

Box 3:11 E: Miscellany

1958-88

86/97c

Dear little Yoshi:

Friday p.m.

I had such a dear, perfectly-beautiful letter from your sweet mother - which reminded me with a bang - that I had not yet thanked you for a priceless gift - your friendship, and Takao and Grand-father's Sword. We were much touched by the story - you have told it so beautifully, little Yoshi. And hasn't Mr. Hutchinson done his illustrations beautifully too? We were so delighted with it and with you - and so proud of you - (why didn't we pass it around so everyone could see it and buy one for their library too? I am so remiss, get so flustered as a hostess!)

If it ever stops raining - do you think it will? - I want to have a little luncheon party in the patio for you - you ask six of your friends and I'll ask four of mine - to celebrate Takao! It will have to be in May. I expect - will that fit in with your busy schedule? Let's us talk it over soon?

Meanwhile our hearts' thanks for our beautiful gift - and a warm thank you, too, for being so sweet about coming - you added so much to the group - your slides were so lovely -

All our dear love and thanks - Ruth and Ralph.

P.S. Tell Mother how we prized her letter?

We are off for ten days with the Long Branch Eltses and a nice long week of rest at a motel-inn at Laguna Beach. We look forward to it - Life is so strenuous here in Berkeley!

R.





PRAY
FOR
PEACE



Miss Yoshi Uchido
645 63rd Street
Oakland 9,
California

Laguna Beach, March 25th

Dearest Yoshi:

We RAN AWAY down here...sick of the rains (though they still persisted here for 3 days....) and the pressures, the phone and JOBS to be done in Berkeley..Ralphie says:"Isn't it strange that we have to go away from home to get any peace?"

We spent the first night out at that lovely city of Santa Barbara..do you know it? I had never explored it before. I truly think that noble Court House must be the finest and most beautiful in the world. I enjoyed the lovely little shops and our "hot" Mexican luncheon in El Paseo with atmosphere music and such interesting folks.

Arrived at Long Beach for a 3-day-stay with much Eltse-reunion-ing..did I ever tell you that this area as well as Iowa from which state they all emigrated, is simply FILLED with Eltses? Lovely people, all good cooks, too...we ate too much of too rich foods and visited till we were still more worn out. Then..ESCAPE...to this Paradise. We have such a cute comfy apartment right over the waves; the sun finally came out and oh what a fine rest!

Yoshi may I make a date with you? To come with me Sunday night April 20th (I know that is a bad night for you but I will drive you home as early as you like to escape! It's a Mexican program; the admission is to bring with you a potential YWCA member. You don't HAVE to consent; but if you would, I'd be so glad to sign up for you as "my guest"..actually it doesn't entail anything if you can be a firm refuser, and it does occasionally, give you such riches. For example, the friends I like and enjoy deeply, admire and love, are people I met down there, whom, without the YW, I never would have had the privilege of calling them my friends. There are some young Japanese brides there and I couldn't help thinking how much they would enjoy meeting you. I am sort of planning on a June Japan program...remember, I've talked about it for a year or more? and I do want advice from you on it all. Anyway, no strings attached, I'd be so thrilled and proud to have you as my guest that night!

Yoshi dear I brought your book along, read it again, once more marvelling at your lovely style and skill. I shall give several copies for Christmas gifts this year. I want to give a little patio luncheon in the summertime for you and your friends; you ask half of them, I'll ask the other half, in your honor. Now Ralphie wishes to write you also and I haven't left sufficient space...please give my affectionate regards to your dear parents, and to all of you, I send my best wishes for a peaceful and joyous Easter....Fondly, R.

Dear Yoshi:

I wish to add my fond greetings to you and the mother and father; also to say that you held me absorbed and utterly fascinated with your beautiful writing and story. You make me marvel. I am happy you are possessed of this gift of writing. Cordially Ralphie



LAGUNA RIVIERA

BY PELHAM GLASSFORD



Miss Yoshiko Uchida

645 63rd Street

Oakland, California

Mrs. Ralph A. Kise, 1125 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley 8, Calif.



Dearest little Yoshi:

We were so happy to have your dear letter —
mercy me, 'tis nearly a month ago! Scarcely a day
passed that I have not lamented the fact that
I've not written you — because —

Both Ralph and I wished to tell you our deep
pride and pleasure in the delightful new "child" of
our little Yoshi — the enchanting The Promised Year.
I am going to give it as a Christmas gift to several of
"my children" — daughters of Ralph's god-child, daughters of
former students of mine, etc. I will leave the list of
names in Radston's soon; and maybe you will be so kind
some day when you are passing there to autograph them
for me? Thank you so very much.

We are so thrilled and proud that your father is
going on such a trip; how much he will have to tell you on
his return! How we do hope to have the privilege of hearing
about it.

... tired and hope she starts in NOW

Simply grew more hopeless each year. Then — such a struggle as we've had to find a new gardener. Both Ralph and I were intent on getting a Japanese man; and it seems they are in such demand that it is next to impossible to hire one. I still had somewhere in my files, the names of two you so kindly sent us. But try as I might, I couldn't locate them. Now we have one coming tomorrow on trial. Ralph finds him somewhat non-responsive; but he was recommended by one who was too busy to come to us. We can always hope!

Meanwhile Ralph has chopped out shrubs and trees, dug up mammoth roots; ploughed up all the hard gardens, mixed the soil with peat moss and fertilizer; built forms, made concrete dividers (into plots), stained them red; saved all bulbs and plans this week to set out bulbs. By a miracle, the rain has held off! I think he has worked far too hard, 8 hours daily, for a man of 74 years. But he loved it!

Enclose some items. Again our warmest, proudest congratulations — we're so proud of you!
+ all of you — and do let's get together?

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

1200 COMMERCIAL / EMPORIA, KANSAS 66801 / TELEPHONE 316-343-1200



April 21, 1981

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida
645 63rd Street
Oakland, CA 94609

Dear Ms. Uchida:

As the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the William Allen White Children's Book Award Program, I am pleased to announce the winner of the 1981 William Allen White Children's Book Award. The Great Gilly Hopkins, written by Katherine Paterson and published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company, was selected as the recipient of the twenty-ninth annual William Allen White Children's Book Award, sponsored and directed by Emporia State University. More than 57,000 children in fourth through eighth grades participated in the voting for this year's award.

I extend my heartiest thanks to you as the author of one of the books selected for the 1980-1981 White Award Master List for helping us make this experience for the children of Kansas possible.

Sincerely,

George V. Hodowanec
Director, William Allen White Library
Chairman, Executive Committee
William Allen White Children's Book Award Program

mlp



EDUPRAXIS

Literacy through Literature

a library-centered suppleMENTAL reading and writing program

5116 Remington Road
San Diego, California 92115

(619) 286-8349

6 August 1988

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida
c/o Creative Arts Books, Co.
833 Bancroft Way
Berkeley, California 93710

Dear Ms. Uchida:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have written to Senator Inouye. Since it pertains to the books you created, I thought you might appreciate knowing about my suggestions, whether or not they ever materialize. As a skeptic, I would be very surprised if anything did; but as an optimist, I hope that something will.

Whether or not it does, I believe that my letter conveys my thoughts that I believe that your efforts to tell your own story have made a contribution to the rectification of that incident in the lives of so many. That must be very satisfying to you.

May I wish you continued success as a writer!

Sincerely,

JoAn Hart



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6 August 1988

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Senator from Hawaii
722 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1102

Dear Senator Inouye:

This past May, I solicited reliable information regarding the final resolution of the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII, and the role these men played in fighting that war. In June, under the auspices of your office, I received a lot of valuable information from Margaret Cumisky, your Legislative Assistant, for which I am most grateful.

I see in the newspaper that the Congress has passed the bill giving some financial restitution, and more importantly, providing some funding for educating future generations about this event in our history. If decisions have not already been made regarding the spending of the education fund, I request that the following be considered.

I would like to suggest that the Congress consider beginning with school children by providing copies of Yoshiko Uchida's two books, JOURNEY TO TOPAZ, and JOURNEY HOME, to elementary, intermediate and high school libraries across the nation. JOURNEY TO TOPAZ, which deals with the hurried displacement of a family, its separation and imprisonment; and its sequel, JOURNEY HOME, deals with the same family's internment and their attempt to return to their former lives afterwards.

Children can identify with the characters and sympathize with their plight. These books can generate the interest needed to launch a more in depth study and discussion of the many ramifications of this historical event. Literature is an excellent approach.

While our government is not in the habit of putting books in schools, it could let the schools know that the books were available, free, if requested. I'm sure that thousands of schools would welcome the opportunity to add to their library collections.

Both of these books are on the California State Department of Education list of recommended literature reading, grades K-12. Partly because of this recommendation, I have chosen to include them in my own work, which provides additional background information, discussion questions, summaries, and guides for students and teachers. I believe the subject merits additional space in my own work, and I cannot think of a better way to educate our young, than to do it through literary experiences.

I have never met Ms. Yoshiko Uchida, but I believe that her work is significant and would be of value in introducing students to these pages

of their history. Since she and her family were imprisoned, it seems to me rather appropriate that she should "profit from the experience."

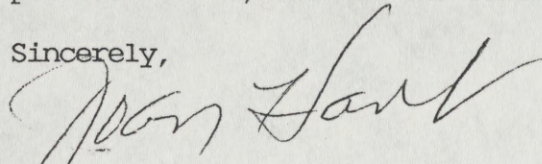
**COMPENSATE THE SURVIVORS WHO ARE WILLING TO
SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Survivors might also be invited to the schools to tell their individual stories, now that the apology has been extended and the feelings of shame eliminated. (At last, the shame is now on the perpetrator, where it belongs.) In my own program, I encourage such encounters to be arranged when possible, while there is still time. Perhaps local Japanese-American Clubs could help to arrange such opportunities by providing speakers to the schools, following the reading of the two books. Part of the education fund might be made available to them, and speakers could be paid from funds the Congress provided for education. A little financial inducement might help to persuade the survivors to share their experiences. What better way to spend them? They would be compensated for their time and effort; the experience would provide therapy for the speakers and education for the school children. It would be a most valuable, perhaps even symbiotic relationship.

Would you please offer these suggestions to those responsible for setting up the spending of the educational fund, if you think they have merit? It would give me great pleasure to make a small contribution to seeing that this never happens again. I AM NOT JAPANESE.

May I express my thanks once again for the helpful information your office provided to me, and for the consideration given these simple suggestions.

Sincerely,



JoAn Hart

Note: In case you are wondering, Edupraxis cannot profit from these suggestions. We promote hundreds of good books. We sell none. We sell our program only to schools. I am involved with no book publishers. All recommendations are based upon the quality of the literature, not the publisher's need to make money.

While my work will encourage schools to purchase these books, even without the aid of this bill, I believe that such aid would do much to encourage their use. I would do all that I could to inform schools of the opportunity, should it materialize.

I believe that encouraging teachers to read these stories to their classes, and discussing the events contained therein, would be an excellent way to educate future generations about this unique chapter in American history. In a world so filled with injustice, who knows how much space future history books will give it?

C. of Inouye Ltr. to
KK, West MCE,
Dm Sullivan

August 19, 1988

JoAn Hart
Edupraxis
5116 Remington Rd.
San Diego, CA. 92115

Dear JoAn Hart:

Thank you so much for your letter of August 6th with the enclosed copy of your fine letter to Senator Dan Inouye.

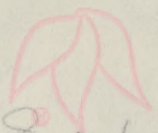
I am delighted to know of your interest in my books and greatly appreciate your taking the time to write Senator Inouye suggesting ways in which my books might be used as part of the Redress Educational Program. I believe letters from concerned citizens such as yourself are the only way to move a cumbersome government to act in positive and meaningful ways.

As it happens, Senator Inouye is familiar with my work and gave us a wonderful quote for my non-fiction adult book DESERT EXILE, The Uprooting of a Jpnse American Family. This book gives a detailed account of my family's uprooting (with photos) and might be of interest to you. Although it was written primarily for adults, I believe high school and some intermediate students have found it helpful in understanding that tragic event. Please see enclosed Bio for further details.

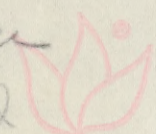
It is most heartening to learn of your work in helping young people understand their world through reading and I thank you again for your concern and interest.

Most sincerely,

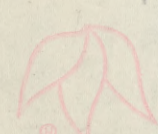
January 29, 1979


Barbara Erickson
Independent and Gazette
2043 Allston Wy
Berkeley

Dear Barbara -

I have had many positive
comments re your article about
me, and want to thank you
for doing such a nice job. I 
appreciated your insight and the
quality of your writing, and thought
your ending was especially nice!

Much success and best
wishes to you in your writing -


Sincerely,

Yoshiko Uchida

Orinda Books Ltd.

Invites you to an
Autograph Party
for

Yoshiko Uchida

to celebrate the publication
of her new book

JOURNEY HOME
(sequel to Journey to Topaz)

Saturday, December 2 2-4 pm
Refreshments Served

276 Village Sq. 254-7606
In Orinda Village

Esperet
Bolinas, Calif
June 1, 1962

Dear Miss Schilder -

A number of photos are now being printed in 8x10 glossy and when ready I'll send them to you. These are my own photography and were taken out of doors with all kinds of background so are quite unprofessional.

Expect them in about 10 days.

Sincerely
Art. Esperet