WORLD WAR II VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP HAGAMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY 203-468-3890 227 MAIN ST. EAST HAVEN, CT 06512

# Valentine's

# February 2014

Our next meeting will be on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>February 26th at 2:00 pm</u> in the Hagaman Library DeMayo Community Room.

This month, Amy Radivoy, LMHC, of the Vet Center on Captain Thomas Boulevard in West Haven, will



talk to our group about the Vet Center and her experiences in social services. Before her Federal career, she worked for various social service programs including working as a counselor for the U.S. Navy in Rota, Spain and at

Radivoy U.S. Navy in Rota, Spain and at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She moved to Connecticut in 2003 and started working as a Readjustment Counselor at the New Haven Veterans Center. In 2007 she was promoted to Supervisory Counselor. The Vet Center has gone from 4 full time staff to 10. They have been located in West Haven for more than 20 years. This spring they will be relocating to Orange to a larger, updated facility.

<u>DID YOU KNOW</u>? American folk music icon **PETE SEEGER** served in the United States Army during World War II. He entered service in 1942 and was trained as an aircraft mechanic. While stationed in the

Pacific his musical talent was noticed and he was reassigned to entertaining the troops. Discharged as a corporal in 1945, Seeger inspired many for decades toward working for social justice. He died on January 27, 2014 at age 94.



Above: Pete Seeger entertaining Eleanor Roosevelt for Valentine's Day 1944.



Above: Pete Seeger entertaining during World War II.

#### Valentine's Day in World War II

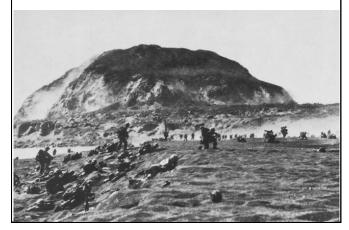


February 1943 - US service personnel in Britain choose Valentine's cards for their sweethearts back home.

#### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Esposito 2/5 Vincenza Vergati 2/24

#### February 19, 1945—The Battle of Iwo Jima Began



#### SONGS WE'LL SING IN FEBRUARY

THREE LITTLE FISHIES YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE YES, SIR, THAT'S MY BABY IF I HAD A HAMMER

## "If there's something wrong, speak up!" — Pete Seeger

### Japan WWII Soldier Who Held Out 29 Years in Jungle Until 1974 Dies

Philippine jungle for three decades, dents and occasionally fighting with officer visited him in his jungle hiderefusing to believe World War II Philippine forces, although one of out to rescind the original order, that was over until his former com- them died soon afterwards. Tokyo Onoda's war eventually ended. mander returned from Japan and declared them dead after nine years ordered him to surrender, died in of fruitless search. However, in Tokyo on January 16th at age 91. 1972, Onoda and the other surviving

**Onoda in WWII** 

tactics coach, Onoda was dispatched were the work of a puppet regime Philippine jungle March 19, 1974 after to Lubang, Philippines in 1944 and installed in Tokyo by the United his surrender. resort to suicidal attacks and to hold country in newspapers that searchers became widely known in 1950, long years of the Vietnam war also and returned to Japan. The others joined was still being played out

Hiroo Onoda soldier got involved in a shoot-out was an Imperial with Philippine troops. His comrade Japanese Army died, but Onoda managed to escape. intelligence offi- The incident caused a sensation in cer who held the Japan, which took his family memrank of Second bers to Lubang in the hope of per-Lieutenant. suading him that hostilities were Trained as an over. Onoda later explained he had information officer and guerrilla believed attempts to coax him out Hiroo Onoda being led out of the ordered never to surrender, never to States. He read about his home firm until reinforcements arrived deliberately scattered in the jungle He and three other soldiers contin- for him to find, but dismissed their ued to obey that order long after content as propaganda. The regular Japan's 1945 defeat. Their existence overflight by US planes during the when one of their number emerged convinced him that the battle he had continued to survey military facili- across Asia. It was not until 1974, Ferdinand Marcos in 1974.

A Japanese soldier who hid in the ties in the area, attacking local resi- when his World War II commanding





Lieutenant Onoda surrendering his sword to Philippine president

### WORLD WAR II POSTER



#### LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Arnie Pritchard brilliantly recited the World War II letters of his father, Tony Pritchard, who served in Europe during the war. The letters showed us the personal feelings and experiences of his father up close, and gave us a real appreciation for the service of combat troops during the war.





Left: Arnie Pritchard at January's meeting. Above: One of Tony Pritchard's World War II letters sent home.