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Title: Geri Handa Interview
Narrator: Geri Handa
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 8>

NW: So, you remember your grandparents, grandmother very well.

GH: Oh yeah.

NW: She was a first generation.

GH: She lived with us, so.

NW: Oh, she did. Okay. Was it also in San Jose?

GH: Yes, in San Jose.

NW: How about your parents? What did they do?

GH: Well, my parents, they were Nisei.

NW: Right.

GH: So, but they always had a close connection with communicating in Japanese, and, of course, that means going to the Buddhist temple, you always had exposure to more, I think more of the traditional Japanese things and, and especially ministers, some of them, they only spoke Japanese, so sometimes you'd have to go to a service and all they spoke was Japanese, so you were kind of like, "Oh, I'm trying to understand what they're trying to say." And I, and I maybe felt that a lot of times, doing that was really good because some of the things that you say in one language is difficult to communicate into English.

NW: Oh yeah. You feel like you are translating it, but you are not, really.

GH: Yeah. And a lot of it is, it comes by feeling and, and knowing it means, you know, much more. It's a much more deeper meaning than in English, and you can possibly translate something that, you know, *kimochi*, and, and words that, oh yeah, you get a good feeling but no, not more than just exactly that either.

NW: Not exactly!

GH: You know, and, *ganbatte* and you know all those things, you can't really translate it literally into English, but the, there's a feeling behind it all as well, there's an emotional feeling that's attached to it, and those things, you can't always pick up, you know? But if you live, or if you try to understand the culture and also the language, you can understand it and have a more deeper understanding of it.

NW: Right, right.

GH: So I, because you know that, you know that whether you speak Korean or Chinese or whatever; there's something, some things that are difficult to translate into English, there's a feeling, a much deeper feeling to that, the meaning of that word or phrase that, you know, you can appreciate it, and you can understand it. Because there's probably something that's comparable in another language other than English.

NW: You might not have a right word for that in that particular language, but you know it's probably there.

GH: Yes, it's there.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

GH: And so that's why, you know, it was important to have the Asian seniors work together because the one thing they do understand, is that they, although they have different languages, the, um, the, whatever experience they have here in America, some of them are very similar, in terms discrimination, in terms of some of the ways that the misunderstanding because of the lack of communication, all those things, you know, are very strong, emotional feelings, you know, and that we experience that and we know what it feels like. And I think that comes from a very deep, you know, deep feeling. And so when you can touch on that, then you know, that yes, we all have that in common. We've experienced that, definitely, you know, because we're here. And so, and I think that's, that's something that creates a very strong bond, too. Once you realize that yes, irregardless of the war and all this kind of thing, you know, we've faced so many things other than that because of we're, we're here in America.

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