



## Please join CCA for a webinar book reading with Risa Shimoda and Bob Fleshner

Monday, May 18th at 7 PM ET

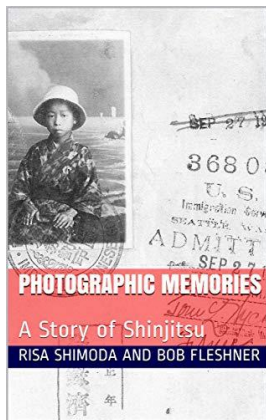
Zoom room: <https://zoom.us/j/8121709474>

Authors will read passages and share their recollections about Midori and the process of researching and drafting the book

### Taken by an Alien: An Immigrant Photographer's Story of Passion Undeterred by Injustice



(Takoma Park, Maryland, USA) – Midori Shimoda would have been the last person to have described his life as anything other than ordinary. Yet, it included: a three-week long, trans-Pacific, ocean crossing without family or friends at the age of nine; a perilous evacuation from California in the immediate aftermath of the bombing of Pearl Harbor; refuge with a Mormon ‘refugees’ family in Utah; arrests for suspected espionage/treason; and federal internment he had so earnestly sought to avoid. That’s not to mention that his life amazingly intersected with an extraordinary assortment of individuals including Grace Kelly, Fay Wray, J. Edgar Hoover, William Randolph Hearst and Betty Hutton.



“*Photographic Memories: A Story of Shinjitsu* tells a story of passion, resourcefulness and diligence for sharing beauty through the lens of a camera,” shares co-author and Midori’s daughter, Risa Shimoda. She continues, “It is the product of hundreds of hours of research about and visits with those with whom my dad lived and worked.”

Co-author Bob Fleshner adds, “Our goal in researching and writing this book was simple: to share with the world the story of an extraordinary man who went about his business in an extraordinary time no matter how high the odds were stacked against him, wanting nothing more than to excel at his craft and show love for his family.”

Sadly, the fear of “Yellow Peril” that skyrocketed newspaper sales in the early 1940s has echoed eerily as anti-Asian sentiment has decorated the leading edge of the COVID-19 pandemic reaching our shores. As we are reminded how stubborn prejudice can be, you might

find comfort in watching Midori remain undeterrable despite his mistreatment. He was an extraordinary man, even if he didn't think so.

**To join the meeting on a computer or mobile phone (video and audio):**

<https://bluejeans.com/922513224?src=calendarLink>

**Phone Dial-in (audio only; if the first number is full, try the next number)**

**+1.202.795.3352 or, +1.408.317.9254 or, +1.312.216.0325**

**Meeting ID: 922 513 224**

### **About the Authors**

Risa Shimoda is the granddaughter of individuals who immigrated to the United States in the mid-1880s to pursue opportunity. One grandfather learned a trade after escaping servitude on a pineapple plantation in Hawaii; the other farmed in Utah after having been recruited to contribute to the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad. Risa serves as the Executive Director of the River Management Society, guided through a passion for supporting whitewater paddling and river stewardship. She has written for or been featured in the American Whitewater Journal, Canoe & Kayak, Paddler Magazine, Kayak Session, and Blue Ridge Outdoors.

International Whitewater Hall of Fame: "Risa made a name for herself as a hold-nothing-back eastern squirter and creeker. She distinguished herself with the first female descent of the Green River Narrows and second female runs on the North Fork Payette and Niagara Gorge. She represented the US in six Freestyle World Championships (1993-2007). However, it has been through volunteerism and her professional training in marketing that she's made her greatest contributions to whitewater kayaking – notably as a Board member, President and Executive Director (twice) of American Whitewater."

Bob Fleshner is an executive career coach who has spent decades observing and attempting to understand human behavior. Bob spent the majority of the early part of his career as an attorney for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus and Walt Disney's World on Ice. During his tenure there, Bob spent hours digesting the amazing stories of those with whom he came in contact and honed his own story telling skills, which he put to use both as CEO for a division of a Fortune 50 company and owner and operator of his own small business. Bob writes a regular business blog and he has been featured in The Washington Post and on WTOP radio in Washington, DC.

**For more information, press only:**

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