

# **GILA RIVER RELOCATION CAMP**

## **50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION**

**RADISSON PHOENIX AIRPORT HOTEL/SOUTHBANK**  
**PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

**OCTOBER 3 and 4, 1992**

GILA'S HONOR ROLL MONUMENT  
*"that men might be free again."*



## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Michiko Nishiura Weglyn, (class of 1944, Butte High School), who, battling a series of illnesses, has striven to the height of excellence. She has succeeded in establishing herself in the difficult and competitive field of costume designing and manufacturing and is the author of an award-winning documentary book which took years of dedicated research. "YEARS OF INFAMY: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps", received the Anisfield-Wolf Award in Race Relations for 1976.

On June 2, 1992, Michi delivered the commencement address at Hunter College in New York where she received the prestigious Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters. A well-deserved testimony to her success in the face of adversity.

## IN TRIBUTE

To James Tomomasa Araki, (class of 1944, Butte High School), who died December 22, 1991. Dr. Araki served in World War II, and the Korean War. He received his BA from UCLA, and MA and Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley. After teaching at UCLA, he joined the University of Hawaii faculty in 1965 as Professor of Japanese Literature. Dr. Araki was also a professional musician, having made recordings in Japan with the Lionel Hampton Band.

In November, 1991, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, 4th Class, by the Japanese government for his contributions as an author and translator of Japanese literature and in the field of jazz in Japan.

## IN MEMORIUM

To all those who served and died in the United States Armed Forces from the Gila River Relocation Camp. They went forth to defend the country their parents adopted and of which they were American citizens. These men willingly gave their lives in order that their parents and all those who were unjustly incarcerated might live and be free again.

And to all those who died in camp, both young and old, who were denied that chance of freedom.





Michi Nishiura Weglyn addresses students at New York's Hunter College, where she was awarded an honored Doctorate of Letters. (Corky Lee photo)

## AUTHOR MICHİ WEGLYN HONORED BY HUNTER COLLEGE

Michi Nishiura Weglyn, whose book "Years of Infamy," exposed the civil rights abuses suffered by Japanese American internees in World War II, recently received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from New York's Hunter College.

"The riot that rocked the abandoned inner city served to illuminate a racism and classism too long institutionalized," declared Weglyn at the school's commencement exercises held recently. Weglyn traced the enduring, historical oppression of "America's expendables," which include African Americans, Asian Americans and other minorities.

"And it illuminated for all the world to see the vulnerability of a once-proud nation's leadership that hardly noticed the cataclysmic split dividing the 'haves' and 'have-nots' of our urban wastelands."

Weglyn issued a challenge to the nearly 2,000 graduates of Hunter College. She quoted Miss Sheldon, one of her teachers at Gila Relocation Center, where Weglyn was interned, who told her to "Go forth and become ambassadors of good will!"

(HAWAII HERALD, JULY 3 1992)



## ***WELCOME TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION***

Fifty years ago, under Executive order 9066, a great number of us endured an historic and life altering event, when we were forced into "relocation camps". We have now come together, not to relive those years, but to join again with those whom we met under those trying circumstances, to bury the past and rejoice in the knowledge that we have risen above adversity. With heads held high, we picked up our lives upon leaving the camp and looked to the future.

During the past several years, there has been a resurgence of interest in the conditions that resulted in the unjust imprisonment of a large number of American citizens and loyal Japanese aliens. This has culminated with the official acknowledgement and apology for the grievous injustice perpetrated. This common bond of experience now brings us together to share our insights, thoughts, and feelings with each other at that place where we underwent so much together.

Most of us here today are senior citizens, or close approaching that golden time of our lives. We have expanded our horizons, scattered throughout the 50 states, and diversified our livelihood. Former internees have entered the fields of law, science, music, politics, medicine, entertainment, education, agriculture, etc. The list goes on and on.

The future now belongs to our children and their children. It is for them to embark upon the challenges of tomorrow. There are battles yet to be fought against racism and prejudice. Our children must continue to be alert in these troubled times. They will carry the torch of peace, harmony, and freedom for the tomorrows to come.

God bless and good luck until we meet again.