



# apala

asian/pacific american librarians association

NEWSLETTER

ISSN: 1040-8517

Volume 31:3 Spring 2013

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, APALA members and other readers! It seems only yesterday that I began my presidency, and now I am finishing up the last few months of my term. While it has been an exacting time, I can also honestly say that it has been most exciting. I have been enjoying working with the Executive Board, the committees and task forces, and the rest of you who are committed to helping APALA grow and flourish. And it has been immensely fulfilling to see all the work that we have accomplished this year so far.

Since my last message, the ALA Midwinter Meeting took place in Seattle, one of my favorite cities. APALA had a number of activities, both planned and spontaneous. The 2013 Midwinter Local Arrangements Task Force – Becca Kennedy (Chair), Molly Higgins, and Beatrice Wallace – put together two excellent and successful events. On Friday, January 25, we had a tour of the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific Experience (<http://wingluke.org/home.htm>) – what a wonderful museum housed within a restored building from the 1910s that used to be the living quarters of Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese immigrants! I was sorry that we didn't have time to see all of the exhibits before we had to go to lunch at nearby Henry's Taiwan Plus. Afterwards, a few of us proceeded to a couple more places arranged by Florante Ibañez; we first went to the Carlos Bulosan Memorial Exhibit (<http://www.bulosan.org/>) and heard stories from "Uncle" Bob Santos, made an impromptu stop at the Danny Woo International District Community Garden ([http://www.interimicda.org/index.php?/sustainable\\_communities/danny\\_woo\\_garden/](http://www.interimicda.org/index.php?/sustainable_communities/danny_woo_garden/)), then visited the offices of Denshō: The Japanese American Legacy Project (<http://www.densho.org/>).

On Saturday, January 26, we had the APALA dinner at Thoa's, where we were treated not only to tasty Vietnamese food but were also regaled with entertaining stories by David H.T. Wong (<http://davidwong.ca/>), architect, ecologist, and author of *Escape to Gold Mountain: A Graphic History of the Chinese in North America* (<http://www.escapetogoldmountain.com/>). In addition to these two events, there were also

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improvised get-togethers among APALA members, including a happy hour, early morning runs, and sightseeing outings. It is always great to see and hear about all these connections.

We held our Executive Board meeting during our usual Friday evening time slot. It was wonderful to see both EB and other APALA members. We received updates on the excellent work our committees and task forces are doing, as well as a wrap up report on JCLC. We also heard from ALA candidates and representatives from incoming ALA President Barbara Strippling. (And, we had delicious cakes.) On Sunday, the winners of the Asian Pacific American Awards for Literature (<http://www.apalaweb.org/2013-asianpacific-american-award-for-literature-winners/>) were announced in ALA Cognotes.

Prior to Midwinter, we collected mid-year reports from the committees and task forces, and I have to say I am really impressed and inspired by the hard work, dedication, and passion of APALA members. While everyone absolutely deserves recognition, there isn't enough room to do so here. I do want to highlight a few things:

This term, the Finance and Fundraising Committee (FFC), under the direction of Eileen Bosch, initiated a vendor sponsorship campaign, and it has garnered admirable results. At Midwinter and since, FFC has gotten bronze-level sponsorships (\$500 each) from four vendors: Alexander Street Press, Elsevier, Sage, and Springer. We are hopeful that this is just the beginning and that FFC and APALA can further cultivate these and other relationships so that our organization can continue to be sustainable.

For the second year in a row, the Family Literacy Focus (FLF) Committee, led by Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, has gotten funding from Toyota Financial Services for the Talk Story program (<http://www.talkstorytogether.org/>). The \$3000 grant will go towards mini-grants, as well as to the revamping of the website. Sarah Park Dahlen continues her work with FLF and has updated the APA bibliographies on the site.

The EB voted to hold a conference prior to ALA Annual 2015 in San Francisco, in celebration of APALA's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are in the earliest planning stage right now. We'll release more details once we have them – stay tuned!

The EB decided to sponsor two (instead of one) Emerging Leaders participants so that they can help APALA with the preconference planning. APALA-sponsored Frans Albarillo and Susan Hoang, along with team member Susie Judd, are helping by doing a survey on APALA needs (general) and interests (general and conference-specific). Be sure to fill out the survey when it comes out!

These are just some of the accomplishments and decisions so far this term. There is so much more, but I will have to do a more complete list at a later time.

I also want to give an update on the two initiatives I wanted to launch this year: the expansion of web content and the creation of an APALA handbook. The web content sub-committee of the Newsletter & Publications Committee, led by Melissa Cardenas-Dow, has done an excellent job of recruiting contributors and providing regular APA- and/or APALA-related content. So far, it has published six *What's Your Normal* (<http://www.apalaweb.org/category/whats-your-normal/>) essays (which all include resource lists), five Member Highlight Showcases (<http://www.apalaweb.org/category/highlights/>), one library leader feature, and one author interview. The Task Force on Library Services to APAs, co-chaired by Tina Chan and Susan Hoang, has been doing a community information needs scan so it can prioritize the resource lists that need to be included on our site. The handbook sub-committee of the Archives & Handbook Task Force, led by Candice Mack, is currently working on a form that can be filled out by EB members and committee/task force chairs. The plan is to have a rough, but usable, draft by ALA Annual and the EB/committee change-over and to have it polished in the next term.

This message cannot encompass all the work that has been going on behind the scenes. Suffice it to say that I am extremely proud of and grateful for all the hard work that the members have undertaken or accomplished for APALA. You all are an inspiration, and I can't say that enough!

All the best,  
Jade Alburo



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Newsletter Committee I am pleased to present you with the latest issue of the APALA newsletter. Fittingly, we are publishing the third issue in May, during the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage month. Officially signed into law in 1978, the month-long celebration commemorates and raises public awareness about the many contributions of people of Asian Pacific Islander heritage to U.S. culture, politics, government, arts, and the library profession!

This issue includes several stories from ALA Midwinter. Anna Coats and Janet Clarke have written vivid accounts with images of APALA's successful events - the Wing Luke Museum tour and traditional APALA social dinner with our guest speaker, writer and architect, David H.T. Wong. Nicci Westbrook has written a short introduction to her recently completed APALA newsletter digitization project. You can now view past issues of the newsletter since 1994 from the APALA website!

Our first time contributors, Molly Higgins, Frans Albarillo, Susan Hoang, Charlotte Roh, and Rose Love Chou shared their personal experiences at the conference and the specific leadership/career development programs they attended. Ann Crewdson and Ray Pun shared with us some happenings at their cities.

In the *Member's news and announcements* section, we give our traditional and very loud "shout outs" to APALA members who have been promoted, obtained a new position, appointed, elected, received an award or published. Thank you APALA members for your submissions.

And, there's more!! We have book reviews! Thank you to Miriam, Suzanne, Anna, and Jerry for your thoughtful write-ups of new books to add to our summer reading list. We have printed a preliminary schedule of APALA events in Chicago. Plan ahead as you wouldn't want to miss these events. Also, the election results are included. Lastly, please enjoy poems by Raymond Wang.

Like all our previous newsletters, this one was another group effort from the newsletter crew - Melissa, Charlene, Miriam, Alyssa, Nicci, Sandy, Dawn, Evelyn, and Jiun. It was indeed a pleasure to work with all of you. I am grateful for all the commitment and energy you have provided this past year.

Thanks,  
Gary

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## ALA MIDWINTER MEETING SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

### APALA FIELD TRIP: WING LUKE MUSEUM

By Anna Coats

APALA attendees of the 2013 ALA Midwinter Conference gathered on Friday, January 25 at 11 a.m. at the Smithsonian-affiliated Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience in Seattle's Chinatown / International District for a private guided tour.

The tour began in the museum's Tateuchi Story Theatre, which featured a beautiful, screen-sized canvas of historic chalk-drawn advertisements. Andrea, our knowledgeable and welcoming tour guide, explained that the canvas came from an old theater in Seattle's Nihonmachi (Japantown) where it was hung behind actors performing on stage. Local shops paid to advertise on it, similar to how companies nowadays pay for ads at the beginning of movies. I found it so fascinating that one era's ephemeral advertisements could become another era's beautiful work of art. It was in this theater that our group learned the Wing Luke Museum's history and mission.

The Wing Luke Museum is unique in that curators do not dictate what is displayed; rather the museum does extensive outreach and invites the community to tell it what they want to see. The Wing Luke is nationally recognized for these efforts as a community-based museum and was awarded the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Award for Museum Service in 1995. The Wing Luke Museum has involved community members into the development process from the time of its inception, and is the only U.S. museum dedicated to the Asian Pacific American experience.

Our group then proceeded to the museum's display on its namesake, Wing Luke. Wing Luke was born in 1925 in China and immigrated to the United States when he was six-years-old. His family settled in Seattle, where his father and grandfather had lived previously. In school Wing Luke noticed that he was the only child who looked the way he did. Some boys made fun of him for this reason, so Wing Luke drew comics of these boys. These were good comics in which Luke's bullies were transformed into superheroes who did good deeds. Luke gave these comics to the boys, who realized how mean they were being.

Wing Luke became very popular in school. In high school, Luke served as Boy's Club President, Student Body President, Seattle Inter-High Council President, and in 1944 was selected as one of the nine most outstanding high school students in the U.S. by the Secretary of Labor.

As an adult, Luke became the Assistant Attorney General of the State of Washington, and later took a position on the Seattle City Council. Wing Luke knew first-hand the effects of racial discrimination and was instrumental in Seattle's passing of an Open Housing Ordinance in 1963. Prior to this, Asian residents were restricted to housing *only* in Seattle's Chinatown. After Luke's death in a tragic plane crash in 1963, his sisters founded the Wing Luke Museum to honor his memory and dedication to civil right, urban renewal, and historic preservation.



Canvas chalk advertisements from Seattle's Nihonmachi (Japantown) in the Wing Luke Museum's Tateuchi Story Theatre. Photo credit: Taken by Joy Panigabutra-Roberts, provided by Anna Coats.

One of the museum's permanent displays is a hotel that many immigrants first called home. The hotel was reconstructed piece by piece inside the museum from its original location a few blocks away with such detail that each floor-board was replaced in its original alignment. The ambience in this carefully cared for yet rundown building reminded me of visiting relatives' homes as a child; I felt as though I was visiting another time and place that was made our own. There were pictures throughout of early residents. Beatriz, our APALA local Seattle coordinator, spotted a man in one of the photos who may have been her father.

Our tour guide commented on the poor condition of the building, noting there was no elevator and new arrivals had to lug their trunks up *all* those stairs. I found her concern amusing since the building looked just like the apartment I'm currently living in, only my building has a winding staircase and I live on the third floor – move-in day was a great workout.

One exhibit our group had the opportunity to experience was "I Am Filipino," a project that shared the cultural legacy of the U.S.'s diverse Filipino community through photographs and personal stories. The exhibit truly highlighted the Wing

Luke Museum's position as "one of the few places that can truly give you a new perspective on what it means to be American."

An exhibit that touched me was the Sikh display with the questions, "Am I Indian or American? Can I be both at the same time?" I am often faced with these questions not because I am mixed – East / West Indian and Eastern / Western European – but because there is still a conflation between ethnicity and nationality for people of Asian descent.

The museum itself, our wonderful tour guide, and of course the company of our APALA tour made the Wing Luke Museum one of my favorite experiences in Seattle this winter.

*Anna Coats is the Children's Librarian at East Rutherford Memorial Library in East Rutherford, New Jersey. ☀*

## MIDWINTER REFLECTIONS

By Molly Higgins

As an MLIS student in Seattle this year, I got the opportunity to attend ALA Midwinter 2013. There were no airline tickets to buy, no hotels to book, no standing in the rain trying to figure out which way was north. As a first time attendee, I also had no idea what I should be attending or how quickly those free books in the exhibit hall weigh a person down. Armed with advice from a variety of sources (most of them telling me to make time to network and go to parties), I signed up for a Twitter account to track conference happenings in real time and spent a few hours with the online Scheduler. Then, I set out to find my own Midwinter experience.

On Friday, I joined APALA for a day in Seattle's International District. Historically, several Asian American communities, including the Chinese American, Japanese American, and Filipino American communities have overlapped in that neighborhood. We got to experience parts of all those histories through a tour of the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience, lunch at Henry's Taiwan, a meet up with local legend Bob Santos, and a tour of Densho, which digitizes historic Japanese American archival material. We also visited the urban chicken coop at the International District's community garden. It was good to meet and actually talk with a group of friendly, like-minded librarians. Let me emphasize friendly. Before Midwinter, most APALA members were just names attached to email signatures. It was great to have a chance to have conversations with APALA members in person.

Much of the rest of conference went by in a blur. A lot of things were unfamiliar to me. I didn't know the differences

between round tables, working groups, and committees. I went to a very helpful resume review, sat in on some committee and group meetings (and left some committee and group meetings half way through), had a very nice conversation with a woman who worked for OCLC, and learned about the possibilities that linked data holds for article level discovery and assessment.

More experienced librarians tell me that Midwinter is small compared to Annual, but it's difficult for me to imagine. So much happened in such a short amount of time. I found myself bouncing back and forth between conference locations and trying to choose between concurrent sessions. I met Ruth Ozeki in the Exhibit Hall, but didn't see her author talk. I wish I could have gone to Maker Space Monday! I feel incredibly lucky that I was able to attend an ALA conference as a student. It was a chance to explore anything I wanted with very few responsibilities. And being in Seattle meant that I had classmates with whom to compare experiences. Maybe it feels more like business when you have business to attend to. Hopefully, I'll get to experience ALA from that perspective in years to come.



APALA members at the Carlos Bulosan Memorial Exhibit, in Seattle's International District. From left: Jade Alburo, Joy Panigabutra-Roberts, Florante Peter Ibanez, Alyssa Jocson, Molly Higgins, Rebecca Kennedy, Anna Coats, Janet Tom, Bob Santos "Uncle Bob," and Gary Colmenar. Photo credit: From Joy Panigabutra-Roberts.

*Molly Higgins is a graduate student in Library and Information Sciences, University of Washington. She will be graduating July 2013 with an MLIS. Her studies and professional interests lie in the integration of emerging digital technologies with traditional library services. ☀*

## EMERGING LEADERS EXPERIENCE 2013

By Frans Albarillo and Susan Hoang

Entering a room full of self-identified emerging leaders can be a daunting experience. Yet it can also be invigorating to learn from and grow with others who are invested in our profession. The members of the 2013 Emerging Leaders program came from all geographies with different backgrounds in a variety of library settings. The Emerging Leaders experience is capitalizing on this diversity to create a better ALA.

The Emerging Leaders training took place on January 25, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The first part consisted of a program overview and a lecture on intentional leadership. There were breaks for photographs, a team-building exercise, and a discussion of project guidelines with liaison member guides, the ALA staff and librarian contacts that help the Emerging Leaders team navigate the ALA committee structures and provide feedback to the team. After lunch, all 14 teams began to plan their projects. A presentation followed, led by Jenny Levine, called "Connect for Your Project Work," which described how to use ALA Connect as a collaborative virtual workspace. After the discussion of ALA Connect, several panelists gave a talk on "How ALA Works." The highlight of the program was later that evening in President's Maureen Sullivan's suite, where Emerging Leaders had the opportunity to meet past and present ALA leadership.

Kathryn Deiss, Content Strategist for the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), facilitated the training. We spent much of the morning hearing from Deiss and ALA President Maureen Sullivan about the history and purpose of the organization and program. ALA was created as an organization to serve libraries. Intentionally named American Library Association, the organization serves as a forum for the concerns of libraries. While working in libraries makes us an important part of the association, the association's larger purpose is to act as an advocate for libraries.

Conceived in 1999 by then-ALA President Leslie Burger, Emerging Leaders has evolved into a program that is explicitly designed for those wanting to take leadership positions within ALA and affiliate associations. In encouraging us to take leadership positions within the organization, the Emerging Leaders program is a call to action, to take ownership, and to change the organization for the long-term.

With the program's initial emphasis on big-picture thinking of the profession, it can be easy to forget that the work of the association and the skills we developed from the program can be brought back to our immediate workplaces. The Emerging Leaders program not only enabled us to articulate the necessary role of associations in our profession, but also

allowed us to discuss and evaluate how we work in teams. During the program, we were given worksheets that allowed us to reflect on our project management skills and communication styles. This encouraged our team to think about how we would communicate and to consider group dynamics, something that every person in the room could bring back to their workplaces.

Our 2013 APALA Emerging Leaders project is to conduct a preconference planning survey of APALA membership. The preconference will take place during APALA's 35th anniversary celebration in 2015. Our member mentors are Ven Basco (APALA Executive Director) and Gwendolyn Prellwitz from the Office of Diversity and the Spectrum Scholarships program. Our team includes Susan Hoang (Minnesota), Susie Judd (Missouri), and Frans Albarillo (New York). In addition to preconference planning, it is our hope that our survey results will inform committees or initiatives that impact APALA.

The Emerging Leaders 2013 teams will meet again at the ALA Annual conference in June in Chicago for additional training and to present the results of their projects. We look forward to hearing what the other teams have been doing and learning more from each other.

*Frans Albarillo is Reference Services Librarian at Brooklyn College, New York. Susan Hoang is Reference and Instruction Librarian at Carleton College, Minnesota. Both Frans and Susan are APALA's sponsored Emerging Leaders for 2013. ✨*

## THE 2013 ARL LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM: A CONVERSATION

By Charlotte Roh and Rose Love Chou

### **Tell me a little about yourself.**

Rose: I'm in my last semester at San Jose State University. The program is all online, and I chose it for the flexibility because I work full time. So it's taken me three years. I'm almost done, which is awesome. My focus is on archives.

Charlotte: I spent the last six years in academic publishing. I wanted a change, so I looked into librarianship. Now I'm finishing up at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and am looking for a job!

### **Tell me what you will be doing this summer.**

Rose: I will be working at the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, which is great because I won't have to relocate. I'll be working on digitization – getting hands-on experience scanning, doing quality control, and analyzing the workflow process. I'm pretty excited.



ARL CEP Fellows, from top left: Kai Alexis Smith, Charlotte Roh, Jennifer Ferretti, Mark Puente (Program Director), Rose Love Chou, Nathasha Alvarez, Rachel A. Smith, Julian Etienne Gomez Baranda, Aleksandra Mitchell, Nabil Kahyap, Dorothy Terry. Photo credit: Molly Magee

Charlotte: I am working on a scholarly communications collaboration at the University of Arizona Library with the University Press.

### **What was the standout for you at the ARL Leadership Symposium?**

Rose: I think the camaraderie. It can be pretty isolating to be a person of color in a profession that lacks diversity such as librarianship. I know other professions also lack diversity, but librarianship especially I think is really problematic when you look at the numbers. It was great to be around other students of color, not just other librarians of color, but being with students at the beginning stages of their careers adds another component to our experience right now. I think just being able to talk about our experiences without having to interpret why I might feel offended by something, for example, really eases social situations.

Charlotte: Mark was really open about the challenges and realities we faced as people of color in librarianship. It really made us all open to each other and get close very quickly.

### **Is there anything you would say to recommend people to the CEP Program?**

Rose: Looking back at the Leadership Symposium, a lot of the panels and sessions are great but they are potentially things that you could find at other conferences. The standout is being around other people who are in similar situations as you. Also the opportunity to meet directors of research libraries is important. That's definitely not something that's an easy opportunity for library students. And we haven't gone through our internships yet, but so far the people at the National Library of Medicine have been great, just in talking about what my interests are for the internship.

Charlotte: That's one of the main things, is the networking potential. You get to meet face-to-face, not just for five minutes but extended time, with directors of libraries.... Just being a CEP Fellow gives you a passport to all these people. Even if you didn't have a conversation with them, you have access to them through this Leadership Symposium event. I also appreciated meeting the Leadership and Career Development Fellows.

Rose: Yes, ARL really thinks about the career development of librarians. I'm sure as the years go by, I'll probably want to participate in that as well. It will give me practical professional development on how to become a leader.

Charlotte: It was great to meet people at all stages. We had people fresh out of library fellowship as well.

Rose: That was another favorite panel. I've seen these postings for fellowships and residencies, but the temporary aspect of it wasn't enticing until I heard about the support system. It's so important, and it's definitely something I will look for as I look for jobs.

Rose: I'm surrounded by lawyers in my personal life, so I have strayed away from information policy. But Kevin Smith from Duke was a great speaker, and I think I've become more interested in information policy after his talk. I've read casually but not with a real interest, and he made me think about information policy in different ways. Copyright in digitization is one thing, and copyright when it comes to scholarly work is another. Some of the cases he talked about were very different, but they all applied to librarianship in different ways. I think that's what made it interesting, it was like seeing the web that covers different issues.

Charlotte: Yes, copyright applies a lot more than you think it will. It was also great to have him simplify things in a clear way. And I felt that everybody did that. Every speaker gave a great overview that made me feel like I could speak intelligently on these topics that were so key. Some things were really practical, but had this wow factor, like Amy Harper at the University of Washington Health Sciences Library. She created a website and mobile application for the hospital protocols, when previously everybody had been carrying around these laminated cards of different sizes and colors.

Rose: Oh yeah, that was like, Whoa...How is it so outdated? That's crazy!

Charlotte: She created something that was so simple but solved a problem that nobody thought was there! I thought, this is how embedded librarianship can be, just so helpful.

Rose: Oh, I also liked Jaeyeong Sung, from the University of Hawaii. She does access services, and she talked about creating a program to ease the inventory and shelf-reading process. I really liked it because I worked in circulation and stacks for a couple years, and I managed an inventory project. Everything she said was so right. It was wonderful. All those shelf lists!

Charlotte: She was so funny! We all loved her. The other speakers were great, but she was a great end note to a long day. It helped us keep our energy up in order to continue learning from all the wonderful people who gave their time to us.

*A very sincere thanks to all of the speakers, Mark Puente, Jennifer Champagne, and ARL for this opportunity. To apply for any of the ARL Diversity Programs, see <http://www.arl.org/diversity/index.shtml>.* ✨

## AUTHOR INTERVIEW

### AUTHOR SHARES JOURNEY OF GRAPHIC NOVEL FROM CONCEPT TO PUBLICATION

By Janet H. Clarke

Bestselling author David H. T. Wong discussed his debut graphic novel, *Escape to Gold Mountain: A Graphic History of the Chinese in North America*, at APALA's dinner at ALA Midwinter in Seattle. The event, held on January 26, 2013, was at [Thoa's Restaurant](#), which specializes in contemporary Vietnamese cuisine. Attendance was high, with almost 40 guests filling the restaurant to near capacity. APALA Vice President/President-elect Eugenia Beh (Texas A&M University) introduced the guest.

Wong is a Chinese Canadian who grew up on the Eastside of Vancouver, described as a "rough and tough" neighborhood. He always wanted to draw since childhood. Specifically, he wanted to become a cartoonist. But his parents nixed the idea. So he studied biology and became an architect. Combining his love of nature and of art, Wong designed sustainable, LEED-certified homes and buildings in many countries. However, his passion for drawing and telling stories to future generations would not be denied. In 2006, he took a sabbatical from his architecture firm in Singapore to devote serious time to writing and illustrating a graphic

novel. Wong spent the first two and a half years doing research and reading, which led him to fascinating discoveries, such as the long relationship between the early Chinese and the First Nations peoples.

He began his writing by telling his family's story to honor his father, who passed away in 1999. What evolved is a fictional story based on historical facts that follows the Wong family, whose roots are in Toishan, China, through six generations. The author dug into the wealth of stories that his grandmother told him about the 130 year history of the family in Canada and the US. Many times, it was an "ugly history" of Chinese experiences in North America that included lynch mobs, massacres, and burned-down Chinatowns. Wong's family directly experienced some of these events. "We are all survivors from the terrible purges," he said. Wong expressed two goals in writing the graphic novel. He wanted to preserve, "the stories shared by ancestors who lived the stories," in the novel. And he also wanted to reach young readers. Wong noted, "I thought young people would want to know about the past."

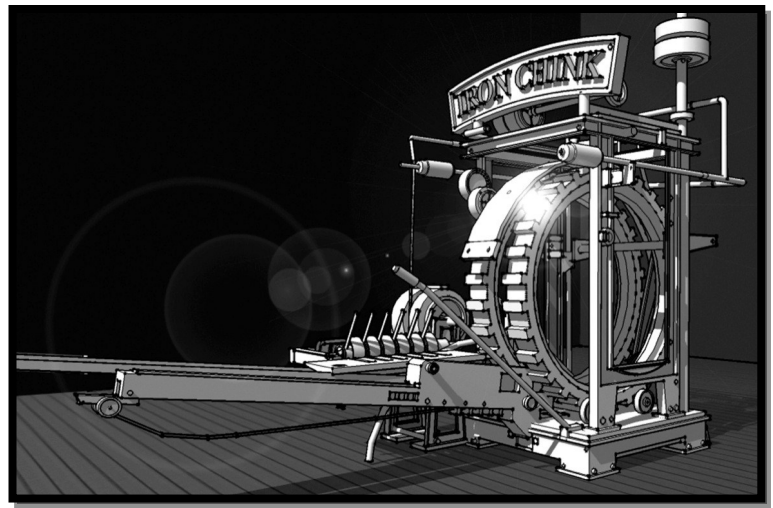
In preparation for his novel, Wong said he approached schools and educators to understand what young readers might be interested in. However, his children's schools were not too interested in his stories. As a new writer, he also faced an uphill battle with potential publishers. When he floated the idea of writing a book he often heard the same response, "David, you're an architect, not a writer!" But he persevered and eventually met Arsenal Pulp Press, who gave him the break he needed. They initially asked for two chapters with drawings. Wong researched ("collecting gigabytes of facts and info"), revised the book numerous times (cutting approximately 100 pages), and tried to make the stories interesting and educational, yet not overly didactic. He noted that the publisher's decision to write and market the book for an American audience first, rather than his native Canadian one, was key to its successful launch in 2012. In the arduous and sometimes painful process of becoming a writer, Wong said he developed a new appreciation and deep respect for "the work of authors."



Self-portrait © 2012 David H. T. Wong.



Wong shared with the rapt audience some of the experiences that mark Chinese Canadian and Chinese American history, such as the infamous [“Iron Chink” machine](#), which is introduced in the first chapter of the graphic novel. In the early 1900s, the fish canning industry developed a machine for butchering and cleaning salmon. Developed by Edmund A. Smith, it was called Smith Butcher Machines, but more commonly known as “Iron Chinks” because each machine did the work of “40 Chinamen per hour!” It was a powerful way for Wong to demonstrate the anti-Chinese attitudes of the time and the painful memories it evokes for Grandma Wong in the story. In fact, Wong had originally titled the novel *The Iron Chink*.



“Iron Chink” drawing by David. © David H.T. Wong.

Similar to his treatment of the Iron Chink machine, Wong explores historical figures and imagined encounters like the Opium Wars, transcontinental railroad work, paper sons, exclusion laws, and discriminatory taxes. However, while it exposes the harsh truths of racism, Wong’s work is also a book about reconciliation. “It lets us look at what we can do to create a better future for our young people,” he said. To that end, the reader also meets notable individuals who worked to correct racial and social injustices or who persevered despite such circumstances and contributed meaningfully to society, for instance by obtaining full citizenship rights, diversifying professional sports, or trailblazing as the first Chinese Canadian in a particular profession. In this way, the novel creates a counterpoint to the painful and disenfranchised past of Chinese Canadian/Americans with new narratives of courage and agency.

The illustrations are full of engaging details, enriching the sometimes history-heavy content with a lively, visual narrative. Before she knows it, the reader will have absorbed a good chunk of Chinese Canadian and Chinese American history, thanks to the multimodal reading experience that a graphic novel affords. The fast-paced graphic novel form is an increasingly popular way of telling history. This genre makes Wong’s book appealing to younger readers. But as Sandy Wee (San Mateo County Library), past-APALA President, noted later, “its inclusion of historical notes and references to primary sources and further reading make it valuable for adult readers, too.”

Wong cited many sources of inspiration for his love of stories and the graphic novel form. Besides his grandmother’s stories of her youth and Chinese folktales, Wong recalled the “Classics Illustrated” comic book series he read as a child, with titles like *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *David Copperfield*. Those comics, “explained history and human relations without my knowing it. . . . They left an indelible impression on me,” Wong has said in a blog article. More recently, he has rediscovered favorites such as [Asterix the Gaul series](#), when reading with his own children. He attributed the

graphic novelist [Will Eisner](#) with further expanding his own creative possibilities. Finally, he pointed to Native American friends and their oral traditions for inspiring him: “Everyone looked forward to the stories of creation and the stories of the trickster!” He noted that young teenage boys, “would put down their Game Boys when they heard the first nations’ stories of creation.” This was a compelling testament to the power of good storytelling, and what Wong also wanted to do with young readers. His book is certainly getting attention. Within three months of its publication, *Escape to Gold Mountain* was listed in the bestseller list of the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia and the top seller position in three Amazon.ca categories.

Besides being a published graphic novelist, Wong is also a community activist and advocate. He is a founding director for [ricepaper magazine](#) and the [Asian Canadian Writers Workshop](#) among other organizations.

With his labor of love finished, Wong has returned to practicing architecture, though on a smaller scale. In the future, he continues to devote time to another passion: [saving frogs](#) from extinction. He gave the audience a preview of his future writing/illustrating project: collaborating with Leonard George, Chief of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, on a story about Turtle Island (a term Native Americans use to refer to North America).

Janet H. Clarke is Associate Director, Research & Instructional Services at Stony Brook University Libraries. ☀

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



### ALA ANNUAL 2013: APALA EVENTS

Friday, June 28, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

APALA Field Trip to Cambodian Association of Illinois and Cambodian American Museum

To reserve your space visit the APALA website [www.apalaweb.org/registration](http://www.apalaweb.org/registration)

Friday, June 28, 7:30 p.m.

APALA Executive Board Meeting

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Adler 24A-C

Saturday, June 29, 10:30 a.m.

*What's Your Normal? : Discourse of Our Own Realities*

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Jackson Park 10B

Saturday, June 29, Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m.

APALA Social Dinner

At the home of writer Mary Anne Mohanraj

To reserve your space visit the APALA website [www.apalaweb.org/registration](http://www.apalaweb.org/registration)

Sunday, June 30, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Reception

Several authors will be present to accept their awards

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Jackson Park 10A

Sunday, June 30, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

President's Program, *Pushing the Boundaries: Presentation and Representation of LGBTQ Members of/by APA writers and authors.*

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Jackson Park 10A

### EXHIBITION VISIT TO "TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE AND HISTORY" IN THE CITY HALL LIBRARY, NEW YORK CITY

By Raymond Pun

The City Hall Library located in downtown New York City recently opened an exhibition called "Traditional Chinese Culture and History" showcasing items from the municipal archives. These items range from photographs and images of early Chinatown to critically acclaimed books about the Chinese American experience by well known authors such as Betty Lee Sung and Miriam Louie, author of *Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take on the Global Factory City*. The Visitor Center holds two small galleries, and the current exhibit focuses on the rich history of Chinese living in New York.

One of the most interesting documents in the exhibit is the letter from Madame Chiang Kai-shek, wife of General Chiang Kai-shek, who led the Northern Expedition to unify the country, becoming China's nominal leader in 1926. Madame



From *The Epoch Times*: "The inaugural exhibit of the Department's newly opened visitor center offers many insights into the city's past. The current exhibit includes letters from Madame Chiang Kai-shek and artifacts, artworks, and documents from New York's Chinese American community." Photo credit: Deborah Yun

Chiang Kai-shek "toured the U.S. for seven and half month and became the first Chinese national and only second woman to address U.S. Congress delivering separate speeches to both houses of Congress on February 18, 1943. [She] traveled to NYC where she delivered a speech to 50,000 people at city before." The purpose of her trip was to request for Chinese relief from the U.S. which was met positively. These letters showcase the global relationship between the United States and China through the Chinese-American communities in New York.

Images of Chinatown from the 1950s are also displayed.

From my own experience, it was very interesting seeing these black and white photographs. As someone who grew up in Chinatown(s) in New York and Queens, I am very surprised that some of the stores from the 1950s are still around today. The images captured the social scenes of Chinatown: people drifting on Bowery, Chinese laborers working, and children playing on Mott Street.

Another highlight of the exhibit focuses on Tom Lee, a leader of early Chinatown, head of On Leong Tong, and in control of all gambling activity in Chinatown. "He was favored by New York City politicians because of his influence on the Chinese population and eventually became known as the 'Mayor of China.'" He was eventually found guilty of maintaining gambling houses through police investigation. Archives of his activities are kept in the City Hall Library.

These images and artifacts are available for research consultation as well. Free and open to the public, the City Hall Library has a collection of 400,000 "unique reports, books, periodicals and documents. Learn more about the history of New York City."

*Ray Pun is a student at St. John's University and works at The New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, New York City. 🌸*

## "BENGALI HARLEM AND THE LOST HISTORIES OF SOUTH ASIAN AMERICA" PUBLICATION CELEBRATION

By Anna Coats

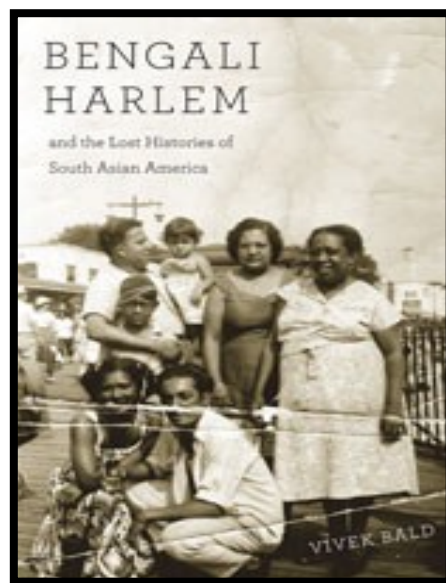
On Saturday, April 6, I attended the celebration of the publication of "[Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America](#)" (Harvard University Press) by Vivek Bald at the New York Public Library (NYPL)'s Schomburg Center, located in Harlem. Both the book and event focused on personal histories of Muslim men from the Indian subcontinent who settled in Harlem in the 1920s to the 1950s, married African American, Puerto Rican, and African West Indian women, and became a small but significant part of the neighborhood.

An event about Indian immigrants who married into different cultures definitely had my interest. I am half Indian via the West Indies and half white, and interested in such "lost histories."

The event opened with Bald reading three passages from his book, one of which recounted the story of a Bengali man who found work and housing for recent arrivals back when immigration from Asia was illegal. Immigration officials would show up at his house but, as testament to the Bengali network, not a single person showed up at his house while immigration was there.

The reading was followed by a performance by East Harlem comedian Alaudin Ullah from his show "Dishwasher Dreams." Ullah's performance was a light-hearted portrayal of what it was like growing up a minority son of a dishwasher living and working in a sometimes racist society and realizing what his father had to fight against to get where he was.

Ullah's performance was followed by an excerpt of the documentary film Bald and Ullah collaborated on, "In Search of Bengali Harlem," which documents stories from the living family members of the first wave of Bengali immigrants to Harlem. This was followed by a discussion between Bald, Ullah and four other community members who were children of this early wave of Bengali fathers and predominantly African American mothers. This was the first time several of the community members met. It was emotionally moving to hear their discussion and accounts of what it was like growing up mixed in a sometimes accepting, sometimes unaccepting environment.



Book cover of "Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America" (Harvard University Press,

*Anna Coats is the Children's Librarian at East Rutherford Memorial Library in East Rutherford, New Jersey. 🌸*

## APALA N-CA CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE

By Janet Tom

Thirteen librarians and friends gathered to celebrate Chinese New Year over a sumptuous, twelve-course banquet on Friday, Feb. 15, 2013 at Enjoy Vegetarian Restaurant in San Francisco's Chinatown. We enjoyed steamed dumplings; veggie Shark Fin Soup; lettuce wrap w/veggies; pumpkin, taro, bean curd; Chinese broccoli (gailan) w/ginger; Singapore style rice vermicelli; bean curd rolls with bok choy; eggplant w/veggie sea bass; lotus root, lily, vegetables & peas; veggie abalone, veggie sea slugs w/lettuce, pea sprouts w/fried to-fu; spinach & pine nut fried rice. Enjoy Vegetarian cooks in the Buddhist tradition, which uses no onions or garlic. Their mock meat and fish dishes are made of soy, yam and gluten.

Children's librarians were in full force: Ana Pavon (Oakland PL); Pat Toney (San Francisco PL); Cindy Wee (Santa Clara County Library); who also brought her mom, Connie. San Francisco public librarians were well represented with Brian Huynh; Jerry Dear; Richard Le; Janet Tom. Cindy and Connie came up from Palo Alto and Jeanne O'Grady and Janis O'Driscoll (from CALIX) came all the way from Santa Cruz! Sherise Kimura (University of San Francisco), Grace Santana (cousin of Carlos Santana!) and Mary Yee (City College of San Francisco) also joined our festive event.

*Janet Tom, librarian at San Francisco Public Library and the City College of San Francisco.*

## BAI TONG AND THE SEATTLE APALA LADIES

By Ann Crewdson

It was late as I rushed towards the door on Friday night. My hubby asked, "Who is it tonight? John at 8:12?" I answered him, "No, tonight it's Bai Tong." He gave me a puzzled look. Bai Tong was the flavor of the month, meaning restaurant of course. We have an inside joke that started when my mom mistook a piece of paper, with the Biblical verse John 8:12, as evidence that I was fornicating with a lover named John. She had discovered the note tucked into my locket, then jabbered away at my sister before she corrected her. She's my Chinese mother--I still love her. No, I was not heading to a hideout to meet a debonair, sharply dressed man named Bai Tong. Rather, [Bai Tong](#), in Thailand cuisine parlance, means banana leaf. The restaurant is known for fresh, authentic dishes full of Thai flavor.

Tonight my attention was reserved for the APALA ladies--librarians from Bellevue College, King County, Highline Com-

munity College, Seattle Public, and Tacoma Public. We have a standing engagement to talk about librarianship as it affects Asians and Asian-Americans.

We were very happy with Karen Fernandez's choice down south because Bai Tong was an excellent host, that is, restaurant... It's wonderful to see our circle's regulars--Maria Pontillas and Julie Ann Oiye. This time, Karen, Pam Lo, and Sayumi Irey were able to join us. It turns out that Asian librarians are within six degrees of separation from one another. I hadn't seen Sayumi, my library school friend, now Dr. Irey with her Ph.D., in such a long time. Over Gai Hor Bai Toey and succulent dishes, we talked about her dissertation on Asian-American women in leadership, microaggressions, and the upcoming AAAS Conference. We eagerly exchanged information on what we were reading. I talked about Eddie Huang's new memoir, "Fresh Off the Boat." Karen talked about an NPR segment on the [Race Card Project: Six-Word Essays](#). I discovered Pam is new to APALA and works in my library system at the Bellevue Branch. We talked about the APALA and ALA elections, the Global Reading Challenge in the Seattle area schools and public libraries, and the upcoming OLA/WLA Conference in Vancouver. To top everything off, our meal and conversations were carried under an auspicious golden dragon at our booth.

When I said good-bye to the APALA Seattle librarians, I must have carried some of that good luck from the dragon home with me. Nobody even asked me once about Bai Tong when I entered the house. Not even from my hawk-eyed mother. Sorry, Bai Tong, you were good to us, but next month the APALA ladies will be seeking out another flavor and another chance to eat, collaborate, and share library stories. But I'll come back to you, I promise.



Under the Dragon Boat, from left to right: Ann Crewdson, Sayumi Irey, Karen Fernandez, Pam Lo, Maria Pontillas, Julie Ann Oiye.

*Ann Crewdson is the Children's Section Supervisor Librarian at the King County Library System, Issaquah and Sammamish Libraries, Washington. 🐉*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### TALK STORY FAMILY LITERACY COMMITTEE

The Talk Story Family Literacy Committee is pleased to announce the 2013 Talk Story Grant winners. Each organization will receive a \$500 grant towards an Asian Pacific American or American Indian Alaskan Native themed family program. Please join us in congratulating:

Council of Asian Pacific Americans, Michigan  
Cranston Public Library, Cranston, Rhode Island  
Division of Indian Work, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Friends for the Richfield Public Library, Richfield, Utah  
Friends of the Asian Library, Oakland, California  
Hercules Library, Hercules, California  
Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, Onamia, Minnesota  
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center Library, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Santa Clara Branch Library, St. George, Utah  
Trinidad Rancheria, Trinidad, California

*Talk Story: Sharing stories, sharing culture is a joint project between the American Indian Library Association ([www.aila.org](http://www.aila.org)) and the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association ([www.apalaweb.org](http://www.apalaweb.org)) that started as part of ALA 2009-2010 President Camila Alire's Family Literacy Focus Initiative. The program is sponsored by Toyota Financial Services. For more information, please visit the Talk Story web site, [www.talkstorytogether.org](http://www.talkstorytogether.org).*

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Congratulations to our incoming Executive Board members, who be serving under the leadership of incoming President Eugenia Beh. All terms will begin immediately after the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

President: Eugenia Beh  
Vice-President/President-Elect: Eileen K. Bosch  
Treasurer : Dora Ho  
Secretary : Janet Clarke  
Member-at-Large (2013-2015): Anna Coats  
Member-at-Large (2013-2015): Sarah Jeong  
Member-at-Large (2012-2014): Tina Chan \*  
Member-at-Large (2012-2014): Alanna Aiko Moore \*  
Immediate Past-President: Jade Alburo  
(\*: Continuing Terms)

Best from the Nominating Committee,  
Sandy Wee, Chair  
Michelle Baildon  
Florante Ibanez

## MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sandy Avila is the new librarian at Florida Technical College in Orlando, FL. Sandy also presented at ACRL in April. Her presentation was entitled, "*Improve Library Service Usability by Implementing Millennial-Minded Technologies*".

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The Hoover Library & Archives was recently selected as winner of the 2013 RBMS Leab Exhibit Award for "A Century of Change: China 1911-2011."

Here are links to the ALA News press release, etc.:  
<http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/ala/2013-rbms-leab-exhibition-award-winners>  
<http://www.hoover.org/news/143406>

Thu Phương Lisa H. Nguyễn 阮秋芳  
Curator, Asia Collections  
Hoover Institution Library and Archives, Stanford University

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Shalini, Channapatna, Collection Development and Electronic Resources Librarian at Florida Memorial University received an ACRL Virtual Scholarship Award.

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Candice Mack was promoted to Senior Librarian of the Adult Literacy and Volunteer Services department in Library Administration on March 25, 2013. She now manages and coordinates the over 3,600 volunteers throughout the Los Angeles Public Library system.  
<http://www.lapl.org/get-involved/volunteer>

Alvin Dantes (SUNY-Oneonta) has been promoted as the head of access services at the James Milne Library. This position encompasses the circulation and ILL department as well as the night shift.

Frans Albarillo of Brooklyn College was featured as ACRL member of the week in the month of April 2013. <http://www.acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/archives/7013>

## Elections!

### Congratulations to Clara and Alvin!

Prof Clara Chu, Chair of the Library and Information Studies at University of North Carolina at Greensboro and lifetime APALA member has been elected President-Elect of the Association of Library Information and School Educators (ALISE) in 2013.

Alvin was elected as VP/President Elect of the State University of New York Librarians Association (SUNYLA).

## DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF APALA: DIGITIZED NEWSLETTERS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

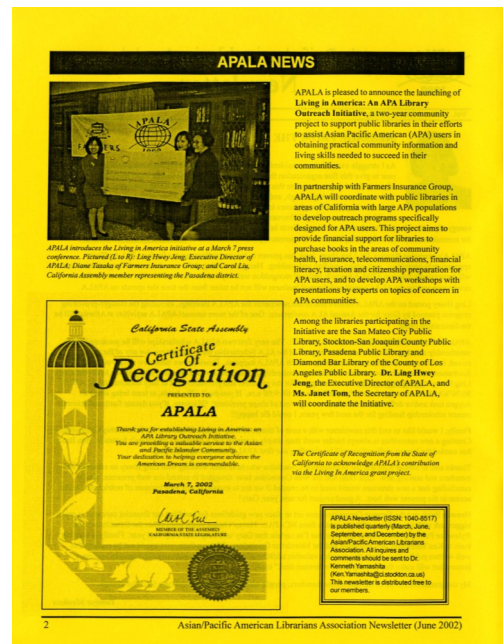
By R. Niccole Westbrook

How did the APALA Mentoring Program get started? What did APALA members do in response to 9/11? How long have we been backing the Spectrum Scholarship Program? Answers to these questions and much more can be found in back issues of the APALA Newsletter, many of which are now available online. (Newsletters, <http://www.apalaweb.org/resources/newsletter/>)



APALA Newsletter that were published between 1994-2003. The newsletters Gary sent were digitized and made searchable for all to enjoy. As a newer APALA member, these newsletters provided me an opportunity to experience some of the community, activism, and issues that connect long-standing members to one another and the organization.

One of the stories I found particularly interesting was the candidacy of Dr. Ching-Chih Chen for American Library Association President. Dr. Chen was the first Asian American candidate for this office and appeared on the ballot in 1995. Leading up to the election, buzz about Dr. Chen pervaded the newsletter. The excitement culminated with the publication of a resolution declaring APALA's official support for the candidate and recognizing her for her contributions to the field. Although Dr. Chen was not elected as ALA President in the end, this chapter in our history gave me pause to reflect on what might happen if an Asian American candidate were to appear on the ballot for ALA President in the coming years. How might today's APALA rally around such a candidate? What role might our newsletter play? My research for this article also led me to realize how under represented ethnic minorities—particularly Asian Americans—have been throughout history in the highest office of our professional organization. To me, this underlines the continued importance of APALA (and other diversity-related initiatives associated with ALA). As an organization, we continue to work today on many of the challenges and issues that concerned us in years past.



I have recently had the pleasure of collaborating with Gary Colmenar to digitize our APALA history and I could not help but peruse these colorful artifacts that tell the story of the organization and the people who have contributed over the years. Gary was kind enough to mail to me 21 issues of the

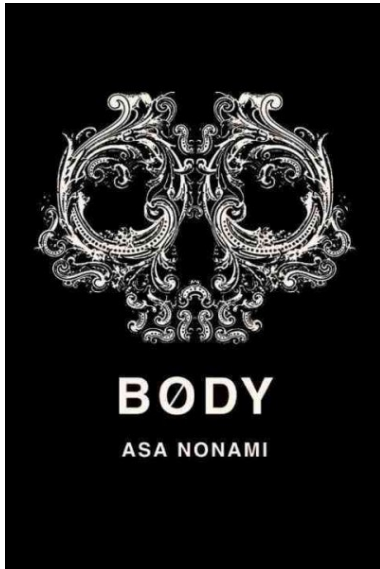
So take an opportunity to explore these amazing old newsletters. Enjoy the halftone pictures of past presidents, giggle at the cute and comical clipart, and wax nostalgic over the

Internet Resources column (which contained printed links to useful websites in the early days of the internet).

You might notice that we don't quite have a full run of the newsletter published on the website. If you possess any paper newsletters that could be digitized, please contact Nicci Westbrook (Email, [rnwestbrook@uh.edu](mailto:rnwestbrook@uh.edu)). If you are willing to loan me your old newsletter issues I will handle them with care, digitize and publish them, and then return them to you via snail mail.

*R. Nicole Westbrook is Coordinator of Digital Operations, University of Houston Libraries.*

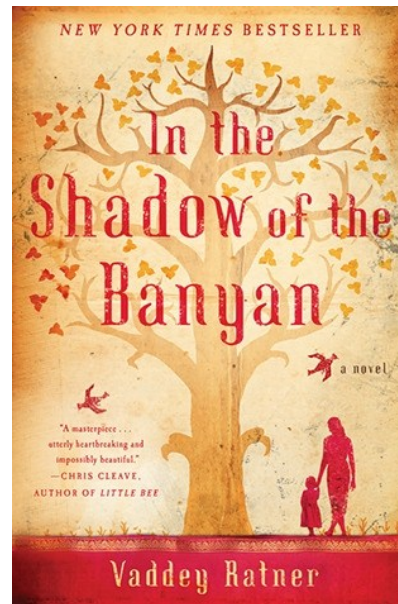
## BOOK REVIEWS



Nonami, Asa. *Body*. tr. from the Japanese by Takami Nieda. Vertical. Dec. 2012. 192 p. ISBN 978-1934287378

A desperate, middle-aged housewife acquires a younger face through cosmetic surgery. A salesman, harboring a secret obsession, finds unadulterated happiness touching women aboard crowded trains. A 27-year-old bachelor, unable to accept his growing baldness, becomes a test subject in a clinical trial. A high school student vows to take control of her life through dieting. This masterfully translated collection of stories by Naoki prize-winning Nonami (*The Hunter*) skillfully packs a punch. Her well-drawn characters ranging from the wistful to the willful wander through a world shrouded in misty melancholia.

- Miriam Tuliao, Assistant Director, BookOps



Ratner, Vaddey. *In the Shadow of the Banyan*. Simon & Schuster. August 2012. 336 p. ISBN 978-1451657708

Groundbreaking as the first major work of literature to emerge from post-1975 Cambodia into the western world, Ratner's debut novel is a memoir in fiction's clothing. Using lyrical prose and ample metaphor, she paints a startlingly vivid picture of the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge regime through the eyes of a child--a child whose world of comfort and privilege is turned upside-down in the name of a stilted, radical revolution. But Raami, the protagonist, could have been any child. As a daughter of Cambodian immigrants, I relived my own parents' experiences through Raami.

Those who are "in the shadow of the banyan tree" are the ones who made it through this horrific era, at extremely high social and emotional costs. No survivor of this period has not experienced the death of a family member. Through this survivor's story of innocence lost and found, death and rebirth, Ratner reminds us of the tenacity and beauty of the human spirit. Ratner's mastery of the language is shown in the seamless weaving of Cambodian politics, art, and culture throughout the story. She subtly educates readers without being preachy or academic, reminding us that we must fight to ensure that such history caused by the culmination of corruption, ignorance, fear, and homogeneity is not repeated. This can be summed in her father's poetic mantra, "Knowing comes from learning, finding from seeking."

--Suzanne Im, Library Fellow, University of California at Santa Barbara Library

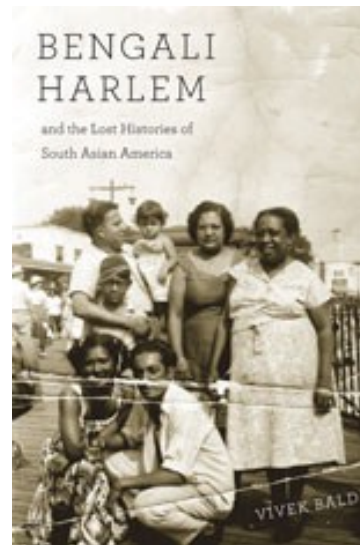


[Chao, Fred](#). *Johnny Hiro: {Half Asian, All Hero}*. Tor. 2012. 192 p. ISBN: 0-7653-29379.

A towering dinosaur, cleaver-wielding waiters, sword-branding businessmen masquerading as samurai warriors, and raining tuna fish from the sky comprise the many colorful characters inhabiting Fred Chao's graphic novel [Johnny Hiro {Half Asian, All Hero}](#). Struggling to make ends meet in present-day Brooklyn, Johnny Hiro works as a busboy at a sushi restaurant. On any given day, he might embark on a mission to steal a special lobster from a rival chef, outrun 47 ronin-businessmen at an opera, or rescue his girlfriend from the clutches of a rampaging Godzilla-like monster across town. Braving one adventure after the next—from backside alleys to death-defying chase scenes off rooftops and bridges—Johnny Hiro retires at the end of each day into the arms of his loving and upbeat girlfriend Mayumi.

Chao's delightful graphic novel chronicles the extraordinary escapades of an ordinary college-age Asian American busboy. Packed with fantastical elements and magical realism, these loosely-connected stories resonate with compelling action, humor, and honesty. Although Asian themes, icons, and motifs permeate Chao's fast-paced stories laced with slapstick action, these cultural details blend into the narrative, serving as a backdrop while propelling the plot forward. Chao serves as writer and illustrator in this graphic novel debut featuring Asian American characters without having to draw attention to their ethnic identities. A refreshing style and voice in the canon of contemporary Asian American pop culture fiction.

--Jerry Dear, Librarian/Information Strategist, San Francisco Public Library



Bald, Vivek. *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America*. Harvard University Press . 2013. 294 p. ISBN: 978-0674066663

*Bengali Harlem*, which received excellent reviews from both Junot Díaz and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, relates the lost histories of Bengali Muslim peddlers who started arriving in the U.S. in the late nineteenth century to sell “exotic” goods, which were in high demand since Americans were “in the midst of a fin de siècle fashion for the exotic ideas, entertainments, and goods of India and ‘the East.’” This was ironically while the U.S. government was tightening its Asian exclusion acts.

What makes *Bengali Harlem* different from other works on the subject is that it focuses predominantly on South Asian immigrants who settled in New Jersey, Harlem, and New Orleans. *Bengali Harlem* relates clear, personal stories about how these early immigrants married into Black and Puerto Rican communities. It also highlights the contributions and efforts of women which made stability within the community possible. *Bengali Harlem* is well-written and a must-read for anyone interested in the subject.

-- Anna Coats, Children's Librarian at East Rutherford Memorial Library





## 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.

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.

## PUBLICATION INFORMATION

APALA Newsletter is published twice a year (and sometimes thrice) by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, an affiliate of the American Library Association. ISSN: 1040-8517. Copyright © 2012 by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without permission. Editor: Gary Colmenar, [colmenar@library.ucsb.edu](mailto:colmenar@library.ucsb.edu). Book Reviews Editor: Miriam Tuliao, [miramtuliao@nypl.org](mailto:miramtuliao@nypl.org).

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of APALA. The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary.

For inquiries about placing an advertisement in the APALA newsletter please contact the editor at [colmenar@library.ucsb.edu](mailto:colmenar@library.ucsb.edu)

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## NEWSLETTER & PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

2012-2013

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