I found another box filled.

AT: 01:06:25 Yeah, whatever you do, don't throw anything away. We'll share to donate it. Well, thank you so much again for taking the time.

RK: 01:06:33 Thank you for this time. I know I kind of chit chat too much. So my friend said you should go and tell, tell how you felt. So I said, I don't know. I'm kind of skeptical. Well, I mean, you're not, but. I've got little brave. Do you know?

AT: 01:06:54 I appreciate it. I appreciate you being so open

RK: 01:06:58 As the Jewish people say, Hutzpah! That's what I got.

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