

A story of World War II about the unlikeliest of pen pals--a Japanese American boy and a French Jewish girl--as they fight to maintain hope in a time of war.

In 1935, ten-year-old Alex Maki from Bainbridge Island, Washington is disgusted when he's forced to become pen pals with Charlie Levy of Paris, France--a *girl*. He thought she was a boy. In spite of Alex's reluctance, their letters continue to fly across the Atlantic--and along with them the shared hopes and dreams of friendship. Until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the growing Nazi persecution of Jews force them to confront the darkest aspects of human nature.

From the desolation of an internment camp on the plains of Manzanar to the horrors of Auschwitz and the devastation of European battlefields, the only thing they can hold onto are the memories of their letters. But nothing can dispel the light between them.

Program Description

Andrew Fukuda is an ADA at the Nassau County DA's office. He will speak about his journey to becoming a traditionally published author of five novels, with a special focus on his most recent historical fiction work, *This Light Between Us*, which details the varied experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II. Andrew will also speak on the unique challenges that face Asian Americans in the publishing industry, and how some of those challenges overlap (or don't) in the legal industry.

The format of the program is a Fireside Chat with Andrew Fukuda interviewed by Ching-Lee Fukuda.

Andrew has served as an Assistant District Attorney for over a decade at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, prosecuting crime in various bureaus at the litigation and appellate levels. Andrew is also the author of five novels, including his debut novel, *Crossing*, which was named by ALA Booklist as an Editor's Choice novel, Top Ten Debut Novel, and Top Ten Crime Novel. Andrew's next work was a trilogy: *The Hunt, The Prey, and the Trap* Trilogy were published worldwide and translated into more than ten languages. Most recently, Andrew's historical fiction work, *This Light Between Us*, won the 2021 Asian/ Pacific American Award for Young Literature.

Ching-Lee (yes, they are spouses) will interview Andrew about his most recent historical fiction work, *This Light Between Us*. Ching-Lee Fukuda is the head of Sidley's IP Litigation practice in New York and a member of the firm's Global Life Sciences Leadership Council. Sidley has graciously sponsored the cocktail reception before the Fireside Chat CLE program.