



# The APALA Newsletter

The Newsletter of the  
Asian Pacific American Librarians Association  
An Affiliate of the American Library Association

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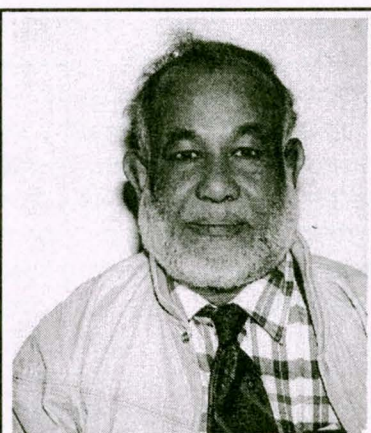
Summer, 1998

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, friends and APALA members, greetings to you all. Very soon we will have an opportunity to meet in Washington, D.C. in June. I hope that we will be able to discuss various issues relating to APALA, in Washington and have the feedback from the membership. Our business meeting is scheduled on Sunday, June 28, starting at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting will be followed by the APALA Washington Program starting at 3:30 p.m. promptly. Dr. Ching-chih Chen, Ms. Mya Thanda Poe and Dr. R.N. Sharma have kindly agreed to speak on various aspects of librarianship in the global perspective. The program fits well with the ALA President's theme of: Local Touch, Global Reach. Please make it a point to attend the program. Please note that success of all APALA programs depend on our participation and attendance.

I would like to draw attention of all of you to the



matter of regular renewal of membership, every January, for that calendar year. The co-chair of the Membership Committee has told me that there has been fewer renewals for the calendar year of 1998. Please note that from the Fall of 1998, the APALA Newsletter carries a reminder note about the yearly renewal of membership. Such timely renewal by the members would also help in expeditious mailing of the Newsletter. Your attention to this matter would be appreciated greatly.

I pointed out earlier that Dr. Collantes, the Chair of our Constitution and Bylaws Committee is putting together a draft of a procedure manual, based on APALA Convention and Bylaws. The procedure manual would be very useful for day to day guidance for all, particularly for the elected officers. We would like to have your feedback and suggestions on the draft.

In our mid-winter meeting, I made a suggestion for incorporation of a motto for APALA. Some of you felt that making any decision in the matter should be deferred until the June meeting. I suggest that we consider this motto: "APALA: Diversity and Unity." Please give your feedback in this matter."

With the hope of seeing you all in Washington on June 28, 1998, and with regards and wishes,

Abulfazal M. Fazle Kabir

## CHARLOTTE KIM NAMED OUTSTANDING ASIAN AMERICAN LIBRARIAN

For the first time, the Office of Illinois Secretary of State/State Librarian George Ryan presented awards for Outstanding Asian American Librarians in two categories: Administrative Service and Public Service.

Former APALA President Charlotte Kim, an Assistant Commissioner with the Chicago Public Library, was selected as the recipient of the

Outstanding Asian American Librarian in Administrative Service in Illinois.

The candidates for these awards were nominated by their peers. The awards ceremony and reception were held on Friday, May 29, 1998 at the James R. Thompson Building in Chicago.

Congratulations to Mrs. Kim!

Please don't forget to renew your membership for January - December, 1998.  
Use the application form on page 7.



# NIT '98 BROKE NEW GROUND AGAINST ALL ODDS!

It is not easy to carry on international activities thousands of miles away, and it is certainly not easy to be the first to bring an international conference on new information technology to

a developing country that just opened up recently. To NIT and its Chief Conference Organizer, Dr. Ching-chih Chen, Professor of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, this kind of difficult experience repeats itself often — almost on a yearly basis. She just completed NIT '98, the 10th International Conference on New Information Technology in Hanoi, Vietnam in March 1998, and experienced much difficulty at first. One wonders why a busy person like Chen is looking for “punishment”? When asked this question, she quickly responded, “International work is never easy, and one can take a lot of beating! So, one must be

truly global minded and want to reach out to people regardless of the consequences. When something impossible becomes possible, the rewards are so sweet that one forgets the

hardship rather quickly.”

This is what has happened at NIT '98 in Hanoi from March 24-26, 1998. During a good part of 1997, with the help of her colleague, Dr. Patricia Oyler and others, like Dr. Hoa Nguyen of the Library of Congress and Simmons graduates, like Ms. Quan Mai Binh (the USIS Librarian in Hanoi), Dr. Chen worked with the Ministry of Cultural Information of Vietnam and the National Library of Vietnam (NLV) to arrange for NIT '98. With only two and half months, she was able to arrange a first-rate international conference against all odds. More than 30 excellent papers were contributed by professionals from over half a dozen countries, from as far as Botswana and South Africa. She also miraculously produced a beautiful 290-page Proceedings printed up to her usual standards in time for the conference.

Unexpectedly, only one week before the scheduled dates, the local host requested for postponement when several foreign participants were already on the road and Dr. Chen was consulting in Taiwan. Unable to reverse the local authorities' decision with many frantic last-minute attempts, Dr. Chen went to Hanoi as scheduled anyway and managed to change NIT '98 to three meetings of a more informal nature with the help of the new Library Director of the NLV and his staff.

NIT '98 was able to hold the following productive meetings:

- March 24, 1998 — A very successful all-day meeting at the National Library with about 40 participants.

- March 25, 1998 — A morning informal meeting at the National Center for Science & Technology Information Documentation with Deputy Director Son and his staff, followed by a guided tour of the Center. The Center's new Multimedia Lab and OPAC facilities were rushed to open for NIT '98. This was followed by a meeting at the Institute of Sino-nam (Chinese Studies). The Institute has one of the most complete and valuable collections of old Vietnamese materials in Chinese language.

- March 26, 1998 — An elaborate meeting was held at the National University of Hanoi, hosted by Library Director Nguyen Huy Chuong (a Simmons graduate). It was attended by over 90 professionals, many of them are high-level librarians from major libraries in Hanoi as well as high-level government officials from the Ministry of Cultural Information and Ministry of Education. In addition to the meetings, the attendees' Vietnamese hosts also entertained the group with a water-puppet show and a very enjoyable tour of Hanoi, including the Temple of Literature, the old Prison of War (a museum now adjacent to the Hilton), and many other memorable places. The NLV hosted a fabulous farewell banquet. The friendship and good will amongst participants was clearly felt by everyone. The entire meeting was an unforgettable experience for all those who were there!

Due to the last-minute postponement, half of the international participants cancelled their trips. The other half in Hanoi thoroughly enjoyed the meetings — all made many new friends, and have succeeded admirably in promoting better international cooperation and relations. “We shared valuable information on NIT, discussed common problems and issues facing librarians at this time, and made a deep impression on our colleagues in Vietnam. Against of all odds, we managed to tear down the barriers once again, and have broken new ground! We learned a great deal about the country in a very short time and our Vietnamese friends really appreciated our efforts,” concluded Dr. Chen.

So, NIT '98 in its informal way managed to be very successful. In fact, many felt that NIT '98 probably accomplished much more in this informal atmosphere than what it might have in a more formal setting. This is the type of experience that makes it possible for Ching-chih Chen to continue her international efforts with vigor and determination—despite the frequent and unexpected difficulties and frustrations, there are many satisfactions.

Ken Yamashita



## NEW MEMBERS ROUND TABLE LAUNCHES MENTORING PROGRAM

Are you a library science student or a new member who is planning to attend the American Library Association's annual conference in Washington DC in 1998? Would you like to have a mentor at the conference, someone to talk to or to help you acclimate?

Are you a seasoned conference attendee who would like to share your experience with a student or a new member?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Conference Mentor Program is for you! The Mentoring Committee of NMRT is sponsoring this project to help make new attendees feel at ease at a conference whose size can often be overwhelming and intimidating.

What is a mentor? A mentor is an experienced and trusted advisor. Within the context of ALA conferences, it is someone who can help a new librarian or a library science student negotiate a path among the numerous meetings, programs, exhibits and acronyms.

Mentees, or proteges, (those being mentored) may be library science students, new librarians, first-time conference attendees, or anyone who would like to feel more comfortable attending the annual conference.

The only qualification for being a mentor is to have a sincere interest in helping someone get the most out of the conference. This involves being a good listener, a thoughtful advisor and a role model. Mentors should expect to meet at least once with their mentees during

the conference to answer questions, give guidance or just to listen. More contact during the conference or, even afterwards, is encouraged. Mentors can be from any ALA division or affiliate group in order to show mentees (proteges) the many opportunities for involvement in ALA.

In order to participate, just complete the application form ([http://www.ala.org/nmrt/mentoring\\_application.html](http://www.ala.org/nmrt/mentoring_application.html)) and mail it by May 1, 1998. If your browser does not support forms or you would like more information, please contact NMRT Mentoring Chair Dora Ho at [ap520@lafn.org](mailto:ap520@lafn.org) or at No. Hollywood Branch Library of LAPL, 5211 Tujunga Ave, No. Hollywood, CA 91601, Phone: (818) 766-7186, Fax: (818) 756-9135.

Mentors and mentees (proteges) will be matched based on the information provided. Mentors will be responsible for contacting mentees before the conference to arrange a meeting.

Meredith Smith  
Auxiliary Cataloging Services  
220 Main Library  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1408 West Gregory Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801  
Phone: (217) 244-1889  
Fax: (217) 333-2214  
E-mail: [merdy@uiuc.edu](mailto:merdy@uiuc.edu)

## FACT FINDING MISSION REPORTS: LIBRARIES IN PALESTINE NEED HELP

During November, 1997, I had the distinct honor of leading a delegation of American librarians on a fact-finding mission of their libraries in the Gaza Strip, Palestine. We were invited by the Palestine government to explore the needs of their libraries and the trip was approved by the International Relations Committee (IRC) of the American Library Association. The delegation included three members, Ron Chepesiuk, Head of the Special Collection at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, Fouad El Harazin, President of the Gaza Government International Foundation in Illinois, and this author. We were in the Gaza Strip from November 10-18.

Gaza Strip is situated on the east coast of the Mediterranean and it is one of the major historic

places in the world. Three major religions of the world—Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—had their birth in this region. It was indeed a pleasure to visit some of the ancient historical places and at the same time the delegation was shocked to see the sad state of libraries in Gaza Strip. There are no school, public, or special libraries in this emerging nation. There are no library schools to train librarians, and no library associations to guide the profession. There are a total of twenty-two academic libraries and all of them have very poor collections. A majority of these have no periodical collections, no microforms, no technology. The reference collections are very poor. Many of the reference books are twenty to thirty years old and there is no collection policy to develop collections.

The Islamic University has perhaps, the best



library facilities among all the academic institutions. There are 80,000 books and journals, a small collection of reference books and microforms, and has limited technology. They have three professional librarians to serve 6,000 students. The library has separate collections for the Arabic and English languages. The Al-Azhar University in Gaza has a small collection of only 1,500 books, and no journals to serve 11,000 students. Technology has not been introduced in this library yet. The College of Education has only two professional librarians to serve 2,600 students on three campuses with a collection of 22,000 books and a few periodicals and again the technology is lacking. All academic libraries are run by the teaching faculty who are appointed as Dean/Head Librarians of each of these libraries. There are a few private and small collections owned by individuals and one of these belongs to Salim Arafat El Mobayed who is a historian and book collector. This is the best collection we saw during our visit.

During the visit we met with librarians, library staff, students, faculty, deans, presidents, officials of the ministry of Higher Education, and President Yasir Arafat. Everyone told us of the poor conditions of libraries as there was no development of any kind during the last thirty years because of the war and occu-

pation by Israel. All the officials stressed the need of developing libraries for the benefit of their citizens. The officials of the Ministry of Education informed us of a plan for improving and developing their educational system, libraries and utilizing the Internet in the near future. For the first time, money has been allocated for libraries in the budgets for all the institutions of higher learning and in school budgets, as well.

One of the major projects which has been undertaken by the new government is the construction of the National Library building. It will be a five-story structure with all modern facilities and it will be ready by the year 2000, provided funds are available. The total cost for construction will be about \$28 million. Mr. Salim Arafat El Mobayed has been appointed the first National Librarian of Palestine. Many nations, including Canada, England, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, and Northern Ireland have already donated books and money for developing libraries in Palestine. A few foundations in the United States have also sent books and journals.

However, more help, guidance, and assistance are needed for achieving the Palestinian dream into reality. Even President Arafat told the delegation, " We need books; we need journals; we need technology to build the future of our children and the nation. All help

## **Health Services Librarian: Document Delivery/ILL Coordinator**

Dana Medical Library seeks a coordinator for a busy document delivery, interlibrary loan operation. Additional responsibilities include teaching, reference service, research, professional service and subject liaison activities.

**Required:** ALA-accredited MLS or international equivalent; proven experience using electronic resources; collegiality; communication, team-building, and interpersonal skills; ability to provide individual and group instruction and reference services; strong service orientation; adaptability in time of change!

**Preferred:** familiarity with OCLC, Docline, QuickDOC, and/or CLIO; experience in an academic or professional library; an understanding of copyright and licensing issues in a digital environment; supervisory skills; online searching experience.

Faculty status, excellent benefits, minimum salary \$27,500. Apply with names, addresses and phone numbers of three references to:

**Search, Dana Medical Library, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405.**

Applications received by May 15th will receive first consideration.

For a full position description: <http://sageunix.uvm.edu/dana/search.htm> AA/EEO.



## PALESTINE LIBRARIES

(Continued from page 4)

(Continued on page 5)

will be appreciated." A resolution on libraries in Palestine is scheduled to be introduced during the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in June, 1998. As librarians, we need to do our best to help develop libraries in Palestine. For further information, and your donations, please write to Dr. Abu Daya, Dean, College of Education, Gaza City, Gaza, Palestine. His fax numbers are 07-830-226 or 07-826-809, or you can e-mail sharmarn@ernie.wvsc.edu.

R.N. Sharma

*R.N. Sharma, Ph.D is the Director of Drain-Jordan Library, West Virginia State College, Institute, West Virginia, and chair of the Near East and South Asia Sub-Committee of IRC/ALA.*

## SUBMISSIONS WANTED

We are seeking contributors for a collection of essays to be published by Greenwood Press in the forthcoming, *Diversity in Libraries: Academic Residency Programs*. For the purposes of this collection, a residency, as defined by the Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE), is "a post-degree work experience designed as an entry level program for professionals who have recently received the MLS degree from a program accredited by the American Library Association." We are interested in two types of essays, those by former and current resident librarians of color and those by administrators of residency programs, i.e., university librarians, library human resources directors and diversity officers, who have implemented programs designed to increase ethnic and racial diversity in academic institutions.

The essays by residents should describe the resident's experience in a residency program, rationale for considering a residency, any impact the experience has had on career or expected impact and the like. We are especially interested in those who have completed or started programs within the past five years. The essays by library administrators should describe the impetus for a residency program in their institution, the success of the program, lessons learned and other relevant information.

For a complete description of what essays should include, please request submission guidelines from Raquel Cogell (rcogell@emory.edu) or Cindy Gruwell (henri013@umn.edu). You may also reach us by phone, 404.727.0682 (Raquel) or 612.626.3936 (Cindy.)

Submissions are needed by December 1, 1998.

## APPRECIATIVE FAMILY SURPRISES CHING- CHIH CHEN: CHEN FAMILY DONATES JOINT APALA/CALA SCHOLARSHIP

At the CALA banquet held on January 10 during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans, Dr. Ching-chih Chen delighted those in attendance by introducing her husband, Dr. Sow-hsin Chen. Ching-chih explained that her husband rarely attends library conferences but had arrived in New Orleans a day earlier than expected. The following evening Ching-chih was to be one of the honored guests at ALA President Barbara Ford's reception celebrating the appointment of three library leaders to important federal government positions; Ching-chih was appointed to the President Clinton's Advisory Committee on High Performance Computing and Communications, Information Technology, and the Next Generation Internet.

The reason that Sow-hsin arrived the day before the reception was to surprise Ching-chih with an announcement that, as a testament to his and their children's (the Drs. Anne, Catherine and John) tremendous gratitude for the support and encouragement that APALA and CALA members gave to Ching-chih in her ALA presidential campaign, they decided to donate \$2000 to APALA and CALA to start the funding for a joint scholarship.

Ching-chih said that she was surprised and pleased with this announcement and wanted to help the "seed money" grow by donating her honorariums from this year to the scholarship fund. The announcement was received with much applause from the enthusiastic audience.

Suzine Har Nicolescu and Ken Yamashita have been appointed by Dr. Abulfazal Kabir, President, to the Chen APALA/CALA Scholarship Committee. The committee will establish the scholarship's purpose and procedures. It will also determine fund-raising strategies. Scholarships will not be awarded until the principal has reached a level when the interest earned can fund the scholarship awards.

The Chen family has asked that the awards be given jointly by APALA and CALA and that the scholarship recipients be alternated each year between members of the two organizations, to encourage cooperation and unity.



Be sure to visit the  
APALA web site at

<http://www.uic.edu/~rama/apala>

***Please,***

if you have not done so already,

**Don't forget to renew your  
membership for 1998!**

***Use the application form on page 7!***





# Asian Pacific American Librarians Association

-- Affiliated with the American Library Association --

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

_____ RENEWAL*	_____ NEW MEMBER FOR 19__
*Renewal members: Please provide your name only and any information that you wish changed in the Membership Directory.	

NAME: Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. / Dr.

LAST \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ WEB SITE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ HERITAGE \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate (in order of priority) the APALA committees on which you wish to serve:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: Personal (\$10.00) Student (\$5.00) Institution (\$25.00)

Please make checks payable to: **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION**

Return this form with your check to:

Rosario P. Galura  
Senior Cataloger  
University of Oklahoma Libraries  
401 West Brooks  
Norman, OK 73019

Memberships are for the calendar year, January through December.



**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**LIBRARIAN I / LIBRARIAN II  
Alameda County Library  
Fremont, CA 94538**

Librarian I annual salary range:  
\$34,249 - \$39,273

Librarian II annual salary range:  
\$38,142 - \$43,895

Alameda County Library in the San Francisco Bay Area is currently recruiting for entry-level and journey-level positions in the librarian series. Positions are full-time, part-time and on call. MLS required.

**QUALIFIED BILINGUAL PERSONS ARE  
ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.**

FILING DEADLINE is currently April 14, 1998. We are requesting that it be extended to May 12, 1998. Call Alameda County Library Personnel at (510) 745-1517 for application and latest information.

EOE

**Advertising Rates**

Quarter Page (3-1/2" x 4-1/16"): \$50.00

Half Page (Vertical 3-1/2" x 9-1/8"): \$100.00

(Horizontal 7" x 9-1/8"): \$100.00

Full Page (7" x 9-1/8"): \$150.00

Discount: 10% off if camera ready copy is provided.  
15% off for APALA members.

Due Dates:

Spring - February 10

Summer - May 10

Fall - August 10

Winter - November 10

The APALA Newsletter (ISSN: 1040-5817) is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association. Readers are encouraged to submit articles with a deadline of the 10th day of February, May, August, and November. All articles submitted become the property of APALA and will not be returned unless a SASE is provided. The Editor reserves the right to accept, edit, or refuse any submission. Submissions, letters to the editor, announcements, or member news should be sent to:

Sandra S. Yamate

Polychrome Publishing Corporation

4509 North Francisco

Chicago, IL 60625

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