

Box 4:29 K: Miscellany

1970-90

86/97c

TOKUYA KAKO
1574 POSEN AVENUE
BERKELEY, CALIF. 94706

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内田新へ

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Tribune photo by Kenneth Green

Having just published her 16th children's book, Yoshiko Uchida is already at work on another

She Paints Stories With Her Typewriter

By BARBARA MORGAN
Tribune Staff Writer

Ask Yoshiko Uchida how long she has been writing children's books and she'll probably laugh softly, a dimple appearing in her cheek, and say, "Oh, about a thousand years, I guess."

And, with a little imagination, it's easy to picture this gentle Japanese woman in an ornate kimono, her rich black hair piled high, making characters with a brush pen by the light of a fire.

BACK TO today, and the Yoshiko Uchida of the present, who recently completed her 16th children's book, "Makoto, the Smallest Boy" (Thomas Y. Crowell Co.), a beguiling tale of a young boy growing up in modern Japan and the lesson he learns from a venerable potter.

Miss Uchida's first book, published in 1949, is "The Dancing Kettle," a collection of Japanese folk tales. "I gathered all the stories I had heard as a child and put them in writing. I retold the tales, rather than translating them literally as had been done before," she noted.

Miss Uchida grew up in Berkeley, the daughter of an importing firm executive, and was graduated cum laude from the University of California in 1942, a fateful period of her life that will soon become the basis for her 17th book. The Uchida family, with the rest of the Japanese, were forcibly evicted from their California homes that year. The family of four was assigned to a horse stall at Tanforan race track for a while, then sent to Topaz, Utah, a barren desert area where Yoshiko volunteered to teach the children.

"THE BOOK I plan is for 9- to 12-year-olds and is about this evacuation of the Japanese in California." Parts of it, as adult articles, have already appeared in the Cal Monthly. Miss Uchida makes it clear that she doesn't write

or that we should rehash the United States' mistakes, but rather as filling in a part of the history of Japanese Americans.

After the war, Miss Uchida won a fellowship to Smith College and earned her master's degree in education. Then came several years of teaching in Philadelphia and, in 1953, she was given a grant by the Ford Foundation to spend two years in Japan collecting folk tales and studying the



folk arts of the country. The result was "The Magic Listening Cap, More Folk Tales from Japan," and a steady succession of new titles.

"I think it's good for children to know there's so much of people in other countries that is the same — a wonderful way to bring children together. It is a pity people the world over have continued to find so much in each other that is different and strange," Miss Uchida said.

"I GET LOTS of fan mail from children. One girl wrote and said, 'I don't remember the name of your book but I just loved it.' And the children send me photographs of themselves, Valentines and such, and I answer every letter I get," she smiled.

Miss Uchida shares a modest home in Oakland with her invalid father, and does her writing there. "I snatch an hour here and an hour there, in between caring for my father. I like to work in the breakfast nook — it has a nice view of a cherry tree."

Her mother, who died three years ago, wrote poetry and Yoshiko figures "maybe I got my literary bent from her." The rest of the family includes a sister, who lives in New Haven, Conn. "She's just a housewife — oh, I shouldn't say 'Just,'" Miss Uchida laughed. "Actually, she's very busy; her husband teaches math at Yale and she has a 15-year-old daughter. I used to send my niece the manuscripts of my books — she was very proud that she had an auntie who was an author. Now, all she's interested in is horses, and the things she reads are "Soul on Ice" and Martin Luther King. I guess she's graduated from my books," she said wistfully.

But luckily for today's children and those to come, Miss Uchida is not discouraged, and the little white house on 63rd Street will soon be filled with the clacking sounds of a typewriter.

World of Women

Oakland Tribune Fri., June 12, 1970 31

Rec'd 10/19

October 18, 1990

Miss Yoshiko Uchida
1685 Solano Ave. #102
Berkeley, CA. 94707

Dear Miss Uchida:

I am a student at Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. During the next couple of weeks, I will be writing an article on Creative Arts Book Company and Donald Ellis. Though this piece is for a class assignment, I hope to get it published in a local periodical.

Greg Rogers informs me that you are one of Creative's more popular authors, and I would very much like to speak with you--if even briefly over the phone--to ask you some basic questions about Don and Creative (how did you become involved with the Company? what are the advantages/disadvantages of working with a small press? your working relationship with Don, for example).

I appreciate that your free time must be limited, and I will work to accommodate your schedule as best I can. Please call me at 643-2856 if you are able to help. My initial deadline is October 25. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Craig Karmin

Craig Karmin

3rd Bay 3 press
Bay Guardian

was looking
for a publisher
for my adult
novel -
sent to CA
Bong & was
editors there -
he was so
nice
I asked if
they'd be int'l
in pub - my
OP ch's title -

Talked to
10/22/90

addr: -
- Berkeley -
- NY -
- got to know both
Don & Bong as
friends -
- nice informal
relationship

Dianna - they have more
financial problems -
Reg. statements always
come in late
can't wait on
regular payment
- royalties -
But I can call Don -
He's very busy -
him

I'll have a little time
around 7:30 this evening
if you'd like to talk to me Creative Arts

creativism
terminator

delivery

M. M. Kimoto

1824 S. Ogden Dr.

Los Angeles, CA 90019

✓ p.c. 2/15/83

Miss Yoshiko Uchida
1685 Solano Avenue, #102
Berkeley, California 94707

Dear Miss Uchida:

I have just finished reading your book, "A Jar of Dreams," which I purchased that day I met you at the Ameriasia Bookstore in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles.

Your book brought back memories of my childhood in Oakland around that time (1930-32), for we returned from Japan in the spring of 1930 on the Taiyo Maru, which was mentioned in your story. After our arrival, we lived in a Japanese hotel in San Francisco--our father, my younger sister and me--for about a month until our mother and baby brother joined us. We had planned to come back to the U.S. as a family but our brother became ill very close to departure date and had to be hospitalized in Yokohama. Since all arrangements had been made, with our household belongings already at the dockside, the three of us left first. My sister and I managed quite well on the ship, although my sister came out with chicken pox on the second day out and had to be quarantined for part of our trip.

Another experience which remains indelible in my mind was our brief sojourn on Angel Island. We were separated into men and women's quarters--our father from me and my sister. We could wave to him across the chain link fence in the distance and at meal times, through an opening in the cafeteria, he could pass us and give us an extra piece of apple pie or other dessert from his tray. The ladies who were in charge took such good care of us we didn't mind the separation that much. The children were given shoe boxes containing a little doll with scraps of material, needle, thread and scissors (little boys must have gotten something else) and since we were too young to sew, the older girls and ladies took the time to sew little doll clothes for us. I still thank some civic-minded volunteers, even in those depression days, who must have put these kits together for the children who came through Angel Island.

I am presently employed by St. Anne's Maternity Home, a residence for pregnant teenaged girls. We have ten guilds and auxiliaries who do a tremendous amount of volunteer work to assist the Home in various ways. It is amazing to see how hard these ladies work--sometimes in very menial jobs--to assist those in need.

Getting back to our life in Oakland, yes, I remember the depression, when beggars came very frequently to our door asking for food, and our mother always had something to give them. I remember taking canned food to the grammar school every Monday morning to help feed the poor. Even now, whenever I come across a can of pork and beans, I am reminded of those days.

Another jog in my memories of those days were visits to Mrs. Joaquin Miller and her daughter in their log cabin in the Berkeley hills. As children, we were fascinated and enchanted with the various glass jars of herbs and dried flower petals kept throughout the cabin, and we were always treated with ice cold milk flavored with vanilla and cookies. Our parents always took an apple pie because that was Mrs. Miller's favorite.

I could go on and on but I know you are a busy person and I really shouldn't take up too much of your time. However, some day, I would like to write again on my comments about your book, "Journey to Topaz."

Our grandson is enjoying your book, "The Rooster Who Understood Japanese." I first read it to him so I could explain and answer questions, and since then he has been reading it by himself.

With my best wishes to you for your continued success in your literary endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

Marye (Matsumura) Ferns to

February 1, 1983

KIRO Newsradio 71

Broadcast House
Third Avenue & Broad Street
Seattle, Washington 98121

KIRO INC.

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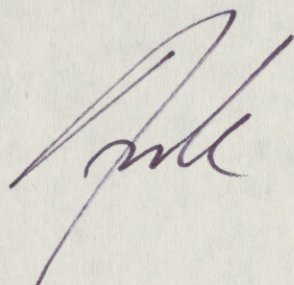
desertexile 811/06/82 18:05-fa

Dear Yoshiko,

Sorry this has taken so long. My wife and I had a baby girl we named Claire in July. I haven't had a spare moment since then.

This was aired on August 28th. Thanks for the interview.

yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Frank Abe', written in a cursive style.

Frank Abe

1685 Solano Ave., #102
Berkeley, Ca. 94707
November 16, 1982

Frank Abe
KIRO Newsradio
Seattle, Wa. 98121

Dear Frank:

What a nice surprise to receive the tape of your interview with me. I I appreciated your remembering to make a copy for me and enjoyed listening to it as well as to Janet Masuda's interview.

You sound great, and it's nice to know you are enlightening the Seattle area with your perceptive interviews.

Congratulations on the birth of your daughter!

All the best,

Yoshiko Uchida

KORTY FILMS INC.
200 MILLER AVENUE
MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 94941
TELEPHONE: (415) 383-6900



Farewell to Manzanar

Dear *Ms. Uehida*

Korty Films and Universal Television are pleased to invite you to a special preview screening of FAREWELL TO MANZANAR, the dramatized story of one Japanese American family, the Wakatsukis, during World War II.

This unique preview is for an audience with particular interest in the subject. You will be able to see this film prior to its press preview and long before its premiere next February or March as a two hour program on the NBC Television Network.

Based on the book by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston, FAREWELL TO MANZANAR, was produced and directed by John Korty, with whom the Houstons co-authored the screenplay. Mr. Korty's last film for television was THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MISS JANE PITTMAN, which won nine Emmy Awards.

The preview will be held at 11 AM, December 14, 1975 at the Pacific Film Archive-University Art Museum, 2625 Durant Avenue, Berkeley.

In Berkeley, take the University Avenue exit off of Highway 17. Proceed all the way down University Avenue to Bancroft Way (at U.C. campus). Turn right on Bancroft and then left onto Durant. Go 4-5 blocks to 2625 Durant (between College Avenue and Bowditch). The Pacific Film Archive is in the Museum building. Use the Durant Avenue entrance. (Highway 17 = 80 here.)

January 7, 1977

Yoshiko Uchida
1685 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, Ca.

Dear Yoshiko Uchida:

We are a literary agency in the Bay Area, representing authors in all fields of non-fiction and are particularly interested in West Coast authors.

We visit New York several times a year and most manuscripts will be submitted personally rather than through the mails either by us or by our representative who lives in New York.

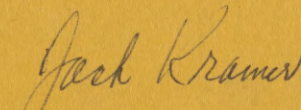
As agents, we are familiar with most publishing companies, their concepts, editors, and what kinds of books they prefer.

Since we began business last fall, we have placed books on gardening, cooking, history, and children's non-fiction.

If you do not have a representative, we would like to offer our services on a standard ten percent fee of royalties earned.

For further information please contact us.

Sincerely yours,


Jack Kramer

7-28-85

AKIRA TSUKADA

BUREAU CHIEF

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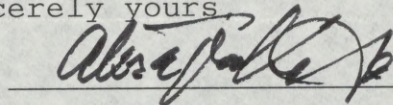
31 July 1985

Dear Miss Yoshiko Uchida,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the interview that you had participated in. I cannot begin to tell you how much I enjoyed interviewing you and your attention and cooperation made it that much more enjoyable. I hope that the long session was not too inconvenient for you. I have already sent all the information to Tokyo and the article is due to appear in the newspapers on the first or second week of August. I have also enclosed in with this letter the photograph that you had graciously entrusted me with.

Once again I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for all your time and information.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Akira Tsukada', written over a horizontal line.

Akira Tsukada

September 12, 1985

Mr. Akira Tsukada
Kyodo News Service
250 East 1st St.
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Dear Mr. Tsukada:

I was delighted to receive the copies of so many Japanese newspapers in which your article about me appeared. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in sending them to me.

It is most gratifying to know that through your article ARANO NI OWARETA HITOBITO will be introduced to many people throughout Japan, and I 'm sure Iwanami Shoten is very pleased as well.

I hope this finds you and your family happily settled in Los Angeles and enjoying your new home.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,