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## The Japanese American Library

1759 SUTTER STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115 U.S.A. (415) 567-5006

April 2, 1986

Dear Friends:

After seventeen years of collecting and preserving books and other materials on Japanese in America, The Japanese American Library has reached a critical point. We are now in position to make this collection available to the public with regular library service. To do so, we urgently need your help by joining the activities of the Library with your membership.

Our collection consists of 2,500 books, 700 issues of periodicals, subscriptions to 18 Japanese American and Japanese Canadian vernacular newspapers, manuscripts, archival materials, and other materials. Subjects covered in this collection are history, social sciences, literature, fine arts, performing arts, mental and physical health as related to Japanese in America. This is the only library which systematically collects all published works on Japanese Americans. The Library has established a network to exchange information on Japanese Americans with many leading research institutions and libraries throughout the United States, Canada, and Japan. In addition, the Library provides Information and Referral Service on Japanese American community and Japan. This bilingual phone-in service has been utilized by media, libraries, universities, corporations, government agencies, and the public from throughout the United States. Currently, the Library is performing these tasks within 200 square foot facility. Thus, use of our collection is limited to researchers on appointment basis; and more than half of our materials are in storage.

Several foundations have taken interest in our ethnic community library. In fact, The San Francisco Foundation has already given us a \$10,000 grant to do a feasibility study and program planning for an ongoing library. This phase of the development has been completed. However, in order to become a fully functioning library, initial operating funds for the first three years must be gotten from other sources, such as foundations. Although they recognize the value of an ethnic community library, they are concerned whether the community will support such a library. They are aware that if the Library succeeds, then the Library will be a model for other ethnic community libraries. Your membership will demonstrate to foundations the community support, and thereby enable us to will demonstrate to foundations the community support, and thereby enable us to obtain support from foundations.

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Library Director

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Bertundes, P.S. Please help us preserve our Japanese American cultural heritage.

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P.C. Hels 188 The Japanese American Library PHONE: (415) 567-5006 1615 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 590598, San Francisco, CA 94159-0598 February 4, 1988 Ms. Yoshiko Uchida 1685 Solano Avenue, #102 Berkeley, California 94707 日系研究センター・ Dear Yoshiko: I am enclosing a copy of our Reference Series on Japanese American Vernacular Newspapers and listings of Asian American Studies and Asian American Mental Health Research Center. In the Japanese American Vernauclar Newspapers 1987, please note that NEW YORK NICHIBEI has suspended the English section effective October 8, 1987. Other periodicals are: AMERASIA JOURNAL 3232 Campbell Hall, University of California, L.A., CA 90024 EAST WIND P.O. Box 26229, San Francisco, CA 94126 RICE 251 Post St., 6th Fl., San Francisco, CA 94108 You may want to send a copy of your book to Prof. Lane Hirabayashi, Asian American Studies, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132. He has written more reviews on Nikkei related materials than other scholars. His reviews have appeared in RAFU, NICHIBE, HOKUBEI, and PACIFIC CITIZEN. If I can assist in any way, please feel free to call me. Sincerely yours, Karl K. Matsushita Director Ecnl. Ref Ser Newspaper Asian Am mailing list

ASIAN AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER page 1

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## The Japanese American Library

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January 11, 1988

Dear Members:

Happy New Year!

1987 was a year of dramatic progress for the Library. Let me bring you up-to-date.

• The Library has moved to Nihonmachi Terrace (Hinode Tower-lower level). Our new facility is almost ten times larger than our former facility in the Nichibei Kai Cultural Center Building. We now have ample space to operate regular library services.

• Our national repository for redress materials has been designated to receive redress materials from National JACL; JACL-LEC; Coram Nobis teams of Hirabayashi, Korematsu, and Yasui; and other organizations and individuals involved in redress activities.

• The Library's collection has continued to grow, as many people have donated out-of-print books and archival materials. Much of these materials will supplement our national redress repository. We also receive subscriptions to all 23 Japanese American vernacular newspapers of North America. Our publications (BULLETIN, ABSTRACT-INDEX, OBITUARIES, BOOKS-IN-PRINT, and REFERENCE SERIES) have gained wide acceptance, including Harvard University. UC Berkeley, UCLA, Princeton University, and Toyo University of Tokyo. The Information and Referral Service has gained recognition, particularly from academic circles and media, that we have working relationships with major universities throughout the U.S. and Japan.

Many distinguished leaders have joined to support Library programs. They include Ambassador Reischauer, Senators Inouye and Matsunaga, Congressmen Mineta and Matsui, and Congresswoman Saiki.

 Recent financial support has come from The San Francisco Foundation, Greater Los Angeles Singles Chapter of JACL, Pacific Southwest District Council of JACL, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, Motoda Foundation, and other family foundations.

Some of the projects for 1988 include:

- The Resource Center to collect materials in specialized fields: literature, medicine/health, mental health, interracial marriage, and anti-Asian violence. Other fields such as children's materials, art and cultural activities will be added later. The curator for each field is a specialist in that field.
- Database for data from ABSTRACT-INDEX of all Japanese American newspapers of North America.
- o Index to materials relating to Japanese in America.

All these activities were made possible because of your membership Sincerely yours,

Kal K. Matashit

Karl K. Matsushita

Director

As am. public.

As am. public. support. Thank you for your continuous support.

Chin 28/88

### BETWEEN THE LINES Patricia Holt

# Glitzy and Upbeat Rice

t's slick, it's hip, it's fun and vastly informative—that's Rice, a national monthly published out of San Francisco (251 Post, SF 94108, 398-2332) that calls itself "The Magazine of Asian Influence," not exactly the most specific term but certainly the most all-inclusive, which seems to be the point.

Rice is a magazine that takes an old-fashioned stereotype — all Asians are alike — and plays around with it in a distinctly American setting. On the one hand, Rice acknowledges vast differences between U.S. communities of Filipinos, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Pacific Islanders, Asian Indians, Vietnamese, Laotians, Thais and Cambodians. On the other, it deliberately employs another stereotype by calling itself "Rice," the one staple all Asian communities share. As the magazine's ads glibly proclaim, "RICE. WE EAT IT, YOU READ IT."

Here we find stories on such disparate Asian Americans as stand-up comic Lane Nishikawa, Stanford football player Tuan Van Le, gay activist Bang Nguyen, realtor Olivia Hsu Decker, filmmaker Wayne Wang, San Francisco State president Chia-Wei Woo, Hawaii Governor John Waihee, National Women's Political Caucus chair Irene Natividad, artist Somboun Sayasane, Moscone Center engineer T.Y. Lin, Minolta president Sam Kusumoto, Silicon Valley entrepreneur David Lam, South San Francisco publisher of Philippine News Alex Esclamado and others.

Articles tell us about New York's "Mini Tokyo," Asian stunt people, racism in comic books, Asian fashion designers, Japanese investors in Las Vegas, Filipino troubadors, the Asian Pacific Theater, Japanese architecture, modern-day mail-order brides, South Korean dissidents, a "Chinese Beverly Hills," plus historical articles (the revolution in the Phillipines; the Japanese American internment), business and investment columns and hip pan-Pacific travel articles ("Is Shanghai the New Hong Kong?").

Taken together, these pieces represent the diversity of Asian-American communities in the United States (particularly in the Bay Area) as well as a single presence in American life that is fascinating to watch as it grows and changes, month by month, article by article. "How do you take your RICE?" runs a Letters column up front. Just the way you serve it: Classy, glitzy, upbeat and refreshing.

AT A RARE BAY AREA appearance for the Oakland Public Library's Second Start Literacy Program, best-selling author Richard Bolles will talk on what everybody hopes will be the behind-the-scenes story of his classic best-seller, "What Color Is Your Parachute?" — and on what nobody knows much about yet, his new book, sure to be another hot property.

You don't have to be a job-seeker to get a kick out of Bolles, who was an unknown many years ago when he cautiously offered the manuscript of "What Color Is Your Parachute?" to Phil Wood at Ten Speed Press with a let's-try-it attitude, little or no cash advance and an agreement that a tiny first printing would probably keep the book alive for years.

Wood took one look at "What Color Is Your Parachute?" and said, "This title will either make or break the book," and he was right. People loved it so much that they couldn't forget the title, and as a result, the book that broke all publishing rules about self-explanatory titles broke all sales records, too. And that's only a part of the Richard Bolles story. I'll be on hand to "moderate," which no one in the world should do to Richard Bolles, at OPL's Lakeview Club, 28th floor, Kaiser Building, Harrison & 20th St., Oakland, on Wednesday, February 17, 5:30-7:00 p.m. (tickets \$15-20). Call 530-8368.

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Patricia Holt is Book Editor of The Chronicle.