

It was in the summer of 1976 that Ernest Uno, brother of Edison Uno, and I drove from San Francisco to Sacramento to meet Michi and Walter Weglyn. It was our first meeting. It was Edison Uno who had said to me to be on the lookout for the book which was about to be released to the American public, the *YEARS OF INFAMY, The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps*.

Michi Nishiura Weglyn is a wonderful, remarkably accomplished woman. In her words I found my own feelings as I grew up in the State of Washington. I had fled the West Coast of the United States in 1936 and had gone to Wisconsin in an effort to prove to myself that the West Coast of the United States was not America, that it was anti-America.

Michi had broken with the Nisei convention of passive submission to white racism, tyranny and oppression. She not only called the government liars, but she proved it. What was most remarkable and refreshing was her anger--the anger that no Nisei dared put in a book, but every Nisei felt. Michi was emotional about the camps. That emotion was shared by all of us. I recall the statement Michi made to me many years ago, "When I wrote that book, I was hoping that Nisei would become angry." She had accomplished her purpose.

It was this emotional realization and her documentations of the American government's wrongdoings that was the primary reason behind the push for redress by the Japanese Americans and supported by millions of other Americans. Her book had become a bible for the 20th Century Japanese Americans.

I had come to know many survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, and Michi's husband Walter was unforgettable. I can't ever remember seeing him not dressed immaculately in a suit and tie and handkerchief. He was a member of the underground war against the Nazi occupation. He was a survivor of the Holocaust. He had encouraged Michi to write her book. Michi recalls that he used to give her exact change for the bus ride to and from the library, when she was doing her research. He was a man of charm, impeccable manners, with dignity, and was always thoroughly devoted to Michi.

It is a great honor to be able to participate in honoring Michi Nishiura Weglyn today, and in bringing back the image of her loving husband Walter.

Thank you.

Clifford I. Uyeda.

February 21, 1998.
Los Angeles, CA.