



Gail Tsukiyama:

Gail Tsukiyama has a Chinese mother from Hong Kong and a Japanese father from Hawaii. She is the recipient of the Academy of American Poets Award, the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award for Literary Excellence and in 2001 she was one of 50 authors chosen by the Library of Congress to participate in the first National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. She is the author of six novels including *“Women of the Silk”*, *“The Samurai’s Garden”*, *“Night of Many Dreams”*, *“The Language of Threads”*, *“Dreaming Water”* and her latest novel, *“The Street of a Thousand Blossoms”*. Gail earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree and Master of Arts Degree in English with the emphasis in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. 1997 to 1999 and again in 2006, she sat as a judge for the Kiriyaama Book Prize and is currently Book Review Editor for Pacific Rim Voices.

Gail resides in Northern California and she has been a part-time lecturer and Assistant Professor in Creative Writing at San Francisco State University, University of California Berkeley and Mills College, as well as a freelance book reviewer for the San Francisco Chronicle and Ms. Magazine.



Janice Mirikitani:

Janice Mirikitani, a Sansei (third generation) Japanese American, is recognized as a visionary, community activist, leader, poet, and editor. Mirikitani is San Francisco's second Poet Laureate, author of four poetry books – *“Awake In The River”*, *Shedding Silence*, *“We The Dangerous”* and *“Love Works”* -- and editor of nine anthologies.

Mirikitani is the Founding President of the Glide Foundation where she in partnership with Cecil Williams, have achieved worldwide recognition for their groundbreaking organization which empowers San Francisco's poor and marginalized communities to make meaningful changes in their lives. Mirikitani's passion has been to create programs for women and families as they struggle with issues of substance abuse, rape, domestic violence, AIDS, childcare, health, education, and workforce development.

Janice has received two honorary doctorate degrees, graduated from UCLA and received a teaching credential from UC Berkeley. She and her family were incarcerated in a Rohwer, Arkansas concentration camp during World War II.



Delphine Hirasuna:

Delphine Hirasuna is the principal of Hirasuna Editorial, founded in 1985 to provide editorial supervision and copywriting services to corporations, graphic design firms and advertising agencies throughout the U.S. She is the editor of the much acclaimed *@Issue: Journal of Business and Design*. She has co-authored several books on design and other subjects, including *"Type Wise"* and *"Long May She Wave"* with Kit Hinrichs of Pentagram. Her book *"Art of Gaman"* on the arts and crafts of the Japanese American internees during World War II was turned into a national traveling exhibition, with Delphine as guest curator. Delphine also wrote a weekly feature column for the two largest Japanese American newspapers in the U.S. for more than 25 years and co-authored a top-selling Japanese cookbook. In 2002 she was named a laureate of the San Francisco Public Library.

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston:

Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston co-authored with her late husband, James D. Houston *"Farewell to Manzanar"*, which was based upon her family's experience during and after the World War II internment of Japanese Americans in California. She and her husband co-wrote the screenplay of the *"Farewell to Manzanar"* film, which received an Emmy Award Nomination and the Humanities Prize. Now in its 70th printing from Bantam, it has become a standard work in schools and campuses throughout the United States.

Her published works include *"Farewell to Manzanar"*; *"Don't Cry, It's Only Thunder"*; *"Beyond Manzanar"*, *"Views of Asian American Womanhood"*; and *"The Legend of Fire Horse Woman"*. Among her awards are U.S. Japan Creative Arts Exchange Fellowship; Rockefeller Foundation Writer's Residency, Bellagio, Italy; Carey McWilliams Award;

Woman of Achievement Award, National Women's Political Caucus; Gail Rich Artists Award; Commendation for Literature and History from California Senate and Legislature of City of Los Angeles; Grand Marshall for 2001 Nisei Week Parade; and Japanese American of the Biennium Award for achievement in Arts, Literature and Communication in 2004.

Ms Wakatsuki lives in Santa Cruz and is now at work on a screenplay for a musical of "*Farewell to Manzanar*" and a collection of essays.



Marlene Shigekawa:

Marlene Shigekawa has a broad base of experience in writing, Diversity consulting and New Media producing. She has completed several feature scripts including "*Hawk Dreamer*"; "*Mohave Junction*", and "*Hunting Picasso*". Her published works include "*Blue Jay in the Dessert*" and "*Welcome Home Swallows*", multicultural children picture books based on her family's internment experience, and "*Succeeding in High Tech: A Guide to Building Your Career*". She serves on the Poston Restoration Project and works with the Tribal Council of the Colorado Indian Tribes Reservation to preserve the Arizona Internment camp as a national historic site.

As a book author, she has made presentations to schools, conferences, museums and community organizations for her children's books and to universities such as Harvard, MIT and University of California Berkeley for her career development book.

Marlene received her M.S. in Educational Psychology from California State University, Hayward and B.A. in English from the University of California, Riverside. She is a graduate of the Advanced Program in Organization Development and Human Resources Management through Columbia University. Marlene resides with her husband and daughter in Lafayette, California.