



# Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association Newsletter

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## Message from the President

Equity of Access to information continues to be a cornerstone and a continuous goal of library service in America because we believe that an informed citizenry is essential to our democracy. But is access alone enough? In the past librarians were regarded as gatekeepers to and disseminators of a vast world of information. As the Internet evolved and information resources became increasingly transparent, we positioned ourselves as information navigators to accurate and reliable information sources. We have done that very well, using and adapting our skills to teach information literacy.



Today, as we incorporate new roles to help build communities and improve lives, we must go beyond just delivering bits and pieces of information, which we have been very comfortable and competent in doing. Have we really done enough to help individuals and communities understand the past and the present, particularly now, when world events seem so unstable? How do we do this – by just giving information – or do we have an obligation to gain a greater understanding of the economic, political and historical forces shaping world events? How far should we go in delivering information along with application and context, without becoming scientists, economists and sociologists?

Since retirement, I finally have a chance to read – not just novels, but books that help me understand the world and our society. One such book was Amy Chua's World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability (New York: Doubleday, 2003). This book has been critically reviewed by many sources, including Kirkus. Chua dared to craft a fearful tapestry out of patterns of greed; the market economy; the democratization process; past and present American policies; and the effect of instant transmission of global images and information. From the very first page, I was riveted by her description of the Chinese presence in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Philippines and Indonesia. She explained, from her point of view, the recent events of South America, Mexico, the Balkans, Africa, and the Soviet Union. When recent news broke about Putin and Khodorkovsky, I had a far better understanding of the background and implications of his arrest.

Amy Chua has made a significant contribution in helping us understand America's influence in spreading the market economy and democracy. Albeit, her conclusions are original and controversial. An example of a different type is Robert Putnam's Bowling Alone (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000). In preparing my recent grant application to build a new branch library, I researched and compiled a vast amount of demographic and census information about a small community of 15,000 people. However, those figures did not really help me understand the community. In fact Putnam's premise that much of America has become communities of loners prefer-

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ring not to be involved with each other helped me enormously in understanding this community.

As Asian Pacific American librarians, we possess additional prisms to understand America, the global economy and its effects on our community. In APALA, we have opportunities to engage and learn from each other, to go beyond just facts and figures, and to provide meaningful library services in a multi-cultural society. We will still differ and hold many points of views, but we will do it from a far stronger base of knowledge and understanding.

Two of the six purposes of APALA are to provide forums for discussing problems facing APA librarians and for exchange of ideas by APA librarians with other librarians. As your president, I will work with the Executive Board and Committee Chairs to foster broad communication among all members at annual and midwinter conferences, as well as electronically through the APALA listserv and web.

Please help us by suggesting topics of current and emerging concerns and avenues where we can take advantage of our differences to bring forth an understanding of different perspectives.

*Yvonne Chen*

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## APALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, January 10

The APALA All-Committee/Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10, 4:00-6:00 PM in Room 29A, San Diego Convention Center. Interested members will get together for an informal dinner after the meeting. Our Immediate Past President, Gary Colemar, will host a social on Sunday evening (time and place to be announced).

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## Charlotte Kim Receives Outstanding Supervisory Employee Award



Congratulations to **Charlotte Kim**, who was named Outstanding Supervisory Employee by the Kathy Osterman Award program recognizing superior public service provided by Chicago city employees. Charlotte serves as Assistant Commissioner of Neighborhood Services for the Chicago Public Library. In 2002, Charlotte was awarded a Presidential Citation by the President of the Republic of Korea for her leadership and contributions to the Chicago Korean American community. Today's Chicago Woman named Charlotte one of the '100 Women Making a Difference' for the City of Chicago in 1999. Charlotte was the President of APALA from 1991 to 1992.

APALA Newsletter (ISSN: 1040-8517) is published quarterly (March, June, September, and December) by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. All inquiries and comments should be sent to Dr. Kenneth Yamashita ([ken.yamashita@ci.stockton.ca.us](mailto:ken.yamashita@ci.stockton.ca.us)) or Joy Shioshita ([jshioshita@oaklandlibrary.org](mailto:jshioshita@oaklandlibrary.org)). This newsletter is distributed free to our members.



## Updates from Committee Chairs

### **Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (APAAL): Dora Ho**

Committee Charge: The Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature is an extension of the Literary Award Committee of the Joint Conference in 2001. The Committee is charged to review literature about Asian/Pacific Americans and their heritages based on literary merit and artistic merit. The Award will be announced during Asian/Pacific Heritage Month, May 2004. Deadline for submission is December 31, 2003. So far, 36 titles have been received from publishers and the committee continues to accept recommendations for the Literature Award.

### **Membership: Mihoko Hosoi**

Mihoko Hosoi,

- a) Spoke at the Special Library Association's Upstate NY Conference, and mentioned and promoted APALA in the presentation.
- b) Spoke at Cornell University Library on the topic of diversity in libraries, and encouraged staff to join APALA
- c) Suggested membership benefits (now posted on APALA Website)
- d) Is currently planning recruitment effort for APALA

### **Scholarship: Sandy Wee**

As the Chair of the Scholarship committee, I and committee members Janet Tom and Mary Tao are excited that APALA will once again offer a \$1000 scholarship to a APALA Library Student. Anyone interested in joining the Scholarship committee can contact me at (swee@town.los-gatos.ca.us).

### **Website: May Chang**

Apalaweb.org celebrates the first anniversary of its launch on December 15! The main area of growth has been the Jobs page. It averages 13 postings a month, and there is a wide range of content. Posting them is an interesting exercise in seeing job patterns as well as getting to know the people who frequently submit announcements.

The APALA community is diverse and growing, and the website can play a role in serving professional information needs. This is an area that could be developed and the Web Committee is looking for members who would like to contribute content and participate in web publishing. We also welcome your comments and feedback (webmaster@apalaweb.org).

If you are interested in volunteering for any APALA committees, please email Committee Chairs and Yvonne Chen – ychen@direcway.com.

- ♦ **Awards** – Dora Ho – Doraho@yahoo.com and Cathy Lu – clu@lapl.org – co-chairs
- ♦ **Constitutions & Bylaws** – Thaddeus Bejnar – bejnar@yahoo.com
- ♦ **Finance** – Ven Basco - bbasco@mail.ucf.edu
- ♦ **Membership** – Mihoko Hosoi - mh258@cornell.edu
- ♦ **Program Planning** – Heawon Paick – hwpaick@netscape.net
- ♦ **Publicity** – Smiti Gandhi – sgandhi@iag.net
- ♦ **Publication** – Ken Yamashita – ken.yamashita@ci.stockton.ca.us
- ♦ **Scholarship** – Sandy Wee – swee@town.los-gatos.ca.us
- ♦ **Web Committee** – May Chang - may\_chang@ncsu.edu



### Library Building Grant Awards

by Yvonne Chen

Redwood City Public Library was one of 16 California libraries that were awarded grants for the second cycle of Proposition 14, a statewide bond measure that was approved by California voters on March 7, 2000, to sell \$350 million of state general obligation bonds for the purpose of public library construction and renovation. Redwood City was awarded \$10 million to build a branch library in Redwood Shores, a community that has a substantial Asian population. I was delighted that we were successful because the development and submission of the grant application was one of my major projects completed before I retired this summer.

Many people shared in this success, including City and Library staff, Library support groups, superb consultants, and a community advisory group. K.G. Ouye, the Library Director of San Mateo Public Library was also successful in the first cycle of Proposition 14 and received \$20 million for building a new Main Library in December 2002. Both San Mateo and Redwood City public libraries receive outstanding ratings from the grant reviewing committee. So far only 27 out of 127 applicants received an outstanding rating. Approximately \$257 million was awarded to the 34 successful libraries.

On hearing this good news on October 28, I decided to give K.G. Ouye (an APA Library Director) a call to ask her why she was so successful in being one of the first libraries to receive this grant award. Her responses really resonated with me. We both gave our consultants high points for crafting superb grants tailored around highly technical requirements. However the underlying foundation was work with the community. She said, "Trust the community, what you're hearing, and be able to articulate and match it." In working with the Redwood Shores community, Redwood City developed a plan that was heavily weighed towards the library as a community meeting place. In some minds, this changed the definition of what is a library, but it was in accordance with the views of the Redwood Shores community. The community processes that we both undertook were difficult, but they were real, not just window dressing. We listened and actively engaged each other in group discussions, a process that was at times contentious. Working with the community as partners, not just delivering library services to them, is one of the true challenges for library staff. For future library directors, this is an essential skill, almost a calling. K.G. also had a couple of other tips for us. "Stay positive and deliver positive messages. Have perseverance, a good plan, and follow through."

**Ling Hwey Jeng**, APALA Executive Director, has been nominated to be a candidate for the ALA Executive Board. She will run in the election to be held during the Council meetings at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego in January 2004.

*APALA Members:* Please keep us up-to-date. Send us your news to share with your colleagues. I would like to report the following:

Name:

Address:

Email your news to Kenneth Yamashita, Chair, Publications Committee, Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library, [ken.yamashita@ci.stockton.ca.us](mailto:ken.yamashita@ci.stockton.ca.us)



### REFORMA Conference in Lake Tahoe

by Yvonne Chen



*Ron Rodriguez  
speaking on up-  
ward mobility*

It was my pleasure to attend the 2003 NLA/MPLA/REFORMA Conference on behalf of APALA. Despite a developing storm in the Sierras, over 500 people attended the annual conference of Nevada Library Association, Mountain Plains Library Association, and REFORMA, who was a contributing program sponsor. REFORMA held a successful pre-conference program with topics ranging from leadership, marketing and effective outreach to Latinos. Ron Rodriguez, Associate Dean of Chapman University, and Luis Herrera, Director of Pasadena Public Library, in separate presentations, gave excellent advice and insights from their own extensive experiences. Rodriguez gave this advice on the practicalities of upward mobility, "Being edgy can be an advantage. Organizations tend to be conservative. Combine activism stance with the management requirements – Cesar Chavez was a CEO." Herrera spoke on "leading in turbulent times." During the interactive session, he said that the top internal issues facing library organizations are resource management; workforce development; library organization structure; funding and revenue sources; redefining services and roles; and privatization. The external factors affecting libraries are: responding to a public with changed expectations; changing role of libraries and librarians; demographic changes; political, social and economic factors; public awareness/relevance; and changes in the information industry.

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### Watch for This Upcoming Release

from the Organization of Chinese Americans and East West Discovery Press:

#### Voices of Healing

#### Spirit and Unity After 9/11 in the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community

A project by Organization of Chinese Americans

Edited by Icy Smith

ISBN 0970165420, 10" x 10", 120 pages, more than 100 full-color photographs,

\$24.95, Hardcover, 2004

Voices of Healing: Asian American and Pacific Islander Spirit and Unity After 9/11 is a collection of moving stories of loss, survival and bravery; poignant photographs and artworks; and uplifting letters and poems from the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities. In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders shared in the impact felt by all Americans. Hundreds of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders lost their lives. Due to its proximity to Ground Zero, New York's Chinatown was economically devastated. Close to 8,000 residents of New York's Chinatown found themselves displaced, without work and without relief efforts to assist them. Despite these challenges, communities found strength and stood together to help the ongoing recovery and rebuilding efforts in times of crisis. South Asian Americans and Sikh and Muslim Americans suffered backlash in public places because they were perceived as foreigners.

This book celebrates the lives of those who were lost, the bravery of those heroic rescuers, and the spirits of those who lived to tell their incredible stories. With over 100 full-color photographs documenting the unspeakable horror of that fateful day, Voices of Healing is a testament to the strength of the human spirit, and a tribute to the nation for renewed faith, healing and unity.



## MEMBER NEWS

**Min Chou**, Associate Professor/Reference Librarian of New Jersey City University, was a panelist on international perspectives on copyright at the 8<sup>th</sup> IFLA Interlending and Document Supply International Conference held in the National Library of Australia, in Canberra, on October 28-31, 2003. The panel discussion focused on how the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty has been interpreted around the world. Ms. Chou also contributed a paper, "Copyright & Licensing Implications for Interlibrary Loan Practice" to the conference. The conference was co-organized by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the National Library of Australia, and the Australian Library and Information Association. The theme of the conference, "Breaking barriers: reaching users in a digital world," focused on how to better serve users of varied backgrounds and all economic levels worldwide in digital age. Challenges were examined, solutions were discussed, and best practices were shared among delegates representing 22 countries from six continents of the world.

**Lin Ko** (Manager of St. Andrews Regional Branch) and Teresa Windham (Manager of Southeast Regional Branch) of Richland County Public Library in Columbia, South Carolina will lead a Talk Table: "Let's Speak English! An ESOL Alternative for Small/Medium Public Libraries" on Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m. during the 2004 PLA National Conference in Seattle, Washington.

### Director, Office for Research and Statistics

The American Library Association is seeking an individual for the position of Director, Office for Research and Statistics. This position provides leadership and expert advice to ALA staff members and the public on all matters related to research and statistics about libraries and librarians; represents the Association to federal agencies on these issues; and initiates projects needed to expand the knowledge base of the field through research and the collection of useful statistics.

Oversees sponsored grants and contracts. Cooperates with agencies that collect statistics (e.g. National Center for Education Statistics, Association of Research Libraries). Provide support to several membership units and committees. Other duties include conducting research for ALA, monitoring research related to libraries and librarians, and disseminating information as appropriate.

Qualifications: Ph.D. and MLS preferred. Familiar with and practical understanding of social science research methods in general, especially survey research and descriptive statistics. Record of accomplishment as a researcher, writer and speaker. In-depth knowledge of libraries, library research and statistics. Working relationships with NCES, IMLS, ARL desirable.

Proven ability to manage staff and budgets. Ability to conduct quantitative and qualitative research and a working knowledge of web-based research. Must be able to work collaboratively with ALA staff, members, library research community, library statistical agencies. Competent in designing research that can solve practical problems in all types of libraries.

Salary: starting salary from \$61,540, negotiable based on experience.

Closing Date: January 31, 2004

For consideration send a letter of application, resume and names of three references to:

Human Resources Department  
ALA-ORS  
50 E. Huron  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Fax: 312.944-6763  
Email:

The American Library Association is an affirmative action, equal-opportunity employer. Applications are invited from women, minorities, veterans and persons with disabilities.



Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association  
Affiliated with the American Library Association  
Membership Application

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ Please check one: ☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL  
(APALA Membership year is from January 1 to December 31)

NAME:

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED ADDRESS: ☐ Work ☐ Home

WORK ADDRESS

HOME ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

PHONE: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_

(Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Fax) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Please describe your HERITAGE \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate, in order of preference, the committees on which you wish to serve APALA  
(See lists of committees in APALA Directory):

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

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

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: ☐ Personal (\$20) ☐ Student (\$10) ☐ Institutional (\$50) ☐ Life (\$300)

DUES: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION

Ching-chih Chen Leadership Development Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

APALA Scholarship Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sheila S. Lai Research Grant Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

APALA General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\* Donation to APALA is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law \*\***

Please mail the completed form with check (payable to APALA) to:

**APALA Membership**  
3735 Palomar Centre, Ste 150 PMB 26  
Lexington, KY 40513



## **APALA homepage:**

<http://www.apalaweb.org>

### **Keep yourself updated on APALA news: Join the APALA listserv!**

The APALA listserv, available to all members, is an information sharing resource and communications link for committee work, time-sensitive bulletins, etc. Job announcements are also posted on the Listserv.

### **To join, or for all listserv related questions:**

Contact APALA Executive Director,  
Ling Hwey Jeng, at [lhjeng00@uky.edu](mailto:lhjeng00@uky.edu)

### **Job Announcements**

Please send all job announcements to  
APALA Webmaster, May Chang, at

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage Paid  
Lexington, KY  
Permit 349

### **APALA Newsletter Advertising Rates:**

The APALA Newsletter, published quarterly in March, June, September, and December, contains information and issues of professional interest to members and the APA communities we serve and represent.

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

Half Page (Vertical 3-1/2" x 9-1/8" OR  
Horizontal 7" x 4-1/16"): \$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.

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June issue (May 10) September issue  
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