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Title: Geri Handa Interview
Narrator: Geri Handa
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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NW: Now, I'm trying to make that point of view, somehow related to what actually happens in the medical checkup and the effort, as an effort, that the Friends of Hibakusha makes. I noticed that there used to be more Korean Americans coming to medical checkups and I think there was only one person this year. How do you this? Is this just a matter of people just . . . dwindling down in their number because they're getting old, and some people are dying?

GH: I think that has a lot to do with it. Because I've been noticing the past two medical visits the people are becoming more frail, and people are passing away and becoming more ill.

NW: Right. How about Korean American participation, though?

GH: Korean American? I'm not sure, because I haven't really been in touch with that aspect of it, you know. But I've noticed like Mr. Hwang, who comes from Sacramento, you know, he, he was educated . . .

NW: In Japan. In Japanese.

GH: . . . in Japan. So he has a kind of a different perspective, in that sense, and uh, I really like Mr. Hwang.

NW: Yeah. He's a very nice gentleman.

GH: And I can see why, you know, he was put into the positions he was because of the way he is. You know, man of great integrity. And I really don't know in terms of why there might be fewer, but there are fewer overall, you know, coming.

NW: Yeah. Do you remember any other Korean Americans who used to come?

GH: Um, I don't, I don't remember but Mr. Hwang was one of the few and I was so glad that he did come, and I'm not sure in terms of when they go to Korea, or they, the Koreans, they serve them in Japan, how many there are either, I don't, I don't know. But, I think that's why HICARE is so important. HICARE is a program that, you know, oh thank you [to the server], that they talked about during the presentation and they came out with a lot of information. Oh, oh, my gosh.

NW: It's on me. My treat.

GH: Thank you.

NW: It's my pleasure to do that. Yep.

GH: And so I think, I think that's probably something that's good to get back to Mr., Dr. Yanagida. Dr. Yanagida's very involved in the HICARE program and is also involved with the, you know, the, he's also involved with, you know, the International Physicians for Social Responsibility or whatever that is. IPP-something-or-other.

NW: Okay. He also mentioned he went to North Korea twice.

GH: Yeah, North Korea, see. So I think it would be good to talk to him about that.

NW: Okay, yeah, yeah.

GH: He has a, probably a different perspective, too. Hitachi [?] Usui, you know, he, I really, I really enjoyed him . . .

NW: Usui, yeah. I didn't have a chance to . . .

GH: He has a PhD besides an MD and so he's really into the academics and that.

NW: Oh, really?

GH: He's written books and things like that, too.

NW: Really? So is he, was he one of the physicians who came from Japan?

GH: He actually was the general, overall team coordinator for both, but he actually, this time he went to, he came here to San Francisco two years ago, but this time he went to Honolulu and . . .

NW: I see. So of course, I didn't have a chance to meet with him. Okay, yeah.

GH: Yeah, the other team. They would begin, Dr. Yanagida works with Dr. Usui. They came and did a HICARE presentation in, um, two years ago at the Saint Mary's. In fact, I think Dr. Umekubo, he did, he was able to do a, he recorded that whole thing, presentation. I think he has it on DVD. Yeah, so if you have a chance to talk to Dr. Umekubo, are you going to be interviewing him too?

NW: No, I tried to make arrangement, but somehow there was a miscommunication, so yeah, but . . .

GH: He's going to be actually leaving on his trip this weekend. So that's why he . . .

NW: Oh! He probably doesn't work.

GH: . . . doesn't work out for him either.

NW: Yeah, okay. I will try to look into that.

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