



The real story. Japanese American History told by those who lived it.

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NEWS RELEASE
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Ted Miyamoto's "Talk Story"

Nikkei Writers Guild published its first book, "*Wolfhound Samurai*" by Vincent H. Okamoto in November 2008. The book gained a lot of attention in the Nikkei community and quickly became a popular seller for the publisher. Also, around this time in Hawaii, Ted Miyamoto was working on his childhood memoirs and needed to find a publisher. Ted had received numerous rejections and was growing frustrated with the publishing industry who did not seem interested in Nisei stories. Ted mentioned his search for a publisher to a group of Korean War veterans who regularly meet at Like Like Drive-In (Honolulu) every Tuesday for breakfast. One of the veterans, mentioned that he knew a "kotonk" girl who had a publishing company; he was referring to Susan Uyemura, CEO of Japanese American Living Legacy. Ted contacted Uyemura regarding Nikkei Writers Guild and his memoirs.

Uyemura recalls, "Ted telephoned me and explained his situation. I told him I would be happy to meet with him on my next research trip to Hawaii." It was March 2009. "Ted was diagnosed with leukemia just a week before my arrival and given just four months to live. However, through his entire ordeal Ted always maintained a positive attitude. He would persevere for as long as he possibly could."

Ted Miyamoto's book title originally read "Omoide." Nikkei Writers Guild encouraged Ted to change the name to Talk Story because the premise of the book centered around his childhood memories growing up on a Hawaiian sugar plantation. Ted felt that many Hawaiians have never heard about the time period covered in his memoirs; he wanted his children and others to know his "plantation childhood experience."

It became a desperate rush for Nikkei Writers Guild to get Miyamoto's book done. Delays and unforeseen issues that occur when working with an all volunteer crew delayed the book so Nikkei Writers Guild asked Mr. Sonny Abalos from Phase II Graphics to volunteer his services to get the book done as soon as possible. Abalos, with over 30 years of design experience, finished laying out the book in less than six weeks. Abalos worked very closely with Ted and his wife Joyce to make sure that the book had the look that Ted wanted.

The book was sent to J and L Press in Glendale, California in March 2010. John and Mark Iwakiri worked with Nikkei Writers Guild to get *Talk Story* done as soon as possible. Time was running out, but no one was aware of how little time was left.

Uyemura went to Hawaii shortly thereafter to deliver the finished book to Ted. Ted and his wife Joyce were grateful that Nikkei Writers Guild was able to publish this book.

Ted Miyamoto died on April 12, 2010 at Queens Hospital in Hawaii. His wife, children and family were with him. His suffering was finally over. Ted would never attend a book signing, never see a single copy of his book sold, but he did live long enough to see his book published. Hopefully holding his book in his hands brought him some peace.

Ted's memorial service was held at Schofield on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

"Talk Story" by Ted Miyamoto will now be released posthumously in honor of his memory, available online at www.jalivinglegacy.org under the Nikkei Writers Guild link.

Japanese American Living Legacy is a California nonprofit (501.c.3) organization based out of California State University, Fullerton. All of the board of directors, staff and advisors are volunteers. For more information on Japanese American Living Legacy, please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (657) 278-4483.

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