ENDOWMENT GIFTS AT WORK

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOKS ABOUT ASIAN AMERICA

The Scott and Laurie Oki Series in Asian American Studies, proudly published by the University of Washington Press, contains works by some of the most distinguished writers, poets, scholars and activists in the field. These include “first-person chronicles of great historical significance and the voices of so-called ordinary Asian Americans upon whose lives and deeds(10,9),(995,990) stand,” says Gary Okhiro, a leading scholar of Asian American studies. “The books in this series will endure as building blocks for the (re)constitution of Asian America.”

The series is a testament to the power of the books published with the help of endowment donors, like Scott and Laurie Oki.

Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, another eminent scholar and coauthor of A Principled Stand, the memoir of civil rights hero Gordon Hirabayashi, notes that the series “serves as a gold standard for junior and senior scholars, as well as community activists, to aspire to.” By publishing both scholars and activists, it promotes the development of a field “where intimate and ongoing commitments to family and community energize us, informing who we are, what we think and what we do.”

Linda Tamura wrote Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence about people who stood up against the racism that engulfed her hometown of Hood River, Oregon, during WWII. “Publishing my revelations and research in the Scott and Laurie Oki Series has given me an important avenue for truth telling,” she says. “Now younger Nikkei have approached me about bolstering courage to convey their own voices. Scott and Laurie Oki have made it possible for me to be part of a series that promotes an awareness of civil injustices and equity for all.”

Scott and Laurie Oki made a visionary gift to the press in 1991 to establish a fund for books in Asian American Studies. Many of the 23 books published to date promote social justice and cross-cultural understanding. The series has a special meaning for the Oki family, since Scott’s parents were among the 120,000 Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated during World War II.
RUTH KIRK’S INSPIRING LEGACY

Ruth Kirk is not only the press’s most prolific author, but also one of its most beloved. She published her first book with the press, *The Olympic Rain Forest*, in the fall of 1966. In the 50 years that followed, she wrote a dozen more, including such popular titles as *Sunrise to Paradise: The Story of Mount Rainier National Park*; *Exploring Washington’s Past: A Road Guide to History*; *Tradition and Change on the Northwest Coast: The Makah, Nuu-chah-nulth, Southern Kwakiutl, and Nuxalk; Archaeology in Washington*, which she co-authored with her late husband Richard Daugherty; and, most recently, *Ozette: Excavating a Makah Whaling Village*, published in the spring of 2015, just in time for Ruth’s 90th birthday.

Going beyond the remarkable legacy of her own work, Ruth established the Ruth Kirk Book Fund to support other books that inform the general public on the history, natural history, archaeology and Native cultures of the Pacific Northwest. The first Ruth Kirk book, *Discovering Totem Poles: A Traveler’s Guide*, written by Aldona Jonaitis and published in 2012, tells the complex and fascinating stories behind many of the magnificent cedar totem poles found along the northwest coast.

More recent Ruth Kirk books include *Walking Washington’s History: Ten Cities*, by Judy Bentley, which takes readers on urban walking tours that offer glimpses into the past. *Forest Under Story: Creative Inquiry in an Old-Growth Forest* is a collection of essays, poems and field notes by a collective of research scientists and some of the country’s most accomplished writers exploring the ecology and significance of old-growth forests. *Once and Future River: Reclaiming the Duwamish* presents Tom Reese’s stunning photographs alongside an essay by Eric Wagner about our region’s troubled relationship with the river and recent efforts to restore it, and includes a foreword by James Rasmusson, director of the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition. Kathleen Alcalá’s *The Deepest Roots: Finding Food and Community on a Pacific Northwest Island* offers stories about Bainbridge Island’s rich food culture and a blueprint for sustainability.

Through her own books, and the books supported by the endowment, Ruth Kirk will continue to inform and inspire generations of readers.

HAN BOOKS ON EAST ASIA

Nan and Bill Hahn are two of the press’s strongest advocates and champions. Beyond their service on the advisory board for over 25 years—where they have lent their time and considerable talents to numerous projects—the Hahns have gone one step further to ensure the UW Press’s future success. Most recently, Nan and Bill established the William Sangki and Nanhee Min Hahn Endowed Fund for Books on East Asia. The first Hahn book, *The Social Life of Inkstones*, was published this fall, and the UW Press and its audiences look forward to many more books in the years ahead.