

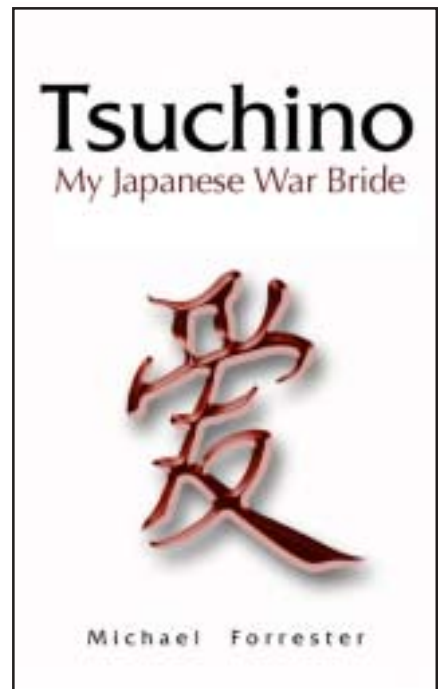
Christmas 2004



Once more a busy year is almost over. It is hard to believe that it soon will be the year 2005. As I look at the calendar I am starting to feel my age.



This year has been busier than most. One of the most significant events so far is that my book has finally been published. A copy of the cover of the book is shown here. The kanji is the symbol for love. The book is being published by American Book Publishing of Salt Lake City, Utah and it should be in the book stores by January. Since there are over 60,000 new book titles published each year, not all book stores may have it on their shelves. You can order the book from any book store by using its ISBN number which is ISBN 1-58982-225-0. The book is also available on the Internet. Go to www.tsuchino.com. Tell all your friends about the book.



In October the Nikkei International Marriage Society had their fifth worldwide convention in Hawaii. Tsuchino is the vice-president of this organization so we had to attend. Since this is going to be the last worldwide convention, the women are getting up in age so the number of attendees has dropped to about half of what we had at the first convention, Tsuchino and I decided to make a long vacation of it. We invited her younger sister to meet us in Hawaii and tour the islands with us. Miyako and her late husbands brother and his wife meet us at Honolulu International Airport and we immediately flew to Hilo on the Island of Hawaii. We spent 3 nights in Hilo and then flew to Kauai. We spent 2 nights in a condo on Kauai and then went to Honolulu for the convention. We spent 10 days in the islands and should have stayed a couple of more. So far I have toured all the Islands except Molokai and we should have taken a few more days to visit it.



In September we had quite a surprise from a health stand point. In mid August Tsuchino started complaining about a heaviness in her shoulders. Our family doctor scheduled her for a stress test, which she passed. The cardiologist recommended that she have an echo stress test since he was not fully satisfied with the results. She was scheduled for the test on November 1st. She was



given nitroglycerin patches to wear during the day and nitroglycerin pills in case she needed them. The patches worked well and she had no more problems.

About 2 weeks before the scheduled date of the test she woke me at 2 am in the morning and said that her shoulders and back felt heavy. I gave her a nitro pill and in about 3 minutes she was fine. This troubled me since she had passed her stress test and when resting she should not have had any symptoms. I decided to take her to the emergency room at Group Health our HMO. Since she was now feeling fine she was reluctant to go. I told her if she did not go I would call 911 and they would come with their lights flashing. This convinced her to let me drive her to the ER.

When we got to the ER they ran a bunch of test and could find nothing wrong. The ER was staffed by a nice young woman doctor who said that females were often under-diagnosed for heart problems and that she wanted to keep Tsuchino overnight in their rapid care unit and refer her to the cardiologist in the morning. To make a long story short this decision saved Tsuchino's life. The cardiologist recommended an angiogram and she would remain in the hospital until after the angiogram which was scheduled for the next day. The angiogram showed that the main artery of her heart was over 90% closed and she even had 3 heart attacks the night before the test even though they had her on a heparin IV which should have prevented any attacks. She had an emergency angioplasty and a stent was placed in her heart. Three weeks later we went on our trip to Hawaii. After we got back from our trip we learned about the Vioxx recall. Tsuchino was on vioxx for about 2 years during the time she was having her hip problems. I am now wondering if Tsuchino's problem was caused by the vioxx and if we will have more problems in the future.

Our niece Miwako and Her husband Matthew stopped in Seattle for a week on their way to Ohio to visit Matthew's parents. They were bringing their new son Andrew to meet his grandparents. Here is a picture of Andrew with Tamiko and Mika taken during a visit to Tamiko's house. Andrew was a joy to be around. He is the happiest baby I have ever met.



Please send me your email address. I lost some email addresses when my previous laptop computer died, of



course if you receive this letter direct from me via email I still have your email address, use either of the web sites below to send me your email address. Just drop the www. and add mike@ before the web site name, or use Tsuchino1@comcast.net.

Tsuchino insisted that I replace the picture I have been using for the last couple of years to end this letter. So here is a recent picture of us taken for a year book at our church. Wishing you a happy and joyous Christmas.

Mike & Tsuchino