Recalling a dark period in U.S. history

The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II will be the subject of a program from noon to 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, in the University Union, Foothill Suite.

Author Kiyo Sato will discuss how President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1942 Executive Order 9066, which sent 120,000 Japanese Americans to relocation centers, affected her family. “Kiyo’s Story: A Japanese American Family’s Quest for the American Dream” details how the Satos, including nine children, were sent to the Poston Internment Camp in Arizona.

Originally published as Dandelion Through the Crack, Sato’s book won the 2008 William Saroyan Prize for Nonfiction. Born in Sacramento in 1923 to Japanese immigrants, Sato has a master’s degree in nursing from Western Reserve University and served in the Air Force Nurse Corps, where she rose to the rank of captain. She lives in Folsom with her husband.

The program, sponsored by the Asian American Studies Program, the Full Circle Project and the Asian American Studies Club, also features Mas Hatano, who was interned at the Tule Lake center. Having retired from Caltrans, he is a docent for the California State Railroad Museum and the California State Museum.

This event is free and open to the public.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

– Alan Miller
amiller@csus.edu

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