



The real story. Japanese American History told by those who lived it.

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NEWS RELEASE
July 2012

FORGED IN FIRE – BREAKS SALES RECORD!

Forged in Fire - The Saga of Hershey & Joe made its debut in Gallup, New Mexico. Sales of this book broke all previous Nikkei Writers Guild records.

Manager of the Comfort Suites on Route 66, Ken Riege spent months preparing for this event. Riege had contacted Nikkei Writers Guild about hosting the inaugural book signing upon its release. The festivities began on Friday evening (July 6, 2012) with a private reception at Don Diego's Restaurant on Route 66. Cake was provided by our hosts Ken and Retha Riege.

Riege setup two book signings on Saturday to try and accommodate everyone's schedule and maximize attendance. During the second signing, the local VFW posted colors, gave an invocation and played taps in honor of those not able to attend. Congressman Ben Ray Luján stated, "*New Mexico has a long tradition of serving our country during times of war. Generations of New Mexicans have answered the call to serve. When Mr. Miyamura saved the lives of his brothers in arms, those deeds on the battle field were not immediately disclosed out of concern for his well-being while he was being held as a prisoner of war. Now, we must tell that story and pass it on. We must share stories of our brave heroes so that following generations will always know the legacy and find strength from the selfless actions in order to protect the values and freedoms we hold dear.*"

Nikkei Writers Guild offered Forged In Fire at a special introductory price. Over 300 books were sold in just under three hours. Hershey Miyamura is definitely Gallup's hometown hero. By mid afternoon, a summer monsoon hit Gallup unexpectedly but that did not deter Hershey's fans from attending. People drove in from Clovis, Albuquerque, Santa Fe and as far away as Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Author, Vincent H. Okamoto along with Hershey Miyamura and Joe Anello graciously signed each book and posed for photos. Local politicians waited patiently for their turn

to shake hands with Okamoto, Joe and Hershey. Also on hand were two of the Navajo Code Talkers.

Please mark your calendars for Nisei Week in Los Angeles, California August 11-12, 2012. Author Vincent H. Okamoto along with Hershey Miyamura and Joseph Anello will be available to sign copies of Forged in Fire.

Japanese American Living Legacy is a California nonprofit (501.c.3) organization based out of California State University, Fullerton. Nikkei Writers Guild is the publishing division of JA Living Legacy. All of the board of directors, staff and advisors are volunteers.

For more information on Japanese American Living Legacy / Nikkei Writers Guild please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (714) 515-5501.

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