1. What do these personal stories by trailblazing women teach us about the construction of the field of Japanese Studies? About gender and inclusion in the academy?
2. What did you learn about Japanese Studies between 1950 and 1980? How is the field then different and similar to how it is today?
3. How do these trailblazing women’s careers represent changes in Japan-US relations?
4. How are the formation of academic fields affected by both global politics and personal choices?
5. How have women faced different challenges than people of other genders?
6. Which chapters in particular did you find more compelling, educational, or instructive? Why?
7. What are memorable pieces of advice you have learned from this book? How will you use this advice in your life and career?
8. What can we learn by writing and reading memoirs? How do they differ from other kinds of writing?
9. If you could write your own scholarly memoir, what events, encounters, and people would you feature? How would you write the account? Would it be straightforward? Poetic? Funny? Serious? Who would you like to read it?
10. What is your favorite quote from the book? Why is this quote so impactful?
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