

Council 2 Programming for February 20



For our February 20, Council 2 meeting to be held in Lodi, we are very fortunate to have an award winning author Kiyoko Sato to share with us in a workshop setting, how she went about writing her book: *Kiyoko's Story* o A Memoir o A Japanese-American Family's Quest for the American Dream. She firmly believes that *There is a Memoir in Every Person!* A Rancho Cordova resident, Kiyoko writes of her youth, family growth, the internment, becoming a nurse, joining the armed forces, returning home. She will have her book available for purchase at our Council 2 meeting.

Kiyoko Sato, the eldest child of a Japanese-American immigrant family, grew up before World War II with her eight brothers and sisters in Sacramento, California. There her parents established a thriving family farm on a few acres, producing some of the finest strawberries and table grapes in the region.

Home life in the Sato family was a pleasant mix of Japanese and American customs, which Kiyoko describes at length in *Dandelion Through the Crack*. The family attended a local church, and Kiyoko and her brothers and sisters went to school at a nearby one-room schoolhouse. Later, she attended Sacramento High School.

She was attending Sacramento Junior College when World War II broke out and brought with it the evacuation of all Japanese-Americans in 1942. In her book, Kiyoko recalls the trauma of being forced to leave the family farm and ship out to a prison camp with little more than the clothes on their backs.

At the end of the war, after their release from the prison camp and then working a season as hired laborers in Colorado, Kiyoko and her family returned to their farm in Sacramento to rebuild their home and their lives. Kiyoko's parents were able to keep their farm, but many Japanese-American families were not so fortunate and had to start over with nothing.

Kiyoko then joined the United States Air Force, completing her college education in nursing and achieving the rank of captain. She eventually returned home from the service, married, and started her own family in Sacramento. Her four children grew up frequently visiting and working on their grandparents' farm, a vital part of every Sato family member's experience.

Kiyoko belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Nisei Post 8985. She and other post members give talks about their experiences during WWII and have put together an educational video and workbook for school children about the Japanese-American evacuation. The presentation, entitled "Lessons From Our Lifetime," received a grant from the [California Civil Liberties Public Education Program](#) in 1999. Kiyoko has also been quoted in the [Sacramento Bee](#) and is part of the Japanese American Citizens League, [Florin Oral History Project](#).

During her professional career as a public health nurse, Ms. Sato developed the innovative [Blackbird Vision Screening System](#) for detecting eye problems in young children. She continues to sell the Blackbird System, and lives in Sacramento, California.

Her poignant memoir of life growing up on her parents' farm and the trauma of the wartime evacuation camps gives us a unique and touching portrait of an American immigrant family.

A second equally inspiring workshop will be conducted by our own Pam Montague. Pam, a Past Sierra Pacific Region President and member of our host club Valley Communicators, is a member since 1990. As a investment club member, she has taken advantage of POWER*talk* International training to play an important role helping its members in how to pick winning stocks. Additionally, her leadership skills are displayed as Speech Contest Chairman, 2008-09 and 2009-10 Region Conference Coordinator – no simple feat.

The third educational feature will be Focus on the Member led by Irene Osuga. It is Irene's vision that now gives us a chance to recognize fellow members who regularly give generously to our organization and community. The Immediate Past Council 2 President, a member of Thursday Morning Club and Davis resident, she is a Board member of the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, a water color artist, has had her own art show in Davis and an exercise enthusiast!

Great educational features – Yes! Join us in Lodi – register through your club!!! Look forward to seeing you at the Casa Flores!

Utako Kimura, Chair
Program Education Committee
(edited by Alan Nakano)

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Eastern Philosophy

Never let life's hardships disturb you. After all, no one can avoid problems. Not even saints or sages.

Nichiren

If you want one year of prosperity, plant corn. If you want ten years of prosperity, grow trees. If you want one hundred years of prosperity, educate people.

Chinese proverb

A great mentor is one who aims for others' abilities to surpass his own.

He who knows others is wise, he who knows himself is enlightened.

Lao Tzu

True words are often not beautiful, just as beautiful words are not true.

Japanese proverb

The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement.

Japanese proverb

