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Title: Sharon Seeder Interview
Narrator: Sharon Seeder
Interviewer: Anna Takada
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- AT: 00:55:26 And I think we can, um, start wrapping up.
- SS: 00:55:31 Okay.
- AT: 00:55:33 But um, just a couple more questions. Well, one I wanted to ask, um, as far as, uh, your family's history and background, um, when, by the time you had your own children, was that a story that you were sharing with them or
- SS: 00:55:53 I think I did talk about it and I showed the picture of my mom that's in the gallery now. And so we, we did talk about it a little bit. I mean, as as not like a big event though, it was just more like part of our family.
- KS: 00:56:11 I mean you were scared of your mom, so I would ask all the questions. I sort of became the family historian.
- SS: 00:56:11 Yes, my, my daughter did. Yeah. Um, yeah. And I definitely was afraid of my father. So I, my father said you didn't talk about it then, you didn't talk about it. But some of those, some of the things still passed down. Like I remember we had a family meeting about finances and wills and like my parents were, I don't know, maybe in their early sixties and they sat the four of us down and they said that they left the insurance policies and stuff to my two brothers. Now my sister was single, I was divorced at the time raising two kids and they said, because we know that you'll always be taken care of by husband or other men. And my sister was furious. And I always like, oh, whatever. Cause I, you know, I had a good career. I didn't really need anybody to take care of me, but that's just my parents. But my sister was so mad, you know, and I think that's, that's an Asian thing. Um, so here's a, I kind of counter to what my parent, how my parents raised us. I try to raise like girls to be pretty independent and not be dependent on any, anybody, whether it man or woman or whatever. Because of how my parents had raised us.

KS: 00:57:54 Were you surprised when I got married so young then?

SS: 00:57:56 Not when you got married so young, cause I got married at 18. How could I judge anybody? I mean I had no position to judge but um. I, uh, I was, uh, surprised that you had made a decision so quickly and I'm not against it. I just, that it was another thing is I nev, I never wanted to impose the same judgments on my daughter's relationships as I, my parents imposed on us. It's a hard sometimes, but.

AT: 00:58:32 And if you could leave your, your children and your grandchildren some kind of legacy or message, what would you want them to know?

SS: 00:58:42 I think that it, it goes back to my mom and said, we're as good as anybody else at that, uh, you know, try to have tolerance even though it's hard. You, you know, cause again, we're all built in with our own biases. The, this whole Muslim thing is very disturbing to me because just it does bring back, you know, discrimination without any basis whatsoever. And so I think that that is to try to have an open mind, uh, even fighting those impulses that you may have, like you decided to cross the street cause you strictly based on race or how somebody is dressed to just fight that, you know, just, I remember being on the L and they all has lot of sketchy people, but there's a workman there and he was really kind of dirty and people were avoiding him. And I just said, looks like he had a hard day and he was really nice, you know? And so like I try to fight those images also. He's just a hard working guy that was really dirty. But he had, you know, that people were avoiding him. So I try to fight that also. Cause I, you know, I think I'm hoping that that's what, how, um, you and Julie feel.

AT: 01:00:06 And were there any other stories or things we might have missed? Um, the conversation that you'd like to add?

KS: 01:00:16 I just remember, only thing I remember growing up was when people used to think you were our nanny. That would really piss me off.

SS: 01:00:22 Yeah.

KS: 01:00:29 I don't like they come into my head now with my own stories. I'm feeling got mad, I have to do it.

SS: 01:00:35 Yeah. Or when I'd be speaking and they still think that I spoke with an accent or I wasn't from here. It's like, well what accent is that? I said, "Chicago." "Well, no, you have some kind of accent." "Well maybe it's Hawaiian or because my dad kind of booked broken Hawaiian you know?" No, I have no accent. I

was born here. But, but yeah, so it's, it's still still happens. Like I was telling you, walking in the building. But I'm glad though that younger generations, they don't make assumptions like that. It doesn't seem like they make assumptions like that. Like they just assumed that when they see somebody that you can't speak English well for you in United States, maybe you've immigrated and you can speak broken English, but generally people speak English and they don't assume that you don't right away. So I am glad to see that. And there's more tolerance for, um, you know, mixture of friendships and relationships and, and you know, I look, get my granddaughter, I just, she's just the most beautiful granddaughter in the world. And you know, I see her playing with all sorts of different people and it's like, you know, that just this wonderful to me. And it doesn't matter, what you are.

AT: 01:01:56 Well, thank you so much for coming in and speaking with me.

SS: 01:01:59 Yeah. Thank you for suggesting.

KS: 01:02:01 Mom, it was great, see!

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