

Yu-Yu Jiteki of America



Above, in a 2004 photo, **Shozo Usami** lectures, as he often does. He was born in Nagoya in 1934 and was educated at St. Paul's University and International Christian University, earning a BA in sociology and an MA in education. He was a Fulbright Scholar at New York University in the early 1960s. For a quarter of a century, he worked as a reporter, producer and senior researcher for NHK, Japan's major radio and TV broadcasting company. Next came a number of years at Joetsu University of Education's Graduate School, followed by 12 years as a humanities professor at Komazawa Women's University. Since retiring in early 2005, he has been lecturing part-time at Nihon University of Arts. Shozo and his wife Shizue live in Tokyo.

Shozo Usami, 1526-4, Ohtsuka, Hachiohji-shi, Tokyo 192-0352



With **Jackson Sellers** at a 2003 Tokyo luncheon, Shozo waves playfully at the camera as Jackson remains fixed on what the host was saying across the large round table. Jackson, a professional writer and editor for a half century, is a Kentuckian, born in 1931, but he can be considered an old Japan hand. As a naval officer, student and newspaperman, he spent most of his adult youth in that fascinating country, and then, as an old man, began vacationing at length in Japan and writing about Japanese history and culture. Newspapers for which he has worked include the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Asahi Evening News*, an English-language subsidiary of the giant *Asahi Shimbun*. Jackson and his wife Yoshi live in Southern California's Lake Forest.

Jackson Sellers, 22821 Loumont Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630
Tel: 949-768-2990

Jim Hayes has been a "word person" for most of his 80 years. His mother, a nurse who dreamed of being a writer, read to him before he could talk. His father, an Associated Press bureau chief, used wire copy to teach him to read. He left high school after Pearl Harbor, learned to write in the Navy and chronicled four Pacific invasions from the flag bridges of amphibious group command ships. After the war, he worked as a reporter and deskman for daily newspapers in six states, earning degrees at San Jose State College and the University of Florida. While on teaching assignments in Florida, Egypt, Arizona, Minnesota and California, he moonlighted for wire services and newspapers. In retirement, he worked as a writing coach for the AP and for newspaper, magazine, government, corporate and private clients from Alaska to Washington, D.C. He has been under contract to the *Los Angeles Times* since 1989. Jim and wife Ellen live in Los Osos on California's central coast.



Jim Hayes
1421 Las Encinas Dr.
Los Osos, CA 93402
Tel: 805-528-0984

Jim Hayes at Fanad Head lighthouse in Ireland's County Donegal. Photo by son Patrick Hayes.

Terry Sutherland is a retired Navy commander and Merchant Marine captain, a talented painter and the owner of a 30-acre “tree farm” in the Florida Panhandle. He and **Ensign Jack Sellers** were junior officers in the *USS Colahan*’s wardroom fifty years ago. At the time, Terry’s Naval Academy credentials were somewhat intimidating to young Jack with his mere USNR commission. Terry’s email address alone qualifies him for *Yu-Yu Jiteki* membership. It is *myqtfarm@earthlink.net*. “My Quiet Farm” as he calls the place — located miles and miles from anything civilized — smacks of *Yu-Yu Jiteki*. At right, Terry shows a gap-toothed smile beneath *Yu-Yu Jiteki* calligraphy in Jackson’s home workshop. The calligraphy was done by a prominent Tokyo artist and presented to Jackson by the Usami brothers, **Shozo** and **Masataka**, both of whom are extraordinarily helpful in Jackson’s efforts to understand Japan’s history and culture. Terry and wife Deanie live in Chipley, Florida.



Terry Sutherland
1632A Firetower Rd.
Chipley, FL 32428



Masataka Usami, Shozo’s elder brother, is the only *Yu-Yu Jiteki of America* member to play a character in a Japanese *manga* comic book. The book tells the 1960s-70s story of Datsun/Z-car marketing in the United States. A skilled engineer, Masa often got his hands dirty when a newly sold Datsun wouldn’t start in somebody’s driveway. He became chief engineer of wildly successful Nissan USA.



Masa Usami
38 Plaza Caloroso
San Juan Capistrano, CA
92675
Tel: 949-285-5145

Above, Masa with **Jackson Sellers** at a 2004 lunch on Santa Catalina Island. This was about the time when Masa fixed an ignition problem on Jackson’s old Datsun, using nothing but expertise and duct tape. It’s nice to have friends who know what they are doing. Masa and his wife Fusako live next to a golf course in California’s San Juan Capistrano.



Phil Jordan, 101 Washington Lane, Apt. M603
Jenkintown, PA 19046
Tel: 215-886-1429

Philip Jordan comes from an old Yorkshire family, born in the beautiful walled city of York, 200 miles north of London, but brought up, among other places, in the nearby city of Leeds (which makes him, in local parlance, both a “York ham” and a “Leeds loiner,” a loin being a cut of beef). Later, he migrated to London and became a reluctant occupant of the Surrey stockbroker belt. Journalism being the family business (his father was a long-time copy editor on the *Daily Mail*, one of Britain’s national newspapers, and a former editor of a local weekly in the north of England; his mother was circulation manager of the weekly; and his brother, who later left the business, was a cub reporter), he went straight into newspapers from school and spent the next 34 years as what British papers call a “fireman” (the guy who keeps a packed bag in the office and goes where he is sent in the world), including 10 years at *The Guardian*, where he was Chief Investigative Reporter, and 10 at *The Mail On Sunday*, where he was Deputy Managing Editor. He also managed to find time to sneak into hard cover as co-author of *Black Tide Rising: The Wreck Of The Amoco Cadiz* (Andre Deutsch, U.K; Stein & Day, New York, 1980), which told the story of what was then the

world's worst pollution disaster, and the effects of hydrocarbons in the ocean from large tanker spills. When he was called off the road from three globe-trotting decades of scribbling, they put him into the new world of editorial systems where he has remained, moving to the U.S. in 1991, on a whim, and working for a variety of masters. He helped launch a new national horseracing paper, and kept **Jackson Sellers** busy (he pretends) while Editorial Systems Manager at the *Los Angeles Times*. Nowadays, Phil lives outside Philadelphia, Pa., working for a company that (surprisingly successfully!) sells editorial systems to newspapers, magazines and book publishing companies; trying to hold the ring for a growing team of editorial systems analysts, and, at 61, trying to plot his return to Los Angeles, where he lived for over 12 years. In his spare time, he roams the world vicariously, from his arm chair by reading travel essay writing; goes to L.A. at the drop of a hat and Europe at least twice every year (especially to the farm house he and his brother own outside St. Malo in northwest France); indulges his conceit that he can cook; and occasionally gets together with like-minded musical friends to thrash the electric guitar he learned to play in teenage bands in England (when rock 'n' roll had as many as three chords). Jordan married in 1968 and divorced (stupidly) in 1989. Most of his trips home involve riotous reunions with old Fleet Street colleagues and with his 30-year-old son, Barney, who is an editor with a film and TV special effects company in central London (doing journalism with pixels, maybe). In his approaching retirement (which can't arrive too soon), he plans a life of total attention to the noble art of wine drinking and eating well; a serious study of the principles of Yu-Yu Jiteki and the noble art of leaving things undone; and, even as we speak, is attempting to bring those principles into his daily life at the slightest prompting.

Bill McIver, with **Jackson Sellers** in San Diego. Bill was somewhat reluctant to join our group. The funny thing was that his disclaimer verified his qualifications. Here it is:

Jackson, this group appears too illustriously accomplished for trifling me. Nothing could be said about me that would measure up even close to the lives of your Yu-Yu-Jitekis. Me? High school dropout, night school degrees, 21 years in the military insignificantly climbing through the ranks to O-3, '70s hippie dropout/drug counselor, married to well-bred (on the verge of bankruptcy) daughter from the old South, with whom I



combined to develop a significant wine business, thorn-in-the-side to entrenched wine industry controlled by Gallo, fathered/founded four wine industry organizations, sold business for beaucoup dollars, spent rest of life screwing off writing memoirs in a grand house on a secluded point overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Frankly and confidentially, since marrying Sandra, I've been dogged by the assumption that I married into great wealth and that Matanzas Creek Winery was built backed by deep pockets, but the fact is that when we married, her liabilities had her near bankruptcy — if all debts had been called bankruptcy, the only alternative or bailout would have come from her parents. Sandra was used to spending money, not managing it. She was raising children and left management of her estate to an ex-husband and his high school/college chum who was their financial manager and, it turned out, a crook. Great story, huh? When she and the ex were divorced, he got the producing vineyard they developed and she got a broken-down dairy farm that they had begun converting to a vineyard and a winery in the old dairy barn. The just-planted vineyard was not trellised nor properly developed — a victim of the broken marriage. When we met, the winery had not bottled any wine and Sandra was taking care of the kids, serving on a grand jury and running a county political campaign. To the rescue came Bill McIver. ta da! That's a very short version of a long story that I long to tell in detail.

