

## WALTER WEGLYN

Walter Matthys Weglyn (born Weglein) was born on March 7, 1926, in Ulm, Germany. He was the youngest of two sons of Resi and Siegmund Weglein. He spent his childhood years from 1939 to 1945 in Holland, having been sent there on a kindertransport by his parents to escape Nazi Germany. After the war, he got a job with Polak & Schwartz, a perfume company in Holland, and he eventually moved to New York City when the company merged with International Flavors and Fragrances (IFF). In 1948, he met Michi Nishiura at the International House in New York City when he was visiting a Dutch friend who was living there at the time. They were married on March 5, 1950, at the Washington, D.C. home of Dr. A.H. Philipse, who was a Dutch ambassador whose family had hid him during the war. Michi and Walter were married until his death in 1995. They had no children.

***The following is the 1995 obituary on Walter Weglyn, written by family friends Paul Tsuneishi and Frank Chin:***



Walter M. Weglyn, husband of Michi Weglyn (*Years of Infamy*) died on August 22, 1995, at the age of 69.

Following the Kristalnacht programme in 1939, Walter, then 12 years old, secured the last space on a transport of 2,000 Jewish children accepted by Holland at a special children's camp in Rotterdam.



Walter Weglyn, age 12.

With Hitler's conquest of the Lowlands, few of the children survived the aerial bombings. Luckily, Walter had been taken from the camp by a wealthy Jewish industrialist and given sanctuary, but his benefactor was killed, and Walter fled from shelter—eleven in all. After the war, he found out that he and one other child were the only ones

of the 2,000 who survived the war. In *What Evils Men Do* (by Harvey Shapiro, published by Julian Messner), Walter's wartime odyssey is included with Anne Frank's story as well as others who experienced the Holocaust.



Clockwise: Henry (Walter's only sibling), Resi, and Sigmund Weglein, ca. 1945

Walter's parents were interned at the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, but survived the war. His mother's memoir (ed. Lechner and Moos) was published by her hometown of Ulm as a fiftieth anniversary commemorative. It received widespread publicity in Germany, and has received high praise in reviews, including a scholarly review by a University of Nebraska expert on the Holocaust.

Walter Weglyn had retired in 1988 as a creator of perfumes for International Flavors and Fragrances. Throughout the years, he has given full support and assistance to his wife's research and writing efforts. According to Michi, "He forced me to persist in finishing *Years of Infamy* which exposes the damning indictment against Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his lackeys, even when it became obvious that no publisher would touch the manuscript. He considered it my life mission and would not let me give up."



Michi and Walter Weglyn, Seabrook Reunion, 1992.

loved James Omura's challenge to the Tolan Committee in 1942: "Has the Gestapo come to America?" He was passionately committed to others who were disadvantaged or suffering oppression everywhere. He shared his wife's zeal in Asian American civil rights issues and gave much support to the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee and all resisters of conscience in the WWII concentration camps for Nikkei. He shared his wife's determination on other issues such as redress for Peruvian kidnapes, railroad and mine workers, and other Japanese Americans who were domiciled within the Western Defense Command prior to the issuance of Proclamation number two which ousted them from this area.