

Good News

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Children's book *The Other Side of The Pond* (hunger awareness) by Mel Hioki

Children's book author and illustrator of *The Other Side of the Pond*, Mel Hioki, grew up at Wesley United Methodist Church!

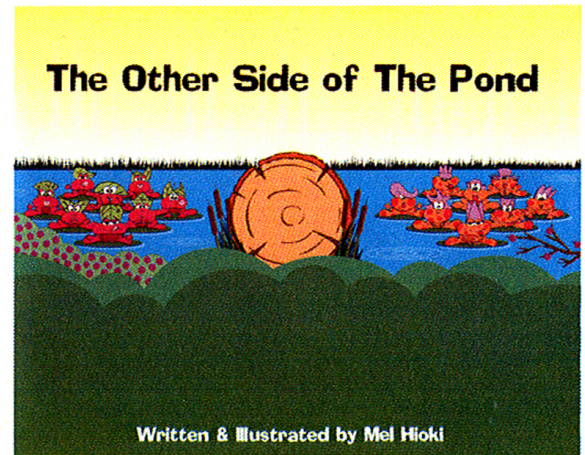
The writing of the book and the theme of the children's book is based on Mel Hioki's experience of volunteering at a soup kitchen through his participation in his church's community service work at the Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Englewood, New Jersey.

In a UM Conference newsletter of Greater New Jersey reporter Jessica Stenstrom quoted Mel Hioki who stated, "We prepared and served a meal for a soup kitchen that was on the other side of the highway. On the other side of the highway was a nice shopping mall. The big question for the people at the soup kitchen was where they were going to get their next meal? The big question for the people at the shopping mall was what they should buy or where they should eat?"

Reporter Stenstrom continued to write, "Hioki said he

couldn't get over the fact that the two locations were so close to each other, with people like himself, only divided by a highway. This became the basis for his book. The highway is the log, the soup kitchen is one community and the shopping mall is the other community. The two communities of frogs are alike except that one community has plenty of berries to eat and the other doesn't. With the log in the way they are separated from one another, until finally one master leap-frogger from each community is able to transcend the log and they learn about one another. The end result is a beaver crew removing the logs and a big party where all the food is shared among the frogs.

Mel Hioki wrote the book with the hope of creating hunger awareness for children and make them aware that hungry people in need may live right next door. Mel has donated three books to Wesley UMC. If anyone from Wesley UMC



would like to borrow one to read to their children, please ask Rev. Keith or Viki Inouye to borrow a copy.

The Other Side of the Pond can also be purchased at <<http://www.cumachecho.org/book.html>>.

The book costs \$20 with \$10 covering production costs and \$9 will benefit Cornerstone UMC. The final \$1 will be donated to Hackensack UMC where Rev. Eugene Kim is currently serving as pastor (Rev. Kim was the pastor that introduced Mel Hioki to the Outreach soup kitchen ministry).

Mel has dedicated his book to the memory of his sister Joyce who attended Sunday School and our Wesley UMC youth group. Congratulations to this Wesley UMC nurtured children's book author! It is a blessing to know Mel Hioki continues to grow in his faith and service!

Rev. Keith