Author’s reading to impart inspiring immigrant tales

Local author Judie Fertig Panneton will read from her book Proud Americans: Growing Up as Children of Immigrants from 7-9 p.m. Monday, April 30, in Sacramento State’s Hinde Auditorium.

The book, a collection of inspirational stories of joys and struggles, features several Sac State alumni, some of whom will take part in a panel discussion following the reading.

About 50 people who grew up as children of immigrants were personally interviewed for the book. Other well-known Americans are involved based on research, and include Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, Today host Ann Curry, actor Leonardo DiCaprio and Winter Olympics star Apolo Ohno.

“Children of immigrants are different,” says Panneton. “They are their parents’ bridge to American ways, their translators, their support system and their hope for a more promising future.”

By 2050, 60 percent of American children will be children of immigrants, says Panneton, and that will have an impact on the nation in areas such as elections.

Panneton herself is a child of immigrants. This is her second book based on true stories. The first, The Breast Cancer Book of Strength and Courage, was published by Random House.

The immigrants’ stories are inspiring, says Panneton. “They have fought to live independent lives while being true to their families’ roots and expectations.”

The reading is part of Sacramento State’s One Book Program and is sponsored by the University’s Multi-Cultural Center.

For more information, call (916) 278-6371. For media assistance, call Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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