

Box 5:38

Sammet, L. L. (Loy Luther) and Family

1982 - 88, n.d.

Includes letters to and from Lauren Sammet (niece)
and from Bonnie Sammet (sister-in-law)

86/97c

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
GIANNINI FOUNDATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL & RESOURCE ECONOMICS

207 GIANNINI HALL
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

September 22, 1982

Awards Committee
Alumni House
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Committee Members:

I have learned that Mr. George Kondo, President of the California Japanese Alumni Association, is nominating Ms. Yoshiko Uchida for the "Alumnus of the Year" award. I want to add my endorsement.

I have known Yoshiko Uchida well for more than 10 years and have read several of her publications including her most recent work, Desert Exile, and numerous books for young people.

27 If you have had an opportunity to study her record of accomplishment, you will already know that she is a highly productive author. She has published 26 books, including 23⁴ for young people and 3 for adults. The most recent of these, Desert Exile, is an informative and eloquent chronicle of her family's experience in a Japanese American relocation center in Topaz, Utah, during World War II. In addition, she has published five short stories for children and more than 40 articles. Her works have been excerpted or reprinted in more than 60 books. She has received special recognition from numerous prestigious bodies, including the Oakland Museum and The Commonwealth Club of California (best book awards in 1973 and 1982). In June, 1981, Ms. Uchida received from the University of Oregon its Distinguished Service Award and, by invitation, she has made a gift to that institution's library, for research archival purposes, of all her manuscripts and working papers. She has readily shared her enthusiasm for, and skills in, writing through countless lectures and contributions to conferences and writers' workshops (in more than 80 such occasions in the past 10 years alone). This outstanding record is tangible evidence of commitment to matters of human concern. self

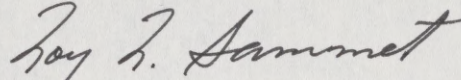
The merit of Ms. Uchida's work is widely acclaimed and, as noted, has brought her very substantial recognition. An underlying quality, however, deserves special notice. This is the ecumenical spirit so evident in her work. This is deeply felt and soundly expressed. It allows room for retention and cultivation by each individual of cultural and ethnic values, for the acceptance of similar values in others of different origins, and for bringing such variety into an harmonious whole both for the individual and society. It is especially noteworthy that this philosophy, of such fundamental importance, is projected through Ms. Uchida's many books for young people for whom the development of respect and reverence for their own cultural heritage and that of others is so essential. In her own words, "Each of us must take pride in searching our past to better understand ourselves only if we can one day understand each other and thereby celebrate our common humanity."

September 22, 1982

Ms. Uchida's writings faithfully reflect her own personal commitment to the ecumenical principle, her insight, clarity, modesty, quiet humor, and integrity. In personal qualities, impressive productivity, and commitment to public service, she is reflecting great credit on the University of California and our Alumni Association. She is deserving of recognition of a high order, and I am pleased and privileged to support Mr. Kondo's nomination.

} the J.A. Community

Sincerely,



Loy L. Sammet
Professor Emeritus of
Agricultural and Resource Economics

LLS:pkc

Yoshiko Uchida
1685 Solano Avenue #102
Berkeley, California 94707

Lauren Sammet
5 Deerwood road
Westport, CT, 06880
September 13, 1987

Dear Yoshi,

My purpose for writing this letter is to ask you your views about the Constitution. This is for a social studies project, and I would deeply appreciate it if you would respond to this letter. I chose you because as a Japanese American, who went to a prison camp, you would have some interesting views.

What I would like to know is, what amendment is most important to your profession, as an author? Do you feel that, during World War II when your family was placed in a prison camp, your rights stated in the Constitution were violated? My final question is, if you could change something in the Constitution, what would it be?

Thank you for spending so much time to read my letter. I have enclosed a self-addressed envelope with my letter if you wish to respond.

Sincerely,

Lauren Sammet
Lauren Sammet

September 23, 1987

Dear Lauren:

Thank you for your letter and the beautiful copy of the Constitution which arrived on the very day of our Bicentennial Celebration. I was delighted to hear from you and am happy to answer your questions.

As a writer, the 1st amendment which guarantees freedom of speech is most important to me.

As a Japanese American, during World War II, I was denied the right to "due process of law" guaranteed in the 5th and 14th amendments when I was incarcerated by our government (with 110,000 other Japanese American citizens), without trial or hearing. By violating our Constitution in this way, I feel that our leaders betrayed all Americans, for they damaged the very essence of our democratic beliefs.

As to changes, I would like to see the incorporation of the Equal Rights Amendment to our Constitution.

I am pleased that you are studying the Constitution because your ^{generation's} awareness of its guarantees will, I hope, prevent a repetition of past injustices. Our precious democracy can survive only if we all remain vigilant.

This brings best wishes to you and your classmates.

All the best,

Enc: Des Ex p from UWP Catalogue.

Lauren. Have a great 1st? It's written adults
but I'm enjoying it.

September 20, 1987

Dear Yoshi,

Rec'd
10/20

Thank you so much for the wonderful reply to my letter.

Your answers were greatly appreciated, as well as very interesting.

Aunt Grace's death was such a loss to everyone, but I think we've really started to recover. It isn't hard to remember good times with her because that is all there were.

I can't remember one bad thing about her, and I don't want to. She was a special gift to this earth, and I only hope she received as much respect as she deserved.

Uncle Ray is coming to visit us soon. He will be staying about a week, which will be good for all of us.

How are you? We are just fine. School is as busy as ever. I have had to re-adjust since my school closed last year. So far everything has been wonderful.

I am still taking flute and piano lessons. However, my old piano teacher has a tumor on her face so I am taking from a man named Mr. David Tate. He is very nice, and he is an organist at a church in Westport.

I hope that we will be able to see each other sometime soon. Maybe we can come back to California this summer. I would love to see you sooner though.

I must close my letter but certainly not my love, I will write again.

Love,



Lauren



P.S. I am sorry about the blotchy mistakes!!
♡

September 27, 1987

Dear Loy:

I know your stay with John, Bonnie and Lauren will be a source of strength and comfort to you and hope each passing day will ease the burden of your great loss.

I did my very best on the enclosed remembrance and do hope you will be pleased with it. Please make any corrections, if necessary.

I'm hoping my acupuncture treatments will give me the energy to be at the service on 10/12.

Take care of yourself and my best to John, Bonnie and Lauren. I hope my letter to Lauren reached her safely.

9/28

P.D. I spoke to Maya Kennedy at The Kensington Library + she said she had heard from you + had already received some gifts. I am happy to send my tribute to Grace there as well.

Y.

61 Arlington Ave
Kensington,
94707
\$20- de

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A REMEMBRANCE OF GRACE SAMMET

During one of the last conversations I had with my dear friend, Grace, she told me that her chemotherapy had not produced the results we had both hoped for. When I could not hide my disappointment, however, she quickly reassured me, "We'll find something else that will work." That response was so typical of Grace's confident and hopeful outlook during all the months of her illness.

I know that she asked the Lord, "Make me strong," and I know that He did. I never heard her speak with despair or fear. Always she was positive, cheerful and strong. Now, I think perhaps because of my own ill health, she was trying to keep up my spirits as well. And that, too, was typical of the caring person that she was.

When she was well, she gave so much of her time to visiting elderly friends or people in need of help. And her caring extended also to many young people whom she loved and with whom she had such good rapport.

She tutored children at a nearby grade school for many years, becoming their friend as well. She encouraged them as well as many other young friends and family members to have inquiring minds and a love for books, just as she did herself.

Grace Sammet was blessed with that delightful trait found only in a few: The open ingenuous spirit of the child

still lived in the mature woman. And that childlike spirit still lived during her last days when, as she planned her own ^{memorial} ~~funeral~~ services with her pastor, she said, "It might be nice if I could be there."

But in those same days, the mature woman in Grace remained strong and composed, enabling her to face death with calm and peace.

We shall all miss her gracious presence in our lives, but I join with you in celebrating and cherishing her beautiful and caring life.

Yoshiko Uchida

October 12, 1987

January 25

Dear Yoshi,

John flew directly to Dallas from San Francisco today, but he called to tell us about Lay, brunch with you, and what he described as a tender inscription in Lauren's book. I wish Lauren and I could have been with you as well.

Lauren has written to you with regard to her humanities research paper. Her friendship with you undoubtedly influenced her choice of topic from over a hundred suggestions. "Desert Exile" and hopefully a letter from you will be included in Lauren's bibliography. Lauren will understand if the time constraints of her assignment do not allow you to answer her broad questions. (I just read her letters.) I wish she had

written to you sooner.

Both her English and Social Studies teachers have expressed excitement about Lauren's paper. I'm finding it a wonderful challenge for her.

I suspect that Loy's condition will require other trips to Berkeley, and hopefully Lauren and I can accompany John and see you.

Fondly,
Bonnie

January 25, 1988

Dear Yoshi,

First I would like to thank you for autographing Picture Bride.

Second, I would like to tell you about a Position Paper that I am writing. I chose the Topic was the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II necessary? I was wondering if you would answer a few questions for me.

- 1) Do you think it was necessary to contain the Japanese Americans during World War II? Why?
- 2) What do you feel were some of the reasons leading up to the containment of the Japanese-Americans?
- 3) What affect do you think it had on the relationship between the U.S. government and the Japanese Americans?
- 4) What do you think about the compensation proposal that the congress has just began to discuss?

The position I am taking is No,
it was not necessary. My paper
is due on February 11, and your
answers and opinions would be
greatly appreciated.

Thank you spending time to
read this letter.

Love,

Lauren

☺❤OX

February 2, 1988

Dear Lauren:

I wish this could be a longer letter, but I am totally swamped with deadlines, unanswered business mail, Dr's appointments and taxes! So in order to meet your deadline, I must make this very brief. Here are my answers to your 4 questions:

1. Absolutely not necessary as confirmed by Fed'l Commission which stated causes as war hysteria, racism and lack of political leadership.
2. See above for some causes. Also 100 years of political and economic discrimination against Asians.
3. The Jpnse Ams felt totally betrayed by their government.
4. I agree with Justice Goldberg would stated, " In law, if you sustain an injury you are entitled to compensation. " In this instance, we sustained total loss of freedom.

Good luck on your paper and my best to your parents. It was good to see your father.

Hastily,

Dear Mr. + Mrs. Sammet,

Thank you for the books
I received from you. I've al-
ready read "The Best Bad
Thing." I just love it. I think
your friend the author, has
great talent.

Love,

Amber