



The APALA Newsletter

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

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Winter 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I complete the first six months of my term as President, I would like to share with you what new events are happening with the organization.

ALA Midwinter Conference:

The ALA Midwinter Conference will be held on January 29 through February 3, 1999 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The APALA Executive Board members meeting schedule has been confirmed for Sunday, January 31, 1999, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars for this meeting.



ALA Committees on Appointments:

Last September, ALA President-Elect Sarah Long requested a list of nominations to serve on Committees. Ms. Long chairs both the ALA Committee on Appointments and the ALA Council on Committees. The APALA Board members and other members were nominated to serve on the committees. Unfortunately, several of the members had already made commitments to other committees and the other members declined the nominations.

Last September, Dr. Ken Yamashita proposed three issues:

1. Proposal for an APALA donation to the ALA Spectrum Scholarship Fund: Dr. Yamashita proposed a \$1,000 donation to the Spectrum Fund. Patty Wong, Vice-President and President-Elect, seconded the motion.

2. President Ann K. Symons and Intellectual Freedom Committee's draft of "Libraries: An American Value": The final draft of Intellectual Freedom Statement will be introduced for adoption at the ALA Midwinter's Council Meeting. Since there is a strong statement on diversity, Dr. Yamashita would like to have the APALA Executive Board and membership review it for approval. The Board members heartily support the statement and I hope you will agree with

his proposal.

3. Benjamin Wakashige, State Librarian of New Mexico:

Dr. Ken Yamashita noticed that Benjamin Wakashige has been appointed as the new state librarian of New Mexico. The Board members accepted Dr. Yamashita's proposal to have a congratulatory resolution for approval at the Midwinter meeting.

Local Arrangement and Program Committee:

Patty Wong, Vice-President/President-Elect, has been busy as chair of the annual program committee. We are lucky to have Benjamin Wakashige, State Librarian of New Mexico, as the keynote speaker for our annual program in New Orleans.

Membership Committee:

Katherine Wong, Chair of the Membership Committee, received a renewal inquiry from Bess Press. They requested a membership directory with their renewal. However, since there are no written policies concerning the distribution of membership directories to paid-members, this issue will be discussed at the Midwinter meeting.

In addition, I would like to share with some changes among our APALA officers. Tokiko Yamamoto Bazzell and her husband recently moved to Hawaii. Ms. Bazzell would like to continue to assume her responsibility as APALA Secretary and Assistant Editor. Also, as some members may already know, Patty Wong is expecting her first baby at the end of November and she went on leave on November 6, 1998. Lastly, Fenghua Wang, Editor of the Newsletter, accepted a new position at the University of Pennsylvania starting November 16, 1998. Unfortunately, because of this change, she resigned as editor. We would like to congratulate her on her new endeavor. Fortunately, Sandra Yamate, President of Polychrome Publishing Corporation and former Editor of the newsletter, is willing to work on the winter issue. Personally, I would like to thank Sandra Yamate again for her full support for APALA.

As we prepare to attend the Midwinter meeting in Philadelphia, I would like to urge each members to renew your membership for the next year.

Best wishes and Happy Holidays!

Soon Jung

SPECTRUM INITIATIVES APPLICANTS

Mihoko Hosoi

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to apply for the Spectrum Initiative Scholarship of the American Library Association. I work in the Cataloging Department in Perkins Library at Duke University as a library assistant.

I am a native speaker of Japanese, majored in Spanish in college, and studied French at a language school for about four years. Apart from the library work experience, I have managed my own language school in Japan with an enrollment of about sixty students, have worked as a freelance translator, and have been employed as a customer service representative for an international hotel and an airline.

In Japan, many international companies try to hire people who can function well in a multiethnic society, especially because Japan's population is predominantly Asian and they need people who can communicate well with a culturally diverse staff and clientele. I worked for some of those companies, interacted very well with many different people, and solved various problems when there was misunderstanding between Japanese and international staff or customers.

Now at Duke University, as the only Japanese person in the library, I often feel that my ideas or ways of thinking are unique because of my cultural background, and I believe that they are a valuable contribution in building and maintaining Duke's collection.

My goals are to obtain a professional degree in Library Science and become a bibliographer who can assist users in a multilanguage environment. I feel certain that I will be able to accomplish my educational and career goals with the scholarship your organization offers.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

Mihoko Hosoi
311 S. LaSalle St., Apt. 24 L
Durham, NC 27705

Augusto V. Consing

My name is Augusto V. Consing. I am a Spectrum Initiative Scholar going to Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science full time. Previous to this, I worked at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute Library in Williamstown, MA. April Olinger at the Spectrum Initiative told me that ethnic caucus newsletter editors wished to have Scholars' personal presentations from the scholarship applications. Mine follows. I'm sorry for the delay. Thanks for your consideration.

At the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute Library, I have become keenly aware of the broad range of challenges faced by a research library. My day-to-day experience and my membership in the Library's Long Range Planning Committee kept me well informed on the difficult decisions that professionals made. To catalog the full range of the Library's collections, I learned what I had to know of more than twenty European languages. I learned art history on my own time. I mastered the Innovative Interfaces online catalog system. In connection with this I have been an informal source of technical help. During a particularly demanding six-month period I answered over forty art reference questions per month — in addition to my regular duties. I will shortly begin training a museum staff member to create orders on the Library's online catalog.

Delivering information services in a multiethnic society takes more than technical expertise. I was born in the Philippines in 1966 and moved to the US in 1977. To live in a new country, I had to learn its cultures. Understanding my friends and colleagues is paramount. This lesson was underlined in the multicultural environment of my first summer jobs in New York City, at UNICEF's Information Division in 1984 and at St. Matthew's and St. Timothy's Neighborhood Center in 1985.

The same lesson guides my activities as a chess organizer. I get results with limited resources by collaborating and sharing with others. The interests of the group come first. By helping others realize their aspirations, I have acquired management opportunities that will help me become a good information professional.

Please don't forget to renew your membership for January - December, 1999.
Use the application form on page 5.

CALA SCHOLARSHIPS

1999 Sheila Suen Lai Scholarship of Library and Information Science February 15th Deadline

The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) sets February 15th, 1999 as application deadline for the annual Sheila Suen Lai Scholarship of Library and Information Science. The Scholarship, established in 1989, awards US\$500 to a student of Chinese heritage who is currently enrolled in an ALA-accredited library school as a full-time student. The Scholarship is designed to encourage the development of leadership in Chinese American librarianship. The winner of the award will be announced by April 30, 1999. The award will be presented at the ALA annual conference in New Orleans.

Founded in 1973, the Chinese American Librarians Association is affiliated with the American Library Association, and has six regional chapters. In addition to holding annual programs, CALA publishes its own Newsletter, Membership Directory and the Journal of Library and Information Science in cooperation with the National Taiwan Normal University.

Ms. Sheila Suen Lai, the donor of the Scholarship, is the former Executive Director of CALA for the last six years, and a Reference Librarian at the California University at Sacramento. She has delegated to CALA the responsibility of selecting one recipient every year.

For application and more information about the Scholarship, please contact Dr. Mengxiong Liu, Chair of the CALA Scholarship Committee at:
Clark Library

San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0028
Phone: (408) 924-2817
Fax: (408) 924-2701
Email: mliu@email.sjsu.edu

Third Annual C. C. Seetoo/CALA Conference Travel Scholarship

The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) announces the offering of the C. C. Seetoo/CALA Conference Travel Scholarship. As a joint effort between Mr. Seetoo and CALA, an award in the amount of US\$500 will be given to a student to attend the annual ALA Conference and CALA program. The Scholarship is designed to provide the award recipient mentoring and networking opportunities at the ALA conference. Students of Chinese heritage who are currently enrolled in ALA-accredited library and information science programs are encouraged to apply. The 1999 application deadline is February 15, 1999. The winner of the award will be announced by April 30, 1999. The award will be presented at the ALA annual conference in New Orleans.

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Born in Shanghai in 1916, Mr. C. C. Seetoo was graduated from Shanghai University in 1939 and moved to Taiwan in 1946. Through his entrepreneurial success in the export business, he has traveled all over the world making many friends and valuable contacts along the way. He recognizes and values the benefits of networking for people striving to become successful professionals, and wishes to provide such an opportunity to students by co-sponsoring this Travel Award.

For application and more information about the Scholarship, please contact Dr. Mengxiong Liu, Chair of the CALA Scholarship Committee at
Clark Library

San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0028
Phone: (408) 924-2817
Fax: (408) 924-2701
Email: mliu@email.sjsu.edu

THE APALA BOOKSHELF

Many APALA members expressed their enjoyment of the readings offered by members of the Asian American Writers' Workshop during the APALA Conference in New York. These comments often included surprise that they had not previously heard of many of these talented authors or their books or writings. Sadly, books by and about Asian Pacific Americans often do not attract the media and industry recognition that they deserve and that would begin to display the enormous depth and breadth of the literary talent in the Asian Pacific American community. The APALA Bookshelf will try to identify new books worthy of interest and old favorites that might have been overlooked but that APALA members will enjoy. If any APALA members would like to recommend a book they believe other members would also appreciate, please send the editor the following information: Title, Author, ISBN, Publisher, Date of Publication, and a brief description about the book's merits. We'll try to publish the best submissions. Publishers should send review copies to the Editor, APALA Bookshelf, 4509 North Francisco, Chicago, IL 60625.

The Dragon Hunt

by Tran Vu, translated by Nina McPherson
ISBN 0-7868-6418-4
Hyperion (1999)

This collection of five stories (including "The Coral Reef," first published in *Granta*) provide a haunting look at postwar Vietnam through different emigrant experiences, ranging from exile in France to a return to a war-torn homeland. The stories are gory, harrowing trials, brutally frank and unapologetic while written in a delicate and sensitive prose. They offer an insightful look at Vietnamese society and its inner workings and tensions. They are thought provoking but definitely not for the faint of heart.

Sharmila's Book

by Bharti Kirchner
ISBN 0-525-94368-4
Dutton (1999)

This is a captivating story about a modern American woman of Indian ancestry who is searching for love and a way to get in touch with her cultural heritage. Against her better judgement she agrees to an arranged marriage with an electronics executive in India. There, through the protagonist's eyes the reader is treated to a witty examination of Indian customs and traditions, particularly those dealing with family relationships and interrelationships. It is a clever social commentary on traditional roles of women. Smart and

funny with plenty of local color, Kirchner has created a tale that will resonate with many Asian women who have grown up in a postfeminist world. An Asian American romance.

Freedom Song

by Amit Chaudhuri
ISBN 0-375-40427-9
Knopf (1999)

These three post-colonial novels (*A Strange and Sublime Address* -- first published in 1991; *Afternoon Raag* - first published in 1993; and *Freedom Song*) each delicately balance their characters between the pull of the future and the memory of the past. This constant tension is ever present without being intrusive. With flowing prose, Chaudhuri details the many intricacies, complexities, and even contradictions of modern life in the South Asian subcontinent.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Nikkei Donburi:

A Japanese American Cultural Survival Guide

by Chris Aihara
ISBN 1-879965-18-6
Polchrome Publishing (1999)

This is a special book because although the first Japanese emigrated to America over a hundred years ago, anti-Asian sentiment, internment, out-marriage, and relatively little Japanese immigration in recent years have contributed to a loss of Japanese language fluency and lack of familiarity or understanding of Japanese culture for many third, fourth, and fifth generation Americans of Japanese ancestry. While many regret it, most have had little time to devote to exploring their Japanese American cultural heritage.

With *Nikkei Donburi*, Chris Aihara comes to their rescue. Aihara works in Community Programs at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in Los Angeles. There, she has been responsible for years of cultural programming for the Japanese American community. In *Nikkei Donburi*, she puts her vast experience to work by creating a user-friendly guide to Japanese American culture and heritage for children and adults. Through stories, pictures, arts & crafts, Aihara introduces, explains and explores Japanese American traditions and customs. She includes recipes, patterns for projects, and historical context, all of which make the book perfect for families or teachers looking for ways to integrate Japanese American culture through activities in their home or culture.



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:

Katherine Chan Wong
University of Oklahoma Libraries
701 Ash Lane
Norman, OK 73072

Memberships are for the calendar year, January through December.

**Clarion Library
Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Clarion, Pennsylvania**

REFERENCE/INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN.

Active Reference Department seeks innovative, service-oriented librarian for position beginning Fall, 1999. Primary responsibilities include staffing the reference desk, assisting users with print and electronic information sources, and assisting with bibliographic instruction. Also serve as liaison to assigned academic departments. General reference service includes nights and weekends.

Required: ALA-accredited MLS; excellent oral and written communication skills. Three years of professional experience. (Equivalencies in experience considered). Tenure-track position at rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor depending upon qualifications. Salary starts at \$30,825.00. Works cooperatively with Coordinators of Reference and Information Services and Bibliographic Instruction.

Send letter of application, resume, and three letters of reference. Application must be postmarked by March 15, 1999. Send to Constance Gamaluddin, Search Committee Chairperson, Carlson Library, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Clarion, PA 16214.

**Clarion University is building a diverse academic community
and encourages people of color, women, veterans and
persons with disabilities to apply.**

AA/EEO

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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

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