

# NEWS



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NOTED AUTHOR WAKATSUKI TO SPEAK AT SUNNYVALE LIBRARY**

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Sunnyvale Public Library is one of 52 libraries across the state that has been awarded a California Reads grant to promote community reading of selected books to inspire people to discuss democracy and individuals rights. The CA Reads grants are supported by Cal Humanities and the California Center for the Book (CFB). The Library's focus is on the memoir *Farewell to Manzanar*, written by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James Houston, about Jeanne's experience when she and her family were sent to a Japanese internment camp during World War II. The Houstons' book was the first popular book to address the internment camp experience from a Japanese-American point of view.

Several programs are planned to engage the local community in learning, reading, and discussion. On Wednesday, April 18, at 7 p.m., the Library is honored to present author Jeanne W. Houston, in person, to discuss her book and reactions to it when it was first published in 1973 and throughout the years since initial publication.

Michael Omi, Ph.D., Professor of Asian American Studies in UC Berkeley's Ethnic Studies Department, will speak on Monday, May 14, at 7 p.m. about the backstory of racial politics leading to the removal of Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast to internment camps during WWII. All are invited to read and discuss the book, *Farewell to Manzanar*, on Wednesday, May 23, at 7 p.m. at the Library. A Japanese origami – hands-on paper folding – program for teens and adults is being offered on Saturday,

May 26, at 2 p.m. On Tuesday, June 12, at 7 p.m., a panel of Japanese-American internment camp survivors will talk about their individual wartime experiences and respond to questions from the audience. Well-known local storyteller, Megumi, will tell Tales of strength and hope from the Japanese-American experience and Japanese folktales for adults and children ages 8 and older on Saturday, June 9, at 2 p.m. The culminating program for CA Reads at the Library is a film and book discussion program on July 11, beginning at 7 p.m. On that night, the film, *Days of Waiting* will be shown, followed by a discussion of the movie and the book *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford.

The Library is located at 665 W. Olive Ave., across from City Hall. Free parking is always available, and VTA line 54 serves the Library. More information on Library programs and activities is available on the Library's website at [www.sunnyvalelibrary.org](http://www.sunnyvalelibrary.org), or by calling the Library at (408) 730-7300, TDD (408) 730-7501.

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