



STANISLAUS COUNTY LIBRARY

Vanessa Czopek
County Librarian

1500 I Street, Modesto, CA 95354
209-558-7801 Fax: 209-529-4779
www.stanislauslibrary.org

PRESS RELEASE

October 9, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Susan Lilly, 558-4813

“Journey to Topaz” presented at libraries in Modesto and Salida

The Sierra Repertory Theatre will present “Journey to Topaz,” at the Nick W. Blom Salida Regional Library, Oct. 27 at 2 p.m., and at the Modesto Library, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m.

“Journey to Topaz” is a one-woman play that tells the story of Yuki, a young Japanese-American girl living in Berkeley at the start of World War II. She and her family were among nearly 120,000 Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast who were ordered to leave homes, jobs, schools and communities, and move into hastily set-up relocation centers and then away to remote internment camps in places like Topaz, Utah. The play, starring Lynette Li, is based on Berkeley author Yoshiko Uchida's children's novel by the same name, and was adapted into a stage play by California playwright Jeanette Farr. Through this dramatization, the audience will learn about Japanese internment during World War II and understand the turmoil of the times.

“Journey to Topaz” is presented through a partnership of the Sierra Repertory Theatre, Stanislaus County Library, California Arts Council, Stanislaus Arts Council, and National Endowment for the Arts. These performances are made possible through a grant from the California State Library's California Civil Liberties Public Education Project.

“Journey to Topaz” is recommended for middle grade students through adults. The Salida Library is located at 4835 Sisk Rd. and the Modesto Library is located at 1500 I St. Space is limited and free same-day tickets will be required for the Modesto performance. Tickets will be available at the Children's Desk beginning at 1 p.m. Free parking is available at both locations. For more information, please call 543-7315 (Salida) or 558-7810 (Modesto).

#

Sierra Repertory Theatre presents *Stages of Discovery*

Journey to Topaz

Based on the novel *Journey to Topaz* by Yoshiko Uchida;
Adapted by California Playwright Jeanette Farr

Nick W. Blom Salida Regional Library

4835 Sisk Rd., Salida

Saturday, October 27 at 2 PM

Modesto Public Library

1500 I St, Modesto

Saturday, November 3, 2 PM



Journey to Topaz is a powerful story of war and prejudice seen through the eyes of a young girl. The one-woman play, created for Sierra Rep, tells the story of Yuki, a young Japanese-American girl living in Berkeley at the start of World War II. She and her family were among nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast who were ordered to leave homes, jobs, school and communities, and move to hastily set-up relocation centers and then away to remote internment camps in places like Topaz, Utah.

Journey to Topaz was presented to area schools three years ago, and earned praise as a concise and insightful presentation of a difficult period in America's past. Teachers commented on how well students were able to absorb the historical information, understand the turmoil of the times and link it to today's wartime conflicts.

The play is based on Berkeley author Yoshiko Uchida's children's novel by the same name, and was adapted into a stage play by California playwright Jeanette Farr.



with Lynnette Li

With support from a grant from the California State Library's California Civil Liberties Public Education Project and in partnership with the Stanislaus Art Council.

