

Frank: More news if you didn't get it because I am being asked to be a volunteer in this \$\$\$!

The Michi Nishiura and Walter Weglyn Endowed Chair for Multicultural Studies

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona is establishing an Endowed Chair for Multicultural Studies in honor of Michi Nishiura and Walter Weglyn. This endeavor will promote a deeper understanding among ethnic groups in our society

Michi Weglyn is a prominent Japanese-American author, artist and designer. Born in California, her early career was spent as a theatrical costume designer for Broadway, television and nightclubs. She worked with such world famous entertainers as Perry Como and Tony Bennett and established her own manufacturing and design studio.

As a teenager during World War II, she was placed in an internment camp. That experience led to her authorship of a book, *Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps*, an eyewitness account of the internment years.

"Though Americans, we were torn asunder," she wrote. "We felt ashamed for what we then believed was a wholly dastardly attack on Pearl Harbor. In our utter naivete (the vast majority of us were school-age children not yet of voting age) we felt that we were atoning for that by being in camps. There had been wild rumors of Japanese-American treachery -- later proved to be lies. We felt responsible." Among her goals in writing her book was the need "to expiate our honor, our self-esteem."

The book was vigorously acclaimed. Former Senator and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield called it "a conscience-wrenching book of major significance." Author James Michener, who wrote the introduction to the book, said, "Michi Weglyn, who in this book codifies and substantiates this remarkable episode in our national history, has served the nation well, for this is a story that deserves telling."

Ms. Weglyn, and her husband Walter, are stalwart defenders of and advocates for a number of social issues involving the role of ethnic minorities, First Amendment rights, the underprivileged, and more. Mr Weglyn has been a devoted partner and source of strength and encouragement for Michi, providing emotional support, inspiration and guidance during the long years of research and writing.

The campaign for the \$1 million endowment to establish the Chair for Multicultural Studies is being launched by the University at a gala celebration on June 12 and 13. On Saturday, June 12, Ms. Weglyn will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from The California State University. The presentation will be made at commencement ceremonies for Cal Poly Pomona's College of Arts at 4:30 p.m. On Sunday, June 13, a garden reception and buffet honoring Michi and Walter Weglyn will take place at Manor House, the university home of President and Mrs. Bob H. Suzuki, at 5 p.m.

Corporate, association and individual support is being sought for the Endowed Chair

For more information:

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