Feldheym Library Presents

Surviving Internment: A Community Conversation

On Tuesday, May 22, the San Bernardino Public Library will host an evening with Japanese internment camp survivors at 6 p.m. at the Norman F. Feldheym Central Library located at 555 West 6th Street. Members of the panel include Disney cartoonist Willie Ito; children's book author Barbara Bazaldua, and local resident Helen Sogi.

Willie Ito spent his war years in Topaz, Utah. During this period in camp, his interest in cartooning flourished. Upon his return after the war, he continued his studies in art. He graduated from San Francisco City College and went to Los Angeles to study at Chouinard Art Institute. Willie worked for the Walt Disney Studios; and later for Warner Bros. Cartoons, Bob Clampett Prods., Hanna Barbera, and Sanrio. Willie returned to Walt Disney as Director of International Creative overseeing young Disney artists world-wide. After a 45-year career in the animation industry, he retired and is now pursuing children's book illustrating. He illustrated *Hello Maggie* and *A Boy of Heart Mountain*, both about the experiences of his friend Shiguru Yabu, as a boy interned in a relocation camp during WWII.

Barbara Bazaldua is an author of children's books. Some of her published credits include *Meet the Robinsons: The Movie Storybook; Disney's Mickey Mouse: A Christmas Surprise*; *The Bravest Blossom*; *The Jewel Thief*; and *A Boy of Heart Mountain*.

Helen Sogi is a 36-year resident of San Bernardino. Helen will talk about her husband, John Sogi's family and their WWII incarceration from Pasadena to Tulare Assembly Center, Gila, Tule Lake and their return almost 5 years later without their father.

This evening is part of a series of programs funded by a grant from California Reads: Searching for Democracy. It is free and open to the public and will be held at the Norman F. Feldheym Central Library, 555 W. 6th St., San Bernardino, CA. For details please visit www.sbpl.org, or contact Linda Adams, 909-381-8238.

***Hello Maggie* and *A Boy of Heart Mountain* will be available for purchase and signing at a reception following the event.**

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