



## NATIONAL MUSEUM of AMERICAN HISTORY

...inspiring a broader understanding of our nation  
and its many peoples.

The National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution is honored to present the *Michio Kushi Family Collection on Macrobiotics and Alternative Health Care*. This collection of health, nutrition, and personal family materials and artifacts documents important and little studied aspects of American life and culture. We are proud to be stewards of this extensive collection of materials which includes early pamphlets and newsletters, photographs, video-taped lectures, and commercially packaged objects such as bancha tea and umeboshi plums. This collecting endeavor and the research project which accompanies it are grounded in the Museum's mission to exhibit, preserve, and study artifacts that reflect the diverse experiences of the American people.

In response to Michio Kushi's generous donation of materials, the National Museum of American History is taking steps to make the materials quickly accessible for study and to create educational and intellectual opportunities for researchers from around the world to use the materials. We believe that it is through scholarship based upon primary sources that understanding of the past and its influence upon the present is comprehended. The significance of macrobiotics in American life is little understood although it relates to such broad historical issues as the postwar move toward a more healthy diet, our increasingly global culture, alternative healing, peace studies, and traditions of grassroots activism.

The Museum is seeking financial contributions for the research, educational, and collecting components of the project. We plan to hire staff dedicated solely to this project in order to expedite making it available to the public and to collect additional materials to augment the collection. We also intend to underwrite short-term fellowships and public symposia to enable researchers to visit the Smithsonian to study the *Kushi Collection* as well as related materials in the Washington area.

We hope you share our enthusiasm and will consider supporting the *Michio Kushi Family Collection on Macrobiotics and Alternative Health Care* with a financial gift. Please don't hesitate to contact us at 202-357-2413 for additional information about the *Collection*.

Katherine Ott, Ph.D.  
Historian and Project Director for  
*Michio Kushi Family Collection on  
Macrobiotics and Alternative Health Care*

Patricia Gossel, Ph.D.  
Curator and Acting Chair  
Division of Science, Medicine,  
and Society