

## 'Years of Infamy' Author Gets Honorary Degree

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — Mount Holyoke College conferred an honorary doctorate of letters on Michi Weglyn, author of *Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps*, on May 22.

Weglyn, a prominent Japanese American author and activist, formerly a theatrical costume designer for television and Broadway, was honored at the college's 157th commencement.

Exactly 50 years after a group of Quakers and concerned educators enabled Weglyn to leave an Arizona "relocation center" to attend Mount Holyoke, where she was offered a full scholarship, she returned to South Hadley to be honored for her diligent research regarding the wartime internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans.

"I am thrilled that Mount Holyoke College is placing its imprimatur on my research," she said prior to the ceremony. "It is wonderful that institutions of higher learning recognize and support the search for truth



MICHI WEGLYN

and justice."

As a former internee, Weglyn had a particular interest in dis-

covering the details behind the government's actions. Her book, published after years of painstaking research, helped inspire Japanese Americans to seek redress. After a 10-year battle, they succeeded in convincing Congress to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which authorized a payment of \$20,000 to those who had been interned.

More important, says Weglyn, the law restored honor to Japanese Americans. Today, Weglyn, whose groundbreaking account of the episode is regarded by many as the "bible" of the redress movement, continues to advise other groups seeking redress from the government.

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