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Japanese American of the Biennium Award file

1988

Letters in support of Uchida's nomination.

Folder 2 of 2

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May 5, 1988

Mr. Don Ito, Chairman  
Japanese American of the Biennium Committee  
4783 Tarton Drive  
Santa Rosa, California 95405

Dear Mr. Ito,

Four years ago it was my pleasure to support the nomination of Yoshiko Uchida for JACL's Nisei of the Biennium Award. Unfortunately she did not receive the honor.

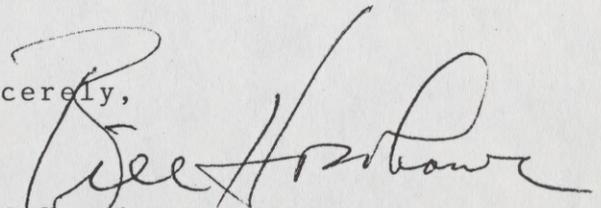
Now it is my privilege to write again in her behalf as the Berkeley chapter of JACL nominates Ms. Uchida a second time.

Some of her accomplishments were outlined in my 1984 letter in which I expressed admiration for her work. I have asked Ann S. Yabusaki, chair of the Berkeley chapter's nominating committee, to append a copy of my first letter to this one.

Since 1984 Yoshiko Uchida's career as a writer has advanced significantly. Her impact on the reading public has been expanded to a considerable degree by publication in 1987 of her adult novel, "Picture Bride," the story of a Japanese immigrant, which is scheduled to go into paperback reprint soon.

I wish to make the point to your committee that in my estimation Yoshiko Uchida, by continued high quality of work, should be considered even more deserving of recognition in 1988 than she was four years ago.

Sincerely,



Bill Hosokawa  
140 S. Upham Court.  
Denver, Colo. 80226

May 9, 1988

Don Ito  
Japanese American of the Biennium  
4783 Tarton Drive,  
Santa Rosa, California 95405

Dear Don,

I cherish this rare privilege of writing a letter of support for Ms. Yoshiko Uchida. The Berkeley Chapter is to be congratulated for nominating Ms Uchida for the coveted Japanese American Citizens League's 1988 Nisei of the Biennium Award in the area of Arts/ Literature/ Communications.

The National Biennium Committee has designated that this award be "based on the achievements and activities in different fields of endeavor which have received regional, national or international recognition and whose contributions have added to the sum human knowledge and/ or enhanced the quality of life in our Society"

I am totally convinced that Ms Uchida more than meets the criteria. A prolific writer, author of 28 published titles, she is best loved for her poignant writings about the Japanese American experience. Her skill in conveying sensitive feelings about children in Japan as well as the children caught in the nightmare of America's worst wartime internment, has made us appreciate the universal common humanity of all the children everywhere.

Yoshiko Uchida was born in Alameda California and grew up in Berkeley where she is now living. She graduated with honors from the University of California with a BA in English, Philosophy and History and has a Masters in Education from Smith College where she was awarded a graduate fellowship.

Like the child in her trilogy, A JAR OF DREAMS, THE BEST BAD THING and the HAPPIEST ENDING, Yoshiko Uchida experienced the alienation and rejection felt by many children of Japanese Ancestry who grew up in California during the 20s and 30s. During WWII she and her family were among the 120,000 West Coast Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from their homes and imprisoned by the U.S. Government, simply because they looked like the enemy. Her family lived in a horse stall at Tanforan Race Track and then removed to Topaz, a desolate concentration Camp in a Utah desert.

Two books about this experience has been popular with young people especially in the intermediate grades. " JOURNEY TO TOPAZ" and "JOURNEY HOME", as well as a short story entitled "The Bracelet ".

Her first adult book on the subject, "DESERT EXILE" was published in 1982 by the University of Washington Press, Seattle, and an excerpt from the book in " Utah Historical Quarterly" won its best general interest article award for 1980. Soft cover edition Washington Press, 1984; Japanese Edition, Iwanami Shoten, Tokyo, 1985.

She has written several adult short stories and an adult novel, "PICTURE BRIDE", Northland Press 1987.

While in Japan she wrote a series of feature articles about craftsmen for the NIPPON TIMES and an adult book, "WE DO NOT WALK ALONE: KANJIRO KAWAI," for the Folk Art Society of Japan, Kyoto 1953; Reprinted in Pottery Quarterly, England 1957. When she returned to the United States, she served as West Coast correspondent and wrote many articles for CRAFT HORIZON magazine. She studied weaving, pottery and jewelry-making herself.

She also wrote for her Church, "THE HISTORY OF SYCAMORE CHURCH," Sycamore Congregational Church, El Cerrito 1974. And also a church school curriculum, "TABI" based on the Japanese American experience for fifth and sixth graders.

Through the years, since 1949 when a special friend sent my daughter a copy of Ms Uchida's very first publication, "THE DANCING KETTLE And Other Japanese Folk Tales," I have been a great admirer of her extraordinary gift as a fine writer of children's books. Many of her earlier works dealt with young people of Japan and her appreciation of Japanese folk Tales, a result of her quest into her own cultural roots, sparked by a Ford Foundation Foreign Study and Research Fellowship to Japan. "MAGIC LISTENING CAP, More folk Tales from Japan," one of two books she has illustrated, was chosen Herald Tribune Honor Book.

In 1971 "JOURNEY TO TOPAZ" and "SAMURAI OF GOLD HILL" she turned to writing about her Japanese American experience in the United States.

Her writings have extended to other lands in other languages. "TAKAO AND GRANDFATHER'S SWORD", Harcourt and Brace 1958. was published in Parents Magazine Edition 1959; German Edition, Hermann Schaffstein Verlag 1959, Dutch Edition, C.P.J. Vander Peet, 1961; British Edition, Oliver & Boyd, 1966; Afrikaans Edition, Haum Langstraat Kaapstead 1971.

Yoshiko Uchida's books have received an incredible list of awards and honors, for instance for one book, "JOURNEY TO TOPAZ," Charles Scribner's 1971 was awarded the ALA Notable Book 1972; Sequoyah Children's Book award 1973 and William White Award 1974, California Recommended Reading Core title 1986, Nominated for the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award, 1972; and excitingly, a Japanese Edition Hyoronsha 1975, and a condensed version, Yamaguchi Shoten, Kyoto, Japan 1984. a Trade paperback edition, Creative Arts Book Co. Berkeley 1985.

Notable achievements in her distinguished career as a most successful author lists incredible reports: Excerpts from her books have appeared in over 90 School Readers, anthologies, and cassettes, too numerous to list here.

#### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

It meant a great deal to the Yonsei children in our Jan Ken Po Gakko in Sacramento California to meet a fine Japanese American role-model, whose books were read by many children and parents to learn about the themselves and the Internment Experience in America. In 1980 while I was Director of Jan Ken Po Gakko, we invited Ms. Uchida to speak to the children and autograph her books for us. I remember the thrilling gathering of young Sansei parents and their Yonsei children for potluck and having her as our house guest.

I recall another time when my intermediate children at Mc Kee Elementary School in Elk Grove honored her at a "Meet A Living Author" event. She speaks and communicates exceedingly well to the young people, about her love for life and intense interest in writing books. The children will long remember how they learned to like books and to respect and appreciate a notable author, an American of Japanese Ancestry.

She has presented talks at various public and private libraries, speaking to over 8,000 children about experiences as a writer and as a Japanese American; also participated in many book and Author Festivals and special events, speaking to adults at Colleges, Universities, Teacher's conferences. Commencement Speaker, U.C. Dept. of English, 1988.; interviewed for television audiences, and worked on making a filmstrip "What Makes A Story."

#### HONORS AND AWARDS:

- \* Ford Foundation Foreign Study and Research Fellowship to Japan 1952.
- \* Herald Tribune Honor Book: THE MAGIC LISTENING CAP. 1955
- \* American Library Association Notable Book: JOURNEY TO TOPAZ 1972, THE BEST BAD THING, 1983.
- \* Exhibit and reception on Publication of THE SAMURAI OF GOLD HILL, Special Exhibits and Education Dept. Oakland Museum, 1972.
- \* Common Wealth Club of California Medal for the best Book in the Juvenile Literature Category:
  - Award to "SAMURAI OF GOLD HILL" 1973
  - Award to A "JAR OF DREAMS" 1982
- \* Award of Merit from the California Association of Teachers of English, " for making a significant contribution to the body of published works available to readers in their search for America." 1973.
- \* Award from the Contra Costa Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League" For her outstanding contribution in the literary field and specifically for her children's books." 1973

- \* Distinguished Service Award, University of Oregon, 1981: For having "helped bring about a greater understanding of the Japanese American culture and for her outstanding work in contributing to the self-esteem and self-knowledge of Japanese Americans."
- \* Morris S. Rosenblatt Award, Utah State Historical Society, " For the best general interest article of the year appearing in the Utah Historical Quarterly, August 1981.
- \* Award from the Berkeley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, " for her many books which have done so much to better the understanding of Japanese Culture and the Japanese American Experience in America." February 1983.
- \* Young Authors' Hall of Fame Award, San Mateo and San Francisco Reading Associations, 1985.
- \* Bay Area Book Reviewers Award , 1985
- \* Friends of Children and Literature Award, for outstanding book, enriching children's understanding of California history past and present , 1987.

LISTED IN:

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS, MORE JUNIOR AUTHORS, WHO'S WHO OF AMERICAN WOMEN, THE WRITERS DIRECTORY, TWENTIETH-CENTURY CHILDREN'S WRITERS (England) CONTEMPORARY ASIAN AMERICAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE REVIEW, VOL VI; SOMETHING ABOUT THE AUTHORS AUTOBIOGRAPHY SERIES, VOL. I SRA READING LAB IIB, UNITED STATES HISTORY (Holt, Rinehart and Winston 1988) the elusive eden -A HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA (Knopf-1988)

THE YOSHIKO UCHIDA COLLECTION: Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, contains all published titles(to date) , manuscripts (partial) papers, and photgraphs.

The Library, University of Oregon, Eugene Oregon also has some early manuscripts, papers and books.

Examining the scope of Ms Uchida's prolific writing accomplishments, and the outstanding honors and recognition she has been given, I am certain the Nisei of the Biennium Award is long overdue. I am honored to support Berkeley JACL's nomination.

This unassuming distinguished Nisei says of her recent works, " I hope to give young Asians a sense of their own history. At the same time, I want to dispel the stereotypic image still held by many non-Asians about the Japanese Americans and write about them as real people. I hope to convey as well the strength of spirit and the sense of hope and purpose I have seen in many of the first generation Japanese Americans. Beyond that, I write to celebrate our common humanity for I feel the basic elements of humanity are present in all our strivings."

.....Mary Tsukamoto, 1986 JACLer of the Biennium author, WE THE PEOPLE: A Story of Internment in America.

*Mary Tsukamoto Tsukamoto*

May 9, 1988

Dear Bill:

I was sending you many thought waves last year when you received the high honor from the Jpnse government, but reactivation of my Chronic Epstein-Barr Virus Syndrome forced me to put everything "on hold" and I was unable to write you. So now let me send very belated **congratulations** to you and your wife for this well-deserved recognition. It must have been a proud and happy moment for both of you.

I am writing also to send my deepest thanks not only for your gracious quote for PICTURE BRIDE, but for the fine letter which Ann Yabusaki tells me you have written in support of their nomination of me. Since they selected such world-class celebrities as Isamu Noguchi the last time, I'm not very hopeful, but the Berkeley Chapter wanted to try just one more time!

I'm afraid we have been making many demands on your valuable time, and hope all this has not been too much of an imposition! I know how time-consuming such requests can be and do appreciate your kindness and generosity.

I keep track of all your activities through the P.C. and am glad that you seem to be busy and well. I have not been well for over 2 years now, so am mainly concentrating on trying to get healthy!

Thank you again!

All the best,

May 5, 1988

Mr. Don Ito, Chairman  
Japanese American of the Biennium Committee  
4783 Tarton Drive  
Santa Rosa, California 95405

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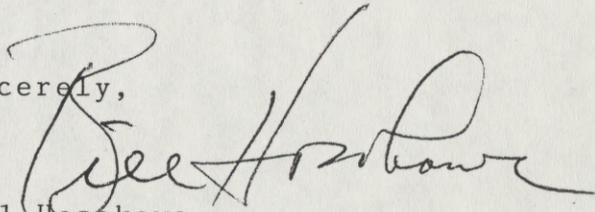
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I wish to make the point to your committee that in my estimation Yoshiko Uchida, by continued high quality of work, should be considered even more deserving of recognition in 1988 than she was four years ago.

Sincerely,



Bill Hosokawa  
140 S. Upham Court  
Denver, Colo. 80226

February 15, 1984

Mrs. Lily A. Okura, Chairman  
Japanese American of the Biennium Committee  
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Mrs. Okura,

I am pleased to endorse the Berkeley JACL Chapter's nomination of Yoshiko Uchida for a Japanese American of the Biennium Award in the Arts/Literature/Communications category.

Ms. Uchida is the author of nearly 30 books, plus many magazine articles, virtually all of which deal with her Japanese and Japanese American heritage. There has been much written on these themes, but Ms. Uchida's work is different in that most of it is directed at young readers in their impressionable years.

Her books have been issued by leading publishers. Some have been translated into German, Dutch, Japanese and Afrikaans. Her awards are too numerous to list, but a few should be mentioned:

Commonwealth Club of California Medal for Best Book in the Juvenile Literature Category: "Samurai of Gold Hill" in 1973; "A Jar of Dreams" in 1982.

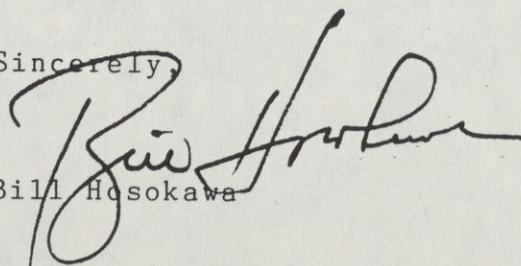
Award of Merit from the California Ass'n of Teachers of English "for making a significant contribution to the body of published works available to readers in their search for America," 1973. Distinguished Service Award, University of Oregon, for having "helped bring about a greater understanding of the Japanese American culture (and) for outstanding work in contributing to the self-esteem and self-knowledge of Japanese Americans," 1981. American Library Ass'n Notable Book: "Journey to Topaz," 1972.

In addition, Ms. Uchida's books have been nominated for, among others, the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award, Sequoyah Children's Book Award, William Allen White Award, Caldecott Award, and Nene Award.

Ms. Uchida's work reveals a remarkable versatility and sensitivity. Her autobiographical "Desert Exile" published in 1982 is an adult book that tells with moving skill the story of her childhood in a Japanese American home, the Evacuation and camp life, and her courageous venture out into a hostile world.

A full-time writer, Yoshiko Uchida has made a distinguished mark in a difficult profession. She is worthy, indeed, of joining other Japanese Americans on JACL's honor roll of those who have achieved great distinction.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Hosokawa

5-14-88

Hi Korn,

Welcome Home! Trust Chie told you we need your help. Both Loni Hancock and Bill Honig seem too busy to respond in time to our requests for the JAACL Award letters. So, we turn to reliable, dependable, trustworthy Geo. Kondo.

Ann needs your letter by this Tuesday, if possible, since she has to get everything in by Friday! I'm enclosing a copy of your '84 letter to use as reference. Since the key consideration is the impact on society or influence in an area of Am. life, maybe your 3rd paragraph could be changed to reflect that, if you're willing.

A writer who we couldn't get since he's out of town said the following: "She is the foremost JA woman writer of our time and has provided an invaluable service to Am. society by introducing to thousands of Am. young people the history of the Japanese American experience <sup>including the wartime uprooting of this country</sup>. Her books are in libraries of even the smallest towns <sup>and her work is universally excerpted, often</sup> providing the only JA material in the nation's textbooks."

I know he wouldn't mind if you used his words <sup>or something like it</sup> since he isn't able to provide them for us at this time. <sup>^</sup>

Thanks a million for your help.

Please send your letter to Ann Yabusaki, 510 Carmel Ave., Albany, CA 94706.

*Hastily,  
Go*

MAY 19 1988



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-WESTERN NEVADA-PACIFIC  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

February 14, 1984

## CHAPTERS

- Alameda
- Berkeley
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- San Benito County
- San Francisco
- San Jose
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- Solano County
- Sonoma County
- Stockton
- Tri-Valley
- Watsonville
- West Valley

~~Mrs. Lily A. Okura~~, Chairperson  
 JA(s) of the Biennium Committee  
 6303 Friendship Court  
 Bethesda, MD 20817

*Mr. Don Ito*

**MAY 19 RECD**

*4783 Tarton Dr.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405*

Dear <sup>*Mr. Ito*</sup> ~~Mrs. Okura~~:

It gives me great pleasure and a distinct honor to add my personal commendation of Ms. Uchida who is being nominated by the Berkeley Chapter for the Japanese American of the Biennium Award in the Arts, Literature and Communications category.

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida graduated from the University of California, Berkeley "Cum Laude" in 1942. She received her diploma in absentia in the confines of a horse stall, a victim of racism and discrimination from which she emerged without bitterness to become one of the most prolific writers of children's books.

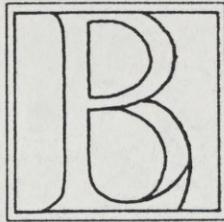
My esteem for her comes not only from how she writes or what she writes but for her reasons for writing. In her own words, "Each of us must take pride in our special heritage, but there is a purpose in searching our past to better understand ourselves only if we can one day understand each other and thereby celebrate our common humanity. It is a happy thought that children in many countries can have a good time hearing the same stories. But this is only natural, and was true a hundred years ago as it is today. With so much in all of us that is alike, it is a pity people the world over have continued to find so much in each other that is different and strange. Just as the universal qualities of folk tales can bring the children of the world together, it is my hope that sharing of common ideas and hopes will eventually bring them together as adults".

*change or shorten?*

Among the materials accompanying the nomination there is a list of honors and awards bestowed on Ms. Uchida by various organizations. We Japanese Americans would be remiss if we her contemporaries do not also give her due recognition.

Sincerely,

*George Kondo*  
George Kondo



# BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2090 Kittredge Street • Berkeley, California 94704 • 415/644-6095

Regina U. Minudri, Director

May 15, 1988

Mr. Don Ito  
Japanese-American of the Biennium  
4783 Tarton Dr.  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95405

Dr. Mr. Ito:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write to recommend Yoshiko Uchida for the Japanese-American of the Biennium.

Her professional honors are impressive:

Ford Foundation Foreign Study and Research  
Fellowship to Japan  
Commonwealth Club of California Medals  
American Library Association Notable Book  
Citations  
University of Oregon Distinguished Service  
Award  
Utah State Historical Society's Morris S.  
Rosenblatt Award

This list could go on and on, but Yoshiko Uchida's special and unique contribution is to children. She is the only writer, the lone voice of the Japanese-American experience in children's literature.

This is a precious and rare gift for Japanese-American children. They see themselves, their families, and their forefathers in Yoshiko Uchida's stories. When they read of children like themselves, they reinforce their self esteem. When they read about the rich history of the Japanese-American in the United States, they strengthen their respect for their heritage.

Other children often encounter Japanese-Americans for the first time in Yoshiko Uchida's books. Her presentation of such Japanese-American experiences as immigration, discrimination, and the "relocation" camps has pricked the social consciences of young non-Japanese-American children. Uchida's characters touch their hearts and make them question their own prejudices.

The long-range effect of children's literature has been well documented. Images and feelings from a child's first books live on forever in the adult. For the past thirty-nine years, Yoshiko Uchida's stories have inserted Japanese-American images and feelings into mainstream children's literature. Her books have always promoted sensitivity, understanding, and brotherhood.

I cannot imagine a greater contribution.

Sincerely,  
*Linda Perkins*  
Linda Perkins

Supervising Program Librarian, Youth Services

RUTH I. GORDON, Ph.D.,  
Consultant in Librarianship,  
225 NORTH FOOTHILL BOULEVARD  
CLOVERDALE, CALIFORNIA 95425

15 May 1988

Mr. Don Ito  
Japanese-American of the Biennium  
4783 Tarton Drive  
Santa Rosa, California 95405

Dear Mr. Ito and Committee:

Quite by accident I learned that the Berkeley Chapter had nominated author YOSHIKO UCHIDA for the honor of becoming the Japanese-American of the Biennium. I wish to support that nomination. I write as a school librarian, a professional book reviewer, and one-time chairperson of American Library Association's Newbery Committee and Notable Children's Books Committee.

Yoshiko Uchida is, indeed, an unique author. Had this talented writer only written The Magic Listening Cap and other folk tales in both picture book and other formats, she would have accomplished a great deal by her introduction of Japanese culture to children. Had she only written her two moving books for adults concerning the Japanese-American experience, she would have done a lifetime's labors. But Uchida has, from her creative core and experience, given young (and sometimes not-so-young) people gripping stories based on the Japanese-American experience before, during, and after World War II. It is she whose books about the internment experience cause youngsters to empathize and sympathize with the conditions of the camps, the feelings of Japanese-American veterans of the Italian campaigns, the facts of life of growing up in Topaz or Tule Lake or Manizar. She has consistently presented well written novels about real people in real families facing real situations.

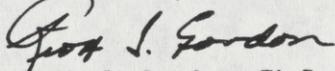
I would not consider a school library collection complete unless Uchida is prominently available on the shelves. It is she who has given reader after reader the opportunity to walk in the shoes of another person and has sensitized those readers to the injustice of the past so that they might insist on justice in the future.

. . .

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I hope the committee for the Japanese-American of the Biennium will acknowledge the gifts of literature and understanding that Yoshiko Uchida has given, even as the Commonwealth Club, the Bay Area Book Reviewers Association, and the Association of Library Service to Children (among other organizations) have already recognized.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth I. Gordon".

Ruth I. Gordon, Ph.D.  
Librarian



# Addison-Wesley Publishing Company

2725 SAND HILL ROAD  
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025

(415) 854-0300

May 16, 1988

Mr. Don Ito  
Japanese American of the Biennium  
4783 Tarton Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Dear Mr. Ito:

I am writing to support the Berkeley JACL Chapter nomination of Yoshiko Uchida for the Japanese American of the Biennium Award in the Arts, Literature, and Communications category. As a reading editor for the past twenty years, I have been responsible for the selection of high-quality children's literature for inclusion in the elementary school reading series of some of the major school textbook publishing companies, including Houghton Mifflin, Ginn, Addison-Wesley, and Allyn and Bacon. I have sought out Ms. Uchida's stories for these reading books because of their high literary quality and for the unique insight they give children into Japanese-American culture and history. I think that you would find that almost every reading series used in the United States contains at least one or two excerpts from Yoshiko Uchida's books. And many of the children who read these excerpts in school go to the library in search of more books by this author. The sum effect is that Ms. Uchida's books are very influential in educating children and molding their attitudes toward Japanese Americans and their history and culture in the United States. In addition, her books have given many children their only knowledge of the Japanese uprooting during the Second World War.

Yoshiko Uchida has written 27 books for young people and two for adults. Her books have won many awards, including the American Library Association Award, the California Commonwealth Award, the Bay Area Book Reviewers' Award, the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Oregon for bringing about greater understanding of the Japanese-American culture, and the Ford Foundation Award.

Ms. Uchida is, to my knowledge, the only author of fictional books for young people who has written so extensively and so well about Japanese-American culture and history. Her books are warm and moving, with sympathetic characters that children of any culture can relate to--which is why, of course, children all over the United States are so fond of her books.

I feel that Yoshiko Uchida is most qualified to receive the Japanese American of the Biennium Award for her fine collection of books about the Japanese-American experience in the United States.

Sincerely,

*Priscilla Cox Samii*

Priscilla Cox Samii  
Project Editor

# CITY OF BERKELEY

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*Loni Hancock*  
MAYOR

May 16, 1988

Mr. Don Ito  
Japanese American of the Biennium  
4783 Tarton Drive  
Santa Rosa, California

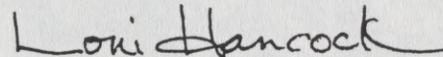
Dear Mr. Ito:

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida has been an intimate part of our Berkeley scene for years. She grew up here and went to our public schools and to the University of California. After the harrowing years in a mid-west internment camp, she returned back to Berkeley where she presently resides. In her magnificent book; *Desert Exile*, she chronicles this story with candor and great understanding.

Ms. Uchida, has gained international recognition as a writer. Her many books for children have won her many awards and honors. She has been a diligent champion for the understanding of the duality of Japanese-American life and her books help bridge and promote this cultural understanding.

Therefore, it is a singular honor for me, as Mayor of Berkeley, to support the nomination made by the Berkeley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, of Ms. Yoshiko Uchida to be recipient of the Biennium Award in Arts, Literature and Communications.

Sincerely,



Loni Hancock  
Mayor



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CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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721 Capitol Mall; P.O. Box 944272

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Sacramento, CA 94244-2720

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Bill Honig

---

Superintendent

---

of Public Instruction

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May 17, 1988

Mr. Don Ito  
Japanese American of the Biennium  
4783 Tarton Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Dear Mr. Ito:

I am pleased to support Yoshiko Uchida's nomination for the Nissei Biennium Award in the area of Arts/Literature/Communications. Ms. Uchida's prolific writings cover a wide range of topics. A broad category of her works include books for young people, short stories for young people, and books and articles for adults.

As the California State Department of Education was developing a List of Recommended Readings, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight, Ms. Uchida's works quickly came to the forefront. The Advisory Committee helping us to develop this list selected five of her works to be included in the first edition of the List of Recommended Readings, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight, published in 1986:

Magic Listening Cap: More Folk Tales From Japan  
Journey Home  
Journey to Topaz  
Sea of Gold and Other Tales From Japan  
A Jar of Dreams (and other stories in the series)

Now, as we move toward completion of the second and annotated edition of the List of Recommended Readings, Ms. Uchida's works will appear in different parts of the list as follows:

Uchida, Yoshiko; Magic Listening Cap: More Folk Tales From Japan; Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1955.

The 14 Japanese folktales are retold charmingly and humorously to give them wide appeal. These stories are appropriate for read-alouds or for telling.

Uchida, Yoshiko; Journey Home; Atheneum, 1978.

After being released from an American concentration camp, a Japanese-American girl and her family try to reconstruct their lives amidst a community's anti-Japanese feelings.

Uchida, Yoshiko; Journey to Topaz; Scribner, 1971; Creative Arts, 1985.

After the Pearl Harbor attack, an 11-year-old Japanese-American girl and her family are forced to go to an alien's camp in Utah.

Uchida, Yoshiko; Sea of Gold and Other Tales From Japan; Scribner, 1965.

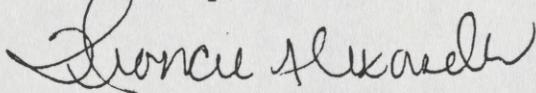
Japanese folktales of clever and foolish animals and people, illustrating that those with kind hearts will be rewarded.

Uchida, Yoshiko; A Jar of Dreams; the Best Bad Things; and the Happiest Ending (A Trilogy); Atheneum, 1981, 1983, 1985.

These three books tell the story of a Japanese-American girl, Rinko, and her family living in Berkeley during the Depression. Through day-to-day events, we see Rinko deal with racial prejudice and grow to accept her own racial and cultural identity.

We are proud to include her works in the second edition of the List of Recommended Readings, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight. For her outstanding contribution to the world of literature, I recommend Yoshiko Uchida for the Nissei Biennium Award in the area of Arts/Literature/Communications with great pleasure.

Sincerely,



Francie Alexander, Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Division  
(916) 322-0498

May 19, 1988

Mr. Don Ito, Chairman  
JA(s) of the Biennium Committee  
4783 Tarton Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Dear Don:

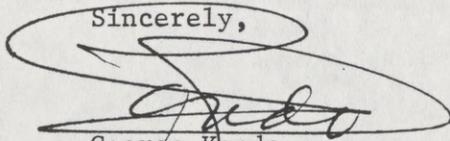
It gives me great pleasure and a distinct honor to add my personnel commendation of Ms. Uchida who is being nominated by the Berkeley Chapter for the Japanese American of the Biennium in the Arts, Literature and Communications category.

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida graduated from the University of California, Berkeley "Cum Laude" in 1942. She received her diploma in absentia in the confines of a horse stall, a victim of racism and discrimination from which she emerged without bitterness to become one of the most prolific writers of children's books.

A writer who we couldn't contact since he is out of town said the following: "She is the foremost Japanese American writer of our times and has provided an invaluable service to the American society by introducing to thousands of American young people the history of the Japanese American experience including the wartime uprooting and internment by our government. Her books are in libraries of even the smallest towns throughout our country and her work is universally excepted, often providing the only Japanese American material in the nation's textbooks".

Among the materials accompanying the nomination there is a list of honors and awards bestowed on Ms. Uchida by various organizations. WE Japanese American would be remiss if we her contemporaries do not also give her due recognition.

Sincerely,



George Kondo  
San Francisco, CA

May 19, 1988

Dear Mary:

Ann Yabusaki just gave me a copy of your lovely letter in support of my nomination for the JACL award, and I want to send my deepest thanks for all the time and effort you spent to write such a long and detailed letter on my behalf.

It was so good of you to do this and I do hope it wasn't too much of an imposition. The kind and gracious words of friends such as you are reward enough even if I don't receive the award. Recalling that their last awardee in this category was the world superstar, Isamu Noguchi, my expectations are not very high, but it was an honor to be nominated and I appreciate your support.

It's been a long time since I've seen you, and I do hope you and Al are keeping well. I read about you from time to time and know you've been very active in the redress movement. We're so close now, aren't we?

I was also delighted to know that you had written and published your memoirs. Are you handling orders yourself? If so, would you send me an order form at your convenience, as I'd like to purchase a copy.

My health has been very poor for the past 3 years due to reactivation of my chronic Epstein-Barr Syndrome (chronic mono), and I haven't done much of anything except just exist. I had to cancel everything last year, and am now taking Chinese herbs to try to regain my health.

I hope you're taking good care of yourself and enjoying life. Regards to Al and Marielle, and many, many thanks once again.

All the best,

May 9, 1988

Don Ito  
Japanese American of the Biennium  
4783 Tarton Drive,  
Santa Rosa, California 95405

Dear Don,

I cherish this rare privilege of writing a letter of support for Ms. Yoshiko Uchida. The Berkeley Chapter is to be congratulated for nominating Ms Uchida for the coveted Japanese American Citizens League's 1988 Nisei of the Biennium Award in the area of Arts/ Literature/ Communications.

The National Biennium Committee has designated that this award be "based on the achievements and activities in different fields of endeavor which have received regional, national or international recognition and whose contributions have added to the sum human knowledge and/ or enhanced the quality of life in our Society"

I am totally convinced that Ms Uchida more than meets the criteria. A prolific writer, author of 28 published titles, she is best loved for her poignant writings about the Japanese American experience. Her skill in conveying sensitive feelings about children in Japan as well as the children caught in the nightmare of America's worst wartime internment, has made us appreciate the universal common humanity of all the children everywhere.

Yoshiko Uchida was born in Alameda California and grew up in Berkeley where she is now living. She graduated with honors from the University of California with a BA in English, Philosophy and History and has a Masters in Education from Smith College where she was awarded a graduate fellowship.

Like the child in her trilogy, A JAR OF DREAMS, THE BEST BAD THING and the HAPPIEST ENDING, Yoshiko Uchida experienced the alienation and rejection felt by many children of Japanese Ancestry who grew up in California during the 20s and 30s. During WWII she and her family were among the 120,000 West Coast Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from their homes and imprisoned by the U.S. Government, simply because they looked like the enemy. Her family lived in a horse stall at Tanforan Race Track and then removed to Topaz, a desolate concentration Camp in a Utah desert.

Two books about this experience has been popular with young people especially in the intermediate grades. " JOURNEY TO TOPAZ" and "JOURNEY HOME", as well as a short story entitled "The Bracelet ".

Her first adult book on the subject, "DESERT EXILE" was published in 1982 by the University of Washington Press, Seattle, and an excerpt from the book in " Utah Historical Quarterly" won its best general interest article award for 1980. Soft cover edition Washington Press, 1984; Japanese Edition, Iwanami Shoten, Tokyo, 1985.

She has written several adult short stories and an adult novel, "PICTURE BRIDE", Northland Press 1987.

While in Japan she wrote a series of feature articles about craftsmen for the NIPPON TIMES and an adult book, "WE DO NOT WALK ALONE: KANJIRO KAWAI," for the Folk Art Society of Japan, Kyoto 1953; Reprinted in Pottery Quarterly, England 1957. When she returned to the United States, she served as West Coast correspondent and wrote many articles for CRAFT HORIZON magazine. She studied weaving, pottery and jewelry-making herself.

She also wrote for her Church, "THE HISTORY OF SYCAMORE CHURCH," Sycamore Congregational Church, El Cerrito 1974. And also a church school curriculum, "TABI" based on the Japanese American experience for fifth and sixth graders.

Through the years, since 1949 when a special friend sent my daughter a copy of Ms Uchida's very first publication, "THE DANCING KETTLE And Other Japanese Folk Tales," I have been a great admirer of her extraordinary gift as a fine writer of children's books. Many of her earlier works dealt with young people of Japan and her appreciation of Japanese folk Tales, a result of her quest into her own cultural roots, sparked by a Ford Foundation Foreign Study and Research Fellowship to Japan. "MAGIC LISTENING CAP, More folk Tales from Japan," one of two books she has illustrated, was chosen Herald Tribune Honor Book.

In 1971 "JOURNEY TO TOPAZ" and "SAMURAI OF GOLD HILL" she turned to writing about her Japanese American experience in the United States.

Her writings have extended to other lands in other languages. "TAKAO AND GRANDFATHER'S SWORD", Harcourt and Brace 1958. was published in Parents Magazine Edition 1959; German Edition, Hermann Schaffstein Verlag 1959, Dutch Edition, C.P.J.Vander Peet, 1961; British Edition, Oliver & Boyd, 1966; Afrikaans Edition, Haum Langstraat Kaapstead 1971.

Yoshiko Uchida's books have received an incredible list of awards and honors, for instance for one book, "JOURNEY TO TOPAZ," Charles Scribner's 1971 was awarded the ALA Notable Book 1972; Sequoyah Children's Book award 1973 and William White Award 1974, California Recommended Reading Core title 1986, Nominated for the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award, 1972; and excitingly, a Japanese Edition Hyoronsha 1975, and a condensed version, Yamaguchi Shoten, Kyoto, Japan 1984. a Trade paperback edition, Creative Arts Book Co. Berkeley 1985.

Notable achievements in her distinguished career as a most successful author lists incredible reports: Excerpts from her books have appeared in over 90 School Readers, anthologies, and cassettes, too numerous to list here.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

It meant a great deal to the Yonsei children in our Jan Ken Po Gakko in Sacramento California to meet a fine Japanese American role-model, whose books were read by many children and parents to learn about the themselves and the Internment Experience in America. In 1980 while I was Director of Jan Ken Po Gakko, we invited Ms.Uchida to speak to the children and autograph her books for us. I remember the thrilling gathering of young Sansei parents and their Yonsei children for potluck and having her as our house guest.

I recall another time when my intermediate children at Mc Kee Elementary School in Elk Grove honored her at a " Meet A Living Author" event. She speaks and communicates exceedingly well to the young people, about her love for life and intense interest in writing books. The children will long remember how they learned to like books and to respect and appreciate a notable author, an American of Japanese Ancestry.

She has presented talks at various public and private libraries, speaking to over 8,000 children about experiences as a writer and as a Japanese American; also participated in many book and Author Festivals and special events, speaking to adults at Colleges, Universities, Teacher's conferences. Commencement Speaker, U.C. Dept. of English, 1988.; interviewed for television audiences, and worked on making a filmstrip "What Makes A Story."

## HONORS AND AWARDS:

- \* Ford Foundation Foreign Study and Research Fellowship to Japan 1952.
- \* Herald Tribune Honor Book: THE MAGIC LISTENING CAP. 1955
- \* American Library Association Notable Book: JOURNEY TO TOPAZ1972, THE BEST BAD THING, 1983.
- \* Exhibit and reception on Publication of THE SAMURAI OF GOLD HILL, Special Exhibits and Education Dept. Oakland Museum, 1972.
- \* Common Wealth Club of California Medal for the best Book in the Juvenile Literature Category:
  - Award to "SAMURAI OF GOLD HILL" 1973
  - Award to A " JAR OF DREAMS" 1982
- \* Award of Merit from the California Association of Teachers of English, " for making a significant contribution to the body of published works available to readers in their search for America." 1973.
- \* Award from the Contra Costa Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League" For her outstanding contribution in the literary field and specifically for her children's books." 1973

- \* Distinguished Service Award, University of Oregon, 1981: For having "helped bring about a greater understanding of the Japanese American culture and for her outstanding work in contributing to the self-esteem and self-knowledge of Japanese Americans."
- \* Morris S. Rosenblatt Award, Utah State Historical Society, " For the best general interest article of the year appearing in the Utah Historical Quarterly, August 1981.
- \* Award from the Berkeley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, " for her many books which have done so much to better the understanding of Japanese Culture and the Japanese American Experience in America." February 1983.
- \* Young Authors' Hall of Fame Award, San Mateo and San Francisco Reading Associations, 1985.
- \* Bay Area Book Reviewers Award , 1985
- \* Friends of Children and Literature Award, for outstanding book, enriching children's understanding of California history past and present , 1987.

LISTED IN:

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS, MORE JUNIOR AUTHORS, WHO'S WHO OF AMERICAN WOMEN, THE WRITERS DIRECTORY, TWENTIETH-CENTURY CHILDREN'S WRITERS (England) CONTEMPORARY ASIAN AMERICAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE REVIEW, VOL VI; SOMETHING ABOUT THE AUTHORS AUTOBIOGRAPHY SERIES, VOL. I SRA READING LAB IIB, UNITED STATES HISTORY (Holt, Rinehart and Winston 1988) the elusive eden -A HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA (Knopf-1988)

THE YOSHIKO UCHIDA COLLECTION: Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, contains all published titles(to date) , manuscripts (partial) papers, and photographs.

The Library, University of Oregon, Eugene Oregon also has some early manuscripts, papers and books.

Examining the scope of Ms Uchida's prolific writing accomplishments, and the outstanding honors and recognition she has been given, I am certain the Nisei of the Biennium Award is long overdue. I am honored to support Berkeley JACL's nomination.

This unassuming distinguished Nisei says of her recent works, " I hope to give young Asians a sense of their own history. At the same time, I want to dispel the stereotypic image still held by many non-Asians about the Japanese Americans and write about them as real people. I hope to convey as well the strength of spirit and the sense of hope and purpose I have seen in many of the first generation Japanese Americans. Beyond that, I write to celebrate our common humanity for I feel the basic elements of humanity are present in all our strivings."

.....Mary Tsukamoto, 1986 JACLer of the Biennium author, WE THE PEOPLE: A Story of Internment in America.

*Mary Tsukamoto Tsukamoto*

May 25, 1988

Ms. Francie Alexander  
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Div.  
State Department of Education  
P.O. Box 944272  
Sacramento, CA. 94244-2720

Dear Francie Alexander:

Ann Yabusaki has given me a copy of your very nice letter in support of the Berkeley JACL's nomination of me for the Nisei of the Biennium Award, and I want to express my deep appreciation to you for taking the time from your very busy schedule to write on my behalf.

I'm very pleased and proud to know that my books are included in the second edition of the California Recommended Reading List. A review copy of the new trade paperback edition of THE SEA OF GOLD And Other Tales From Japan should be reaching you before long.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

May 26, 1988

The Honorable Loni Hancock  
City of Berkeley  
2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA. 94704

Dear Mayor Hancock:

The Berkeley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League has forwarded to me a copy of your kind letter in support of their nomination of me for the Nisei of the Biennium Award, and I would like to express my deep appreciation to you for taking the time from your busy schedule to write on my behalf.

I was pleased to learn from George Kondo (National JACL) a few months ago that your daughter had read and enjoyed my books.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

DR. CAROLINE BAUER  
14, Avenue André-Fleury  
60500 Chantilly - FRANCE  
Tél. : (33) 44.58.04.41

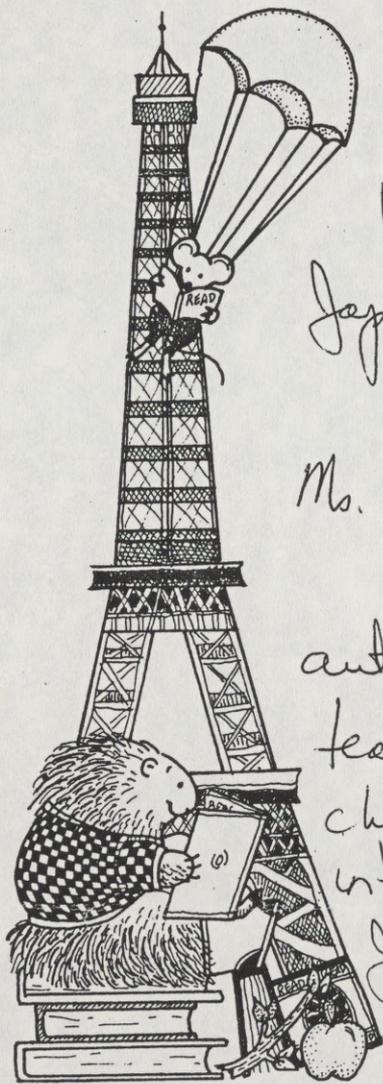
May 28, 1988

Mr Ito,

It has just come to my attention that Yoshiko Uchida has been nominated for the Japanese American Citizens League Award.

I'm writing to support Ms. Uchida's nomination.

She has been an inspiring author to thousands of children, their teachers + parents. Through her books children of all 50 states have been introduced to the heritage of the Japanese/Americans. Her folktales, historical + contemporary stories have been a fantastic way for children to



meet their neighbors.

She's a wonderful person and the perfect representative of the community -

I certainly hope you choose this remarkable woman for your award.

Sincerely  
Carolene Bauer  
Children's literature specialist

p.c. 6/29/84

How - I was quite a bit - sup  
very good award nom. I agree & I  
I write on my behalf, sup & I - ss -  
Jensen's (1/1). I had no idea re - Fame!  
Many thanks & a wonderful time  
about.

g-

510 Carmel Avenue  
Albany, California 94706  
June 6, 1988

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, #102  
Berkeley, California 94704

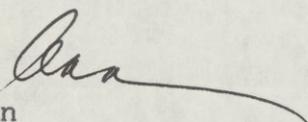
Dear Yoshiko,

I heard from Carolyn Bauer the other day and thought I'd send you a copy of her letter for your files. I included a letter from George Kondo as well, since I did not know if he had sent you a copy. Thank you notes have been sent to everyone who wrote a letter.

No, I haven't heard yet. When I do hear, you will be the first to know!

Again, thanks for your cooperation and help with this project. I am glad that we got to meet, work together, and was able to feel we did something worthwhile. By the way, I enjoyed our lunch. Thank you.

With warm regards,

  
Ann

pc 4/19/88

Ann

Belated thanks to you for ltr. I appreciate rec'd  
+ 2 copies of the Kondo + Bauer ltrs.  
No wonder we didn't hear from Carline!

I've been wanting to create a Jerry's lunch,  
but my CEBV symptoms are so limiting, it's  
a terrible frustration. We'll do it one day soon tho!  
I'm seeing Dr. Joseph this Tues.



## JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 1765 Sutter Street • San Francisco, California 94115 • (415) 921-5225  
REGIONAL OFFICES: Washington, D.C. • Chicago • San Francisco • Los Angeles • Seattle • Fresno

LOC:ADT:29-07-11-88

July 11, 1988

Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, #102  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Ms. Uchida:

As we discussed last week, the Japanese American Citizens League Awards Committee wishes to honor you as co-recipient of the 1988 Japanese American of the Biennium Award in recognition of your outstanding contributions in Arts, Literature, and Communications.

The award will be presented at the Sayonara Banquet of JAACL's national convention to be held in Seattle on the University of Washington campus on Tuesday evening, August 9, 1988, from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. We would be honored to have you attend. Please let me know of your plans as soon as possible.

The JAACL will pay for your airfare and one evening's lodging in association with the event. Our office has arranged to have Tanaka Travel Services of San Francisco to make travel reservations for the honorees. Please call Tanaka Travel to arrange travel plans and ask for Teiko Kitagawa or Joan Lam. They will bill us directly for your travel arrangements. The telephone number for Tanaka Travel is (415) 474-3900. Or, if you would like, we will reimburse you for your own travel arrangements.

If I can be of any further assistance, I can be reached at (415) 921-5225. Again, congratulations on being selected as co-recipient of the 1988 JA of the Biennium Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Neal Taniguchi'.

Neal Taniguchi  
Administrative Director

cc.: Yosh Nakashima, Ron Wakabayashi, Don Ito

YOSHIKO UCHIDA

1685 SOLANO AVENUE, NO. 102  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94707

(415) 524-1152

July 16, 1988

Mr. Gordon Yamamoto, President  
Berkeley Chapter, JACL  
654 Sacramento St  
San Francisco, CA. 94111

Dear Gordon:

I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Berkeley Chapter of the JACL for nominating me for the Japanese American of the Biennium Award in the Arts, Literature and Communications category.

I have appreciated the years of support from the Berkeley Chapter, and know that I was able to receive the award this year because of the dedicated and capable efforts of Ann Yabusaki and Terry Yamashita in the nominating procedure.

I am truly honored and grateful to receive this recognition from my fellow Japanese Americans and only regret that I will not be able to attend the Convention Banquet in Seattle due to continuing health problems. I have asked my good friend of more than forty years, George Kondo, to accept the award on my behalf.

I look forward to thanking you in person someday.

All the best,

cc: Ann Yabusaki  
Terry Yamashita

YOSHIKO UCHIDA

1685 SOLANO AVENUE, NO. 102  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94707

(415) 524-1152

July 16, 1988

Mr. Neal Taniguchi  
Japanese American Citizens League  
1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA. 94115

Dear Neal:

Many thanks for your good letter of July 11. I am greatly honored to have been selected as the recipient of JACL's Japanese American of the Biennium Award in the field of Arts, Literature and Communications for 1988.

Please convey my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the JACL and to Don Ito and his committee for according me this esteemed honor. It means a great deal to me to receive this recognition from my fellow Japanese Americans, and I can't tell you how disappointed and sorry I am that continuing health problems will prevent my attending the Convention Banquet in Seattle.

I have asked my friend of more than forty years, George Kondo, to accept the award on my behalf and trust this meets with your approval.

With warmest regards,

cc: Yosh Nakashima - 3400 Calif St., SF 94118  
Ron Wakabayashi  
Don Ito  
George Kondo

7-23-88

To: Korn

From: Yo

Please read the following for me at the JACL Awards Banquet.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the JACL and to Don Ito and his committee for according me this high honor. My warmest thanks also to the Berkeley Chapter for their support of my work over many years, and for honoring me with their nomination.

It is such a privilege to receive this recognition from my fellow Japanese Americans, whose history I have tried to record through my writing, and I shall cherish it always with deep pride and joy.

I only regret that a prolonged illness prevents me from being with you on this wonderful occasion. But through my long-time friend, George Kondo, I send you all my love and gratitude. Thank you.



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**CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

---

721 Capitol Mall; P.O. Box 944272

Sacramento, CA 94244-2720

---

**Bill Honig**

Superintendent

of Public Instruction

---

August 8, 1988

Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Avenue, #102  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Dear Ms. Uchida:

Ann Yabusaki informed me that you have been selected to receive the Japanese American Biennium Award in the area of Arts, Literature, and Communication. On behalf of the State Department of Education and on my personal behalf, I extend heartiest congratulations.

We are proud of you! And we are pleased to include your works in the second edition of the Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Francie Alexander, Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Division  
(916) 322-0498

cc: Ann Yabusaki

August 19, 1988

Francie Alexander  
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Div.  
California State Dept. of Education  
P.O. Box 944272  
Sacramento, CA. 94244-2720

Dear Francie:

Thank you so much for your your lovely letter of August 8th with its good wishes from you and the State Department of Education.

I was delighted to receive the Japanese American of the Biennium Award in Arts, Literature & Communications and appreciate your part in having made it possible through your fine letter supporting my nomination.

I am also delighted to know that my works will be included in the second edition of your Recommended Readings in Literature (K-8).

With appreciation for your continued interest and support of my work.

All the best,

P. S. Do you have a recommended reading list for grades 8-12 as well? If so, I'd like to have review copies of my two adult/YA books sent to you for consideration. (DESERT EXILE and PICTURE BRIDE).

NORMAN Y. MINETA  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
13TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEES:

PUBLIC WORKS AND  
TRANSPORTATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION  
CHAIRMAN

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TRADE TASK FORCE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2350 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TELEPHONE (202) 225-2631

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
SUITE 310  
1245 SOUTH WINCHESTER BOULEVARD  
SAN JOSE, CA 95128-3963  
TELEPHONE (408) 984-6045

August 30, 1988

Ms. Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Ave., Apt. 102  
Berkeley, California 94707

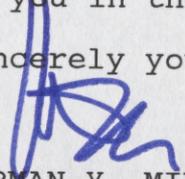
Yoshiko:  
Dear Ms. Uchida:

Please accept my congratulations for your achievement of being honored as one of the Japanese Americans of the Biennium at the Sayonara Banquet for outstanding contributions to the field of Japanese American literature.

Your efforts to establish a body of Japanese American literature for children have helped open the eyes of many children to the realities of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. I congratulate you on the many critical acclaims and honors that you have received throughout the years. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and most deserving of commendation.

You have my best wishes for all your future books that I'll be seeing at the book store, and any other future endeavors. Thanks for all your efforts and please don't hesitate to contact me if there is ever anything I can do for you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

  
NORMAN Y. MINETA  
Member of Congress

NYM/je/da

September 5, 1988

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Norman:

It was so kind of you to take time from your busy schedule to send me your good wishes regarding the Japanese American of the Biennium Award presented to me last month by the JACL.

It is indeed a privilege to receive this high honor from my fellow Japanese Americans, and I appreciate so much your own support and encouragement of my work.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank you also for your leadership and untiring efforts in securing passage of the Redress Bill. It is a great triumph for all Americans and we owe you and your colleagues a debt of gratitude for making it possible.

Thank you for representing us so ably in the U.S. Congress. We're so proud of you!

Very sincerely,

Info. for the Nomination Form:

Yoshiko Uchida  
1685 Solano Ave., Apt. 102  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Tel: (415) 524-1152 (same for bus.)

Occup: Writer Birthdate: 11/24/21 Alameda, Calif.

-----  
PAGE 2: Here are some suggestions you might want to consider:

1. Please see attached "Published Works" ~~list~~ <sup>in complete</sup> listing of all her published works, professional activities and honors. YU is the only JA writer for young people who, for more than 30 yrs, has consistently written books that have provided understanding and insight into the Jpnse and JA experiences.
2. Please refer to attached "Published Works" and her Objectives as a Writer.
3. Please SEE "Published Works" listing, Page 5, for honors and awards.
4. Sycamore Congregational Church, El Cerrito, CA. YU has been a member of this church since childhood, and over the years has served on the Church Council, various committees, taught Sunday School, written the Church History (1974) and a JA oriented curriculum (TABI, 1981). She received a resolutaion of appreciation from the chuch in 1979.
5. Mmber & supporter of Common Cause(citizen's lobby); KQED (Pub. Broadcasting Sys.). Member Democratic Party.

-----  
Here are a few ideas you might want to consider when you write the supplemental sheet. Suggestions only.

- I write for children becaUSE THEY ARE OUR FUTURE. JA children need literature for and about JAs. I try to portray Asians as human beings. While my books focus on the Jpnse, I try to write of universal values and hopes that are relevant to ALL children.
- Have tried to give young JAs a sense of pride & continuity in their his~~story~~ thru books such as SAMURAI OF GOLD HILL (about the Wakamatsu Colony) and JOURNEY TOT TOPAZ and JOURNEY HOME (re WWII ~~om~~ternment). For many non-Asian children, these books re WWII have been their only source offknowledge of this event. JOURNEY TO TOPAZ has been translated into Jpnse; will be published in a new student version in Japan '84, and has been excerpted in many School Readers used throughtout the US. JOURNEY HOME is being developed by KCET (LA) for possible use on a nation-wide children's TV program. All above have won wwards.
- My adult book re the WWII Internment, DESERT EXILE, will be published by Iwanami Shoten in Japan during 1984 and several magazine articles are projected for publication at the same time. (See attached representative reviews.)

- My two recent books, A JAR OF DREAMS and THE BEST BAD THING focus on the sense of family, values and spirit of early immigrant Jpnse families as they struggle to survive during the Depression years. (See Addendum for <sup>national</sup> recognition received) \*

- I have spoken about growing up as a JA, my WWII internment experiences, and my hopes as a JA writer to over 4000 children at schools & libraries, hoping also to encourage the development of young writers. Also at many conferences of teachers & librarians.

Have req'd the support from:

- ✓ 1. Geo. Kondo
- 2. Sen Dan Inouye
- ✓ 3. Bill Haskawa
- ✓ 4. Prof Roy Sumner
- ✓ 5. Clarence Idago, Dir JACP

\* ALA = All with Am  
 (not' l Assoc Libr.)  
 Their description of a book  
 as "Atahki" is one step  
 besides a book can receive  
 "JBT" - "BBT" were  
 ala Atahki Bks.

Encl.

- 1. Pub Wks, + Objectives + prof'l activities
- 2. Bio (Atahki) article
- 3. Star Bulletin 5/83
- 4. Hukuei / article re Comm Club Award 6/82
- 5. P.C. 6/11/82 Calvin's article
- 6. CC announcement 6/7/82, speech 6/28/82
- 7. Copy Oregon Award
- 8. Hukuei " " 6/11/81
- 9. Gazette front p. article 5/25/82
- 10. Oregon Standard article 8/29/82
- 11. SF Chron 5/82
- 12. Hukuei - re Des Ex 5/2/82 + photo
- 13. Gazette Review - Bob Yanaka
- 14. Western Hist. Quarterly 10/83
- 15. Pac. Affairs. Rev. Summer 83
- 16. Pac. Hist. Review 5/83 - Roger Daniels 5/83
- 17. Lib. Storm article '77
- 18. Gazette Dickinson article 1/13/79
- 19. C.C. Times 11/20/76
- 20. Hukuei articles re CC award 6/19/73