



# apala

asian/pacific american librarians association

NEWSLETTER

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## HONORING THE DEAN OF CHINESE AMERICAN HISTORY

by Jerry Dear

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Honoring the Dean of Chinese American History, p. 1
- Letter from the Editor/President's Message, p. 2
- JCLC '12: Honorary Degree Awards and Oral Histories on Film, p. 3
- ALAMW '12: ALA 5K Fun Run in Dallas, TX, p. 4
- Feature: LIS Diversity Initiatives & APA Heritage Month, p. 5
- JCLC '12 Welcomes Authors, p. 6
- APALA ALA Annual '12 Events, p. 7
- Grant Writing and Alternative Funding Tips, p. 8
- Book Reviews, p. 10
- ALAMW '12: Success at ALA Champion Connections, p. 13
- APALA Member News & Election Results, p. 14
- Submission & Publication Information, p. 15

Engineer. Researcher. Scholar. Historian. Community Activist. Pioneer. These are the various roles of [Him Mark Lai](#), christened the “Dean of Chinese American History,” whose scholarly research established the foundational curriculum for many Asian American and ethnic studies programs. At a rededication ceremony on December 19, 2011 spearheaded by the Him Mark Lai Library Committee, the [Chinatown Branch of the San Francisco Public Library](#) was renamed to the Chinatown/Him Mark Lai Branch Library to honor the enormous contribution of his research and scholarship in Chinese American history.

The ceremony commenced with lion dancing and opening remarks from City librarian Luis Herrera, Library Commission President Jewelle Gomez, Supervisor Board Members David Chiu and Eric Mar, and Him Mark Lai's wife Laura Lai. Afterward came the unveiling of two plaques with gold-colored lettering—one in English and the other in Chinese—of Him Mark Lai's name on both sides to the library's entrance.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the community meeting room of the library. Historians, writers, instructors, community members, and library patrons engaged in lively discussions while dining on an assortment of dim sum and pastry refreshments. Playing in the background was an in-production film by local documentary

filmmaker [Felicia Lowe](#) on the life of Him Mark Lai, which highlights the details of documenting an excluded and marginalized group. Copies of [Him Mark Lai: Autobiography of a Chinese American Historian](#)—a book edited by Judy Yung, Ruthanne Lum McCunn, and Russell C. Leong—were sold at the event.

*Continued on page 11*

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear APALA readers,

I wish everyone a Happy Dragon Year also! For many Asian cultures the *Dragon* symbolizes good luck and abundance of fortune. The only mythical creature among the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac, the dragon also symbolizes strength and intelligence. To be a dragon baby is considered very special in many Asian families. While skepticism abounds with respect to astrological beliefs, it is nevertheless a good feeling to know that one has this auspicious mythical creature on her/his side.

We hope that with the publication of this first issue of our newsletter for 2012 it would bring our association good fortune as well. As you turn the pages of our newsletter, I hope that the stories and articles would inspire you, give you strength, or teach you something new that you could apply to your work, school, or life in general.

Many individuals assisted in the production of this newsletter that spent a long time incubating on my desktop. The Editorial Committee has been a big help in the production of the newsletter. Kaela, Melissa, Miriam, Naomi, and Nicci, thank you for your editorial and general assistance. Suzanne Im, my colleague at UCSB, has provided timely editing when I needed it. I would like to thank Melissa in particular for stepping in on a short notice to do the layout design for the newsletter. Without her assistance APALA may not have a “dragon baby” for 2012!

Thank you,  
gary ☺

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Sandy Wee, APALA President 2011-2012.

Happy Year of the Dragon! I hope you all had a great time this past Midwinter conference despite your busy schedule. With social media, through photos and posts, we were all able to vicariously enjoy the conference. It was great to see many new faces at our APALA events, as well as reconnect with many APALA friends.

Thus far, my year as president has been busy, yet extremely rewarding. Thanks to the leadership of our Executive Board and Committee Chairs, we have accomplished much during these past six months. Let me share with you some of these below.

Three successful socials at ALA Midwinter:  
Tour of the Crow Collection of Asian Art,  
Social dinner at Zenna Thai and Japanese Restaurant  
APALA/AILA participation in the 5K.

At ALA Midwinter, APALA Executive voted to endorse the *Resolution Opposing Restriction of Access to Materials and Open Inquiry in Ethnic and Cultural Studies Programs in Arizona*.

Tina Chan was named APALA’s Emerging Leader for 2012.

We announced the winners of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (APAAL).

We also kicked off the T-shirt campaign. APALA members also did some networking and performed ongoing work soliciting donations.

Family Literacy Focus Task Force, a collaboration between APALA and American Indian Library Association (AILA) received \$2500 from Toyota for their ongoing project.

*Continued on page 12*

## HONORARY DEGREE AWARDS AND ORAL HISTORIES ON FILM AFTER 70 YEARS

University Libraries' Role in Reconciliation for Nisei Americans of Japanese Ancestry

by Evelyn Shimazu Yee



Former student and Nisei Honoree, Rev. Dr. John Miyabe (age 91) is congratulated by APU President, John Wallace, DBA.

At the Joint Conference on Librarians of Color National Conference in Kansas, Azusa Pacific University Associate Professor and Librarian, Evelyn Shimazu Yee will premiere her short film, "Hope and Faith: The Story of Our Nisei Students." It provides an educational introduction to a cultural reconciliatory community program led by the library of a private university. It was created after the implementation of California Assembly Bill 37, which mandated that all state universities and colleges award honorary degrees to those whose higher education was interrupted by Executive order 9066. This forced evacuation order subjected all persons (including children) of even one-sixteenth Japanese Ancestry (regardless of American citizenship) to be forcibly evacuated, detained by military escort or incarcerated from the West Coast. This resulted in losses to individuals and families totaling in the multi-billions of dollars. Losses to personal property and businesses were staggering. To this day, families of succeeding generations continue to feel the effects of the incarceration and evacuation, which had severe impact on health, education, psychological well-being and the loss of civil liberties.

The film's objective is to educate the commencement audience about this dark episode in U.S. history. Former students tell their stories through archival as well as primary and second sources in the form of oral history interviews of surviving internees and their families, many of whom are now in their 80s and 90s.

In an instructive dialog, Yee will discuss topics such as the role of politics and economic greed in the farming industry, and the breakdown of cultural family structures during this time. Audiences will learn about the internal divisions and fissures within the community that derived from poorly designed loyalty questionnaires and discriminatory land laws. They will also discover how diverse religious communities played a major role in assisting those in the Japanese American community who were displaced during the evacuation, assembly center, camp and resettlement periods. There will be a dissemination of helpful and valuable comprehensive bibliographic resources for library collection development appropriate for academic, school and public library settings. ☀



Group photo of APU Nisei Honorary Degree recipients, representatives, and next of kin.

*Continued on page 12*



## ALA 5K FUN RUN

at ALA Midwinter 2012, Dallas, TX

by Janet H. Clarke

Several members of APALA braved unusually chilly temperatures in a pre-dawn ALA Fun Run 5K and Walk in Dallas during the recent Midwinter meeting. More than 100 ALA attendees participated in the race, which took place at Reverchon Park on Saturday, January 21, 2012. APALA members Janet Clarke, Gary Colmenar, Florante Ibanez, and Sandy Wee were joined by AILA members Heather Devine, Suzanne Goodman, and Liana Juliano.

Gary Colmenar of University of California Santa Barbara Libraries, who may have been training secretly for this race, expertly left everyone in the dust and won the first place medal in the male 40 to 49 category, finishing 23:13.9. He placed an impressive fifth place overall, allowing the rest of the APALA/AILA runners to bask in his glory, if only vicariously. Janet Clarke of Stony Brook University Libraries placed a surprising third in the female 40 to 49 category, at 29:47.1, and Sandy Wee of San Mateo Public Library placed fifth in the same age category, at 31: 54.4. Florante Ibanez of Loyola Law School participated in the 1K Walk and was the ubiquitous photographer who memorialized the event for posterity.

The runners, some of them first-time competitors, gathered at the unmentionable hour of 6 AM CST at the park's Katy Trail and tried in vain to warm up with strength and conditioning coach, Jon-Eric Fountain. The trail was still pitch-black, lit only by flood lights, and the cement ground remained frigid as participants stretched their muscles awake. And no wonder the conditions seemed inhospitable: the temperature was only 37°F and winds were gusting at up to 26 mph. Some of the runners were clearly not dressed properly, exposing too much vulnerable skin. Even with the provided hand-warmers, which some tucked inside their ear warmers, some runners' digits and extremities seemed to go numb instantly, and they stayed that way for the duration of the event. In addition, some participants were nursing nasty bruises from previous skiing injuries. But despite the forgotten gloves or iPods and a treacherous set of steps impeding the goal, despite all the obstacles, all the

AILA and APALA participants ran with gusto past apartment buildings and over freeway overpasses as the sun began to rise on the urban landscape, all the while thinking about how fun it was to be fit. They used the power of positive thinking and can-do attitude to valiantly complete the race. Indeed, the encouragement, camaraderie, and raucous cheering of fellow APALA and AILA runners gave every one of the runners a sense of accomplishment, both individual and shared. There were no reports of runners going off course.

Immediately after the race and the high fives and fist-bumps, there was so much endorphin and adrenaline flowing among the group that its members unanimately committed to the next racing opportunity. The newly-energized runners speculated on the running conditions and possible race courses at the next ALA Midwinter location—Seattle, WA—while gasping for breath, gulping water, cradling steaming hot chocolate or coffee, or otherwise nourishing their shocked bodies with fruit or mini-bagels provided by event donors Albertson's grocery stores, The Original Pancake House, Walgreens, and Einstein Bros. Bagels. Daylight had finally graced the event by then, and participants were able to appreciate the full beauty of the park, note the color of Dallas grass in January, and actually see their competitors' faces—all friendly library types.

Oh, yes. We should mention the overall winners for the event. Eric Forte of OCLC easily won first place with 17:53.1 and Nancy Fawley of the University of Alabama Libraries won the women's title, finishing 22:35.4.

The ALA Fun Run 5K and Walk in Dallas marked the reinstatement, after an eight-year hiatus, of the annual event, which began 21 years ago, coincidentally, in Dallas. According to ALA Conference Coordinator Lindsay Rosales, the Fun Run was moved from the annual conference to the midwinter meeting to allow more members to participate in the event, as the midwinter meeting schedule is not as hectic as annual's. The event introduces a *Think Fit @ ALA* focus, which promotes personal or environmental health. This year's event was sponsored by Innovative Interfaces.

*Continued on page 11*

## LIS DIVERSITY INITIATIVES AND APA HERITAGE MONTH

at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Library and Information Studies

by Dawn K. Wing

As a LIS Access Midwest Program (LAMP) Project Assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), I am privileged to start my first-year in the Master's program with the unique opportunity to collaborate with faculty, library professionals and peers in promoting



Melissa Villa-Nicholas (left) and Dawn K. Wing (right) at the American Airlines Center for WLA conference 2011.

diversity initiatives within the school. For 2011-2012, two assistantships were awarded to SLIS students funded by a grant my school received in 2009 from LAMP, a regional network of academic libraries and information science schools that “specifically seeks the participation of students [completing Master's degrees] from statistically and historically underrepresented populations in LIS.” It has been an exciting year brainstorming with my colleague Melissa Villa-Nicholas. With Dr. Ethelene Whitmire's guidance, we developed ways to increase access for underrepresented students at SLIS to opportunities and resources that will help them succeed in their academic and professional careers. On November 4, 2011, we shared our diversity outreach goals and activities at the Wisconsin Library Association's annual conference in Milwaukee with a lineup of LAMP copanelists: Amani Ayad, LAMP Coordinator, Omar Poler of UW-Madison SLIS and Kristina Gomez of Mil-

waukee Public Library.

Since Fall semester, Melissa and I have been working hard to publicize scholarships, fellowships and professional opportunities sponsored by the ethnic caucuses of the ALA and other library associations to the SLIS community, but particularly for our students of color. We keep our peers updated on LIS news through word of mouth, our newsletters and our [Wordpress blog](#). We are delighted to see that our peers appreciate the sense of community and safe space we provide through social events and Facebook. At our last social event in December, we discovered many hidden talents and future “American Idols” during our “Glee” themed karaoke night! Another important goal for us is to increase awareness of the contributions of librarians of colors to the profession. One way we have accomplished this has been through featured exhibits in the department's hallways.

For Black History Month, Melissa and I have received positive responses to our “Pioneering Librarians” visual timeline featuring prominent African American librarians and civil rights leaders breaking boundaries in the library profession. Encouraged by the feedback, we plan to set up similar educational displays regarding Latina/o and Asian Pacific American (APA) librarians. For APA Heritage month, I am researching notable figures such as Janet Suzuki, Edna Law and



"Pioneering Librarians" visual timeline and biographies of prominent African American librarians in the SLIS display case.

*Continued on page 11*

## JOINT CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS OF COLOR (JCLC) WELCOMES AUTHORS JAMAL JOSEPH AND DA CHEN

Discounted Early Registration Open Now  
by Florante Ibanez

Notable award winning authors Jamal Joseph and Da Chen will join the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC), Sept. 19-23, 2012 in Kansas City, Missouri.



Jamal Joseph, Associate Professor and Past Chair of the film division at Columbia University's School of the Arts

In the 1960s, Jamal Joseph exhorted students at Columbia University to burn their college to the ground. Today he is an associate professor and past chair of their School of the Arts film division. His personal odyssey - from the streets of Harlem to Rikers Island and Leavenworth, to the halls of Columbia, is detailed in his book,

"Panther Baby: A Life of Rebellion and Reinvention."

One of the youngest members of the Panther 21, Joseph was charged with conspiracy in one of the most emblematic criminal cases of the '60s and was sent to prison twice. While incarcerated, he earned two college degrees, wrote five plays, two volumes of poetry and found his calling.

Joseph has written and directed for Black Starz, HBO, FoxTV, New Line Cinema, Warner Bros. and A&E, and was nominated for a 2008 Academy Award in the Best Song category.

Da Chen grew up in the deep south of China, running barefoot in muddy fields and riding the backs of water buffaloes. As the grandson of a disgraced landowner, he was a victim of communist political persecution and harrowing poverty during the Cultural Revolution. His family was beaten, his father thrown in reform camp, and young Chen, at the age of nine, was threatened with imprisonment.

Chen arrived in America at the age of 23 with \$30 in his pocket, a bamboo flute, and a heart filled with hope. He attended Columbia University School of Law on a full scholarship, and upon graduating, worked for the Wall Street investment banking firm of Rothschilds, Inc.

A brush calligrapher of considerable spirituality who also plays the classical bamboo flute, he lives in New York's Hudson Valley with his wife and two small children. His first work of fiction, *Brothers*, was the adult fiction winner of the APALA award in 2007. Other acclaimed books of Da include the New York Times bestselling memoir *Colors of the Mountain*, the mem-



Da Chen, New York Times bestselling author of *Colors of the Mountain*

oir *Sounds of the River*, and the books for young readers *Wandering Warrior* and *China's Son*.

The Joint Conference of Librarians of Color is a conference for everyone and brings together a diverse group of librarians, library staff, library supporters and community participants to explore issues of diversity in libraries and how they affect the ethnic



## JCLC WELCOMES AUTHORS

...continued from page 6

communities that libraries serve. Under the theme, "Gathering at the Waters: Celebrating Stories and Embracing Communities," JCLC will provide a unique opportunity for learning with over seventy concurrent sessions including panel discussions, presentations, workshops, and roundtables.

Programming is divided into five tracks—Advocacy, Outreach and Collaboration; Collections, Programs and Services; Deep Diversity and Cultural Exchange; Leadership, Management and Organizational Development; and Technology and Innovation. Three pre-conferences will provide more focused exploration of diversity leadership development, diversity action plans, and advocacy in diverse communities.

Kansas City, newly revitalized and richly diverse, will provide an ideal backdrop for this gathering, with the beautiful symbol of fountains set throughout the landscape. Kansas City offers numerous cultural opportunities, including a culinary scene set apart by world-famous barbeque and nightlife fueled by a vibrant jazz community.

The Joint Conference of Librarians of Color is sponsored by the five ethnic caucuses: the American Indian Library Association (AILA), Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) and REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. The first Joint Conference was held in Dallas, Texas in 2006.

Registration and more information may be found at <http://jclc-conference.org>.

## APALA EVENTS @ ALA ANNUAL 2012 in Anaheim, CA

### Friday, June 22, 2012

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Meeting place: hotel lobby of Anabella Hotel  
APA(LA) : APALA in LA Field Trip to Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo  
Location: Downtown Los Angeles  
Paid registration required  
(Registration information will be posted on the APALA website)

3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Diversity & Outreach Fair — APALA Booth  
Location: Exhibits Hall, Anaheim Convention Center

7:30 pm-9:30 pm

APALA Executive Board Meeting  
Location: HIL-Capistrano

### Saturday, June 23, 2012

8:00 am- 10:00 am

Diversity Council Program: Diversity begins at home: Valuing every kind of difference  
Location: ACC-208B

1:00 pm-2:30 pm

Family Literacy Focus Committee/Talk Story Poster Session: Weaving Successful Partnerships: Creating a Sustainable Family Literacy Program  
Location: Exhibits Hall, Anaheim Convention Center, Table 5

3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Diversity & Outreach Fair - APALA Booth  
Location: Exhibits Hall, Anaheim Convention Center

6:00 pm-7:00 pm

APALA Speed Networking  
Location: TenTen Seafood Restaurant, 669 North Euclid St., Anaheim, CA 92801

7:00 pm-9:00 pm

APALA Dinner & Social  
Location: TenTen Seafood Restaurant, 669 North Euclid St., Anaheim, CA 92801

*Continued on page 12*

## GRANT WRITING AND ALTERNATIVE FUNDING TIPS

### For the Good Researcher

by Patty Wong

Grant writing can be an intimidating process, but it need not be with preparation and the right ingredients.

Library people: you already have the skills – you are experienced in conducting reference interviews and research, and matching the answer or possible solution to the query. You merely apply the same techniques in a grant-seeking scenario.

#### *Be prepared: Grants Research*

Grants and alternative funding resources can be found in almost any location.

Consider the following: You are driving in your car listening to National Public Radio. As you listen to the stories mentioned on NPR, they resonate with your own interests. The host always identifies the donors and contributors/grantors that make those programs possible. If one of those stories speaks to you and would be something that your library might offer as a program, then the likelihood is that those funders might be interested in investing in your organization.

Events are great ways to identify like-minded individuals and corporate givers who might support a similar agency. You might even know some of the people listed on the program or on the donor acknowledgement wall in any facility. Some donors may even be your neighbors. Charitable contributions are tied to relationship building and a persuasive case; donors are often drawn to something that resonates with them personally. A common rule of thumb is that up to 80% of national giving in the US comes from individuals, so don't rule that out.

It is all about good fit and similar vision and priorities. Government grants can be researched on their website ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)). Most private foundations can be reviewed on Foundation Directory Online, a subscription-based resource that might be available where you work, at the library(!), or at a nonprofit

foundation center where more resources exist.

#### *Know your audience: The Funder*

Don't stop researching at their grant guidelines. Examine the funder instructions carefully--you would be surprised how many people do not. Take the time to research the funder. Review their annual report, look at their website, research any active giving or news articles about the funder, and examine 990 tax returns for the funder--which they are required to make public. These pieces of data better inform your assessment of the funder's priorities and criteria, and whether there is a good match between your needs and the funder goals.

#### *A word about trends in grantmaking*

There is a bit more competition out there these days. A recent study by the Minnesota Council on Foundations indicated that with the downturn in the economy, more foundations are holding back on the funding cycles. They wait until they build up their coffers again. But overall, giving is at an all-time high. What is the difference? More organizations are applying for alternative resources with their own stretched budgets. More agencies are considering diversified funding streams for their sustainability. So you have to be a wee bit stronger, faster, and more compelling in your composition of the proposal. Does that mean to avoid grant seeking if you are not experienced? Of course not!

You are probably engaging in practices that are already pleasing to funders.

More grant funders are interested in **partnerships** and collaborations, and consortiums that are well established. Most libraries like to work with other groups that work well within their arenas of influence. If you have an existing relationship with an external service agency to provide a program, or if you have meaningful ways of expressing successful measures through these joint efforts, you are a stronger candidate for grant funding because you are a reliable partner. You are engaged in sustainable practices, and you look beyond your own organization for resource development.

Keep up to date with other like-minded organizations.



## GRANT WRITING...continued from page 8

From where do they get their funding? If an Asian/Pacific American agency issues a press release about a grant or a partnership, make a note of that. Funders who are interested in helping Asian and Pacific Islander communities might be interested in partnering with you. Corporations with strong ties to Asian and Pacific Islander roots may be interested, but not always. Remember that there are many who have altruistic intentions and want to work with you to serve underserved populations. Their goal is the same as yours – to make a difference.

### *Look Inside*

When requesting funding, it is also common practice to raise donations beginning with your own organization. A corporate giving program or a foundation is more likely to provide funding to an agency that is sustainable and where the leadership has an active practice of giving individually.

### *Writing - Persuasion is Key*

When preparing a grant proposal, remember you are telling a story. Follow the guidelines but craft a storyline that is compelling. You are making the best case for your funder as an **investor** in your organization's strength, ability to sustain and maintain partnerships, effectiveness, and success in reaching the intended audience.

How do you demonstrate this? Some ingredients might include letters of support, a list of prior partners who resonate with the funder, links to articles of similar successful efforts. Remember the package must reflect the funder's expectations. You are trying to set yourself apart from the competition, but you don't want to overwhelm the readers. Keep in mind that at times extraneous information ends up in the reject pile. There may be character or word limits. You will need to adhere to the funder instructions in order to be eligible.

Your other goal is to make the funder look as good as possible. Make sure you have a plan to include the funder in any publicity efforts, including a lead quote, joint media conference, or inclusion of the funder's logo. The funder may have a program

officer that may provide some insight. Gone are the days when the program lead would review ideas and drafts of proposals, but they may have insight that they will share with you. Remember, you are creating a relationship with a funder with a grant proposal.

Consider having a fresh pair of eyes review your work. Does your reader understand the need, the goals of the program, and how the funder is critical to that investment? Does the budget make sense? Do the numbers add up?

And remember that a grant is a promise – you need to follow through on the goal.

### *Implementation Team*

If you have thought about a grant or another type of funding request, you need to make sure you involve all of those who will ensure your success within the organization. Surprises are all difficult for us to stomach, especially if you haven't built up the internal supports for implementation. Make sure you line up the right complement of individuals whose talents will make integration of your plan a breeze. Communication is critical to make sure all, including your funder, have a strategic part in the grant's intended success.

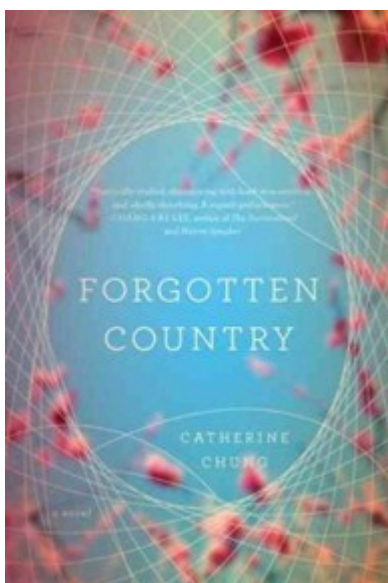
### *Sharing Your Good News*

Everyone likes a winner. Many remember to announce the receipt of a grant. Few remember to acknowledge the results or the benefits in later communications. Consider crowing about your demonstrated success. Your funder will benefit from additional publicity and you will heighten your organization's credibility and invite others to invest. ☺

Patty Wong is an APALA life member, former APALA president (1999) and recipient of the ALA 2012 Equality Award. She is the County Librarian/Chief Archivist for Yolo County Library (CA) and teaches Grant Writing at San Jose State University, School of Library and Information Science.

## BOOK REVIEWS

by Miriam Tuliao



Chung, Catherine. *Forgotten Country*. Riverhead. Mar. 2012. 352p. ISBN 9781594488085 \$26.95

“All boundaries are imagined.” Chung’s eloquent family saga vividly portrays the very different cultures of Korea and America, while delving into the rich terrains of immigration, political history and personal mythology. Twenty years after her family dismantles everything to move to the United States, Janie struggles to find approval at home and school, assuming the weighty roles of dutiful daughter and protective sister while trying to complete a doctoral math program. While caring for her dying father, Janie is pressured to bring her estranged younger sister Hannah back into the family fold. Recalling her mother’s urgent advice (“You must not be like me. When you are a wife, do not fight. Obey your husband. Fulfill his wishes”), Janie realizes that “love is a kind of disappearing.” Chung’s standout novel is poignant and profound.

Lee, Krys. *Drifting House*. Viking. Feb. 2012. 210p. ISBN 9780670023257 \$25.95

This beautifully crafted collection of nine stories centers on the Korean experience and speaks to the profundities of love and loss. In “A Temporary Marriage,” a mother must give the appearance of confidence as she sacrifices to leave Seoul in search of her disappeared daughter. In “The Pastor’s Son,” a young man reminisces about his father’s missteps and vain attempts to guard his reputation. “The Goose Father” tells the wistful story of a 46-year-old accountant who faithfully supports his family living overseas, but seeks to address his ever growing loneliness. In the harrowing title story, children desperate to escape hunger join an exodus from North Korea to China. Richly portraying both the humbled and haunted, Lee’s writing inspires empathy. Her debut work will surely resonate with a broad audience of readers.

Miriam Tuliao is the assistant director of Central Collection Development at The New York Public Library.

## HONORING THE DEAN

...continued from page 1

Him Mark Lai (1925-2009) taught classes on early Chinese American history at San Francisco State College (now San Francisco State University) after the Third World Student Strike in 1968. His scholarship comprises groundbreaking research spanning 10 books and over a 100 articles on the Chinese American experience.

As a pioneer in this field, Him Mark Lai's academic legacy continues to educate and inspire future generations of students, historians, and scholars, forming the basis for a core curriculum in Asian American and ethnic studies programs across many academic institutions in the country today. ☺

Jerry Dear is a Librarian/Information Strategist at San Francisco Public Library.

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## ALA 5K FUN RUN

...continued from page 4

At the event's conclusion, with teeth still chattering, participants gratefully boarded the warm shuttle buses which brought them back to the Dallas Convention Center in plenty of time for the day's first round of captivating and inspiring meetings.

APALA President Sandy Wee looked forward to the next Fun Run, and encouraged greater participation, "It was great commiserating with our AILA/APALA colleagues - we got up so early to make our Fun Run fun. We spent much of our time freezing, laughing, and cheering one another on. Let's do it again!" ☺

Janet Clarke is the Associate Director for Research and Instructional Services at Stony Brook University Libraries.

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## LIS DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

...continued from page 5

Daniel Tsang to feature in a "Who's Who of Ground-breaking APA Librarians" visual display.

Anyone who has recommendations on APA librarians to feature, please feel free to contact me! We are also pleased to announce that distinguished librarian Dr. Daniel Tsang from U.C. Irvine will be

speaking about multicultural issues and information access as a guest lecturer at SLIS this April.

Last week, we kicked off the SLIS Diversity Film Festival with "Which Way Home," a film about the strug-



From left to right, Melissa Villa-Nicholas, Dawn Wing and Christina Endres, presenting the documentary "Which Way Home" for the SLIS Diversity Film Festival.

gles of migrant children in Central America trying to reunite with their families in the US. The film festival, which runs until April, invites library students to view documentaries highlighting issues of US immigration, prison and education policies in order to understand their effects on the communities we serve. Film viewings are followed by an audience discussion.

As for upcoming events, Melissa and I will be attending the LAMP Summer Institute in Ann Arbor, MI from May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup> to present outcomes of the diversity initiatives we have sustained this year. Finally, I look forward to meeting APALA folks at the 2012 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim where I will participate as a Spectrum Scholar. I also can't wait to be at JCLC in September – I already bought a pin from AILA/JCLC coordinator Janice Rice and have been wearing it on my backpack everyday! ☺

Dawn K. Wing is a first-year SLIS student at UW-Madison interested in outreach services and academic librarianship. She is originally from Flushing, NY. She can be contacted by email at [dwing\(at\)wisc.edu](mailto:dwing(at)wisc.edu). She expects to earn her MLIS in 2013.

Check out our UW-Madison SLIS Diversity blog -

<http://madslisdiversity.wordpress.com>

Friend us on Facebook! - <http://www.facebook.com/diversityatwumadisonlis>



HONORARY DEGREE AWARDS AND  
ORAL HISTORIES ON FILM  
...continued from page 3



APU Instruction Librarian and Honoree Escort, Rebecca Russo helps former student and Nisei Honoree, Mrs. Flora Sakato (age 91) position her cap before the ceremony.

Evelyn Shimazu Yee is an Associate Professor and Head of Community Relations for University Libraries at Azusa Pacific University.

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APALA EVENTS @ ALA ANNUAL 2012  
...continued from page 7

**Sunday, June 24, 2012**

8:00 am-10:00 am

APALA Literary Awards

Location: ACC-207C

10:30 am-12:00 pm

APALA and REFORMA President's Program: Beyond Books: Graphic Novels and Magazines of Color

Location: ACC-207D

1:30 pm-3:30 pm

APALA Program: So You Think You Can Write: Librarians Gather & Preserve Our Community History

Location: ACC-208B



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
...continued from page 2

The Executive Board approved the awarding of four scholarships, each worth \$500, to APALA members to attend the Joint Conference for Librarians of Color (JCLC) Scholarships to APALA members.

Standing committees continue with plans for: Constitution and Bylaws update. Promotion of APALA through ALA.

APALA representation at ALA national level: Working Group on Diversity and LIS Education, Equitable Access to Electronic Content (EQIACC).

Ongoing support of JCLC with printing donation of publicity postcards and raffle baskets.

We increased our membership by 24%. We matched 9 protégés with mentors.

The transition between incoming (Buenaventura "Ven" Basco) and outgoing (Gary Colmenar) Executive Director is going well.

We continue our collaboration and partnerships with other ethnic caucuses: AILA, BCALA, CALA, REFORMA.

None of the above would have been accomplished without the dedication of our Board and Committee Chairs.

Finally, I would like to thank Gary Colmenar, our outgoing Executive Director (2006-2012) for his years of service with APALA. Gary's knowledge of APALA and ALA has been invaluable for those of us who serve on the board during these years. During these past six months, Gary has been working with our incoming Executive Director Buenaventura "Ven" Basco on transitioning roles. Gary is not only a colleague but a great friend and support to us all. Thank you, Gary!

Have a great year!

Best,  
Sandy  
2011-2012 APALA President ☼

## SUCCESS AT ALA CHAMPION CONNECTIONS AT ALA MIDWINTER 2012

by Aimee Babcock-Ellis

I was lucky enough to participate in ALA President Molly Raphael's new initiative, Champion Connections. The theme was "Empowering Diverse Voices."

What is a champion? According to the American Library Association webpage, [What is a Champion Connection](#):

"Champions are established and influential leaders who leverage their prominence within the profession for our advancement. Champions recognize potential for future leadership and push us forward, advocating for our involvement in different groups or recommending us for higher levels of leadership. "

The program for the event reads, "Champions may not be by your side for every step of the way—like peers or even mentors—but when they swoop in and offer their support, they can catapult you to the next level."

So, who were these champions? Dr. Mary Jo Venetis, co-lead for Champion Connections and Director of Academic Catalogs at the University of Texas at Dallas Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, and Rose Dawson, co-lead for Champion Connections and Director of the Alexandria Library in the state of Virginia. There were 21 additional champions, including past ALA Presidents Camila Alire and Loriene Roy.

Invited participants were personally paired with eight different champions whom they met for 10 minutes apiece. The meet-up session was very similar to speed-mentoring. Most of us wanted more than 10 minutes with each champion. We were given the email addresses of all of our matched champions, so we could continue our conversations after the event. Participants were not told with whom they would be paired prior to the event.

I was so excited to meet the champions I was matched with. I had heard so much about these different champions before the event. One of my champions was APALA President, Sandy Wee. I had

never met her and was embarrassed to tell her that my APALA membership had lapsed. Sandy convinced me to renew my membership, which I did when I returned home. She talked about the different opportunities there are to get involved in APALA and offered her assistance in getting started with any of the opportunities.

I got to learn a little about Sandy's job as a branch manager at Millbrae Library at the San Mateo County Library System in California. I was surprised to learn that there are not a significant number of APALA members who work in public libraries. It made me wonder why, especially with the rising number of Asians and Asian-Americans in the United States, particularly on the West coast.

Sandy's enthusiasm for APALA energized me. I hope to become more involved in the organization. This initiative far surpassed my expectations for it and I feel lucky to have been a part of it. I've been in contact with some of the champions I met and hope to continue some of the conversations we started. This program was the highlight of ALA Midwinter 2012, not counting my Emerging Leaders program. ☺

Aimee Babcock-Ellis is a 2012 ALA Emerging Leader and blogs at [Informationista](#).

## APALA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Florante Peter Ibanez.** His film, "Got Book? Auntie Helen's Gift of Books" will be shown during the ALA Annual 2012 Conference at *Now Showing @ ALA* film program. The film focuses on the life of Helen Agcaoili Brown, founder of the Filipino American Library. The film shows Auntie Helen, as she is widely known by the community, being interviewed by her son. The 8 minute documentary will be shown on Saturday, June 23, at 10:30 a.m. in room 123 of the Anaheim Convention Center.

**Patty M. Y. Wong.** APALA lifetime member Patty Wong is this year's recipient of the ALA 2012 Equality Award. The award is given to an individual or group for outstanding contributions to promote equality in the library profession. The award ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 24, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., during the president's program and ALA awards presentations.

**Miriam Tuliao.** Miriam, assistant director of Central Collection Development at the New York Public Library, announced that she will participate in the fourth annual Liberty Island Swim in support of the Spectrum Presidential Initiative. The event, to be held June 29, 2012, is a 1.2K race around the Statue of Liberty. Miriam has previously participated in long distance open water events to raise money for the ALA Spectrum Scholarship Program. For more information about the ALA Spectrum Scholarship, please visit <http://www.ala.org/offices/diversity/spectrum>.

## APALA ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to our newly elected members of the APALA Executive Board! They will join the rest of the Executive Board members and work with incoming president Jade Alburo. All terms will begin immediately after 2012 ALA annual.

- Vice-President/President Elect: Eugenia Beh
- Treasurer: Shoko Tokoro (2nd term begins after 2012 ALA annual)
- Secretary: Lessa Pelayo-Lozada (2nd term begins after 2012 ALA annual)
- Member-at-Large: Tina Chan (2012-2014)
- Member-at-Large: Alanna Aiko Moore (2012-2014)





## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The APALA Newsletter Committee is always looking for submissions. Please send us your articles, stories, letters to the editor, and announcements. Stay tuned for the next deadline for submissions.

Submissions to the APALA Newsletter may be made by any current APALA Member or APALA affiliate. Please send your submissions electronically in one of the following formats: MSWord, RTF, PDF, or plain text pasted into the body of an e-mail. We ask that submissions be kept to a length of 500 to 1,000 words. Graphics are encouraged. Please submit images as separate files along with a list of file names with corresponding captions. If using images that are already on the Internet, the URL of the image and a caption or description may be added to the text of the submission.

Please send submissions and inquiries to APALA Newsletter Editor Gary Colmenar indicating "APALA Newsletter" within the subject line of your e-mail. A confirmation of receipt will be sent in a timely manner. Notification of our decision to accept or reject your submission for publication will be sent after the submission deadline.

Submissions for book reviews should be submitted to the book review editor Miriam Tuliao at [miriamtuliao@nypl.org](mailto:miriamtuliao@nypl.org). Submissions should be sent electronically in MS-Word format or a Word-compatible format. Reviewers should keep their reviews to 300-500 words. Any length much shorter or longer should be discussed with the reviews editor prior to submission. Reviewers should avoid conflicts of interest. Full disclosure should be made to the book reviews editor when appropriate.

For inquiries about placing an advertisement in the APALA Newsletter please contact the editor for pricing.

## PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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