



apala

asian/pacific american librarians association

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, APALA members and other readers! I can't believe that half of my presidential year is over, and we are embarking on a new year. I wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy new year! And here's to another flourishing and productive year for APALA.

Since our last newsletter, the 2nd Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) took place in Kansas City. I was quite excited to be there, as I couldn't make it to the first one and I heard so much about it afterwards. Though I organized and presented on panels, my biggest role was really as APALA President because, as

JCLC is sponsored by the ethnic caucuses, I felt that this made me a de facto host. And I literally played that role at the APALA reception, where I welcomed both members and non-members. It was great to see old friends again, meet face-to-face with online friends, and be introduced to new folks. As at most conferences, I especially enjoy socials and get-togethers, as these are where we really get to know each other, offer support and encouragement, and become more of a community. I hope that the reception provided a setting for some of that.

Though there were definitely a lot of fun times, JCLC focused on the serious business of diversity, and we learned about various efforts and successes related to advocacy, outreach, programs, services, collaborations, etc. We also learned about different types of diversity, including multiple diversities. I contributed to this lesson with my speech at the Caucus Presidents Plenary Session, when I talked about the myriad diversity within the APA category—i.e., that it not only includes countries that occupies a big chunk of the world, but also numerous nationalities, ethnicities, religions, languages, and histories; in addition, there are those who are diverse in two or more ways, e.g., APAs who are LGBTQ, hapa or mixed race, refugees, adoptees, and so on. Much to my surprise, I got an extremely positive reaction to this speech, with many people telling me so throughout the course of the conference. Veteran APALA leaders told me how on the nose I was to talk about this (and how proud they were that I did), while some people said that it really made them think. This illustrates that infor-

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mation—even the common ones—is meant to be shared and can have a greater impact that we ever imagine.

And I think that that's what JCLC was all about – speaking and listening, sharing and learning, cooperating and empowering. It was a safe and constructive space, where we could speak our truths and not be marginalized or dismissed. It was a venue where our experiences and knowledge were at the core, and we listened to each other because we believe in helping overlooked and underserved populations. It was a setting for sharing our stories and being supported by a community so that we could continue to have the strength and passion to fight the good fight.

And, as information professionals, we are always looking out for others and trying to make things better. I hope we never stop doing that. After the Sandy Hook tragedy, I sent out an email to the listserv, and I want to repeat some of it here. One of the things that started circulating soon after the tragedy is this quote from Mr. Rogers:

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." To this day, especially in times of "disaster," I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers – so many caring people in this world.

I think that as librarians and information professionals, we fall squarely into the category of helpers. In times such as these, it is incumbent upon us to do what we do best—to provide access to accurate and useful information, to present helpful or entertaining programs, to offer books and other materials that provide solace and promote imagination, to offer a place of refuge from the sometimes-harsh realities of life, and so on. It is through these kinds of services and our individual passions and principles that we help to make this world a better place. And I thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do.

I want to add that I am absolutely honored to be President of an organization comprised of such decent and generous individuals. While it has been very heartwarming and gratifying to see some of the things on my presidential agenda take form and be accomplished, it has been even more uplifting and inspiring to see folks care about and be enthusiastic about the work that we do. I am so enjoying working with you and meeting you and hearing from you. Let's keep up the awesome!

Best,
Jade Alburo



ALA MIDWINTER 2013 UPCOMING EVENTS

APALA Field Trip to the Wing Luke Museum

Friday, January 25, 2013

11AM – 2PM

Enjoy a private guided tour of the Smithsonian-affiliated Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience in its historic Chinatown building, a former hotel, where the museum has been housed since 2008. Our 1½ hour-long tour will be followed by a casual group lunch (pay-your-own) at nearby Henry's Taiwan Plus.

Executive Board Meeting (APALA) — Open Meeting

Friday, January 25, 2013

7:30PM – 9:30PM

APALA Dinner with Special Guest David H.W. Wong

Saturday, January 26, 2013

7 PM – 9PM

APALA's Midwinter 2013 dinner will be at Thoa's in downtown Seattle near the Seattle Art Museum. Special guest David H.T. Wong is an APA activist, architect, and author of *Escape to Gold Mountain: A Graphic History of the Chinese in North America*. Enjoy a banquet-style Vietnamese dinner (vegetarian option available). Also, Thoa's has graciously offered to extend their happy hour for us to 7PM that evening, so feel free to show up early to mingle at the tiki bar!

Sign up for these events in advance at

<http://www.apalaweb.org/apala-events-at-ala-midwinter-2013/>. ☀

LYNDA BARRY LOVES LIBRARIANS

INTERVIEW, PART ONE

by Dawn Wing

*Lynda Barry is a cartoonist, author, playwright, teacher and library aficionado. In 2009, she won the Wisconsin Library Association: Literary Award and the Eisner Award for her book **What It Is**. Her works of fiction and comics include **Cruddy**, **Ernie Pook's Comeek** and **One! Hundred! Demons!** In **One! Hundred! Demons!**, Barry uses vivid imagery and words to bring to life an "autobiofictionalography" of experiences such as her Filipino upbringing and the growing pains of childhood, adolescence and friendships.*

In Spring 2012, Lynda Barry was the Artist-in-Residence at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she taught "What it is: Manually Shifting the Image." She had her students (including me) refer to her as "Professor Lynda." Currently, Professor Lynda is preparing for another course "[The Un-thinkable Mind](#)" which she will be teaching also at UW-Madison in Spring 2013.

Below is an abridged and edited version of an interview I had with Professor Lynda where we discussed the role of picture books, libraries and librarians in her life. The interview took place on August, 30th, 2012 at City Bar in Madison, WI.

Dawn Wing: What roles did librarians play in your life?

Lynda Barry: Oh, librarians I think, right next to elementary school teachers, were probably the most important people in my life particularly in terms of what I came to call my mental health. I grew up in a house that didn't have any books and books were kind of looked upon as things to set other things on. I loved books. And I loved reading and I loved looking at pictures. And so the first library I remember going to was the little tiny library in my elementary school. The first librarian there was named Mrs. Bird. and she called us, and [When] I was in the first grade, she called us, "People. Please sit down. People." And it was a trip to me to be called people because it sounded old instead of children. And it was there I learned the difference between fiction and non-fiction which was huge for me. So I spent a lot of time on the non-fiction side. In the science section, usually around animals. Any animal stuff.

So there was that, and then there was the public library which was very far from my house. It was a really long walk, up a bunch of steep hills. But I went all the time. And I couldn't believe there was a rumor that you could go and there were books and you could just sit there all day long if you wanted to. Then, I finally made it to the downtown library which had an escalator. This was a thrill. (laughs) The librari-



Lynda Barry during her Spring 2012 Artist-in-Residency with students of UW Madison's School of Library and Information Studies who took her course, "What It Is: Manually Shifting the Image." From left to right: Leah Portz, Laura Damon-Moore, Lynda Barry, Melissa Nicholas, Dawn Wing. Photo courtesy of Dawn Wing.

ans there in the downtown library I didn't get to know as well. My branch librarians, school librarians and the junior high school...God, it's so funny you're asking that because I can see them all and I always felt that librarians have, some do, some don't--but some have a real sixth sense. They kinda understand odd ducks. Strange kids. That's what I always felt.

My favorite librarians, without kinda engaging me too much, sort of noticed what I was interested in, and then would just come by and come lay a book near me like this [gesturing furtive slip near arm]. And [the library] was a real place of safety for me. I grew up in a really rough neighborhood and the library at my junior high school and high school were very important because I wouldn't get beat up there.

The closest section to the librarian at my junior high was the poetry section. So I ended up reading a whole lot of poetry [laughs]. And became really interested in poetry. It was because of her and because of libraries. They played a huge role in my life.

Up until recently and now it's starting again now that I'm at the UW [University of Wisconsin-Madison] more.

In my little rural area, we have a library but it's pretty far to get to.

DW: You talked about the rumors of the public library. How did you hear about the public library?

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LB: It would be at school, you know in public school. I remember it was maybe at the end of the 3rd grade, a public librarian came to visit and told us about a program about if you read ten books in the summer. And they had like this piece of paper that would show, I think that summer, pirates were the theme, so that every book that you read, you had to give her a little story that you read it. And they'd do a stamp, and when you get all ten they put it up on a window at the library so people passing by could see it. And it had a gold star and I was really interested in that and I liked to read anyway. So, uh, that's how I first found out about it. And I found out I could just walk there and I found out I could get a library card.

My mom really wasn't interested in me reading books because she felt like it put us in financial jeopardy because I might lose the book or something. I mean that was her biggest concern; she didn't really like me taking books out of the library because she thought I'd lose them or something like that. But I didn't.

Even now when I feel depressed, going to the library--just the smell of it--there's a lot of people who talk about that library smell...

DW: Yeah, I know that library smell...

LB: I have a bookcase where I keep my oldest books in mostly because (it's a closed bookcase) it has that smell right away. So I try to preserve it.

DW: I know that smell. It's like musky, damp...

LB: Papery, yeah.

DW: When you talk about the downtown library, you're talking about downtown Seattle?

LB: Yes, downtown Seattle. Yeah the downtown Seattle Library which was more on the southern end of downtown. But you could take a bus there so it was accessible. But it wasn't as warm as a one room branch. And that was a time when they had children's section of the library but they were nothing like what they are now. Now they're like little hamster habit trails, places to curl up and crawl through--you know what I'm talking about?

DW: Yeah.



LB: It's more physically like a hang-out kind of place. They didn't have that when I was there.

DW: What books were you drawn to when you went to the library?

LB: I'm somebody who even at an early age was like one book from one author and read every book. So the first book that got me crazy was **Hop on Pop**, a Dr. Seuss book. And still to this day he's still my main guy. He's sort of my ego ideal.

He became what I wanted to be which was somebody who drew the pictures and wrote the story. That's the thing you find out about picture books is that the people who wrote the stories didn't necessarily draw the pictures.

But when you're a kid, you are the one who's always drawing your own pictures. So I always thought it was like that. So there was that and then I started getting into non-fiction. And there were these books about people capturing animals for zoos or any kind of animals and wild habitat stuff.

I remembered I loved this book called **The New Noah** like Noah's Arc. But when you're a little kid, it's a horrible book. It's about capturing animals for zoos and how it's done. And this was the new Noah, right. So when I think about it now, it was a terrible, terrible book. But I probably read it eight times.

DW: Besides Dr. Seuss, who were other authors who influenced you to become a cartoonist?

LB: So there was Dr. Seuss, then the next giant influence was R. Crumb and that [discovery] was at a headshop. He's in the library now. So you can get R. Crumb stuff at the libraries but back then you couldn't. So he was a big influence.

But basically I ran into--it's always funny--because I get asked that question a lot and I always sort of draw a blank. And I think, well, what *wasn't an influence*?

I copied a lot of pictures so I went to library to take out picture books just to copy them. Like those early "Wizard of Oz" books. I think it's Tenell the name of the artist. But I took a lot of those out and anything with old illustrations, old children's books, the Brownies. All these books I would take home and practice drawing.

DW: Well, speaking of R. Crumb in the library, does that trip you out? Graphic novels are now booming and becoming all the rage especially with young adults [in the United States]. What are your thoughts about that?

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LB: Well, I'm delighted about it. I think it's a form or vehicle for images that's different from just plain writing and different from plain picture making. I think it is its own thing. And now any kind of story is welcome to be told in a comic format. In the same way like a song people saying--you could sing songs about this, but you can't sing songs about that. Now people know that with melody and rhythm, you can sing about whatever you want.

It's the same thing with comics. But I don't think that was well understood. That part's really exciting to be a part of that. And then you know the dream for a library junkie like me, was the first time I went into a library and saw my book there with the little Dewey Decimal system number, and I just burst into tears. I feel like crying when I think about it now. It was somehow I did something that allowed me to be a part of this thing that was such a big deal.

I often think about people who go into library sciences or people who work with libraries who I met as I become older, it seems like there's an attachment to libraries that happens early to people. And you know when you talked about the books being banned or burned in the '50s, the comic books, one of the things I find surprising is how librarians are the backbones against censorship. I mean I don't think people really understand that. I mean they're the backbone. They're an incredible, unusual group of people who choose to work in libraries.

The rest of the interview will be published online in March 2013 at <http://www.apalaweb.org>.

For more about Lynda Barry's work, visit:
Lynda Barry's Tumblr

<http://thenearsightedmonkey.tumblr.com>

"The Unthinkable Mind" @ UW Madison

<http://theunthinkablemind2013.tumblr.com> ☀



2012 JCLC CONFERENCE

KANSAS CITY, MO

GATHERING AT THE WATERS: CELEBRATING STORIES, EMBRACING COMMUNITIES

OPENING RECEPTION— A CELEBRATION OF OUR UNIQUE COMMUNITIES AT THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

by Evelyn Shimazu Yee, Azusa Pacific University

On the evening of Wednesday, September 19th, the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) held its 2nd National Convention's opening reception. Activities commenced at 7:00 p.m. at the Kansas City Public Library (KCPL). Participants were enthusiastically welcomed the entire 3 hours until 10:00 p.m. The Kansas City Public Library is housed in a distinguished historical bank building, formerly the First National Bank. The library towers five floors up with beautifully crafted historical bronze doors, decorative moldings, chandeliers and historical ionic columns of marble throughout. JCLC members were conveniently bussed to and from the main location. KCPL's main location is one of 10 branches. KCPL served nearly 2.5 million patrons last year and boasts a collection of over a million volumes. For more information see <http://www.kclibrary.org/library-history>.

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Haipeng Li, one of JCLC's Steering Committee Co-Chairs is University Librarian at Hong Kong Baptist University and is a member of the Chinese American Library Association (CALA). Janice Rice, from the American Indian Library Association (AILA) served as Co-Chair with Haipeng Li. There were two individuals representing each ethnic caucus on the steering committee. It was evident that mutual respect, support, cooperation, hospitality and unity were strong factors in the leadership exhibited throughout the spectrum of associations of librarians of color.

Representative members of the Steering Committee included Jody Gray (University of Minnesota) and Janice Rice (University of Wisconsin, Madison) from AILA; Florante Peter Ibanez (Loyola Marymount University) and Alanna Aiko Moore (University of California San Diego) from the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA); Jennifer Baxmeyer (Princeton University) and Gladys Smiley Bell (Hampton University) from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA); Dora Ho (Los Angeles Public Library) and Haipeng Li (Hong Kong Baptist University) from CALA; Jacqueline Ayala (San Diego County Library) and Alexandra Rivera (University of Michigan) from the National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA). Other non-voting members of the JCLC Steering Committee included Marcellus Turner, JCLC 2012 Secretary; Kenneth A. Yamashita, JCLC 2012 Treasurer; Amy McGuigan, JCLC 2012 Meeting Planner, ALA Conference Services; Miguel Figueroa, ALA Liaison to

ingful dialog and sampled ethnic foods. Besides the Native American dance, all were able to enjoy the food, music and dance of the many colored American-ethnic cultures. Kansas City is known for its "rich ethnic setting" of "African, African American, Asian, Latino, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Native American, and Slavic cultures." (KCPL website).



Attendees sampled Buffalo meat appetizers alongside Latino to Asian fare. Conferees also enjoyed musical entertainment from a Calypso beat to the drumming and voices from Indian Dance Troupes. The offerings included voices and talented dancers from the Chippewa and Omaha tribes and the Haskell Indian Nations' University Dance Troupe. It was a rousing event with multi-cultural Librarians of every color joining hands in the Native Indian circle. The circle was indicative of the common conversations in which we would soon find ourselves sharing that evening and in the days to come. This was an energizing kick-off to the conference. ✨

JCLC OPENING GENERAL SESSION REPORT

by Charlene Hsu Gross

On Thursday morning, September 20, 2012, conference attendees were ready to enjoy the Opening General Session of JCLC 2012. The conference steering committee's co-chairs, Haipeng Li and Janice Rice, gratefully welcomed us all. They expressed their heartfelt thanks for the fruition of six years of work since the last inaugural conference. They thanked steering committee members, subcommittee members, and ALA staff, mentioning Miguel Figueroa.

Special thanks went to all exhibitors and sponsors of the conference, in particular, the Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsors including ALA. Rice urged attendees to thank the Gold sponsors: Ho-Chunk Nation, People of the Big Voice, National Library of Medicine (NLM), and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). NLM's participation in the conference included Dr. Gayle Porter and Dr. Marilyn Gaston (for the all-conference session "We Need a Revolution: Combating Stress and Depression in the Workplace." IMLS contributed the all-conference session, "All Things Digital," in addition to poster and other sessions.

Janice Rice enlightened us about the "tree of peace," which



Ken Yamashita, Evelyn Shimazu Yee, and Jacqueline Ayala at the Kansas City Public Library

JCLC 2012, Office for Diversity, American Library Association (ALA).

Librarians had the opportunity to tour among the stacks and browse special collections. They were able to network with colleagues across organizations. Conferees engaged in mean-

was planted by Mohawk and represents our growing gratitude for and connection to our humanity. At this conference, we are gathered at the waters to celebrate stories and embrace communities.

We welcomed general session speaker, Sonia Manzano, recipient of fifteen Emmys for her writing on *Sesame Street*, The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Award, and The Hispanic Heritage Award for Education. Manzano's role as Maria on *Sesame Street* since the early '70s has brought her into our lives and hearts.

Manzano began with a short video of clips from her many years as Maria on *Sesame Street*. We laughed together and remembered the personal connections we've had to *Sesame Street*. Several comments from the audience expressed the appreciation for and power of role models on television. One example is Maria who was an inspiration in a time when people of color were few and far between.

Sponsored by Scholastic, Manzano also gave a wonderful reading from her newest book, *The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano*. Evelyn and her grandmother are real people within a story inspired by true events including the "young lords." The story paints a picture of the struggle for equal rights and the passion to make a difference in the world. Like the young woman in the documentary of The People's Church in El Barrio, we feel "at home" when we are doing something to make a difference in the world.

Manzano also gave tribute to *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, *Charlotte's Web*, and Julia Alvarez's characters, commenting that



YA books are about significant issues—identity, drug addiction, suicide, sexual orientation, and revolution. We are residents of a complicated world full of many communities with endless stories to tell. And we listened. ☀

JCLC ADULT AUTHORS LUNCH

by Charlotte Roh

On Friday, September 21, 2012, the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color hosted authors Da Chen and David Treuer in Kansas City, Missouri, under the theme "Gathering at the Waters: Celebrating Stories and Embracing Communities." Da Chen spoke on his happiness at seeing librarians of color gathered in one room, and on his experiences as a 23 year-old new to the United States. "When I first came to America," he said, "I noticed everywhere had places of worship--

church, synagogue, mosque--and one library, that covered everyone." He told the audience that he had gone to Albany to speak on behalf of the New York Library Association because of the importance of libraries and librarians in extending knowledge and wisdom to the next generation.

He then proceeded to tell us about his father. He held up a bamboo flute and told us, with great humor, how his father was able to obtain a flute and some lessons. This was during a time of poverty for the family, brought on by the changes of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. He then told us of an incident in his childhood. The village had gathered to watch a man being beaten. Like everyone else, he laughed at the entertainment. Then he realized it was his father being beaten.

"This is why I write," said Chen. "It came from this moment,



Da Chen is a New York Times bestselling author whose most recent book is *My Last Empress*.

in my life, in my childhood... Freedom and freedom of speech is expensive. It comes with all that you have." He then played his flute for us, in remembrance of his father. In contrast to the emotional punches of Da Chen, author David Treuer's talk was a carefully constructed layered narrative about racism, civility, family, and what it is to go beyond stereotypes and to really know a person. His story was set in the context of the hospital waiting room, where he and his family waited to see if their mother would make it through the night. In a time of stress and sadness, he overheard the couple next to him say racist things about American Indians and debated whether to say something. He questioned his role in this situation--did he speak as an Indian man? A son? Or a brother?

It was an intellectual exercise in compassion, in trying to put oneself in the pain-filled shoes of an elderly couple in a waiting room, or in the competent shoes of the orderly who de-

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fied stereotypes by doing her job well. "Civilization is based on civility," said Treuer. "Civility is to be affable or courteous. It is important to think about affability, civility, courtesy when talking about race and ethnicity."

Treuer chose not to speak to the elderly couple and his mother survived to become a lawyer for her people. But through this incident, he challenged us to bring into the world spaces where our thoughts are challenged, particularly in the library.

"Librarians don't only contain books, they contain people. Readers don't only meet books, they meet people. Librarians are the curators of that experience."

David Treuer is a celebrated novelist whose most recent book is *Rez Life*. In this photo, he is shown in conversation with a fan at the book signing that took place after the lunch. 🌟



JCLC YOUTH AUTHORS LUNCH

by Charlene Hsu Gross

On Friday, September 21, 2012, the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) hosted youth authors *Sharon Flake* and *Lauren Myracle* in Kansas City, Missouri, under the theme "Gathering at the Waters: Celebrating Stories and Embracing Communities."

There was a reasonable showing of about 40 attendees—all excited to hear from the authors—and there was a friendly, informal feeling about the presentations. It was clear that both authors appreciate the work that librarians do to promote access to stories that are honest, sometimes raw, and often controversial.

With poise and grace, Sharon Flake showed the audience her heart by telling us about Autumn and Adonis in *Pinned* (2012). These ninth-grade protagonists begin an unlikely friendship as the story unfolds in alternating voices. Flake knows that she cannot solve all the world's race issues in her writing, but she wants to walk alongside students who are disabled or challenged in some way and show them, and us, the light. Autumn has a reading problem and Adonis is over-the-chart smart sitting in a wheel chair. After a career in public relations at the University of Pittsburgh, Ms. Flake has been writing stories that help us to embrace many communities.

This highly recognized author is known for her gritty realism and speaking to the universal need we have to hope, to dream, and to believe, even in hard places. We thank Scholastic for sponsoring her at the JCLC conference. <http://www.sharongflake.com/>

Lauren Myracle, called this generation's Judy Blume, is at the top of the American Library Association's (ALA) Top Ten Most Frequently Challenged list <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/top-ten-most-frequently-challenged-books-2011>. She writes for kids so they can see their situation reflected back somewhere. Reading is a safe place to learn about something. "Books help us process. I write books because I like people and want to write about characters connecting with people."

Recently divorced after seventeen years of marriage with three children, she admits how hard it is. She has to challenge herself about those she welcomes and those she doesn't welcome. "What ideas do I censor and not censor...it's always good to push oneself." And whether it's divorce or "dangerous books," it brings out reactions. So, she asks us, "How do you keep it honest?"



Sharon Flake and Lauren Myracle

JCLC CAUCUS PRESIDENTS

PLENARY REPORT

MODERATOR: ALA PRESIDENT MAUREEN SULLIVAN

by Charlene Hsu Gross

The Caucus Presidents Plenary Session moderated by American Library Association's (ALA) President, Maureen Sullivan closed Thursday's sessions. Sullivan welcomed the opportunity to be part of the session and reiterated that ALA is committed to diversity, leadership, and community engagement.

We heard from the five caucus presidents, Janice Kowemy of the American Indian Library Association (AILA), Jade Albuero of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), Jerome Offord, Jr. of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Esther Lee of the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), and Denice Adkins of the National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA). The great collaborative effort on the conference provides a benefit for each of the five caucuses and, perhaps more importantly, for the combined group of associations

AILA has been historically small, and Kowemy wants to build



Jade Albuero (APALA president), Barbara Stipling (ALA president-elect), Janice Kowemy (AILA president), Molly Raphael (ALA immediate past president), Maureen Sullivan (ALA president), Denice Adkins (REFORMA president), Esther Lee (CALA president), Jerome Offord, Jr. (BCALA president). Photo credit: Florante Ibanez.

membership and grow leadership. The need is clear to have more members who can help with the efforts. There is a keen concern to develop the next generation of indigenous librarians as well as to communicate well with the tribal councils.

Albuero described APALA as being extremely diverse within

itself since the Asian Pacific American (APA) community includes the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean along with South Asia, Southeast Asia, Pacific Islands, Singapore, Malaysia, and more, embracing many ethnic groups, languages, religions, histories, diversity within the groups, and even multiple diversities. This is exciting and challenging. For community engagement efforts, we need to know the population and provide projects like "Talk Story," an ongoing effort with AILA. Leadership involves teaching, advocacy, and fighting discrimination

BCALA's Offord first honored the past presidents, recognizing the history of the Black Caucus and the sacrifice that came before. The theme for his presidency is BCALA 2.0, asking the "What if?" questions and looking at the organization's governance, use of technology, and keeping BCALA attractive for younger librarians. Offord expressed that the sharing of one's personal history to influence students is so important. Offord also asked, "What if the caucuses were affiliates with more or different roles?"

Lee explained that CALA started in 1973 and wants to embrace changes as the years go on. With approximately 1000 members, CALA supports ALA's Emerging Leaders program, promotes article publication, and reaches out for community engagement in a variety of ways. CALA recently joined the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and is collaborating with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and the Library Society of China, funded by IMLS.

Adkins described the REFORMA as a family with strange uncles. REFORMA is "everywhere" with nineteen chapters, exercising leadership on issues of immigration, freedom of speech, as well as promoting Latinos having a voice. One example of community engagement is sharing stories through Dia de Los Niños, Dia de Los Libros. She also commented that we need to ask how we can influence library education given the changing demographics.

Finally, a few comments were made by the panel and audience as food for thought

- Joining as caucuses through multicultural children's and YA literature and storytelling
- Increasing utilization of the ALA Diversity Council
- Pursuing the "What if?" questions at the kitchen table first (and not the dining room table_
- Moving forward ideas from both the panel and audience

This report is also published on the JCLC 2-12 website at <http://jclc-conference.org/program/sessions/caucus-presidents-plenary-session>. ☀

JCLC APALA AWARD WINNERS

by Gary Colmenar

Congratulations to the APALA awardees at the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color.

Dr. Ling Hwey Jeng, Distinguished Service Award
Kenneth Yamashita, Advocacy Award
Ronald Takaki, Author Award

WHITE SCREEN/WHITE NOISE: RACISM ON THE INTERNET

BASED ON THE JCLC 2012 PANEL PRESENTATION BY REBECCA MARTIN, HEATHER McCANN, MYRNA E. MORALES, AND STACIE WILLIAMS

by Rebecca Martin

When you consider the issue of racism online you likely think of individuals leaving ignorant, hurtful comments in discussion forums or on news stories that begin with “[I’m not racist, but...](#)” However, much like we experience racism on personal, interpersonal, cultural and institutional levels in our day-to-day lives we also experience racism on all those same levels in our online (inter-)actions.

At the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) in September, I had the honor of presenting with a group of colleagues on the panel, “[White Screen/White Noise: Racism on the Internet](#).” The panel analyzed how racism manifests itself online and what role librarians can play in acknowledging and counteracting experiences of systemic racism in that context. Our discussion explored the following areas of inquiry:

- History and context of racial identity development, color consciousness and racism in popular online media, news and social networks
- Legal frameworks and legislation that enables hate speech to spread racism and racial misinformation online in the US
- Cultural values, bias and power dynamics we see embodied in the design of technology and technological tools and how anti-oppression tactics can be incorporated into the development of software and networks
- Limits and possibilities of grassroots anti-racism organizing in online spaces and whether the nature of that work is web-scalable
- Role of literacy instruction and cultural competencies in patron service and in LIS graduate and continuing education

For this article, I am going to share the panel’s analysis of the last area of inquiry: how librarians, library workers and library students can approach the issue of racism online (and off-line) among our patron base, but also among our own professional community.

For many members of the profession, the answer lies primarily in increasing racial diversity and celebrating multiculturalism. The Spectrum Scholarship Program, ARL Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce, Minnesota Institute, JCLC and other major programming from the ALA headquarters support the idea of having a more balanced representation of students and library workers to serve increasingly culturally diverse patrons, but also of empowering and retaining librarians and library workers of color in the field.

However, from the panelists’ perspective discussion and action need to move beyond diversity and multiculturalism to also consider racism and racial privilege. In considering the existing racial demographics of our workforce, where is the explicit discussion of racism? In 2005, Todd Honma wrote “[Trippin’ over the color line: the invisibility of race in LIS studies](#)” in UCLA’s *InterActions*. His article centers on the question: “Why is it that scholars and students do not talk openly and honestly about issues of race and racism, and instead limit the discourse by using words such as ‘multiculturalism’ and ‘diversity’? Why is the field so glaringly white yet no one wants to talk about whiteness and white privilege?” Honma suggests that the field as a whole chooses to substitute discussion of racism with the less controversial discourses of diversity and multiculturalism--discourses that inadequately illustrate the racial discrepancies in our field.

In 2011, a study came out of Wayne State University and Syracuse University iSchools, entitled “[Are we there yet? Results of a gap analysis to measure LIS students’ prior knowledge and actual learning of cultural competence concepts](#).” In the study, Renee Franklin Hill and Kafi Kumasi surveyed LIS students asking them to rate the amount of knowledge they had before and after courses began to evaluate the impact and inclusion of cultural competency concepts in LIS education. Several knowledge gaps appeared, including a lack of understanding about the cognitive and sociocultural perspectives on literacy and recognition of how individuals from various cultures access information. As a result, Hill and Kumasi suggest that LIS administrators develop core cultural competency concepts and an outcomes document that tracks inclusion of cultural competence skills and learning outcomes in LIS curricula.

Along the same vein, the White Screen/White Noise panelists conducted an environmental scan of ALA accredited library schools course catalogs and syllabi and found that

nearly all were lacking in classes that explicitly addressed race and oppression in available class descriptions and course materials. There were a few noted exceptions, such as the [University of Arizona's Knowledge River program](#) and select colloquia, but taking into account the racial demographic of our profession and the fact that librarians of color may already have critical racial analysis, we did not observe discussion of whiteness and racism happening on a cultural or institutional level in LIS graduate and continuing education. Our panel also looked toward library practice to see if programs, services and special projects were addressing race and racism: in an environmental scan of the LibGuides of 372 US colleges and universities, we found a similar omission of racism. We see that in an attempt to provide "balance" and remain neutral, librarians are unwittingly, or perhaps wittingly, providing more power and credibility to those views that are harmful – and in the case of our panel – racist and further supporting racism and systems of oppressions.

In our panel, we also shared some examples of best practices in digital library programming and services. A significant case of empowering communities we raised comes from the [South Asian American Digital Archive](#). The project provides access to the incredible diversity of the South Asian American experience, one that is often overlooked. It not only collects primary historical materials, but ensures that metadata schemas, languages and images help preserve the community's experiences in words, phrases and approaches that reflect that community's own approach to information gathering, use and dissemination.

Ultimately, our panel recognized the need for critical race consciousness in developing tools and services ranging from mobile applications to finding aids and in presenting information with an eye not only toward celebrating interculturalism, but supporting anti-racism. Some of the panel's additional examples and resources are available on these two resource lists, which are in constant development: [Anti-Racism Resources for the Library Community](#) and [Libraries & Anti-Racist Action](#). The panelists are also continually researching this topic, including furthering our environmental scans and creating suggestions for LIS curricula, with hopes to disseminate this topic and its importance more widely.

Rebecca Martin is Library Coordinator at the Yvonne Pappenheim Library on Anti-Racism at Community Change, Inc. and the Assistant Circulation Supervisor & Faculty Liaison at Boston University Pappas Law Library



APALA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW PUBLICATION

Andrew Philip Weiss, California State University, Northridge, Oviatt Library and Ryan James, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hamilton Library

Andrew Philip Weiss and Ryan James' article on their study on books related to Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders will be published in the journal OCLC Systems and Services. Entitled, "Assessing the coverage of Hawaiian and Pacific Books in the Google Books Digitization Project", the authors talk about their study on variations of access in Google Books that occur between random sample of books in an at-large collection versus the accessibility of a sample of books in a Hawaiian and Pacific Collection. Their conclusion shows reduced access to books related to Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders through Google Books. Issues of diversity, access and collection development (and bias therein) are discussed. 🌟

HWA-WEI LEE

RECENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Hwa-Wei Lee's consulting work for the U.S.-China Librarians Collaboration Project under the auspices of the University of Illinois Libraries and funded by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services from 2009 to 2012 came to a successful completion in August.



Hwa-Wei Lee in Vancouver

In May, Lee attended the 5th International Conference of Institutes and Libraries for Chinese Overseas Studies organized jointly by the University of British Columbia and Ohio University. The conference was held in Vancouver, Canada and Lee was honored for his role as the founder of the series of conferences since its inception in 2000.

(Continued on page 12)

In June, Lee was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree by Ohio University for his meritorious service to the University as the Dean of Libraries from 1978 to 1999.

At the annual conference of the Chinese American Librarians Association in Anaheim in late June, Lee's *Collected Works* in two volumes published by Sun Yat-sen University Press in Guangzhou, China, in November 2011, received a special honor award as one of the best books in CALA 2012 Best Books List.

On December 1, 2012, Lee was chosen as one of the awardees for the inaugural Ohio Asian Leaders and Legends Award held in Columbus, Ohio.

One of Lee's biographies is *The Sage in the Cathedral of Books: The Distinguished Chinese American Library Professional Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee*. Written by Yang Yang in Chinese and published in China in November 2011 by Guangxi Normal University Press it got two very good book reviews in China.



AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF SAN FRANCISCO'S CHINATOWN

by Jerry Dear

This ethnic community has been featured in detective fiction and crime novels. It has appeared frequently in the dark, shadowy alleys of film noir and romanticized in the upbeat Broadway musical *The Flower Drum Song*. Novelist Amy Tan wrote about it in *The Joy Luck Club*, and filmmaker Wayne Wang presented a more realistic depiction of this community in *Chan Is Missing* and *Dim Sum: A Little Bit of Heart*.



This longstanding community is none other than San Francisco's Chinatown. Considered the largest Chinese community outside of Asia, San Francisco's Chinatown remains a longstanding icon of the Chinese American presence on the

West coast of America.

On Saturday, October 27, 2012, renowned architect and Chinese American historian Philip P. Choy delivered a book talk and slide presentation at the Main Branch of the San Francisco Public Library in collaboration with the Asian American Studies department at San Francisco State University (SFSU). He presented a historical insider's guide to this ethnic community from his latest book *San Francisco Chinatown: A Guide to Its History & Architecture* ([City Lights Books](#)). A crowd of nearly 200 attendees packed into a room with eager anticipation. Juxtaposing an array of historical and contemporary snapshots of Chinatown, Mr. Choy narrated the history of San Francisco's Chinatown from its origins to the present day, dispelling the mysteries of this often misunderstood community, given its exotic representations in film, literature, and the mainstream media. He described the social and political forces that drove the Chinese Americans to establish their own ethnic enclave, highlighting its architectural style replete with Oriental trappings as a pragmatic means of survival.



Philip P. Choy with poster board.

After the lecture, people participated in a lively Q&A session and purchased copies of the book—all of which were sold within less than half an hour. Among the audience members were Chinese American historian Judy Yung, historical fiction novelist Ruthanne Lum McCunn, and professors Lorraine Dong and Marlon Hom from SFSU. Poster boards around the meeting room showcased historical photographs, news articles, and ads detailing iconic representations of Chinatown. These memorabilia were selected and digitized from the library's historical photography and microfilm collections.

Philip P. Choy co-taught the first college-level course in Chinese American Studies at San Francisco State University. He has written and co-authored a number of publications including *A History of the Chinese in California: A*

Syllabus, Coming Man: 19th Century American Perceptions of the Chinese, The Architecture of San Francisco Chinatown, and Canton Footprints: Sacramento's Chinese Legacy. He has served on numerous historical landmark and museum boards including the Chinese Historical Society of America. In 2005, he was the recipient of the San Francisco State University's President's Medal.

Jerry Dear is Librarian/Information Strategist at San Francisco Public Library & Library Information Technology Instructor at City College of San Francisco. ☀

DOCUMENTING THE HOUSTON ASIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

by Jiun Kuo

Fondren Library is extremely excited about the acquisition of these two important local newspapers and thanks the Chao Center for Asian Studies for its initiative and continuing support for the preservation and publicizing of these resources. For more information about HAAA, please visit <https://library.rice.edu/collections/WRC/finding-aids/manuscripts/AsianAmericanArchives/>

As part of preserving the history of Asian Americans, the WRC received in 2011 two runs of local Chinese-language newspapers, the *Southwest Chinese Journal* (西南時報) and *Southern Chinese Daily News* (美南新聞). Both papers have long served as focal points for Chinese immigrants and Chinese speakers in the Houston metropolitan area. By distributing information on the needs of their readers and the available local services and opportunities, these papers have made Chinese immigrants feel a sense of belonging to a supportive and welcoming community.

Founded in 1976 by Gene Lee, the *Southwest Chinese Journal* ceased publication in 1985. The Fondren library now holds all but the 1979 issues, and plans to acquire these at a later time. The *Southern Chinese Daily News*, founded in 1979 by Wea Lee, is still in print. The library has received a nearly complete run up to 2008 and will collect the few missing issues as well as the most current ones.

Interestingly enough, back in the 1970s, Gene Lee hired Wea Lee, who had just graduated from Lamar University, to help him write and edit articles for the *Southwest Chinese Journal*. Wea Lee, who is not related to Gene Lee, would a few years later found the *Southern Chinese Daily News*.

To preserve and share with scholars and institutions worldwide this important collection of primary materials on local

Chinese-American history and culture, the Fondren library has partnered with the Portal to Texas History (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>) to digitize the *Southwest Chinese Journal*. The digitization has been done by scanning from the recently completed microfilm version. A plan to digitize the much larger *Southern Chinese Daily News* is still in the early stages. Before fundraising efforts begin to target the digitization of the entire collection of the Southern Chinese Daily News, a smaller set of holdings of the newspaper will be digitized to demonstrate the value and importance of the project.

The Houston Asian American Archive (HAAA), a collaborative research project sponsored by the Chao Center for Asian Studies at Rice University, was developed to document and preserve the history of Houston's Asian immigrants. Housed in the Woodson Research Center (WRC) in the Fondren Library at Rice University, HAAA engages members of the university faculty, staff and students with members of the broader Houston community in a collaborative research effort. Currently the collected data includes oral history interview recordings, full text transcripts and personal artifacts.

Jiun Kuo is Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services, Rice University ☀

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

APALA TRAVEL AWARDS TO JCLC

RECIPIENT REPORTS

Rebecca Martin is the Assistant Circulation Supervisor & Faculty Liaison at Boston University Pappas Law Library and Library Coordinator at the Yvonne Pappenheim Library on Anti-Racism at Community Change, Inc.



I had the opportunity to attend the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color this September as both a panelist and an early-career librarian hoping to gain professional skills, innovative ideas and new connections. Until JCLC, I hadn't considered the potential for a professional development conference to replenish my personal spirit.

But, I learned that it's possible to leave a conference tired, yet renewed; exhausted from early mornings and late nights with new colleagues and peers, yet energized by those same interactions.

I began the first day of the conference presenting on the panel, "[White Screens/White Noise: Racism on the Internet](#)." The panel analyzed how racism manifests itself online and what librarians can do to acknowledge and counteract that problem in our profession and among our patron base. I received invaluable feedback from the audience during the Q&A and throughout the weekend. Most importantly, we began to have a candid, constructive discussion about race that moved beyond diversity and multiculturalism to also consider racism and racial privilege.

That discussion continued the rest of my time in Kansas City; dialogue about recruitment, retention and inclusion seemed to all come back to the need for our majority-white professional community to critically analyze and understand the importance of racial identity, but also that librarians of color don't live single-identity lives.

One event at JCLC that fully embodied the idea of supporting personal and community identity for me was REFORMA's [50 for Freedom of Speech](#). I helped volunteer at the event and witnessed an incredible intergenerational celebration of edu-

cation, literature, intellectual freedom and culture with members from all ethnic caucuses in attendance. It was at that event I saw the importance of providing space and support for the voices and histories of communities of color.

I came back to work in Boston with new professional skills, ideas and connections, but most importantly a renewed and keen understanding of the value of centering my identity in my work. I am thankful for APALA's support in providing me with this enriching experience. 🌟

Laksamee Putnam is a Research & Instruction Librarian at Towson University, Albert S. Cook Library.



From left, all at Towson University: Sara Arnold-Garza, Residency Librarian; Laksamee Putnam, Research & Instruction Librarian; Shannon Simpson, Research & Instruction Librarian

Networking is always a significant benefit of attending professional conferences. For myself, reconnecting with my colleagues from previous diversity scholarships (Spectrum and ARL) was a primary reason for my attendance of the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC). I have done this previously at other conferences, however JCLC provided a unique opportunity for our reunion. It provided a safe space. There is often an unconscious social pressure to "fit in" that anyone can relate to and most of us at some point find ourselves outside of. I truly felt that pressure relax away during JCLC. Engaging in honest conversation and feeling inspired by what other communities were doing to spread diversity efforts, hearing about challenges and barriers but also triumphs, the conference emphasized the power of multiple voices coming together and made me feel that my voice could be heard.

I presented two posters at JCLC, one with work colleagues and another in partnership with graduate school colleagues. From the poster sessions to the panel presentations, the high level of engagement provided a dynamic atmosphere. I have never presented a poster where I was talking to someone new every 5-10 minutes, and everyone who walked up

seemed so genuinely interested in what I was sharing. Having your voice heard is a powerful thing, as keynote speaker Dr. Gayle Porter pointed out, it is even vital to your health. Her keynote discussed the impact of stress on our lives and the need to create an emotionally healthy workplace. Creating spaces where diversity is embraced should be a vital goal for libraries, to insure everyone has a place they can be comfortable being themselves. Conferences such as JCLC help me manage my stress by providing a place for our stories to be told and make me truly understand how diversity makes us stronger.

Laksamee Putnam is a Research & Instruction Librarian at Towson University, Albert S. Cook Library. Find out more about her and the two JCLC posters mention above through her online portfolio: <https://sites.google.com/site/putnamlis/>



Eric Leong is the Information Literacy Librarian at Wartburg College.

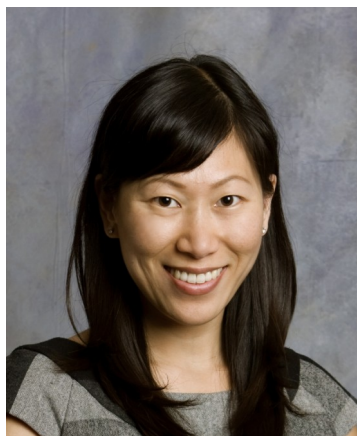


I am extremely grateful for the funding APALA provided to help get me to JCLC 2012, and for all the hard work its members contributed to the overall planning and execution of the conference. Attending JCLC 2012 was an empowering experience. My interest in attending the conference was to learn what other academic libraries are doing to sustain welcoming environments of diversity and inclusion.

While I attended some great sessions related to that – Yolyn-dra Green’s session on assistive technology, Jody Gray’s session on developing equity and diversity programming – the real “bang for the buck” came from the immersive sense of community I felt throughout all of the conference events. The conference provided a great environment for collaboration, whether it came out of a structured event like the poster sessions, or a conversation with a stranger on a bus headed to an off-site event, I found there to be no shortage of ideas being exchanged. In this sense, the conference fully lived up to its theme of “Celebrating Stories, Embracing Communities.”

Again, I truly appreciate the support of APALA with this travel grant, and I look forward to learning about the progress of our libraries and the profession at the next JCLC. 🌟

Dr. Sarah Park is an Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science at St. Catherine University.



In September 2012 I had the wonderful opportunity to attend JCLC for the first time. My colleague Dr. Jamie Campbell Naidoo and I presented together on a panel titled “Celebrating Many Children, Many Cultures, and Many Books with Día (El día de los niños/El día de los libros).” We both have had experience with Día programming, and so we were excited to share

some of our ideas with other professionals and scholars. We were pleased to receive enthusiastic response from our audience members, and we hope to hear from them in terms of how they implemented or evolved our ideas to fit their own institutional needs.

I also learned a lot by attending other panels and hearing talks by librarians who were doing amazing work in their institutions. For example, I attended a fantastic panel titled “Reaching Youth Through Diverse Collections and Teen/Community-Driven Programming.” Librarians working with teens shared creative and exciting programming ideas, such as working with teens to plan a fashion show and using the library and community resources to bring folks together to make the evening a success. It was great to learn from these outside-the-box librarians, especially as I am gearing up to teach “Library Materials for Young Adults” in Spring 2013.

One of the best aspects of JCLC was the people. I was so happy to reconnect with friends and colleagues from across the country. My alma mater, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, hosted a dinner where I was able to meet current and former students and visit with GSLIS faculty and staff. On the other hand, I was also excited to see my own former and current students participating in JCLC, and I hope they were pleased to see me there as well! 🌟

(Continued from page 15)

2013 ANNUAL LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE – CHICAGO

by Samanthi Hewakapuge, Local Arrangements Chair
University of Illinois at Chicago

We have been planning and organizing some interesting events for APALA members attending the ALA 2013 Annual Conference in Chicago! The Friday social/field trip will be to the Cambodian Association of Illinois' Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial - <http://cai.maaillinois.org/>. There will be a guided tour and possibly cultural presentations. APALA members will be asked for a donation to compensate for these free educational programs at the museum.

The APALA dinner on **Saturday** night will be held at Dr. Mary Anne Mohanraj's residence. Dr. Mohanraj is a local South Asian writer and a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago - <http://www.mamohanraj.com>.

The dinner will be buffet-style with most entrées from Ceylon Caterers, who specialize in Sri Lankan cuisine. There will be several other Sri Lankan curries made by the host and Local Arrangements members. This event will possibly be combined with the APALA scholarship fundraiser.

Furthermore, thank you all for responding to our survey: 92% of respondents are willing to make the short trip to Oak Park, a scenic suburb of Chicago, for the dinner and fundraiser.

When you are ready to visit Chicago, go to the APALA Wiki to check out the pages we have created for your convenience. These include information on local transportation, attractions and best restaurants around serving Asian-inspired food.

Looking forward to seeing you in the Windy City! V

SSSHHH! IT'S A SECRET, FOR NOW! THE PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE AT WORK

The APALA [Program Planning Committee](#) is responsible for putting together the President's Program at the 2013 ALA Annual in Chicago. In the past few months, the committee collaborated on building upon a conference session idea by APALA president, Jade Alburo. The topic and speakers of the session will remain a secret for now (ssshhh!) but the com-

mittee is excited to bring together a group of individuals to discuss and share their experiences, work, and role in and outside the walls of APA communities to the conference. Additionally, we are working on collaborating with other ALA groups to enhance our session and to further our exposure at the conference.

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you in Chicago! V

APALA NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE 2012-13

Sandy Wee, Chair, wee@smcl.org
Michelle Baildon, baildon@MIT.EDU
Florante Ibanez, florante.ibanez@lls.edu

Dear colleagues,

APALA needs **you!!**

We're looking for a few good people to run for office. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for:

- Vice-President/President Elect (3-yr commitment)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Member at Large (2 positions; 2-yr commitment)

Attendance at ALA Annual and Midwinter is preferred but not required. Nominees must be members in good standing. Officer terms will begin at the close of the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in June. For more information about the available offices, see the APALA bylaws at <http://www.apalaweb.org/about/constitution-and-bylaws/>

The committee will accept nominations through **Monday, February 18 at 11:59pm PT**. Voting will be open March 19-April 15, 2013.

Please note that in order to vote in the election, **you must be an APALA member in good standing on March 1, 2013**. Feel free to contact any member of the Nominations Committee with your nominations or if you have any questions!



PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The Publicity Committee has been busy performing our task, Publicizing APALA events and projects! We look forward to working more closely with the Fundraising Committee to bring attention to the awards and scholarships that APALA offers annually. We hope to reach out to more bene-

factors and ensure that we can continue to support these awards every year. ✨

APALA MENTORING PROGRAM

Maria Pontillas

2012-2013 APALA Membership Coordinator

APALA wants you!

APALA seeks protégés and mentors for the 2013-2014 year! The APALA Mentoring Program seeks to provide professional and personal development, inspiration, and encouragement through a supportive mentoring relationship to help new and future librarians by providing coaching and guidance in their careers. Mentoring bridges relationships between future librarians and professionals to enhance communication and leadership in APALA, ALA, and other library associations. Protégés must be librarians with no more than 3 years professional experience or library school students. Protégés must be or agree to become APALA members. Mentors are APALA members who possess at least 3 years professional experience and are active in professional library associations. To apply online, visit: <http://www.apalaweb.org/membership/mentoring-program/> as soon as possible. ✨

FAMILY LITERACY FOCUS COMMITTEE

The Family Literacy Focus Committee is proud to announce Toyota Financial Services as a continued sponsor of the Asian Pacific American Librarian Association and American Indian Librarian Association program, *Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture*. This is the second year that Toyota Financial Services will sponsor grant funding for *Talk Story*. Applications for *Talk Story* grants are being accepted now through **February 15, 2013**. Applications are available on the *Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture* website at www.talkstorytogether.org. ✨

HIGHLIGHTING *WHAT'S YOUR NORMAL?*

ON THE APALA WEBSITE

by Charlene Hsu Gross

The APALA Web Content Subcommittee invites you to check out the second and third contributions to the new series of personal essays, *What's Your Normal?*, including resources and links for further investigation.

Melissa Cardenas-Dow writes about the November, 2012 essay,

The concept of "normal" is filled with ideas we often take for granted. It is also filled with anxieties about measuring up to those ideas, which can sometimes be too lofty to be realistic or attainable. One such idea is the notion that "normal" constitutes only one, undisputed identity.

The second essay in the new APALA *What's Your Normal?* feature series comes from APALA member Alanna Aiko Moore, Interim Assistant Department Head for Information Services and User Education and the Librarian for Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies for the Social Science and Humanities Library at UC San Diego. In her essay, "[More Than Enough: Embracing Multiple Identities](#)," Alanna offers a slice of her personal life—shaped by more than one identity intersecting others. She asks, "What does our community look like? What intersecting identities are present?" A list of resources on bisexuality and multi-racial identity accompanies Alanna's piece.

Thank you, Alanna, for a very thought-provoking essay. Felicitations to you and Jan!

The December, 2012 essay is written by our own Web Content Subcommittee Chair, Melissa Cardenas-Dow, Outreach/Behavioral Sciences Librarian Armacost Library, University of Redlands. Melissa discloses her "normal" that involves the medical challenges she faces each day. In this third essay, "[Everyone You Meet Is Fighting a Great Battle](#)," Melissa reminds us of the many hidden disabilities that people harbor. Melissa writes in her essay,

We live in a world dominated by the medical model of disability. This frame of thought says that people with disabilities are lacking something important, need to be fixed, and are not normal until they are put back together again. In the struggle to claim justice for people with disabilities, the lines are drawn between who has disabilities and who does not, who is oppressed and who is the oppressor. People who have hidden disabilities fall, sometimes silently and by choice, into the gap between the two sides.

What kinds of preconceived notions do we have when we meet one another? How often do we make assumptions of one another? Who decides who has visible/invisible disabilities and who does not? These are some of the questions Melissa thoughtfully raises in us.

The subcommittee welcomes essays and resource submissions from APALA members. We also welcome inquiries. Please send all inquiries and submissions to melissa.cardenasdow@gmail.com. Place WYN in the subject line to help field your email more quickly. ✨

A MESSAGE FROM SANDY WEE



Dear APALA Friends:

I cannot believe a year has gone by. Thank you for a great 2011-2012 term. Thank you to the hard working 2011-2012 Executive Board: Vice-President/President Elect Jade Alburo, Secretary Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Treasurer Shoko Tokoro, Member-at-Large Eugenia Beh, Member-at-Large, Eileen Bosch, Member-at-Large, Richard

Kong, Member-at-Large Candice Mack, recently appointed Member-at-Large Janet Clarke, Immediate Past President Florante Peter Ibanez, Executive Director Buenaventura (Ven) Basco, and past Executive Director Gary Colmenar. Thank you for all your great work, enthusiasm, feedback and guidance.

We have accomplished much since our midwinter conference. All committee reports are available to our APALA membership. Below highlights a few accomplishments:

FUNDRAISING

- A national t-shirt campaign was launched and we congratulate Sayaka Suzuki for the winning design of our APALA tshirts.
- We are now selling APALA products on Café Press to benefit our Scholarships & Awards fund and our Family Literacy Focus project.
- We continue to support JCLC's fundraising events.

SUCCESSION PLANNING/STREAMLINING

- Our constitution and bylaws changes are ready for voting by general membership.
- We continue succession planning within committees.
- We had a smooth transition between our outgoing Executive Director Gary Colmenar and incoming Executive Director Buenaventura (Ven) Basco.
- We can make APALA payments and purchases through our website (PayPal).

PROMOTING APALA

- National visibility of our Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (APAAL).
- We actively promote our organization via social media outlets.
- We continue APALA representation at ALA national level: Working Group on Diversity and LIS Education,

Equitable Access to Electronic Content (EQIACC), Diversity Council.

- Web Team created a popular "Member Highlights" section on our website.
- We have ongoing socials throughout California and Washington.
- We continue to have a stable APALA membership.
- We anticipate a successful annual ALA conference.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

- Jade Alburo was recipient of Sheila Suen Lai Research Grant.
- Paul Lai was recipient of our Scholarship Award.
- Catherine Phan received our Travel Award.
- Carson Regional Library, Carson, California and Baranov Museum, Kodiak, Alaska are recipients of our Family Literacy Focus: Talk Story Grants.
- Sarah Park, Rebecca Martin, Laksamee Putnam, and Eric Leong were recipients of our JCLC Scholarship Awards.

APALA's success is largely due to the drive and accomplishments of our committees. All of our standing committees, ad-hoc committees, task forces, and working groups had a successful year. Thank you to the following Chairs: Constitution and Bylaws Chair Ben Wakashige; Finance and Fundraising Chair Eileen Bosch; Literature Awards Jury Chairs Dora Ho/Buenaventura (Ven) Basco; Literary Awards Category Chairs Susan Hoang, Yen Tran, Lana Adlawan, Michelle Baildon, Buenaventura (Ven) Basco, Susan Minobe, Sarah Park, Jerry Dear, Holly Cole Okuhara, and Janet Clarke; Membership Chair Rebecca Kennedy; Newsletter and Publications Chair Gary Colmenar; Nominations Chair Florante Peter Ibanez; Program Chair Jade Alburo; Publicity Chair Heawon Paick; Web Chair Angela Boyd; Ad-Hoc Archives Chair Gary Colmenar; Ad-Hoc Mentorship Chair Linda Absher; Ad-Hoc Scholarships & Awards Chairs Safi Safiullah and Gayatri Singh; Task Force on Family Literacy Focus Chair Lessa Pelayo-Lozada; Task Force on Library Services to Asian/Pacific Americans Chairs Michelle Baildon and Mitchell Yangsoon; Task Force on 2012 annual Local Arrangements – Anaheim Chair Candice Mack; Task Force on 2012 midwinter Local Arrangements – Dallas Chair Eugenia Beh; Task Force on 2012 JCLC Fundraising Baskets Linda Absher; Task Force on 2012 President's Program Chair Eugenia Beh; Task Force on 2012 annual ALA Diversity & Outreach Fair – Anaheim Chair Candice Mack; Diversity Council Representatives Michelle Baildon and Candice Mack; ALA Working Group on Diversity and LIS Education Representative Sarah Park; ALA Working Group on Libraries and Digital Content Representative Holly Yu, JCLC Steering Committee Florante Peter Ibanez and Alanna Aiko Moore.

As you can see, there are numerous individuals who work

behind the scenes of APALA. We have yet to thank the numerous members who serve on these committees! Thank you to all! Needless to say, none of this could be accomplished without our Committee Chairs and Members and our Executive Board.

As I close, I want to thank you all for your guidance and support. I wish the 2012-2013 Executive Board the very best. Please join me in welcoming our 2012-2013 President Jade Alburo, Vice-President/President Elect Eugenia Beh, Secretary Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Treasurer Shoko Tokoro, Member-at-Large Alanna Aiko Moore, Member-at-Large Tina Chan, Member-at-Large Janet Clarke, and Member-at-Large Candice Mack. APALA is lucky to have such a talented board and membership!

All Best,
Sandy
2011-2012 APALA President 🌸

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Newsletter Committee I am pleased to present you the latest issue of the APALA newsletter.

We begin this issue with Jade's presidential message. She gives a summary of the successful JCLC conference in Kansas City. As co-sponsors of the conference, she felt like one of the hosts of the conference. Indeed as one of the co-sponsors of JCLC, we worked alongside members of AILA, BCALA, CALA, and REFORMA for years in planning for this event. With a strong commitment from ALA and their staff we produced an invigorating conference that addressed issues related to our work such as, diversity, outreach, advocacy, racism and many more.

We are glad to include stories, reports and photos from the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color 2nd Conference (JCLC 2012) held last September in Kansas City, MO. Many of your APALA colleagues attended and participated in programs, plenaries, and of course, parties at JCLC 2012. APALA's presence made seen, heard, and felt, in my opinion. Many of these events are vividly captured in pictures and eloquently narrated by APALA members and newsletter writers. Dawn Wing's interview with Lynda Barry provides us with humor and a reminder of our crucial role against censorship and the importance of the library as a safe haven to everyone both young and old. Similarly, Rebecca Martin's summary of their JCLC program on internet and racism offers another example of our vital role in identifying racist activities in virtual space. She also supported the panel's call for the need for critical race consciousness in developing tools and services that not only celebrate multiculturalism but also support anti-racism. Jerry Dear's piece (who is becoming a regular contributor to

the newsletter), takes us back to the tangible space of sidewalks, street lights, and the Oriental architecture style of Chinatown, San Francisco. He writes about the presentation and book talk of the Chinese historian and architect Philip P. Choy who provided a historical and political context that drove the Chinese Americans to establish their own ethnic enclaves as a response to racism and discrimination.

Charlene Hsu Gross brings our attention to the latest entry in What's Your Normal? series. Melissa Cardenas-Dow shared with us her story of daily struggle and courage. Melissa reminds us that there is more to appearances than meets the eye. People living with hidden disabilities could be a friend, colleague, or that patron at the reference desk. As public servants, the questions she poses are important ones to remember both at our work and personal lives. Finally, our immediate Past President Sandy Wee's thank you message provides us with an excellent summary of what APALA has accomplished last year. Without your labor and support we wouldn't have been able to accomplish all of these.

In addition, you'll find in these pages committee reports to give everyone a heads up of what is in store for 2013. APALA committees provide a great opportunity to volunteer and get to know other members, so if you haven't already, I encourage you to sign up! To paraphrase a statement by former president John Kennedy, – ask not what APALA can do for you, ask what you can do for APALA!

It is always a pleasure to add content to our member news and announcement section, where we applaud and recognize the accomplishments of our members. Cheers to our colleagues and friends!

Unfortunately, we didn't receive any book reviews for this issue. We hope to include a few for next issue. Here is our own call for volunteers!

Like our previous issues, this one was another group effort as the committee worked during the winter break, vacations, holiday dinners and siestas. Thank you to all the committee members, especially the new recruits to the "News-(letter) crew", Alyssa, Charlene, Charlotte (our new layout editor), Dawn, Evelyn, Jiun, and Sandy. I am pleased to have Melissa, Miriam, and Nicci return for another year as members of the committee. With our News Crew now in place for 2013, we plan to continue adding more content and invite more writers to contribute to our newsletter.

This issue will be our third and final issue for the year of the dragon. I wish everyone the best of luck in 2013.

Happy New Year!
Gary

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. 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.

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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

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2012-2013

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