

December 13, 1992

Dear Mrs. Kochiyama,

I can not thank you enough for allowing me to enter your home to interview you. I had a marvelous time, and I have been busy writing an account of my experience with you, as a biographical narrative.

I have enclosed two books that you may be interested in that were on the syllabus of my Women's Studies course. Ready from Within is an inspirational account of Septima Clark, a less well-known but extremely influential civil rights activist and educator. I am also sending you This Bridge Called My Back - an anthology of writings by women of color that includes two pieces by your recent guest, Mitsuye Yamada.

Happy Holidays, and I hope you enjoy them! ☺

I have told Professor Peter Kwong to get in touch with you - I hope he has done so.

I am still looking for information on the Korean hero you mentioned, Ahn. I am also busy compiling a list of Korean history texts for you - there are quite

a few, but some of them are boring or propagandistic. I will send you a list as soon as possible.

I have also told the Asian American Students Association Political Action Committee here at Yale about the David Wong case, but unfortunately right now, the entire student population is preoccupied with studying for final exams. I'm sorry - it's hard to mobilize the student community right now. I don't think that any fundraising will take place until January (next semester). I promise that in January I will personally organize this event/campaign.

Finally, I would like to ask you if I can interview you further in order to write a more complete biography of yourself. I know that your life and the contributions you have made to the world struggle MUST be documented. To quote from Gayle Jones' Corregidora:

"I'm leaving evidence. And you got to leave evidence too. And your children got to leave evidence.... They burned all the documents.... We got to burn out what they put in our minds, like you burn out a wound. Except we got to keep what we need to bear witness. That scar that's left to bear witness. We got to keep it as visible as our blood." (pp. 14, 72)

I ask you as a student activist and as someone who is committed to the struggle to consider this project of your biography.

I have received a grant from Yale to help cover the cost of transportation, so that I can visit you often next semester. I have ~~an~~ advisers in the American Studies and Women's Studies Departments for this project. Of course, Professor Peter Kwong will probably also be an informal adviser.

Please consider this proposition seriously.

As soon as I finish ^{writing} my brief biographical account of our interview, I will send it to you.

Thank you again for your time, and I will talk or write to you again very soon! ☺

All things good,

Mia Chung

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[I will be in CA from Dec. 19th → Jan. 10th.]