

## **With Honors Denied Filmmaker's Workshop and Lecture in Savannah**

A current polarizing political discussion in America is exactly what make an American—who shall have rights and access to our social services and who cannot? If you count yourself among a minority population, then your history also is filled with examples of being the object of laws that treated your ethnic, religious or racial group as less than full citizens. But this debate is not new to your culture or our American history, as it seems each generation produces some American citizens whose basic rights and liberties have been denied.

On Thursday May 21, 2009 at 7:15 PM at the JEA, MorningStar Cultural Arts group will be proud to present nationally recognized freelance television journalist and independent documentary filmmaker Mimi Gan to lead a discussion after the showing of her mini- documentary *With Honors Denied*, the story of a Japanese American woman's journey of redemption and reconciliation after World War II. The film, narrated by George Takei, screened at a dozen film festivals including at Tribeca, received many awards including a jury award for best documentary.

Ms. Gan's appearance, this Savannah film premier and the teen workshop which will precede it, completes MorningStar's twentieth programming year and will be the sixth and final event in their ***Finding Oneself*** series that started last February with Ethiopian-Israeli filmmaker Avishai Mekonen. Whereas Avishai spoke of preserving racial, religious and cultural identification through connecting with one's past, Ms. Gan will deal with racial profiling and the pain of inequality in America from a different perspective—that of the Japanese-American placed in internment camps during World War II.

This event is preceded by a youth workshop, designed for people ages 12 to 20 and their adult guests, at which participants can meet, talk and dine with Ms. Gan (3:45 PM until 5:30PM) at the Frank Callen's Boys and Girls Club (510 E. Charlton Street in Savannah). Both programs are free and open to the public through a generous support of the Georgia Council of the Arts (through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly) and administered by the City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs, with added support from The JEA, the Savannah Entrepreneurial Center and their Blue blazer Program, Savannah Movie Tours and MorningStar board member Lisa Hom. GCA is a partner agency of the Georgia Council for the Arts.

The youth workshop is free but requires preregistration by calling Mr. Fred Hull at 912- 233-2939 (The Boys and Girls Club). Transportation leaving from or back to the JEA for youth needing rides from a midtown point can be arranged in advance by calling 355-8111.

Ms. Gan is developing a new teaching guide for West Coast schools and will use her research for the film to help teenagers discuss issues of racial profiling, bigotry and triumph over adversity.

Mimi worked for over a decade for Seattle's KING 5 television as a reporter and producer for Evening *Magazine* and documentaries. She reported from the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino and also served as co-host and co-creator of "Watch This!" a kid's magazine show. She's also been a science and technology correspondent for Discovery Channel's "Beyond 2000" show. Mimi has won numerous awards: 13 Emmys, 3 national AWRT "Gracie" awards, and NATPE Iris award. She also served as president of the Asian-American Journalists Association (Seattle Chapter) and produces videos for corporate and non-profit clients including KING TV, Starbucks, Microsoft, and Seattle. She is currently working on the feature documentary, GIANTS, narrated by actor Tom Skerritt.

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