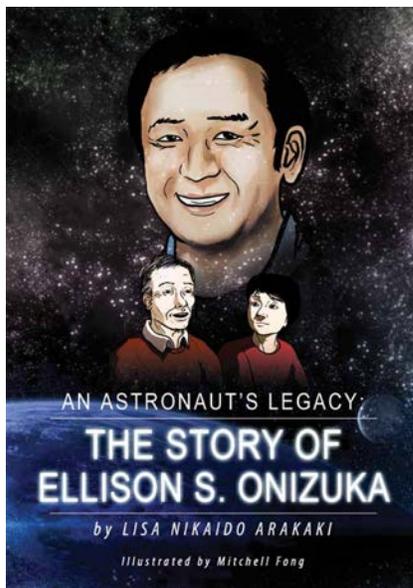


Ms. Susan Uyemura, CEO
(714) 515-5501
suyemura@jalivinglegacy.org

NEWS RELEASE
August 2012

An Astronaut's Legacy: The Story of Ellison S. Onizuka



An Astronaut's Legacy: The Story of Ellison S. Onizuka will be the ninth book published by Nikkei Writers Guild, a division of Japanese American Living Legacy. This is Lisa Nikaido Arakaki's first publication and Nikkei Writers Guild's first female author and children's story.

It's been 26 years since the spaceship Challenger disaster. For many of us who witnessed the horror of that flight, the reality of spaceflight's risks curtailed whimsical fantasies of traveling to the moon in the near future. For the Nikkei community, it was especially heartbreaking - we lost our hometown hero, Ellison S. Onizuka. Since then, books, stories and articles have been written about the disaster but not too much is known about the quiet sansei astronaut. Arakaki introduces Onizuka's life in illustrations so that his life story can be experienced by younger generations. Illustrator Mitchell Fong, a native from Hawaii, worked to bring Arakaki's words to life. Together with Sonny Abalos from Phase Two Graphics, the final piece has come alive!

Since Nikkei Writers Guild is comprised of all volunteers and this was our first children's book, we used some younger volunteers, junior editors, to give it the final eye. The book should appeal to children between 8 and 12 years of age. It was important that our target age was connected to the story as well as the illustrations. The review was very positive.

This book will be offered at an introductory price of \$12 (includes tax) beginning August 15, 2012. Pre-sale orders can be made on the Nikkei Writers Guild link on the JA Living Legacy website at www.jalivinglegacy.org. Delivery will occur after August 15, 2012. Wholesale inquiries can be emailed to info@jalivinglegacy.org or call us at 714-515-5501.

Proceeds from this book's sales help fund future publications. Currently, Nikkei Writers Guild is in the process of editing and designing other publications. Please check the website for regular updates on future publications.

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.

###