Growing Old in a New Age

Family and Intergenerational Relationships

1 01:00:04:18 Annenberg Media

2 01:00:08:02 §

3 01:00:13:12 ANNENBERG/CPB PROJECT

4 01:00:20:02 IN THE WONDERFUL LIFE OF A MID 2 THE OLDEST FAMILY MEMBERS PLAYED WITH THE GRANDKIDS, LIVED IN A COMFORTABLE NEIGHBORHOOD, AND ENJOYED THE RESPECT OF ADULT CHILDREN AND THE COMMUNITY. IN THE REAL LIFE OF THE LATE 20th-CENTURY AMERICAN FAMILY, THE ROLE OF OLDER PEOPLE CAN BE MUCH MORE COMPLEX. THEY MAY HAVE TO ADJUST TO CHANGING VALUES, ACTING THE ROLE OF PARENT TO GRANDCHILDREN, OR EVEN AS 70-YEAR-OLDS BECOMING CAREGIVERS TO THEIR 100-YEAR-OLD PARENTS. WHAT ROLES DO OLDER PEOPLE PLAY IN THEIR FAMILIES? NEXT ON GROWING OLD IN A NEW AGE.

5 01:01:03:02 A POPULAR ASSUMPTION IS THAT AMERICANS TEND TO ABANDON OR DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM OLDER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY. STATISTICS DON'T BEAR THIS OUT. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT ABOUT 3/4 OF OLDER ADULTS LIVE WITH OR NEAR A FAMILY MEMBER, AND MOST OF THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE FREQUENT PHONE CONTACT OR CORRESPONDENCE. A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MODERN FAMILY STRUCTURE SHOWS IT IS GETTING MORE COMPLEX, WITH A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN FOUR- AND FIVE-GENERATION FAMILIES. THIS PROGRAM EXAMINES SOME OF THE ROLES PLAYED BY OLDER PEOPLE WITHIN THE MODERN FAMILY. WHETHER IT BE AS PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, CAREGIVERS, NONMARRIED PEOPLE, OR MARRIAGE PARTNERS, THE FABRIC OF OLDER SOCIETY IS WOVEN WITH MANY DISTINCT AND COLORFUL THREADS. I CONSIDER MYSELF VERY LUCKY BECAUSE I WAS A LOT OLDER THAN SHE WAS.

6 01:01:57:12 ALSO...UH, I WAS ATTRACTED BECAUSE I SAW HER AS
Very good to her mother and very domestic.

There's an age difference between Leo and I of about 16 years, so, uh, especially in the growing years when you're very young, 16 years seems like, "I'll be a widow in four years" I thought when I married him.

Anybody over 19 was ready for the grave.

Uh...but, uh, seeing that -- with 16 years in front of me what he can do -- it always kept me very lively, and I thought, well, it's expected.

It's a disadvantage, too, having an older husband because he always uses the same excuse -- "but you're young. You can do it." You learn to zip your mouth.

The Chinese have a saying.

You may know it.

"The fewer words you say, the less trouble there is." Ha ha ha!

Gloria Tamashiro, a second-generation Chinese-American, has been married to her husband, Ben, for more than 40 years. ...but we've had our ups and downs like any normal couple.

Fortunately, it's been more ups than downs.

I was a golf nut, you know.

I used to go three, four times a week, but every time you golf, it takes up the whole day, so, you know...

And over the years, I began to feel this.

This was when the family was growing up, so if I golf with friends and drink afterwards, she's back home taking care of the kids, and, uh...I think gradually I began to get the thought that this was kind of unfair.
IT WAS A RATHER UNORTHODOX MEETING IN CONEY ISLAND.

HE LIVED THERE AND WAS WORKING IN FRONT OF A SKEEBALL ALLEY AS A BARKER, AND I WAS WALKING...

MOLLIE PIER WAS MARRIED TO HER HUSBAND, DAVID, FOR 33 YEARS. HE DIED NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO. SHE HAS NOT REMARRIED. SHE REMEMBERS HER MARRIED LIFE AND TALKS OF HER INDEPENDENCE. WE STARTED WITH A FRIENDSHIP, WHICH EVENTUALLY BLOSSOMED INTO A ROMANCE, ALTHOUGH IN THOSE YEARS, HE WAS STRUGGLING TO GET THROUGH COLLEGE.

HE WORKED PART-TIME, AND HE TOLD ME HE NEVER EXPECTED TO GET MARRIED BECAUSE HE WAS SUPPORTING HIS PARENTS.

WE ALWAYS HAD A DEEP LOVE AFFAIR, AND WE GREW TOGETHER, WHICH, TO ME, IS VERY GRATIFYING BECAUSE SO OFTEN, ONE OF A COUPLE GROWS, AND THE OTHER ONE REMAINS WHERE HE CAME FROM.

I ALWAYS LIKED HAVING PEOPLE AROUND ME, AND WE SOMEWHAT COMPROMISED.

WE GAVE DINNER PARTIES FREQUENTLY, AND I WAS ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY.

HE DIDN'T FEEL THAT NEED.

HE SAID IF HE WAS ON A ISLAND WITH GOOD BOOKS AND ME, HE'D BE HAPPY, BUT HE RECOGNIZED THAT I HAD OTHER NEEDS.

WE APPRECIATED EACH OTHER'S SIMILARITIES AND RESPECTED THE DIFFERENCES.

WHEN MY HUSBAND DIED SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT ANY REAL WARNING AT AGE 56, AFTER JUST UNDER 33 YEARS OF MARRIAGE, I WAS DEVASTATED.

ALL THE PLANS WE HAD FOR US TO BE TOGETHER IN OUR GOLDEN YEARS WERE DOWN THE DRAIN.

NOTHING I COULD DO, SAY, OR FEEL WOULD BRING
HIM BACK.

33 01:05:35:02 I DECIDED I'D ENJOY WHATEVER WAS LEFT OF MY LIFE BY MYSELF, AND I PROCEEDED TO TRAVEL, TO BECOME VERY INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, UH...TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH OTHER PEOPLE, AND IN THAT WAY, I RECOGNIZED THAT I HAD SKILLS AND ABILITIES THAT WERE MY OWN.

34 01:05:54:18 APPROXIMATELY 5% OF OLDER PEOPLE HAVE NEVER MARRIED. SUCH IS THE CASE WITH ETHEL COOPER. I DON'T THINK THAT I, UM...

35 01:06:05:17 MAYBE I WAS UNWISE NOT TO HAVE SELECTED SOMEONE ALONG THE LINE, BUT THE STRANGE PART OF THIS WAS THAT -- I WOULDN'T SAY STRANGE -- OH, YES. I COULD HAVE MARRIED MANY TIMES AND, UH, IT WASN'T WHAT I WANTED TO BECOME PART OF MY LIFE.

36 01:06:31:02 BUT IT WAS PURELY A MATTER OF TASTE, REALLY.

37 01:06:34:19 AND I'M NOT SORRY, AND I THINK THE REASON I COULD BE SORRY, BUT THE REASON I'M NOT SORRY IS BECAUSE I HAVE SUCH A GOOD FAMILY.

38 01:06:46:01 I THINK THEY, IN MANY AREAS, HAVE DONE SO GOOD BY ME, AND I'M SO INTERESTED IN THEM THAT I DON'T FEEL THAT I HAVE ANY REAL -- AS MY SISTER-IN-LAW SAYS, "YOU'RE SO SELF-SUSTAINING," AND THAT IS REALLY TRUE.

39 01:07:04:17 SO TO THAT EXTENT, I FEEL I'M LUCKY.

40 01:07:08:03 I DON'T THINK THAT CAN HAPPEN TO EVERYONE, THOUGH.

41 01:07:11:20 SOCIETAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL INFLUENCES CAN WORK AGAINST SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE. CELESTINE EGGLESTON CAME FROM A BROKEN HOME, AND HER OWN MARRIAGE FAILED, LEAVING HER AS THE SINGLE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD. COMING FROM A BACKGROUND WHERE THERE WAS NOT A HAPPY MARRIAGE, A LONG-LIVED MARRIAGE, WHEN I GOT MARRIED, I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TOO MUCH OF A POSITIVE BACKGROUND TO FOLLOW, AND AS I SAID BEFORE, I THINK WHAT WE ARE IS WHAT WE'RE EXPOSED TO.
I didn’t know too much about how to make a marriage work and what was real and what wasn’t in a marriage.

We have to talk a little about our history in terms of the fact that in the early days -- in quotes -- blacks weren’t allowed to marry, were not allowed to really -- in quotes -- have a family in a traditional sense as a European family would.

Then suddenly for there to be some expectations that there was going to be this family with the black male there carrying out a particular role, which that person didn’t understand, was a bit much.

Then you fold on top of that the economic expectation, where one didn’t have the education, didn’t have the skills to continue to provide for that family network, was also something that moved that black male outside of the family.

So then when we talk about the older black woman being the matriarch, the social situation was such that there was no choice but for her to be that stabilizing factor in the family.

So it’s with great pride that one was able to keep that family together, but it’s also very sad that it had to be.

He was a good person -- hard-working and a good father, but he came of a broken home, also.

I remember my husband when we were married.

He was working for Lockheed, and he knew the job.

He did all of the work.

He cared about his family and wanted to give us things, but when the time came for a lead man, they brought a white lead man in for him.
TO TRAIN, RATHER THAN LETTING THE BLACK MAN GO UP WHERE HE COULD MAKE THE MONEY TO SEND HIS CHILDREN TO COLLEGE.

53 01:09:50:07 THERE ARE MANY WHO CARE, BUT THERE ARE MANY, TOO, WHO HAVE GIVEN UP.

54 01:09:56:03 HAVING MARRIED 40 YEARS AGO -- THAT'S '49 -- WE WERE JUST GOING INTO THE FIFTIES.

55 01:10:02:02 YOU KNOW HOW THINGS WERE THEN.

56 01:10:04:17 LEO PLAYED A VERY WONDERFULLY MACHO ROLE.

57 01:10:07:17 HE WAS PERFECT, BUT AS THE CHILDREN CAME AND AS THEY GREW, THINGS BEGAN TO CHANGE.

58 01:10:14:06 *DIFFERENCES OVER CHILD-RAISING OFTEN CAUSE MARITAL TENSIONS. THAT WAS THE CASE WITH THE SALAZARS. IT'S REALLY QUITE REMARKABLE THAT WE'RE STILL TOGETHER, ISN'T IT?*

59 01:10:24:02 MM-HMM.

60 01:10:25:01 I THINK IT IS.

61 01:10:26:16 WE REALLY NEEDED TO WORK AT IT.

62 01:10:29:18 WE WENT TO COUNSELING AND THERAPY TO HELP US BRING IT -- BRING IT UP, AND I HAVE NO REGRETS THAT WE STAYED TOGETHER.

63 01:10:38:17 HAVE YOU?

64 01:10:39:23 WHAT?

65 01:10:40:28 HA HA HA!

66 01:10:42:13 NO.

67 01:10:43:17 I THINK IT'S REALLY NEAT THAT WE STAYED TOGETHER BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE TO START OVER.

68 01:10:50:18 WE'RE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

69 01:10:52:02 THANK GOD FOR THAT.

70 01:10:53:16 WE'RE DIFFERENT PEOPLE FROM WHENCE WE
STARTED -- FROM WHERE WE STARTED.

71  01:10:58:07 AND, UH...I UNDERSTAND A LOT MORE -- UH, UNDERSTAND HER AND HER COMPLAINTS OR HER ALLEGED POSITION -- WOMEN'S POSITION AND SO ON, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT SHE HAS YET UNDERSTOOD MY POSITION.

72  01:11:16:01 YOU SEE, I -- FROM MY CULTURE -- AND NOT ONLY HISPANIC CULTURE, BUT FROM MY, UH, DATE IN TIME...

73  01:11:25:18 I FELT THAT I WAS DOING WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO.

74  01:11:30:22 I HAD A JOB.

75  01:11:32:08 I DIDN'T SHIRK FROM -- WHEN WE HAD CHILDREN -- FROM, UH, WORKING FOR THEM...

76  01:11:38:01 SEEING THAT THEY HAD MEDICAL ATTENTION, THAT THEY HAD SOMETHING INTO THE ARTS, AND I WAS MAKING THEM, YOU KNOW -- NOT ONLY BECAUSE I WAS THEIR FATHER THEY SHOULD MIND ME.

77  01:11:55:07 I WANTED THEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT I WAS THE FATHER, BUT NOT NECESSARILY THE BOSS, BUT MY WIFE DOESN'T INTERPRET IT THAT WAY, YOU SEE.

78  01:12:07:16 UH, SHE BRINGS IN THE WORD MACHO, WHICH I DON'T THINK THAT I FIT INTO THAT DESCRIPTION.

79  01:12:15:05 HE DID.

80  01:12:16:11 THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT HE WAS A BAD PERSON.

81  01:12:20:12 HE DID ALL THOSE THINGS.

82  01:12:22:11 HE WAS PROPER, BUT -- I MEAN, HE HAD GOOD IDEALS, GOOD HOPES, GOOD -- GOOD GOALS FOR THE CHILDREN.

83  01:12:30:18 IT WAS MOSTLY IN ATTITUDE.

84  01:12:33:18 HE DIDN'T SMILE MUCH.

85  01:12:35:03 HE WAS REAL PRIM AND PROPER, YOU KNOW.

86  01:12:39:01 HE WAS SORT OF AWESOME AND FRIGHTENING -- HA
HA HA!

87 01:12:43:06 TERRORIZED BY HIM.

88 01:12:44:22 THAT'S NOT MY FAULT.

89 01:12:46:06 I ALWAYS FELT LIKE ONE OF THE KIDS.

90 01:12:49:03 "YOU ALL BEHAVE YOURSELVES NOW." YOU KNOW, SO I HAD THIS, YOU KNOW -- I WANTED EQUALITY, AND I DIDN'T GET IT.

91 01:12:57:02 I HAD TO FIGHT FOR THAT.

92 01:12:59:17 I GOT IT.

93 01:13:01:05 I THINK WE'RE A LITTLE LOPSIDED NOW.

94 01:13:04:02 BUT, UH, IT TAKES HARD WORK.

95 01:13:06:18 MARRIAGE IS -- IS... PHEW!

96 01:13:09:03 BOY, IT'S A BIG ORDER.

97 01:13:11:02 WE WORKED VERY HARD, AND IT WAS WELL WORTH IT, HUH?

98 01:13:15:25 MY MOTHER WAS OLD-FASHIONED, BUT SHE WAS SORT OF FORCED TO BE A SUBSERVIENT TYPE.

99 01:13:22:06 SHE STAYED HOME.

100 01:13:23:22 SHE HARDLY EVER WENT OUT.

101 01:13:25:19 WITH THE KIDS, SHE COULDN'T.

102 01:13:27:18 DAD WAS FOREVER AT WORK TO EARN ENOUGH TO FEED AND CLOTHE US.

103 01:13:32:17 I DON'T RECALL TOO MUCH OF THAT DECISIONMAKING THING.

104 01:13:36:17 [BEN TAMASHIRO] IN THE POSTWAR WORLD, AFTER I GOT MARRIED, I FELT LIKE A SAMURAI MAKING ALL DECISIONS, BUT THAT HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS, AND I WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH GLORIA NOW.

105 01:13:50:17 I HAD THAT FEELING, TOO.
IN MY MIND, I USED TO THINK, "GEE, HE REALLY WANTS TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION." SOMETIMES I WOULD LET HIM BELIEVE THAT.

HA HA HA!

BUT, I MEAN, WE COME TO AN AGREEMENT, OF COURSE.

WHAT DOES RETIREMENT REALLY HAVE TO DO, THOUGH, WITH MARRIAGE?

SOME RESEARCH TELLS US THAT MARITAL DISTRESS INCREASES.

THE HUSBAND IS NOW AT HOME MAKING DEMANDS ON HIS WIFE.

THE WIFE, WHO USED TO HAVE HER REALM -- A PRIVATE ONE -- NOW HAS SOMEONE WHO IS MAKING COMPETING DEMANDS ON HER TIME, AND SHE DOESN'T ENJOY IT.

NOW THERE'S ANOTHER BODY OF RESEARCH THAT SAYS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE, AND THAT IS THAT AFTER THE INITIAL ADJUSTMENT PERIOD OF HAVING THE HUSBAND HOME, THAT IT'S A POSITIVE TIME.

THEIR LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES, THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, THEIR TRAVELING TIME INCREASES, AND IT'S ACTUALLY A VERY POSITIVE TIME OF INCREASED INTIMACY AND WARMTH WITH ONE ANOTHER.

WE'D ALL LIKE TO BELIEVE THE SECOND, BUT WE DO NEED SOME MORE RESEARCH IN THIS.

YOU MIGHT SAY THERE WAS A KIND OF TURNING POINT WHEN BOTH OF US SUDDENLY FOUND OURSELVES RETIRED...

THAT NOW WE HAVE NEW WAYS OF LOOKING AT LIFE.

WE'RE NOT SETTLED WITH THIS, YOU KNOW -- THE CIVIL SERVICE TYPE JOB, YOU KNOW?

HE'S GOT HIS WORD PROCESSING NOW.

I'VE GOT MY CRAFT WORK.
121 01:15:24:03 MY AREA IS DOWNSTAIRS, SO I DO WHATEVER, AND WHEN I HEAR FOOTSTEPS -- MOSTLY HIS FOOTSTEPS -- I KNOW IT'S LUNCHTIME.

122 01:15:33:02 THAT'S WHEN THE TWAIN DOES MEET.

123 01:15:36:02 YEAH. MAYBE THAT'S A POINT ABOUT HAPPINESS -- THAT WE EACH HAVE A CHANCE TO GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS EVEN AS WE GO TOGETHER.

124 01:15:46:02 THE SHORTCOMING WITH REGARD TO SOCIETY'S VIEW ON THE OLDER PERSON IS THAT, UH...

125 01:15:53:02 OLD PEOPLE, BY DEFINITION, HAVE INELASTIC EGOS -- FANCY TERM -- WHAT IT REALLY MEANS IS THAT YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS.

126 01:16:03:17 WELL, THAT HAS COMPLETELY BEEN SHOT BY THE FINDINGS OF THOSE WHO WORK WITH OLD PEOPLE.

127 01:16:10:01 AS A MATTER OF FACT, ON THE CONTRARY, BECAUSE OLD PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR TIME IS LIMITED, THERE IS NOW A SENSE OF URGENCY WHICH THEY APPLY TO PROBLEM-SOLVING, WHICH YOU NEVER SEE IN YOUNGER ADULTS.

128 01:16:26:03 WHAT SOME RESEARCH DOES SHOW, THOUGH, IS THERE'S A STEADY DECLINE IN NEGATIVE FEELINGS TOWARD ONE'S MARRIAGE THE OLDER WE GET.

129 01:16:34:17 OUR FEELINGS IMPROVE WITH AGE OVER OUR MARITAL SITUATION, AND INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, MEN SEEM HAPPIER THE OLDER THEY GET WITH THEIR MARRIAGE THAN WOMEN.

130 01:16:45:22 [INTERVIEWER] HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP TODAY COMPARED TO THOSE YEARS?

131 01:16:49:06 PRETTY GOOD.

132 01:16:50:07 A LOT BETTER.

133 01:16:51:21 PRETTY GOOD.

134 01:16:52:25 YOU KNOW, IT'S A MATTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

135 01:16:55:22 YOU KNOW, YOU ACCEPT SO MANY SITUATIONS AND PROBLEMS AND THINGS, AND IF YOU CAN'T CHANGE
IT, LIKE SAINT FRANCIS, WELL, YOU ACCEPT IT.

THEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE HAPPY WITH IT.

ONCE YOU ACCEPT THE THING AND REASON IT OUT AND SEE THAT YOU DON'T WANT A LIFE STYLE JUST BECAUSE -- YOU USE REASONING, WHICH IS WHAT HE LACKED.

NOW HE REASONS THINGS OUT, AND HE'S EASIER TO LIVE WITH...

AND, UH, RATHER A NICE GUY.

I LIKE HIM. HE'S A GOOD FRIEND NOW.

DIFFERENT OLDER PEOPLE PUT DIFFERENT IMPORTANCE ON THEIR ROLES AS PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS. SOMETIMES THESE ROLES CHANGE OVER TIME. SOMETIMES THEIR ATTITUDES ARE ROOTED IN CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE. RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM MY GRANDPARENTS' APARTMENT, THERE WAS A JEWISH FUNERAL HOME, AND WE USED TO SEE THE FUNERALS.

ONE DAY -- I WAS ABOUT 8 -- IT MADE A TREMENDOUS IMPRESSION UPON ME.

THERE WAS A FUNERAL IN WHICH THE PEOPLE WERE SCREAMING AND CRYING AND CARRYING ON MUCH MORE VOCIFEROUSLY THAN ANY OTHER I'D EVER SEEN, AND I SAID TO MY GRANDFATHER, "IT MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON," AND HE SAID, "NO. THAT FUNERAL IS BEING HELD FOR A DAUGHTER WHO HAD MARRIED OUTSIDE THE RELIGION." AND IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D LEARNED THAT WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS, THE CHILD WHO DOES SO IS CONSIDERED DEAD, AND THEY HOLD A FUNERAL AND SIT THROUGH THE MOURNING PERIOD AND CONSIDER THEIR CHILD AS GOOD AS DEAD.

UH, THIS SHOCKED ME AND IMPRESSED ME SO STRONGLY THAT, EVEN AT THAT TIME, I VOWED IF I GROW UP AND HAVE CHILDREN AND ANYTHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS, I'D NEVER CONSIDER A CHILD OF MINE DEAD.
AFTER THE WAR, I WORKED FOR THE ARMY AT FORT SHAFTER, FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE.

AHEM. MY PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS OBVIOUSLY, YOU KNOW, TO MAKE A LIVING FOR THE FAMILY, YOU KNOW, AND THEN THE, YOU MIGHT SAY, A GREATER LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVE ALWAYS IN THE BACK OF MY MIND WAS THAT...

TO BE SURE THAT I WOULDN'T BE A BURDEN TO MY KIDS WHEN I GROW OLD.

SO I WORKED HARD, TRIED TO MOVE AHEAD AS MUCH AS I COULD, AND I DID PRETTY WELL, I THINK, BUT IN THIS EFFORT, CONCENTRATING ON MYSELF, MY WORK, AND EVERYTHING, NOW LOOKING BACK, I SEE THAT I'VE KIND OF NEGLECTED THEM TO SOME EXTENT.

I SHOULD HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THEIR NEEDS, THEIR PLAY, AND ALL THAT KIND OF STUFF.

UH...SO...WHAT I'M DOING NOW, I THINK, CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY, IS POURING ALL THESE THINGS INTO MY GRANDSON...

TO GIVE HIM AS MUCH LOVE AS I CAN.

WHEN MY MARRIAGE BROKE UP AND I HAD TWO LITTLE BOYS, IT WAS KIND OF A FRIGHTENING THING BECAUSE THE TIME MY HUSBAND...

WENT OFF ONE TIME, AND I WASN'T GETTING ANY MONEY -- AND, UH, AND THEN THERE WERE OTHER TIMES WHEN WE DID GET THE MONEY.

SO I KNEW I HAD A RESPONSIBILITY, AND I HAD THOSE BOYS BECAUSE I WANTED THEM, AND I LOVED THEM, SO THEY WERE NEVER A BURDEN.

I KNEW I COULDN'T BE A FATHER, BUT I WANTED TO BE THE DAMN BEST MOTHER.

MOLLIE PIER’S CHILDREN HAD ALREADY MOVED ON TO SUCCESSFUL AND INDEPENDENT LIVES WHEN SHE BECAME WIDOWED. HER RESPONSE TO THE SO-CALLED EMPTY NEST WAS TO FILL HER LIFE WITH OTHER INTERESTS. SHE CALLS AND VISITS HER
CHILDREN OFTEN AND HAS STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT THEM, BUT IN MANY WAYS, SHE IS THE ANTITHESIS OF THE STEREOTYPICAL JEWISH MOTHER. MY YOUNGEST SON LIVES IN NEW YORK.

157 01:21:11:02 HE'S A DOCTOR.

158 01:21:12:17 HE HAS AN EXTENSIVE PRACTICE IN THE TREATMENT OF AIDS.

159 01:21:16:17 HE LIVES IN GREENWICH VILLAGE WITH ANOTHER MAN.

160 01:21:20:03 HE'S GAY, AND I LOVE HIM.

161 01:21:23:02 IT, UH, TOOK HIM A LONG TIME TO ACTUALLY COME OUT TO ME BECAUSE I BELIEVE HE WAS AFRAID OF DEEP REJECTION, BUT THAT NEVER HAPPENED.

162 01:21:35:02 EVEN AFTER I LET HIM KNOW THAT I STILL LOVED HIM AND THAT I DID ACCEPT HIM, IT TOOK HIM A WHILE TO ACCUSTOM HIMSELF TO THAT IDEA BECAUSE HE VISUALIZED ME AS THE SQUARE JEWISH MOTHER I WAS WHEN HE WAS 14.

163 01:21:52:02 OF COURSE, I HAD BEEN TAUGHT THAT HOMOSEXUALITY WAS A PERVERSION AND A SIN AGAINST GOD AND OTHER PEOPLE AND A MENTAL ABERRATION, BUT I HAVE LEARNED SINCE THEN THAT IT'S NOT THAT AT ALL.

164 01:22:06:02 I JOINED A GROUP CALLED PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS, RECEIVED A FANTASTIC EDUCATION THROUGH THEM, AND AM A VERY, VERY STRONG SUPPORTER OF GAY RIGHTS.

165 01:22:17:18 I'VE MARCHED IN SEVERAL GAY RIGHTS PARADES, AND THIS SUNDAY, I'M SCHEDULED TO WALK WITH THE PARENTS GROUP IN THE CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST PARADE THAT'S EMANATING FROM WEST HOLLYWOOD.

166 01:22:29:18 I'M VERY PROUD OF MY SON.

167 01:22:32:03 I'M VERY PROUD OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

168 01:22:34:18 NO ONE CAN TELL ME NOT TO LOVE HIM AND BE PROUD.
I think one of my biggest responsibilities is to be available to them for whatever help they might need.

You know, in other words, to help them...

You know, in certain projects or to help them out when they need a few extra dollars to buy something, uh, make a loan for them if they don't have the capability to do that.

Our second daughter was going through a divorce, but prior to that, when her husband walked out, she was all broken up, so she and her best friend came over and then told us the story.

I spent the night with her to calm her and keep things as normal as possible.

That took some time.

It was such a traumatic thing for her.

We felt it, too. We didn't expect it at all.

So that went on for a little while, and she felt the closeness.

We really did, but it's even closer with her.

She stayed with us a week or so.

Then she went back, and now they're together again.

They're doing well, and Gloria asked me some time ago -- says, "Did she ever tell you what was the problem?" I said, "No." I said, "I'm not going to ask her, either." If she feels like telling me, O.K., but I wasn't going to inquire into the thing.

So it's this kind of a relationship.

I feel she felt comfortable coming to us for help -- could she stay awhile until this thing blew over?
AND, UH...TO ME, I THINK THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF PARENTHOOD -- BEING HERE ON CALL FOR WHATEVER KIND OF PROBLEMS MAY COME UP.

AFTER RAISING TWO SONS ALONE, CELESTINE EGGLESTON HAS TURNED HER ATTENTION TO HER GRANDDAUGHTERS. SHE GIVES THEM TIME AND LOVE AND HOPES THEY'LL RECIPROCATE WHEN SHE GROWS OLDER. I DIDN'T HAVE TIME WHEN WORKING TO HAVE THE FUN I WANTED TO WITH MY OWN KIDS.

YOU'RE ALWAYS BUSY COOKING AND GETTING READY FOR WORK.

YOU PUT THEM IN FRONT OF THE TELEVISION, HOPE IT KEEPS THEM QUIET WHILE YOU'RE COOKING DINNER.

 BUT WITH YOUR GRANDCHILDREN... YOU HAVE LOTS OF TIME, AND YOU CAN TAKE THAT, AND THEN ALSO, YOU REALIZE YOU HAVE THIS PRECIOUS LITTLE LIFE IN YOUR HANDS THAT YOU CAN INFLUENCE IN SO MANY WAYS, AND IT'S KIND OF AWESOME, BUT IT'S ALSO VERY BEAUTIFUL, AND WHEN YOUR GRANDCHILDREN ARE YOUNG, THEY MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE THE MOST MARVELOUS PERSON.

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO FEEL NEEDED AND LOVED AS WE GET OLDER, AND THAT'S WHAT MY GRANDCHILDREN GIVE ME.

IF THEY COME IN AND GIVE ME A HUG AND SAY, "I LOVE YOU, NANI," MY WHOLE DAY IS MADE.

IT'S, UH -- THEY REALLY GIVE, AND JUST LOVING AND CARING ABOUT YOU.

AND I ALSO KNOW THAT WHEN I GET OLDER, AND I HAVE REMINDED THEM -- "I'M TAKING YOU OUT TO LUNCH TODAY." "WILL YOU TAKE ME OUT TO LUNCH WHEN YOU'RE GROWN AND HAVE TIME?" "OH, YES, NANI, OF COURSE. SURE, WE'LL TAKE YOU OUT." I SAY, "I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT." THE SALAZARS DISAGREED A LOT ABOUT CHILD-REARING STYLES, SO IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THEY DIFFER ON THE GRANDCHILDREN. AGAIN, I'M FALLING BACK INTO THE
SAME PATTERN OF "TAKE THEM TO DANCING SCHOOL. I'LL PAY.

194  01:26:28:17  "GET HIM INTO SCOUTING FOR SURE.

195  01:26:31:03  LET HIM LISTEN TO THIS MUSIC SO HE'LL DEVELOP AN EAR," MAYBE I SHOULDN'T DO THAT BECAUSE MY CHILDREN HAVE NEVER SAID "NO" OR "YOU'RE WRONG" OR "FORGET IT," BUT THEY DON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

196  01:26:46:01  HEY, THEY'RE NOT LISTENING.

197  01:26:47:18  AND THEN I SAY, WELL, IT'S THEIR CHILDREN.

198  01:26:50:17  I'M GLAD YOU NOTICED.

199  01:26:52:18  I HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT, BUT IT'S DIFFICULT.

200  01:26:55:17  YEAH.

201  01:26:57:01  BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.

202  01:27:00:03  THAT'S -- THAT'S HIS PROBLEM, NOT MINE.

203  01:27:02:17  I GET ALONG FINE WITH THE GRANDKIDS.

204  01:27:05:17  I SPOIL THEM.

205  01:27:07:01  SHE REALLY DOES.

206  01:27:08:18  I DO ALL THE THINGS I WANT, AND MY DAUGHTER'S MORE TOLERANT THAN MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, NEEDLESS TO SAY.

207  01:27:17:02  BUT THEY LOVE ME.

208  01:27:18:17  WE HAVE WONDERFUL TIMES TOGETHER.

209  01:27:20:16  I LOVE TO PLAY WITH THEM.

210  01:27:23:02  THAT'S WHY I GUESS I HAVE TO SAY THEY'RE CALLING ON ME BECAUSE I REALLY -- I NEVER PUT THEM TO THE SIDE.

211  01:27:32:01  THEY GET MY ATTENTION ALMOST COMPLETELY.

212  01:27:34:12  IT'S EXHAUSTING.
Growing Old in a New Age: Family and Intergenrational Relationships

I'M SURE GLAD WE ONLY HAVE OUR CHILDREN WHEN WE'RE YOUNG.

I COULDN'T DO THAT NOW, BUT I LOVE THEM.

I THINK THEY'RE WONDERFUL.

[GLORIA TAMASHIRO] IT'S REALLY A LOT OF FUN.

WE'RE SORT OF RELIVING OUR YOUTH, YOU KNOW.

BEING A GRANDPARENT -- YOU JUST CAN'T BEAT IT.

YOU SPOIL HIM ROTTEN, AND THEN THE MOTHER HAS TO RETRAIN HIM WHEN THEY GO HOME.

NOW SHE'S ADJUSTED HERSELF TO THAT FACT ALREADY OF OUR SPOILING THE CHILD.

I SAID, "IT'S OUR PRIVILEGE. DON'T TAKE IT AWAY."

[HIS NAME IS KIN HIROSHI DAKIUADAKIUATAMASHIRO].

[AND, UH...THE MOTHER IS OUR FOURTH DAUGHTER.]

AND, UH, OF COURSE, LIKE ANY FIRST GRANDCHILD, YOU KNOW, YOU POUR OUT YOUR LOVE AND, UH -- AND, UH... I KIND OF SEE HIM...

AS, UH, SOMETHING THAT I MISSED WITH MY KIDS BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL GIRLS.

SO I KIND OF MISSED THE RELATIONSHIP OF A FATHER TO THE SON, AND I'M BEGINNING TO MAKE IT UP WITH MY GRANDSON.

UH, WAITING FOR HIM TO GET OUT OF HIS DIAPER STAGE SO WE CAN RUN AROUND A LITTLE BIT.

I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN TO THE BEACH OR GO BUS RIDING OR WHATEVER IT IS.

BEYOND THE JOYS OF INTERACTING WITH THE GRANDCHILDREN, THE CHANCE TO PRESERVE THEIR CULTURE AND HERITAGE HAS SPECIAL MEANING TO MANY GRANDPARENTS. THE NAME SALAZAR IS GOING TO GO ON, AND I'M PROUD OF IT, AND I'M PROUD OF MY PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS.
NOW AS I'M GETTING OLDER, I'M WRITING THINGS.

I EVEN MADE A FAMILY TREE -- FIVE GENERATIONS, AND I GAVE ALL THE NAMES, AND I GAVE THE -- MOST OF THE BIRTH DATES AND DATES OF DEATH, AND WHAT THEY DID, WHERE THEY LIVED, AND SO ON.

I WANT MY CHILDREN TO KNOW ABOUT THAT BECAUSE I GET A FEELING NOW -- THE WAY THE WORLD IS NOW, ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED STATES, UH, WHEN I'M GONE, IT WILL BE LIKE THE CLOSING OF A CHAPTER.

BEN TAMASHIRO ALSO FEELS COMPELLED TO LEAVE A WRITTEN RECORD OF HOW HE DENIED HIS ETHNICITY EARLY IN LIFE, ONLY TO REDISCOVER ITS VALUE AND MEANING LATER. NONE OF US CAN PREDICT WHAT THE FUTURE WILL HOLD FOR US, BUT, UH, IF WE DO IT RIGHT, THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN HE WILL APPRECIATE WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR HIM.

MANY OLDER PEOPLE MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR CHILDREN'S AND GRANDCHILDREN'S LIVES. IT'S ALSO A FACT THAT AS SOME PEOPLE GET OLDER, THEY MIGHT NEED HELP FROM YOUNGER FAMILY MEMBERS. HOWEVER, A PERSON WON'T NECESSARILY GO DIRECTLY FROM BEING A CONTRIBUTING FAMILY MEMBER TO BECOMING COMPLETELY DEPENDENT. THE PASQUALE CAPONE FAMILY IS AN EXAMPLE. TODAY THEY'RE CELEBRATING HIS BIRTHDAY. WE ALL KNOW THE REASON WHY WE'RE HERE -- BECAUSE IT'S GRANDPA'S BIRTHDAY.

IF MANY OF YOU DON'T KNOW SOME OF THE HISTORY OF THE CAPONE FAMILY, I'LL MAKE IT SHORT.

BACK IN 1897, GRANDPA WAS BORN, AND THAT WAS THE START OF THE CAPONE FAMILY.

1914, GRANDPA ARRIVED IN AMERICA.

1922, GRANDMA ARRIVED IN AMERICA.

THEY WERE SWEETHEARTS SINCE THEY WERE 12 YEARS OLD.
THEY WERE MARRIED. THEY HAD FOUR CHILDREN.

FROM THERE, THEY WENT ON TO HAVE NINE GRANDCHILDREN AND 10 GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, AND FROM ALL OF US, WE WANT TO SAY WE LOVE YOU VERY DEARLY.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GRANDPA.

MY DAD IS A FANTASTIC MAN, AND GOD HELP ME, GOD, I TAKE AFTER HIM.

HE LOOKS GREAT. LOOK AT HIM -- 94 YEARS OLD, AND HE WORKS FIVE DAYS A WEEK...AT THE SHOP -- MY BROTHERS OWN AN UPHOLSTERY SHOP.

HE GOES IN EVERY DAY AND WORKS EVERY DAY.

HE LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING.

PASQUALE CAPONE, HIS DAUGHTER, AND TWO OF HIS SONS WORK IN HIS YOUNGEST SON, JOHN'S, UPHOLSTERY BUSINESS. PASQUALE DOES IT TO KEEP BUSY AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO HIS FAMILY. I WORK HARD IN MY LIFE, AND I GIVE THE KIDS ANYTHING THEY WANT.

I TAKE MY TIME AND DO WHAT I WANT.

MY SON, HE KNOWS I COME IN AND JUST -- I WANT TO KEEP MYSELF REALLY BUSY.

I TAKE MY TIME. I DON'T CARE. WHEN I FINISH, I FINISH.

MY SON DON'T TELL ME NOTHING AT ALL.

WHATEVER I CAN DO, I DO.

I COME IN ABOUT 11:00 IN THE MORNING.

OH, HE'S LIVING WITH ME.

HE'S 94 YEARS OLD, AND I FEEL THAT HE CANNOT TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF, SO I HAD HIM COME TO LIVE WITH ME.

HE'S BEEN LIVING WITH ME FOR SEVEN MONTHS.
AND HE’S NOT ALONE LIKE HE WAS BEFORE.

HE USED TO LIVE IN THE NORTH END, AND MY BROTHER LOOKED AFTER HIM.

NOW HE’S WITH ME, AND HE LOVES IT.

I TAKE HIM HERE TO WORK WITH ME BECAUSE HE KNOWS AND LIKES THIS.

THE CAPONE FAMILY HAS CLEARLY PULLED TOGETHER TO HELP PASQUALE AS HE BECOMES MORE FRAIL, BUT PASQUALE CONTRIBUTES NOT ONLY HIS LABOR, BUT A DETERMINATION TO STAY ACTIVE, WHICH IN TURN HELPS HIM MAINTAIN HIS INDEPENDENCE. § HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR GRANDPA § § HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU §§ YAY!

YAY!

OH, YOU’RE GOING TO GET HIM WITH A KISS.

ALL RIGHT, GRANDPA!

IN TALKING ABOUT SOME OF THE ROLES OLDER PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS PLAY WITHIN THE FAMILY, WE’VE SEEN A VARIETY OF HELPING PATTERNS. WHETHER FINANCIAL OR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, A GOOD DEAL OF HELP COMMONLY FLOWS FROM THE OLDER TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION. WHAT IF OLDER PEOPLE BECOME FRAIL? CAN THEY EXPECT TO RECEIVE THE HELP THEY NEED FROM THEIR FAMILIES? OR WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY BECOME CAREGIVERS TO THEIR OWN PARENTS? CAREGIVING IS A TERM THAT’S BEEN USED TO REFER TO THE SUPPORT -- FINANCIAL, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL -- THAT FAMILIES PROVIDE TO AN OLDER FAMILY MEMBER, ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT OLDER FAMILY MEMBER IS FRAIL.

AND BY FRAIL WE MEAN ONE IS NO LONGER ABLE TO BE AS COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT AS ONE WOULD LIKE.

I WAS BORN IN NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA...

MARGUERITE OGAWA IS 71. AT AN AGE WHEN SOME PEOPLE NEED CARE, SHE IS PRIMARY CAREGIVER TO
HER 96-YEAR-OLD MOTHER-IN-LAW. ONE IDEA WAS TO PUT HER IN A NURSING CARE HOME WHERE MAYBE THEY HAVE FIVE OR SIX ELDERLY.

BUT IT JUST DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT AT THE TIME BECAUSE WE EACH OWN OUR OWN HOME, AND YOUR CONSCIENCE KIND OF BOTHERS YOU, AND YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU'RE ABLE, YOU'VE GOT TO DO THE BEST THAT YOU CAN.

SO THE FAMILY -- THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY HAD A MEETING AND HAD TO DECIDE WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO.

[SPEAKING JAPANESE] [TRANSLATOR] I WAS FINE LIVING ALONE BECAUSE MY FOUR DAUGHTERS WOULD LOOK IN ON ME REGULARLY, BUT AFTER MY TWO-WEEK HOSPITAL STAY, THEY THOUGHT IT WASN'T SAFE.

SO I MOVED IN WITH MY SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW BECAUSE SHE IS A RETIRED NURSE.

WE BUILT THE ANNEX FOR MY SON AND HIS WIFE, BUT THEY LEFT.

SO I FEEL THAT IT WAS MEANT TO BE.

SO SHE HAS HER OWN LITTLE BEDROOM, LIVING ROOM, BATHROOM.

SHE HAS HER OWN KITCHEN, AND SHE HAS A LITTLE OUTSIDE AREA THERE, AND AT NIGHT, OR WHEN SHE'S ALONE, I ALWAYS LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN TO THE MAIN HOUSE, BUT IF SHE HAS VISITORS, THEN I SHUT THE DOOR, AND SHE HAS HER OWN TV IN THERE, CABLE, AND SHE WATCHES THE JAPANESE PROGRAM.

I -- I GIVE HER BREAKFAST, PUT ON THE JAPANESE PROGRAM IN THE MORNING, AND GIVE HER MEDICATION.

[SPEAKING JAPANESE] [TRANSLATOR] I'M LUCKY.

MY FOUR DAUGHTERS -- HELEN, SHIZUE, FUMIKO, AND AMIKO -- ALL TAKE TurnerS BRINGING ME MY DINNER.
They also keep me busy by visiting and taking me on drives and outings.

I'm happy that I have my own room, and the system of taking turns to help me is very good.

She is very alert mentally.

She can walk short distances with a walker, but she may fall, and if she falls, she has to be assisted, and as time goes on, more and more, she depends on other people for her care in order to maintain her safety and her health.

So at this point, I started investigating to find out the different, uh, programs that will help the elderly.

At present, I use two programs -- St. Francis Care Home for the Elderly, a health aide comes in three times a week, gives grooming, bathing, monitors her health, and, um, applies medication, and she exercises her, takes her blood pressure, weighs her, and gives me great relief from daily things I do.

She'll notice things I may not.

Sometimes her feet are swollen.

She'll tell me she has to go to the doctor.

A registered nurse comes about once or twice a month to monitor her health and to assess what we're doing.

Then I take her to the Oahu Central Daycare Center eight hours a day for three times a week.

The bus comes after her, brings her home, and during this eight hours, I'm able to go shopping, to the pharmacy, the bank.

I have to do her banking, her shopping, and my own.
I CAN GO TO MY OWN DENTIST, MY OWN DOCTOR. IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS THAT HELP ME, I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP CONTACT WITH MY FRIENDS. I COULDN'T MEET THEM -- AND SOMEONE TO TALK TO. SO THE PROGRAMS THAT I USE OR THE PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY -- REALLY RELIEVES YOUR STRESS. YOU -- IT, UH... YOU'RE ABLE TO COPE WITH YOUR SITUATION BETTER.

DAYCARE WAS SUGGESTED TO HER, AND SHE SAID NO. SHE'S NOT GOING. THEREFORE...

BUT WE DECIDED TO TAKE HER ANYWAY. SO, UH, WHEN I WENT TO REGISTER HER, IT WAS A VERY PLEASANT PLACE.

I TOOK -- WE'D TAKE HER MAYBE TWO HOURS EACH TIME AND PICK HER UP BECAUSE, UH -- AND SHE STILL SAID SHE DIDN'T LIKE IT -- ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF.

SHE FELT LIKE SHE WAS BEING JUST PUSHED ASIDE. SHE SAID SHE'D RATHER SIT IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE, AND I SAYS, "YOU'LL JUST SIT THERE TILL YOU'RE 100?" AND SHE SAYS YES, SHE'D RATHER JUST SIT THERE.

BUT FOR THREE DAYS A WEEK, TWO HOURS, MAYBE INCREASE IT TO THREE -- AND WE DID THIS FOR ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF.

ONE DAY SHE SAYS, "WHY ARE YOU COMING AFTER ME SO EARLY?" SO NOW SHE STAYS THE ENTIRE TIME.

I SEE DAYCARE AS A CLUB FOR VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE.
MANY PEOPLE HAVE A DIFFERENT CONCEPT OF DAYCARE, BUT WE HAVE MORE ACTIVITIES THAN MOST SENIOR CLUBS DO.

THE PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE HERE ARE THE TYPE OF PEOPLE THAT CAN'T STAY HOME ALONE.

THEM MAY BE VERY FRAIL, MAY HAVE STROKES, AND THEY HAVE NO PLACE TO GO.

WHEN THEY'RE HERE, THEY'RE ACTIVE.

THEM FORM FRIENDSHIPS.

THEY CAN BE WITH THEIR PEER GROUP.

BY WORKING CLOSELY WITH HER FAMILY, MARGUERITE OGAWA COULD ADDRESS BOTH HER AND HER MOTHER-IN-LAW'S. THE MOST HELPFUL IS THAT IF I HAVE A PROBLEM, I'LL TALK WITH THE FAMILY AND TELL THEM WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO OR WHAT I DON'T -- I NEED, AND THEY WILL, UH, HELP ME.

I THINK THE NEXT GENERATION, LIKE MY CHILDREN, ARE GOING TO HAVE TO COMMUNICATE, AND IF THE, UH, MOTHERS OR THE PARENTS NOWADAYS SHOW AN EXAMPLE, THEY'LL DO THE SAME.

IT'S LIKE JESUS WASHING THE FEET OF HIS DISCIPLES.

HE SAYS, "DO YOU KNOW WHAT I DID?"

I'M SHOWING YOU AN EXAMPLE. SO SHALL YOU DO." I THINK THAT'S THE WAY, IF POSSIBLE, TO TAKE CARE OF THE ELDERLY, BUT VERY DIFFICULT TO EVEN LIVE BY THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO IT WITH LOVE.

THAT'S THE HARDEST PART.

THE SALAZARS WERE CAREGIVERS TO LILLIAN'S PARENTS FOR MOST OF THE LAST 32 YEARS. HER 100-YEAR-OLD FATHER NOW LIVES WITH THEM. WHEN MY PARENTS FIRST MOVED IN HERE -- MY DAD AND MY STEPMOTHER -- IT WASN'T TOO BAD.
THE HARDEST PART WAS KEEPING HER FROM HELPING IN THE KITCHEN.

SHE BROKE DISHES AND SUCH, AND THERE WAS ONE INTERESTING INCIDENT -- THOUSANDS OF INTERESTING INCIDENTS, BUT ONE DAY, SHE WAS GOING TO HELP ME MAKE COFFEE, AND THERE WAS SOME POTTING SOIL ON THE -- ON THE COUNTER, AND SO SHE PUT -- HEAPING THIS POTTING SOIL, AND SHE MADE THE COFFEE.

OF COURSE, IT WASN'T VERY GOOD.

OH, IT WASN'T BAD.

YOU KNOW, IT WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE.

I -- I ASKED HER, "DID YOU BUY THIS -- THIS SPECIAL CATERING COFFEE OR SOMETHING?" YOU KNOW, WE -- WE, UH -- PROBABLY THE REASON WE -- WE -- WE HAVE MANAGED THIS SO WELL -- BECAUSE IT'S BEEN ALMOST EIGHT YEARS -- IS BECAUSE I WENT TO SCHOOL.

WE BOTH WENT TO SCHOOL.

WHEN I WAS AT SCHOOL, MY DAD TOOK CARE OF MY STEPMOTHER BECAUSE SHE GOT INTO A LOT OF MISCHIEF, BUT WHEN I'D GET HOME, HE'D FALL ON THE COUCH, WATCH TV, SLEEP.

FROM THEN ON, SHE WAS MY BABY.

SHE WAS A HANDFUL. SHE WAS INCONTINENT.

SHE WOULD WANDER THROUGH THE NIGHT.

OFTENTIMES I'D CATCH HER WANDERING AROUND AT NIGHT, AND SHE'D SAY, "WHO ARE YOU?" THE WORST PART OF IT WAS HER WAILING.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

I WAS DECIDING TO GO FOR MY MUSIC DEGREE THEN.

I HAD TO TAKE THIS COURSE IN BRASS INSTRUMENTS.
I was learning to play the trombone.

She had this great way of yowling.

She'd go... [Speaking foreign language] which means, you know, "my god." [Speaking foreign language] meaning, "oh! I say! I say!"

Oh, my god! I say! I say!" very dramatic.

She'd get higher and higher because my father can't hear, right?

She wants him to hear this.

She probably was very sick, but I'd had her through hospitals, through surgery, through countless things.

If I had a dollar for every hour I spent in hospital waiting rooms with her, I'd be rich.

I found the answer to that because that would get on our nerves terribly.

Leo has always been wonderful.

I mean, he's not a marvelous person, but in that area, I must say, he -- I resemble that.

He makes up for all his shortcomings in that area, you see.

We're not talking about shortcomings.

What I'd do when she'd really get the wailing to a pitch, I'd bring out that damn trombone.

She'd ask me please not to be so loud.

It was really like a three-ring circus.

We never did know what's going to happen in the house.

You'd hear a noise or clatter and, "what happened?" even though the woman drove me - - I had a terrible time with her.
I FELT FOR HER A GREAT DEAL.
I WAS GOOD TO HER, RIGHT?
IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, I WAS NEVER ABUSIVE TO HER.
NOW THAT I'M WORKING, IT'S A LITTLE HARDER, AND I'M THINKING VERY SERIOUSLY OF GETTING SOMEONE IN, BUT I RESENT THE NEED TO BRING SOMEONE IN.
WE'RE VERY -- WE LIKE OUR PRIVACY, AND THE IDEA OF BRINGING SOMEONE IN WOULD BE ONLY -- ONLY TO TAKE CARE OF MY FATHER.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TO DO FOR US.
I RESENT IT, DON'T YOU?
YEAH. I WANTED TO ADD SOMETHING TO WHY WE CAN'T REALLY AVAIL OURSELVES OF ALL THESE COMMUNITY -- ALL THIS HELP.
UH, THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH MY FATHER-IN-LAW.
THERE'S A LANGUAGE BARRIER, NUMBER ONE.
THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND HIM, AND HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEM UNLESS IT'S VERY BASIC "YES" OR "NO" ENGLISH.
AND FURTHER THAN THAT, NOW THAT HE'S BEEN ADVANCING ALL ALONG IN HIS DEAFNESS, IT'S EVEN WORSE, AND, OF COURSE, YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER HIS CULTURE.
TAKING A BATH IS JUST LIKE PULLING TEETH, YOU KNOW?
I MEAN, IN THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES, WHERE CAN THEY TAKE A BATH EVERY DAY?
HE'S BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 75 YEARS.
BUT HE HASN'T FOUND OUT YET THAT WE HAVE A BATHROOM.
IT'S NOT AS BAD AS THAT.
NOW HE'S SO RICKETY WE'RE AFRAID IF WE PUT HIM IN THE SHOWER STALL, IF HE FALLS, HE'LL BRING THE WHOLE HOUSE DOWN WITH HIM.

WE GET A LITTLE WOODEN STOOL SO HE CAN SIT.

HE DOESN'T LIKE THAT.

HE DOESN'T LIKE TO SHOWER, EITHER.

I STAND THERE -- THIS IS INTERESTING.

I'M GOING TO TELL.

WHEN MY FATHER TAKES A SHOWER -- WE'VE HAD TO PASS ALL THESE MODESTY STAGES -- IT'S VERY, VERY DIFFICULT, WITH YOUR FATHER, ESPECIALLY.

AT FIRST IT WAS, "DON'T TOUCH "ANY PART OF MY BODY.

"STAND ALOOF AND -- AND, YOU KNOW, HONOR ME FROM AFAR," BUT LITTLE BY LITTLE, HE'S HAD TO REMOVE ALL THESE -- THESE BARRIERS, YOU MIGHT SAY, AND ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HAD THAT SURGERY A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO.

I GUESS THAT'S WHEN IT FINALLY -- PROSTATE.

PROSTATE SURGERY, AND THAT REALLY KIND OF BROKE AWAY ALL THE LAST OF IT, BUT WE STILL LET HIM -- I WANT HIM TO KEEP THAT -- HIS OWN DIGNITY BECAUSE WITHOUT THAT DIGNITY, I THINK THEY REALLY GO DOWNHILL FAST.

THAT WAS PART OF WHAT HAPPENED TO MY STEPMOTHER BECAUSE IT GOT TO THE POINT WHERE THERE WAS TOO MUCH OF HER DIGNITY LOST.

BACK TO MY DAD, SO NOW WHEN HE GETS IN THE SHOWER, I GIVE HIM A TEA TOWEL.

AS LONG AS THE FRONT IS COVERED, THE REST IS O.K.

SO HE GETS IN THAT SHOWER AND IS REALLY -- I GET WETTER THAN HE DOES.
HE DOESN'T LIKE WATER, AND I'M TRYING TO GIVE HIM A SHAMPOO AND WASH HIS BACK, THEN HE EXCUSES ME FOR A FEW MINUTES PRIVATE TIME, AND BY THE TIME WE GET HIM IN AND OUT OF THAT SHOWER, I'M POOPED.

IT'S REALLY SOMETHING, BUT HE IS FUNNY.

WE ENJOY HIM, AND HE'S SO GRATEFUL.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE CAREGIVER TO GET THAT GRATITUDE.

HE IS VERY GRATEFUL.

HE THANKS ME AFTER HIS BATH.

HE THANKS ME WHEN I TUCK HIM IN AT NIGHT.

LATELY HE'S BEEN -- I CAN HEAR HIM -- HE'S BEEN EXTRA NICE LATELY.

YEAH. "THANK YOU." YOU KNOW.

I THINK YOU GOT TO HAVE APPRECIATION.

IT'S REALLY A THANKLESS JOB, SO IF YOU GET A FEW THANKS, IT'S NICE.

HE'S COGNIZANT OF THAT.

HE SAYS, "I SO MUCH TROUBLE YOU," AND HE FEELS KIND OF BAD, BUT NOT VERY LONG.

THEN HE GOES INTO ANOTHER MOOD AND SAYS, "YOU GIVE ME SOME COFFEE," OR WHATEVER.

HE COMES BACK TO EARTH.

I FIND THAT WITH SOMETHING LIKE CAREGIVING, ONE PERSON SEEMS TO GET THE RESPONSIBILITY.

IN THIS CASE, IT'S MINE.

AND I'VE GONE THROUGH, OVER THE YEARS, FEELINGS OF ANGER AND BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT TOWARD MY SISTERS FOR THEIR LACK OF ASSISTANCE.
I know that they're having hell living with themselves.

I know that they really feel guilty.

You know, they're decent people, but they really don't know how to deal with him.

I've used all forms of rationale to survive for myself.

Number one, and the main thing being is I took it on as my responsibility, and I'm going to have to do it.

In August and September, we're going to go for three weeks.

Can you imagine? Freedom.

Three weeks away from taking care of my father-in-law.

We can do what we want.

We don't have to come back.

Did he get his lunch? Is he o.k.?

Is the house on fire?

It's a kind of freedom, and that's good because if you don't get that, soon the caregivers will need caregivers, and the pressure is, you know...

What else can you do about it?

We're philosophical about it.

We have a good life.

We really do, and we interact well with my dad.

It could be a far worse situation.

I think the majority of people going through these painful feelings that -- "We have to do
THIS.

423 01:50:46:03 IT'S OUR FATHER. IF HE DIES, THEN WHAT?" FOR YEARS, HE MANIPULATED US WITH IT, TOO.

424 01:50:52:06 YOU FINALLY REACH A POINT WHERE, FOR THE SAKE OF SURVIVAL, YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT DEATH IS INEVITABLE, AND WOULDN'T IT BE NICER FOR HIM TO DIE WHILE HE'S GOT HIS WITS ABOUT HIM?

425 01:51:06:06 HE'S GOT HIS DIGNITY.

426 01:51:07:21 WHY WAIT UNTIL HE'S SOME KIND OF A VEGETABLE?

427 01:51:11:06 IF HE HAS A NICE, HAPPY DEATH, I'LL BE VERY HAPPY.

428 01:51:15:22 I'LL MISS HIM BECAUSE HE'S BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR LIVES FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

429 01:51:22:06 SO OF COURSE, I'LL MISS HIM, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL MOURN.

430 01:51:27:17 NOW, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CAREGIVING, WE'RE LOOKING AT A COMBINATION OR CONVERGENCE HERE OF DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC TRENDS.

431 01:51:35:02 WE'RE LOOKING AT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MORE OLDER PEOPLE.

432 01:51:39:18 WE'RE LOOKING AT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE LESS CHILDREN.

433 01:51:43:18 ALSO, WOMEN ARE BACK AT WORK.

434 01:51:46:02 IN THE PAST, THE MAJORITY OF CAREGIVERS -- AND CAREGIVING IS AN UNPAID JOB, WE ALL KNOW THAT -- WERE WOMEN, WOMEN WHO WERE IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE OF WHAT WIVES WERE ABOUT.

435 01:51:59:03 HUSBANDS WORKED, AND WIVES STAYED AT HOME.

436 01:52:02:03 THE AVERAGE AGE OF CAREGIVERS TODAY IS ABOUT 57 OR 58.

437 01:52:06:17 THIS WOMAN GREW UP IN A VERY DIFFERENT TIME THAN TODAY.

438 01:52:11:02 WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW WHEN WOMEN ARE
Now Elaine Brody over at the Philadelphia Geriatric Center has been warning of this trend with us for probably the last 20 years.

I'm not sure we're listening.

Women will not be able to quit a job to take care of mom or dad because women work for necessity -- for financial necessity.

We're negating the fact that women are single parents and are divorced, and a job is absolutely not a luxury.

We're neglecting all of these trends.

It should be a concern for everyone in our society.

Who will pick up this job of caring for mom and dad when we know that 80% of the frail are cared for not by institutions, but by family members?

By family members, we mean women.

What will happen when this huge source of free labor is no longer available?

What does this mean to conflict?

This is a conflict because if women are no longer able to do this, someone has to, and it will cost plenty.

Governments in Asia are attempting to provide incentives to families to try to get them to continue to care for the elderly.

In Japan and in Singapore, in particular, there are tax incentives so that if you have an elderly parent living with you, you can take a tax deduction.

There are also financial incentives to help middle-aged people in Japan build housing so
THAT THE ELDERLY CAN LIVE WITH THEM IN THE SAME HOUSE.

INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, SOME OF THE GOVERNMENTS ARE TRYING TO LEGISLATE FILIAL PIETY.

THE CHINESE MARRIAGE LAW OF 1980 SPECIFIES QUITE CLEARLY THAT CHILDREN ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR OLDER PARENTS, AND SIMILARLY, THAT GRANDCHILDREN ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

SO AS WE LOOK AROUND ASIA, AND ESPECIALLY EAST ASIA -- THE COUNTRIES KNOWN FOR GREAT FILIAL PIETY, THE COUNTRIES KNOWN FOR GREAT RESPECT TO THE ELDERLY -- WE'RE FINDING THAT INCREASINGLY, GOVERNMENTS ARE WORRIED THAT MAYBE THE FAMILY CAN'T DO AS MUCH AS THEY HAD HOPED.

THERE'S A TERM NOW THAT'S BEING BANDIED ABOUT, AND THAT'S "AGE WARS." THAT WAS FROM KEN DYCHTWALD, WHO IS WARNING THAT THE FUTURE, WE MAY BE SEEING INTERGENERATIONAL CONFLICT, AND THAT HAS TO DO WITH, ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, FAMILIES BEING TORN BETWEEN "DO I CARE FOR MOM, WHO NEEDS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

BUT IT'S TIME FOR JOANIE TO GO TO COLLEGE." SO HERE I AM, THE SANDWICH GENERATION, CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE.

IT ALSO WARNS US OF A GREATER SOCIETAL CONCERN -- DIRECTION, IF YOU WILL -- THAT IF, AS A SOCIETY, WE HAVE LIMITED RESOURCES, HOW DO WE DIVVY THEM UP?

HOW DO WE DECIDE WHAT OLDER ADULTS GET AS OPPOSED TO WHAT MIDDLE-AGED AND YOUNGER ADULTS GET?

THIS CERTAINLY IS SOMETHING FOR US TO THINK ABOUT, BUT THERE'S A LARGER ISSUE THAN LOOKING AT SOMETHING CALLED AGE WARS, AND THAT IS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WE'RE ALL ON THIS PLANET TOGETHER -- THAT EACH GENERATION OWES THE OTHER GENERATION SOMETHING.
EVERY BOOK I READ, EVERY ROAD I DRIVE ON WAS BUILT BY A PREVIOUS GENERATION, AND IT WOULD SEEM TERRIBLY SELFISH TO TAKE SO MANY GIFTS AND THEN TO SAY, "YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN NOW THAT YOU'RE FRAIL.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING." LIKewise, SO MANY OLDER PEOPLE ALSO ARE STILL GIVING TO YOUNGER CHILDREN.

SO WE REALLY NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE, RATHER THAN THE GENERATIONAL WARS, BUT RATHER THE WORD "INTERDEPENDENCE" -- THAT THERE'S SHARING GOING ON BETWEEN AND AMONG THE GENERATIONS, AND THAT'S REALLY WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

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