



Asian American Studies Program

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May 17, 1990

Michi Weglyn
957 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10028

Dear Ms. Weglyn:

Thirteen years ago, I wrote a review of your book, Years of Infamy. I write to you today to apologize for the tone of that review, published in Amerasia Journal 4:1 (1977), and to acknowledge my error in assessing the book's contribution to the advancement of civil liberties.

I regret the review's sharply critical tone. I am sorry. I suppose I could attribute that to my youth (I wrote the review fresh out of graduate school); I suppose I could explain that I wrote the review during a time when I was keenly interested in Nikkei resistance in the wartime camps. But both those pleas do not mitigate the fact that the review was published and it stands as originally written. I offer my deepest apologies.

Your book has withstood the test of time. Your book remains the only scholarly study of the concentration camps written by a Nikkei, and the passion and dignity of your work has inspired countless others to speak out against injustice. I am particularly aware of how many college age students value your book (I used your book as a text for my class on Japanese Americans during World War II when I taught at Santa Clara University) and have been stirred by its testimony. Perhaps the greatest affirmation of the significance of Years of Infamy was in its (and your) fundamental role in what must surely be the greatest civil rights effort by Nikkei--the successful drive for redress and reparations.

I stand corrected. I apologize to you and thank you for having written Years of Infamy.

Sincerely,

Gary Y. Okihiro
Visiting Associate Professor