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Title: Lois Shikami Interview  
Narrator: Lois Shikami  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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**<Begin Segment 12>**

- AT: 01:18:03 And so we can start to wrap up a little bit, um, but one thing that I like to ask people is, um, if you could pass down some kind of legacy or, or message to your children and maybe grandchildren, what, what would you want to leave them with? Or what would you want them to know?
- LS: 01:18:36 You know, um, recently, just few days ago, actually, my younger brother just lost his wife and um, since then, but they live so far away in New York City, in the not New York Ci, New York State out in the boondocks. So he's never been, after he got married, he's never been with Japanese and, and so we've been talking quite a bit and even he has said, and I was really surprised, that camp was, uh awful and, but I mean it was not a good thing, but he was even younger than I was. So he enjoyed it too. But it has, he hopes that it has taught the country that they should never do such a thing to others. You know, and I think that's my feeling too, if we learned a big lesson that we are, we should never point out people as being different and to exclude them, uh, from our, uh, uh, a friendship or whatever at um, right now we see that, you know, there are efforts to try to point out differences and that we should always work to try to be inclusive. And I think my children have learned that lesson. Not directly from talking, but they see the way we are and I hope that they will always be inclusive and um, just be kind to everyone. I, I really believe in kindness and I can see as my children grow up that they are each one, each one they're especially kind and thoughtful people. And if I, I know my husband is also, but if we taught them together, always been considerate of others, you know, that we've done our job.
- AT: 01:21:22 Well, before we wrap up, is there anything else that you would like to add or that I might've missed in this conversation?
- LS: 01:21:31 No. I mean I haven't really gone through the whole exhibit here because both times we were with groups and today I'm hoping

to go through the whole thing. And I think just having this wonderful exhibit is a huge lesson for, for the general public who I never talked about things to anybody until, until it was 1988 when I finally wrote about it. Never talked to our neighbors about our experience. And I don't know, I wasn't ashamed, but I thought, how could you ever explain such a big influence on my life? It was until I wrote a story about it for my class at Northeastern. I was going for my Masters and I was asked to write about something that I had never told anyone. And I thought, well this is the time and I, that's why I wrote it. And I sent it eventually to my, one of my classmates from Delavan, I said, did you ever wonder where I came from? You know, suddenly there's one Japanese person their class, well, in freshman year, in a small town, they come from various country schools, so I wasn't the only new person. So they said, they heard I was from somewhere in Idaho, but that was it. So then I sent them my story and they were astounded. They knew nothing about the camps. So to have this exhibit here, exhibit here, to teach us everyone about it, that there was such a thing and that we must never do such, such an injustice to anyone, any American, anyone who comes to this country, you know, that's a good, wonderful thing.

AT:

01:23:53

Thank you so much for sharing and for speaking.

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