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# News Release

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## Filmmaker to show documentaries of NW Asian American experience



Award-winning filmmaker Lucy Ostrander will show three short films at the Olympia Timberland Library on the history of the Northwest Asian American experience. The after-hours event will be held on Wednesday, November 3 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Ostrander will also talk about the process of making her films and will answer questions. The films to be shown are:

**EAST OF OCCIDENTAL (1986)** – This documentary tells the story of the inhabitants of Seattle’s International District, a neighborhood where Chinese, Japanese and Filipino Americans have come together as a political and social force. Archival photographs, oral interviews and period music link the past to the present, from 19th century pioneer Chin Gee Hee, a self-made millionaire and labor contractor, to Wing Luke, the first Chinese American elected to public office.

**MY FRIENDS BEHIND BARBED WIRE (2007)** – In the spring of 1942, Japanese Americans in Seattle were uprooted from their homes and incarcerated first in Puyallup and then in Minidoka, Idaho. As a young Caucasian child, and son of the pastor of the Seattle Japanese Baptist Church, Brooks Andrews shares a unique perspective of this event and the role Brooks’ father played as he moved his family from Seattle to Minidoka.

**FUMIKO HAYASHIDA: THE WOMAN BEHIND THE SYMBOL (2009)** – In February 1942, the U.S. government authorized the relocation of 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast. As Fumiko Hayashida of Bainbridge Island waited to be taken off the island by armed military escorts, she and her 13-month-old daughter were photographed by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. This film is both a historical portrait and a contemporary story of how the iconic photograph became the impetus for Hayashida to publicly lobby against the injustices of the past.

Ostrander lives on Bainbridge Island. She and her husband, videographer/editor Don Sellers, specialize in historical and social issues documentaries. Many of their films have been televised on local, regional and national PBS stations and won awards and recognitions. Their production company is Stourwater Pictures, Web site, [www.stourwater.com](http://www.stourwater.com).

The [Olympia Timberland Library](http://www.trlib.org) is at 313 8th Avenue SE, Olympia. For more information, call the library at (360) 352-0595 or go to [www.TRL.org](http://www.TRL.org).