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



February 2014

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 26th at 2:00 pm 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 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.



Radivoy

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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



DID YOU KNOW? 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.

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

GEM OF THE MONTH:**"If there's something wrong, speak up!" — Pete Seeger****Japan WWII Soldier Who Held Out 29 Years in Jungle Until 1974 Dies**

A Japanese soldier who hid in the Philippine jungle for three decades, refusing to believe World War II was over until his former commander returned from Japan and ordered him to surrender, died in Tokyo on January 16th at age 91.

**Onoda in WWII**

Trained as an information officer and guerrilla tactics coach, Onoda was dispatched to Lubang, Philippines in 1944 and ordered never to surrender, never to resort to suicidal attacks and to hold firm until reinforcements arrived. He and three other soldiers continued to obey that order long after Japan's 1945 defeat. Their existence became widely known in 1950, when one of their number emerged and returned to Japan. The others continued to survey military faci-

ties in the area, attacking local residents and occasionally fighting with Philippine forces, although one of them died soon afterwards. Tokyo declared them dead after nine years of fruitless search. However, in 1972, Onoda and the other surviving soldier got involved in a shoot-out with Philippine troops. His comrade died, but Onoda managed to escape. The incident caused a sensation in Japan, which took his family members to Lubang in the hope of persuading him that hostilities were over. Onoda later explained he had believed attempts to coax him out were the work of a puppet regime installed in Tokyo by the United States. He read about his home country in newspapers that searchers deliberately scattered in the jungle for him to find, but dismissed their content as propaganda. The regular overflight by US planes during the long years of the Vietnam war also convinced him that the battle he had joined was still being played out across Asia. It was not until 1974,

when his World War II commanding officer visited him in his jungle hide-out to rescind the original order, that Onoda's war eventually ended.

Source: AFP

**Hiroo Onoda being led out of the Philippine jungle March 19, 1974 after his surrender.****Lieutenant Onoda surrendering his sword to Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos in 1974.****WORLD WAR II POSTER****Food**

- 1 - buy it with thought
- 2 - cook it with care
- 3 - serve just enough
- 4 - save what will keep
- 5 - eat what would spoil
- 6 - home-grown is best

don't waste it**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.