**31st Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture with Dr. Agnes Kaposi, Engineer, Educator, Holocaust survivor and Author of**["Yellow Star-Red Star"](http://links.illinois.edu/f/a/vKIHz1fOJ-KVNvkFln5krA~~/AAMFlAA~/RgRjQIWIP0RRaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyY2hvZnRoZWxpdmluZy5vcmcudWsvcHJvZHVjdC95ZWxsb3ctc3Rhci1yZWQtc3Rhci1ieS1hZ25lcy1rYXBvc2kvVwNzcGNCCmFbiABeYZwaOKVSEGJyaWFua2FoQHVpcy5lZHVYBAAAAA8~) (2020) **8 November 2021; 12:30-2:00 pm CT**
A Lecture in celebration of the Mortenson Center’s 30th Anniversary: [https://www.library.illinois.edu/mortenson/lectures/](http://links.illinois.edu/f/a/_W78C7HTvKHYewNkR9qO0w~~/AAMFlAA~/RgRjQIWIP0Q0aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubGlicmFyeS5pbGxpbm9pcy5lZHUvbW9ydGVuc29uL2xlY3R1cmVzL1cDc3BjQgphW4gAXmGcGjilUhBicmlhbmthaEB1aXMuZWR1WAQAAAAP)

**ABSTRACT:**

Join us for a lecture with Dr. Kaposi, who brings nearly a century of perspective as she tells her life story and the role of information as a source of power/control resulting in otherness, exclusion, propaganda, dislocation, as well as transformation in engineering change. A conversation will follow, moderated by Dr. Valerie Matsumoto, to connect Dr. Kaposi’s experiences with those of other marginalized and dislocated groups worldwide, such as Japanese Americans, to identify similarities and differences across time and locations, as we rethink some of the most pressing issues that libraries face in promoting equitable communities in our information-intensive and networked society.

To register, please visit the following website:

[**https://illinois.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kfuGtpjgvHdYXtkiNKVaS02uZ-aKCfFsc**](https://illinois.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kfuGtpjgvHdYXtkiNKVaS02uZ-aKCfFsc)

**ABOUT DR. AGNES KAPOSI:**

[Dr. Agnes Kaposi](http://links.illinois.edu/f/a/Ak1UZL09VMradHt79B-qGw~~/AAMFlAA~/RgRjQIWIP0QXaHR0cDovL2FnbmVza2Fwb3NpLmNvbS9XA3NwY0IKYVuIAF5hnBo4pVIQYnJpYW5rYWhAdWlzLmVkdVgEAAAADw~~) was born in Hungary in 1932, a year before Hitler came to power. She started school at the outbreak of World War II. Many of her family and friends were murdered in the Holocaust, together with half a million other Hungarian Jews, but a series of miracles and coincidences allowed her to survive. She worked at age 11 as a child labourer in the agricultural and armament camps of Austria and was liberated by a rampaging Soviet Army. She struggled through post-war hardship to re-enter Hungarian society, only to be caught up for a decade in the vice of Stalinism. In 1956, the Hungarian revolution offered the opportunity to escape. Entering Britain as a graduate engineer, she started a family and built a career as a researcher, educator and consultant. She was the third woman to become a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. She is the author of a recent memoir co-written with historian Laszlo Csosz of University of Budapest, *Yellow Star-Red Star*(i2i Publications, Manchester).

**ABOUT DR. VALERIE MATSUMOTO:**

[Valerie J. Matsumoto](http://links.illinois.edu/f/a/ZlvHdiMQ2Zb391vW0g7_Xw~~/AAMFlAA~/RgRjQIWIP0QyaHR0cHM6Ly9hc2lhbmFtLnVjbGEuZWR1L3BlcnNvbi92YWxlcmllLW1hdHN1bW90by9XA3NwY0IKYVuIAF5hnBo4pVIQYnJpYW5rYWhAdWlzLmVkdVgEAAAADw~~) is a professor in the Department of History and the Department of Asian American Studies at UCLA. In addition to her book *City Girls: The Nisei Social World in Los Angeles, 1920-1950,* she is the author of *Farming the Home Place: A Japanese American Community in California, 1919-1982* and co-edited the essay collection *Over the Edge: Remapping the American West*. She was the first recipient of the Toshio and Doris Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Award, received the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award, and has twice received the Award for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring and Teaching from the UCLA Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association. In 2017 she was appointed to the George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair on the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress, and Community.

**Yellow Star – Red Star, by Agnes Kaposi**

Agnes Kaposi was born in Hungary the year before Hitler came to power and started school at the outbreak of World War II. The Holocaust killed many of her family, together with half a million Hungarian Jews, but a series of miracles and coincidences allowed her to survive. She worked as child labourer in the agricultural and armament camps of Austria and was liberated by a rampaging Soviet army. She struggled through post-war hardship to re-enter Hungarian society, only to be caught up for a decade in the vice of Stalinism. In 1956 a bloody revolution offered the opportunity to escape to Britain, a country of freedom and tolerance, where she started a family and built a career as an engineer. The story is written with compassion and optimism, without self-pity. The tone is light, and there is plenty of irony, even humour. The narrative is underscored by the historian László Csosz and illustrated by several maps and more than a hundred archival images and family photographs. Dr Agnes Kaposi is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, a Churchill Fellow. Dr László Csosz is historian and senior archivist of the National Archives of Hungary, and research fellow of the Wiener Holocaust Library, London.

