

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS



THE **BIG  
READ**



Invest in you<sup>®</sup>



**F O C U S** 2007

Parent Infant  
Programs



Ready To Transport



Area 2 Developmental  
Disability Board  
Rural Education Institute



Shasta Public Libraries  
Far Northern Regional Center  
FOCUS Film Festival  
*present:*

# The Big Read FOCUSES on Film

Cascade Theatre  
October 25, 2007

## Screening Schedule

**7:00 PM: Valerie Ing-Miller  
Laura Larson  
Judith Salter  
Dennis Bambauer  
Linda Hattendorf**

**7:30 PM: "The Cats of Mirikitani"**

**8:45 PM: Questions and Answers  
Linda Hattendorf and  
Dennis Bambauer**

Very Special Thanks to our Supporters . . .

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## Event Staff

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### Mary Ann Weston

Community Relations/ Far Northern Regional Center  
Festival Director/ FOCUS Film Festival

### Janice Powell

Community Outreach Coordinator  
Shasta Public Libraries

### Susie Wedel

Office Assistant/Far Northern Regional Center  
Production Assistant/ FOCUS Film Festival

## Special Thanks to . . .

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### **Event Hosts: Shasta Library Foundation Board of Directors**

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Laura Larson	Connie Moreland-Bishop
Darleen Leach	Bruce Wohl

## More Thanks

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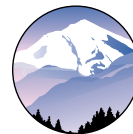
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McConnell Foundation, Lema Guest House  
Mike Hanson, FOCUS Website Designer, Far Northern Regional Center  
Shelly Anderson, Consumer Advocate, Far Northern Regional Center

### *Photo credits:*

Mr. Mirikitani by Hiroko Masuike and Ms. Hattendorf by Bob Sacha  
All artwork featured in this film is the work of Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani

## Welcome to "The Big Read FOCUSES on Film"

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Far  
Northern  
Regional  
Center

Far Northern Regional Center is honored to partner with Shasta Public Libraries and Shasta Library Foundation, to bring the Redding community "The Cats of Mirikitani."

Linda Hattendorf's beautiful documentary is a story of tenacious survival against a backdrop of horrendous national and personal loss. "The Cats of Mirikitani" is a powerful and true story of hope and the transformational power of hospitality and kindness.

We invite you to sit back, relax, and enjoy the film.

Laura Larson  
Executive Director  
Far Northern Regional Center

### Shasta Public Libraries

With branches in Anderson, Burney and Redding, the Shasta Public Libraries are community crossroads where persons of all ages and backgrounds come together to learn, research, study, and create. We encourage all citizens of Shasta County to get a free library card and begin to explore the exciting and enriching world that awaits at your library. ([www.shastalibraries.org](http://www.shastalibraries.org))

### Far Northern Regional Center

Far Northern Regional Center provides services and supports that allow individuals with developmental disabilities to live productive and valued lives as welcomed members of their community. ([www.farnorthernrc.org](http://www.farnorthernrc.org))

### FOCUS Film Festival

A project of the regional center, FOCUS Film Festival explores documentary and feature films which "focus" on the complexity of the human experience. Our goal is to enlighten and inspire our community by featuring quality films that offer insight into the lives of people from all walks of life. ([www.farnorthernrc.org/focusfilmfestival](http://www.farnorthernrc.org/focusfilmfestival))



The Shasta Library Foundation was established in 1991 to enhance library services and resources in the 21st century through the creation of a permanent endowment. The Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers who are leaders in the efforts to improve the quality of library services in our community.

Our vision: A quality, state-of-the-art library for the citizens of Shasta County—an engaging and stimulating place that connects people to the world of information and imagination.

Judith Salter  
President of the Board of Directors  
Shasta Library Foundation



USA, 2006  
74 min DVD

*Director: Linda Hattendorf; Producer: Masa Yoshikawa, Linda Hattendorf; Editor: Keiko Deguchi, Linda Hattendorf; Cinematography: Linda Hattendorf, Masa Yoshikawa; Music: Joel Goodman*

"Make art not war" is Jimmy Mirikitani's motto. This 85-year-old Japanese American artist was born in Sacramento and raised in Hiroshima, but by 2001 he is living on the streets of New York with the twin towers of the World Trade Center still ominously anchoring the horizon behind him. What begins as a simple portrait of one homeless man will become a rare document of daily life in New York in the months leading up to 9/11. How deeply these two stories will be intertwined cannot yet be imagined. This is the story of losing "home" on many levels.

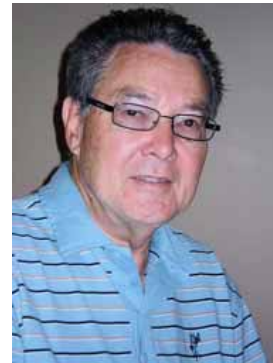
How did Mirikitani end up on the streets? The answer is in his art. As tourists and shoppers hurry past, he sits alone on a windy corner in Soho drawing whimsical cats, bleak internment camps, and the angry red flames of the atomic bomb. When a neighboring filmmaker stops to ask about Mirikitani's art, a friendship begins that will change both their lives. In sunshine, rain, and snow, she returns again and again to document his drawings, trying to decipher the stories behind them. The tales spill out in a jumble—childhood picnics in Hiroshima, ancient samurai ancestors, lost American citizenship, Jackson Pollock, Pearl Harbor, thousands of Americans imprisoned in WWII desert camps, a boy who loved cats... As winter warms to spring and summer, she begins to piece together the puzzle of Mirikitani's past. One thing is clear from his prolific sidewalk displays: he has survived terrible traumas and is determined to make his history visible through his art.

Blending beauty and humor with tragedy and loss, THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI is an intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of war and the healing power of art. A heart-warming affirmation of humanity that will appeal to all lovers of peace, art, and cats.

## Linda Hattendorf



Linda Hattendorf has been working in the New York documentary community for more than a decade. Her editing work has aired on PBS, A&E, and The Sundance Channel as well as in theatrical venues and many festivals. She edited the award-winning documentary *7th Street*, directed by Josh Pais; Julia Pimsleur's *Brother Born Again*; Christina Lundberg's *On the Road Home: A Spiritual Journey Guided by Remarkable Women*; Nancy Recant's *Jin Shin Jyutsu*, and Danny Schechter's *In Debt We Trust*. She was Associate Editor on Frontline's *The Choice '96*, and on Barbara Kopple's *Bearing Witness*; Contributing Editor on POV's *American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawaii*; a cameraperson on William Greaves' *Symbiopsychotaxiplasm Take 2 1/2*, and a researcher on the Ken Burns series *The West*. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and holds degrees in Literature, Art History, and Media Studies. This is her directorial debut.



## Dennis Bambauer

Born in 1934 in Los Angeles, **Dennis Bambauer's** mother, Anna Tojo, was Japanese American, and his father was Caucasian of Irish and French descent. Very soon after birth, he was placed for adoption in a Los Angeles orphanage. He was living in this orphanage when the United States incarcerated all Japanese American citizens living on the West Coast—men, women, and children—and placed them under custody in war relocation centers.

Dennis was removed from the orphanage and joined other orphans from Los Angeles and San Francisco at the Children's Village at Manzanar War Relocation Center. It was here that Dennis learned that he was Japanese American and different than the other kids in the orphanage where he had been raised.

When leaving Manzanar, Dennis had a profound experience with a guard which he has never forgotten, and if asked, Dennis will share it with you. Dennis left Manzanar to live with the Bambauer family who later adopted him.

Dennis appeared on 60 Minutes in *The Orphans of Manzanar*. He also speaks to civic groups and school classrooms, reminding them that we must be vigilant in protecting our freedoms.