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This Summer, Find Your *IKIGAI*

written by Chiemi Souen

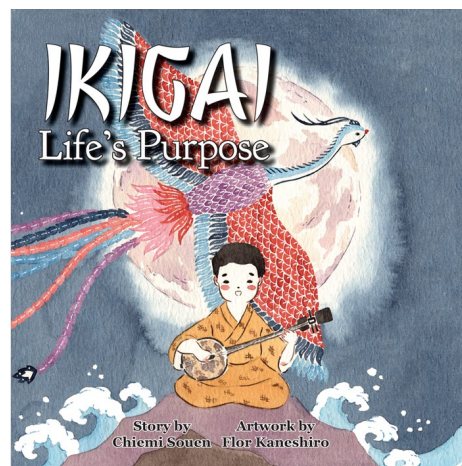
illustrated by Flor Kaneshiro

on sale August 17, 2021

“A soft but not silenced voice resounds in poetic words, built phrase by phrase about a people and place beloved of Chiemi Souen. Okinawa, Mother—shown to us all through the eyes of the writer—is invisible no longer within the Asian-American diaspora. My sister poet is of her homelands, Hawai‘i and Okinawa. Written and heard.”

- Lois-Ann Yamanaka, author of *Behold the Many*

[BrandyLane Publishers, Inc.](#) of Richmond, Virginia, is excited to announce the upcoming release of a new children’s book, [IKIGAI: Life’s Purpose](#), written by Chiemi Souen and illustrated by Flor Kaneshiro. Featuring beautiful watercolor illustrations and a hopeful, inspiring message of determination and perseverance based on the life of a Living National Treasure of Japan, *IKIGAI* is scheduled for release on August 17, 2021.



Every day, Choichi Terukina practices singing and playing the three-stringed sanshin with his teacher, Miyazato-Sensei. Choichi wants to become a great musician and share the art of uta-sanshin with the world beyond his island home. But is that truly his *ikigai*—his life’s purpose?

Inspired by the life of Living National Treasure of Japan Choichi Terukina, *IKIGAI: Life's Purpose* is a beautiful tale of determination for anyone searching for their place in the world.

About the Author

Chiemi Souen writes to give a voice to Okinawan-American descendants of contract sugar plantation workers who immigrated from Okinawa in the early 1900s and remain faceless in literature to this day. Born in Torrance, California, and raised in Honolulu, Souen earned her bachelor's degree in Japanese language and literature at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 1995. In 1998, she received the Okinawa Prefectural Government Scholarship to attend the University of the Ryukyus, where she studied Okinawan language and women's studies. She is also a member of *Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Choichi Kai USA/Hawai'i*, an Okinawan classical music academy, and is currently the editor of the *Hawai'i Herald, Hawai'i's Japanese American Journal*.

About the Illustrator

Flor Kaneshiro is an Argentinian illustrator. Born in La Plata in 1983, Flor is nikkei, a third generation Uchinaanchu (Okinawan). She earned her bachelor's degree in fine arts from the National University of La Plata and studied in traditional arts at the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts, Japan, where she was awarded a grant by the Okinawa prefectural government and the Okinawan Center of Argentina. Currently, she is a teacher at an art school in Junin de los Andes and San Martin de los Andes, Neuquén.

Interviews available upon request.

[Brandylane Publishers, Inc.](#) is an independent press located in Richmond, Virginia, that has published books since 1985.

Ikigai: Life's Purpose (hardcover, 40 pages, \$23.95 / paperback, 40 pages, \$13.95) is available for pre-order from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other fine booksellers. Kindle e-book (retail \$2.99) forthcoming.