The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Our Mission

In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection

Elizabeth J. “Betty” Levine

Betty majored in chemistry. She began her career as a chemist. I took chemistry, and I learned that I didn’t need to take anymore chemistry. It wasn’t my thing. Betty understood chemistry, and I don’t understand. What I do understand is that I have, and you have, something in common with Betty. We are made up of all the same elements. We are oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus. Red, yellow, black, and white, male and female, Jew and Gentile, we hold these things in common. Chemistry is the study of matter, and I think it may hold an element of what really matters.

At least, I would say that it mattered to Betty. I get a sense from listening to Reed, Sybil, and Sam that Betty had a sense of the big picture of life, because she understood the small picture.

The psalmist writes, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Here is the knitting together of atoms and elements, solids, liquids, and gases. No one wants to be looked at under a microscope, every detail of our life in view. There are some things we’d rather not see or say. But take out the electron microscope, and then you’re seeing something that matters. We are all the same substance - solids, liquids, and gases.

Now I know you could say that some of us are more solid than others. Some of us surely have more gas. Some have hearts of gold. Some have lead feet. Some have magnetic personalities. Some are brilliant. Betty was brilliant. She understood chemistry, and she mixed it in with a bit of psychology. Chemistry and psychology? As if she was trying to understand how it is we live and move and have our being.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.

To know. The quest is to understand what is, and why we are here. And why does this happen and not that; why do we say the things we say and do the things we do. Life is a great mystery. We are what our genes tell us to be. We are how the world has shaped us. Betty said, “I want to understand such things.”

I learned that she grew up in Lewistown, PA. I learned that her father had fought in World War I. He fought in the trenches. His lungs were burned, because he was chemically gassed. If you remember your chemistry, you remember that in a chemical reaction, nothing is lost, it’s only rearranged. What happens when your dad still carries the war in his lungs and in his heart? Your life gets rearranged.

You see what I’m saying? In order to understand the big picture, you need to see the small details. You see the atoms and the elements, and how it is we live together.

She was the first in her family to go to college. Sam, Reed and Sybil said, “She loved order.” Of course she loved order; she majored in chemistry, a study of great order. Oxygen will bond with hydrogen, but oil and water won’t mix. Don’t even try. She loved order. “The forks go here. The knives go there.” “The coat in the closet.” “The shoes are outside the door.” This is how you do things, so that nothing gets lost. It makes a lot of sense; but to be honest, order is lost on me. Come to my office, and I’ll show you my desk. Betty would have me straightened out in no time! Now where was I? Oh yes, lost and found - order.

They said, “She loved music.” Music: order and progression; motions and movements; harmony and dissonance. There is order.

She loved Sol, a Jewish man from Boston. She wasn’t Jewish; he wasn’t Christian. The culture said, “That was out of order.” But that’s the way some folks react. It wasn’t lost on Betty and Sol.

But if you knew the science, the chemistry, you would see that we’re all the same. If you knew the story of Jew and Christian alike, you’d remember that God took a handful of dirt (carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, calcium), and out of dirt came Jew and Gentile; Muslim; atheist; agnostic; and humanist. You get people. Our story is that God made all things, and all things are good.

Betty and Sol could see that, and they fell in love. Fell in love. He was shopped off to war. He flew over Hiroshima the day after it was hit by an atomic bomb. Do you get the picture? The big picture? Atomic bombs and a dad who was gassed in the war. You live through this horror, and you have this reaction. Nothing is lost on you; it’s all just rearranged. They looked for order.

They came back from the war and tried to put the pieces together - Japanese studies, international studies. If we could only learn... He taught; she taught. They learned what was important: In a world gone mad, maybe we should begin to understand one another. That we all love to laugh, cry, dance, drink, enjoy, travel and see the world. See the snow-covered peak. See the wave crash upon the shore. Find the sound the wind makes at a Shinto shrine in Hiroshima.

They traveled the same path together. Through the years, through dark valleys, some days are tough. They traveled the path together. Up the hill to the green pastures, some days are really good. All the elements come together to make for a really good day. The really good days you put in your pocket, and you hold on to them.

You raise a family. She said, “If there’s one thing I know it is that I have four great kids.” She said, “I have four great kids.” She said, “You’re great!”

Sam can make music. Reed can make music. Sybil can make music. Betty loved the music. If we could just make music... She played percussion. She pounded the streets for civil rights. She pounded the streets for civil rights. She pounded the glass ceiling, hoping people would see that a woman can offer as much, or more, to the world as a man.

What do you suppose the reaction was? It was often less than brilliant. Sometimes it takes a while for the rest of the world to catch up to brilliance. Sometimes you run out of time.

But God knows that she was wonderfully and fearfully made.

In these last days, she lost her memory. Sybil said, “I sat next to my grandmother.” She stayed with her grandmother in those last days. Betty had lost her memory, but together she and
Sybil found a story. Granddaughter and grandmother found a story. It went like this, “You see, there was this field of green, and we walked upon it together. There the path changed to cobblestone, and there came to us a golden gate. It was only about so high, and on the gate was ivy.” Do you see the picture? Do you know what happens when the gate opens? You go. You stay.

And Sybil said, “When my grandmother was no longer, the nurse (this woman who had also cared for her, too) came in, and I said, ‘Sing something.’” And in richness of tone, this dark-skinned woman from some land far away, this woman with whom we have nothing in common, except these elements of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen; this woman we have nothing in common, except that she cares, she cries; she feels, she knows our story; this woman with a rich and passionate voice began to sing:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Thou didst bid me rise, to conquer and subdue,
And fearfully made. You bring to this world something that no one has ever brought to this world before. Thank you, Sam, Reed, and Sybil, for what you bring to this world. You bring your song with gentleness. You bring this hope that we might all get along. Thank you that you loved your mother, your grandmother. She lost her memory, but you remember.

You all who are gathered here in this space remembered. It is in times like these that we need one another. This is the way we react, and nothing is lost. We are all rearranged into these bonds of hope, love, and healing. It is good chemistry. It is the work of God.

The Reverend Dr. Donovan Allan Drake, Pastor Westminster Presbyterian Church
Nashville, TN, June 18, 2014

[Ed. Note: The Levine family provided this remarkable homily, which is included here for its additional information on Sol and Betty Levine.]

CHESTER, Theodore A. JLS 1944


Ted attended Stanford University where he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity and graduated Phi Beta Kappa as part of the "great class of '41." Immediately after college, Ted and his good friend and eventual long-time law partner, Robert M. Newell, attended and graduated from the Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado. Ted was initially stationed in Pearl Harbor, and later was part of the capture of Iwo Jima Island as a Navy intelligence officer and interpreter.

After the war, Ted graduated from Stanford Law School where he was awarded Order of the Coif, and moved to Los Angeles to establish a successful law partnership with Bob Newell. They practiced together for 42 years, and Ted fondly said they never had a "cross word" between them. At the beginning of their career, and for ten years, they both taught at Loyola Law School. There are many prominent lawyers in Los Angeles and elsewhere who recall Ted with great admiration and remember and apply the torts and sales law taught by him. Ted married Patricia Ridgway Chester, and his brother, Spencer T. Chester.


Ted attended Stanford University where he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity and graduated Phi Beta Kappa as part of the "great class of '41." Immediately after college, Ted and his good friend and eventual long-time law partner, Robert M. Newell, attended and graduated from the Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado. Ted was initially stationed in Pearl Harbor, and later was part of the capture of Iwo Jima Island as a Navy intelligence officer and interpreter.

After the war, Ted graduated from Stanford Law School where he was awarded Order of the Coif, and moved to Los Angeles to establish a successful law partnership with Bob Newell. They practiced together for 42 years, and Ted fondly said they never had a "cross word" between them. At the beginning of their career, and for ten years, they both taught at Loyola Law School. There are many prominent lawyers in Los Angeles and elsewhere who recall Ted with great admiration and remember and apply the torts and sales law taught by him. Ted married Patricia Ridgway Chester, and his brother, Spencer T. Chester.

Chester.

GEORGE L. CHESNUT OLS 1945 (Russian) 1917-2007

George Leoni Chesnut, Jr. died April 20, 2007 in Arlington, VA after a very brief illness. George Chesnut was an accomplished linguist, translator, a devout man. He loved, and sacrificed all for his family, and he was loved by all of them. Ted is survived by his wife Nancy, his five children, John Chester and his companion Claudia Browne, Julie Chester Wood and her husband Gerry Wood, Katie Chester Melnyk, Ted Chester, Jr. and his wife Karen Bertero, and Will Chester and his wife Kit Darrow, his 13 grandchildren, his six (with another on the way) great-grandchildren, and his dog Abe. He was predeceased by his wife, Patricia Ridgway Chester, and his brother, Spencer T. Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.

Chester.
Hayen of Rochester Hills, MI; his sister and brother-in-law, Rosemary and Jack Lamberty of Cicero, IL; and grandchildren Julie Shackett of Raleigh, NC, Kevin and Suzanne Hayen of Denver, CO, and Andrea, Allison and Adam Hayen of Rochester Hills; and many close family and friends in Chicago, Bristol and throughout the US. He was pre-deceased by his granddaughter, Jill Shackett of Bristol, on August 6, 2013.

Please visit Frank’s memorial website at www.FunkFuneralHome.com.

F. Hilary Conroy Papers Including 1972-1988
At the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Francis Hilary Conroy [OLS 1945], a Professor Emeritus of history at the University of Pennsylvania, has written extensively on Asian American history, with a focus on Asian immigration to the United States. The collection contains materials from Conroy's teaching and research files, and includes correspondence, essay papers, newspaper clippings and miscellaneous printed materials from various Asian American and historical associations.

Francis Hilary Conroy was born in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1919. He began his formal education at Northwestern University, earning a B.S. in 1941, and continued at the University of California, where he earned an M.A. in 1942 and a Ph.D. in 1949. After completing his dissertation he began an extensive teaching career, first as a Lecturer of Far Eastern History at the University of California, and two years later as a Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He continued at Penn. until his retirement in 1990, whereupon he was elected Professor Emeritus.


The papers of F. Hilary Conroy consist of sundry material from his teaching and research files, including but not limited to correspondence (1972-1985), newspaper clippings (1972-1988), and various publications from Asian American associations, such as the Asian American Council of Greater Philadelphia, the Association for Asian Studies, the Interagency Task Force on Indochina Refugees, and the Center for Migration Studies.

There are also numerous essays written by students of Conroy while he was a Professor at Penn. His correspondence reveals that these essays were of particular interest to Conroy and were filed for his future reference. The essays are written on various topics in Asian History, such as, Chinese Influence in Indonesia, 1964-1965, The Asian-American Quandary: Combating Discrimination, Curbing Organized Crime, and Citizen Participation in New York's Chinatown With a Focus on the Housing and Healthcare Issues. Drafts of essays written by Conroy can be found in the second box of the collection and include book reviews and papers pertaining to the Asian American experience. There is also roll of microfilm containing records in the collections of the Archives of Hawaii concerning Japanese immigration in the late nineteenth century.

Patrick Shea
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
http://www2.hsp.org/collections/manuscripts/conroy3018.htm

KRUCKEBECK BOTANIC GARDEN HISTORY

The Kruckebek Botanic Garden was founded in 1958 when Dr. Art Kruckebek [JLS 1944] and his wife Mareen moved to a 4-acre farmhouse in Shoreline. Over the ensuing decades they created the Garden, growing nearly every plant from seed or cutting.

Art and Mareen took an informal, naturalistic approach to design, combining Northwest native plants with unusual and rarely cultivated species collected from the West coast and around the world. The result is a unique Puget Sound woodland garden.

THE GARDEN FOUNDERS
Dr. Arthur R. Kruckebek, a professor emeritus of Botany at the University of Washington. At age 90, he still lives in the house and often can be found working in the Garden or discussing plants with visitors. Mareen S. Kruckebek, who lived to be 77 and passed away in 2003, was a self-taught botanist who founded the onsite MsK Nursery.

Both Art and Mareen Kruckebek were active with local horticultural societies and helped form several that are still active today, such as the Washington Native Plant Society, the Hardy Fern Foundation, the Northwest Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society and the Northwest Horticultural Society. They collaborated on the creation of Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest, a classic gardening guide, named one of the top 50 gardening books of all time by the American Horticultural Society.

The legacy of these two horticultural icons, like the roots of a tree, spread powerfully into the soil and psyche of the Pacific Northwest. The botanical richness of their Garden is a living expression of their generous and abundantly creative lives.

Arthur Rice Kruckebek was born March 21, 1920, the first day of spring, in Los Angeles. His grandfather and father owned and operated Kruckebek Press, a printing business that specialized in horticultural matters. In 1941 Arthur graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Occidental College with a B.A. in biology, then went on to graduate school at Stanford. He was married in 1942 to Lyle Elayne Moore, with whom he had three children. His academic career was interrupted by WWII; from 1942-46 he served as an officer in naval intelligence.

After training in the Japanese language, he served in the Pacific Fleet, interrogating prisoners during the Philippines campaign and serving as interpreter in Japan and the Marianas Islands after hostilities had ended.

Art returned to graduate studies in 1946, this time at the University of California, Berkeley, with its strong botany program. By 1950 he had earned a Ph.D. in botany. That same year Dr. Kruckebek began a long and distinguished career on the faculty of the University of Washington, where his major interests were in regional floras and vegetation on unusual substrates. He retired from the UW in 1989 as Professor Emeritus of Botany. He has accomplished much professionally, including publishing six books: Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest (1982); California Serpentes: Flora, Vegetation, Geology, Soils, and Management Problems (1984); The Natural History of Puget Sound Country (1991); Geology and Plant Life: The Effects of Landforms and Rock Types on Plants (2002); Best Wildflower Hikes (2004); and Introduction to California Soils and Plants: Serpentine, Vernal Pools, and Other Geobotanical Wonders (2006). He is a co-founder of the Washington Native Plant Society.

Mareen Schultz Kruckebek was born January 10, 1925, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Mareen passed away on January 1, 2003. She moved to Washington State as a child. Separated from her birth family at age five, she was adopted at age eight and grew up in West Seattle. An early interest in plants arose during trips with her mother and aunt to such places as Mt. Rainier and Olympic Hot Springs, and that interest was cultivated by the attention of park rangers to a bright and inquisitive youngster. After finishing high school in 1942, Mareen worked for the U.S. Army in Alaska for five years, at the University of Alaska.

Mareen entered the University of Washington in 1951. Her initial interest was in trees, which
necessitated prerequisite studies in basic botany. Art knew Mareen as a student, and she distinguished herself academically on a summer field trip he led in 1952. Art and Mareen were married in 1953, a year after he was left a widower and father following the untimely death of his first wife. The new responsibility for raising three young children made it impossible for Mareen to continue at the University, but her interest in botany and horticulture continued to grow.

THE GARDEN BEGINS

The Kruckeberg family grew to six in 1957 with the birth of Mareen’s first child, and soon they were looking for more living and gardening space than was afforded by their Capitol Hill home. Mareen discovered property for sale in Richmond Beach, about two miles uphill from Puget Sound. In love with the potential of the property for a garden, legend has it that she agreed to buy without even looking at the house itself. Mareen and Art’s new purchase was about one acre in area, with a two-story house and a separate two-car garage. The house had been built in about 1904 as a farmhouse, then remodeled in 1938. The first settlers had arrived in Richmond Beach only about 70 years before, and in the late 1950s the property on 15th Avenue NW was still more rural than suburban, with much nearby pasture land and even a log cabin to the east. Old, late-successional Douglas fir dominated much of the landscape. It was a place where Art and Mareen could realize a shared, passionate ambition to create a garden in which the native landscape would be preserved, but complemented with rare and unusual woody and herbaceous plants from other lands.

Mareen’s father, Grandpa Schultz, soon purchased the property that bordered Art and Mareen’s acre to the east. That land, mostly lower lying, had been a strawberry field, and it wasn’t long before it became pasture for the children’s horses. In 1963 a fifth child joined the Kruckeberg family. In the 1960s the original farmhouse was remodeled again, and Grandpa Schultz converted the garage into a cozy cottage for his wife and himself.

Mareen’s interest in plants led to construction of her first greenhouse, completed in 1970. By then she was known in horticultural circles as an expert in growing and caring for plants, both native and exotic. When Mareen realized that the occasional sale of plants to friends and neighbors was “extra-legal,” MsK Rare Plant Nursery was born and certified with a business license for which she paid the grand sum of $1.00. A second greenhouse was added in January 1976, and the Nursery continued to grow and thrive. Meanwhile, both Art and Mareen had been busy introducing a wide variety of trees, shrubs and herbs to the property, including the lower pasture after the family interest in horses subsided. They brought some plants with them in 1958, including a four-foot giant sequoia tree. Generally, though, growth of the garden depended less on collecting than on cuttings and seed from their own established plants and seed from various botanic gardens and seed exchanges. The resulting landscape is a mix of native species with choice specimens from other lands, mostly China and Japan. The fruit of the Kruckeberg’s labor is a park-like botanic garden that, almost 50 years later, has gained regional significance.

THE GARDEN PRESERVED

In 1998, friends and neighbors formed the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation (KBF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the Garden and providing assistance with maintenance and events. On October 14, 2003, Art Kruckeberg signed a Grant Deed of Conservation Easement that protects the property in perpetuity from development. Susan Dunn signed on behalf of the E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust, formalizing the Trust’s acceptance of responsibility as Donee to oversee compliance with terms of the Easement. Cascade Land Conservancy is the Easement’s co-Donee.

The citizens of Shoreline approved a Parks, Open Space and Trails bond in 2006, which enabled the City of Shoreline to purchase the Garden from Art Kruckeberg in January 2008. The KBF and the City have formed a partnership charging the Foundation with running the Garden and the on-site MsK Nursery.

THE FUTURE GARDEN

In 2009, the City of Shoreline hired a consultant to work with city staff, local citizens, and the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden Foundation to create a 20-30 year Master Plan for the Garden. The plan was finished in fall of 2010. For information on the master planning process, please visit the City of Shoreline.

http://www.kruckeberg.org/about/history

James C. Adams 1945

ADAMS James Clifford, 96, of Clifton NJ formerly of New York City, NY and Beach Haven, NJ died peacefully on June 12th. at the Hospice of New Jersey Wayne. He graduated from New York University Summa Cum Laude in 1935 receiving his BS degree, he then graduated from Harvard Law School in 1938. He served his country during World War II in the United States Navy. After the war he was an Attorney for the Office of General Council of the Department of the Navy, Regional Council for the North East Region, Staten Island, NY from 1946-1982 when he retired. He was Past President of the Webster’s Lagoons Assoc of Beach Haven, NJ the Beach Haven Exchange Club and the Jewish Community Center of Long Beach Island, NJ. He was a member of the American Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. He is survived by his wife Ruth of 71 years nee Richmond, his son Dr. David James Adams wife Stephanie of Bal Harbor, FL, Daughter Judith Ellen Anderson, husband Daniel of Bloomfield, NJ three grandchildren David Scott Adams, Keith Anthony Adams and Evan Jay Anderson one great-granddaughter Willa A. Adams.

See more at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/northjersey/obituary.aspx?n=James-Adams&pid=151912174#showольз

Donald Lyndon Allyn (1920-2006)

Donald Lyndon Allyn, 86, of Lacey died of a stroke December 8, 2006 in Lacey. He was born May 25, 1920 and was raised in Madison Lake, Minn. His parents were Glenn and Helen (Nelson). He graduated from Minnesota State Teachers College in Mankato, Minn. He went on to attend the University of Washington, graduating in 1942 with a master’s degree. He enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and served in Asia. He was a teacher at Peninsula High School for 20 years before retiring in 1980. He was also the associate editor for the Navy Yard Salute in Bremerton in the 1940s. He was a member of the Northwest Native Plant Society, the Puget Sound Orchid Society and the Hermit Society.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Bonnie Kincaid; and his brother, Kenneth Allyn.

Recent, or Recently Found Losses:

David Hays
Archives
University of Colorado at Boulder
184 UCB
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0184
Phone (303) 492-7242
Fax (303) 492-3960
Email: arv@colorado.edu