



apala

asian/pacific american librarians association

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, APALA members and friends!

I am humbled and honored with the opportunity to serve as your president for 2014-2015. I am very proud to be a member of this remarkable association. We truly have a group of incredible, motivated, and dedicated members who make this association what it is, and I am overjoyed to be a part of such a longstanding tradition of excellence.

As I begin my term as President, I always keep in mind that the success of our association is not possible without the active support and participation of our past leaders; past executive board members; committee chairs; committee members; and most importantly, our members. Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to last year's executive board and committee chairs for their vision and leadership, and to our outgoing committee members for volunteering their time and energy in making 2013-2014 a successful year!

(Continued on page 2)

apala executive board
2014-2015

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I am pleased to welcome our new 2014-2015 Executive Board: Janet Clarke (Vice President), Sarah Jeong (Secretary), Dora Ho (Treasurer), Ven Basco (Executive Director), Melissa Cardenas-Dow (MAL), Anna Coats (MAL), Paolo Gujilde (MAL), and Eugenia Beh (Immediate Past-President). Additionally, I would like to thank our incoming committee chairs and committee members who offered and accepted to volunteer this year. I hope you are excited as much as I am for another promising and successful year!

This year, APALA celebrates its 35th Anniversary. The APALA 35th Steering Committee and the Executive Board have been busy planning a one-day symposium to be held at the University of San Francisco, CA, on June 25, 2015. The 35th Anniversary Symposium's theme is, "Building Bridges: Connecting Communities Through Librarianship & Advocacy." I believe this will be a great opportunity for us to reevaluate, reprioritize, and revitalize APALA's mission in providing a forum to engage everyone on relevant issues to Asian/Pacific Americans (APA) in the library profession as well as, to collaborate in enhancing library services to APA communities. Furthermore, we are also organizing a series of special programs and cultural events during the American Library Association Annual Conference to celebrate our anniversary. More details will be forthcoming as we draw closer to Annual. In the meantime, please visit our new APALA 35th website for upcoming details on the conference, early bird registration, and opportunities for sponsorships. We are looking forward to celebrating with you!

<http://www.apala35th.apalaweb.org/>

As we strive to move the organization forward, I would like to highlight some of APALA's recent activities at the ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Despite the heat, thirty-two members (and non-members) joined us in our fundraising tour of Zappos Headquarters and the community-focused Downtown Project including a visit to Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh's apartment where everyone learned about the 3 C's: Collision, Co-learning, and Connectedness! We also spent a lovely night with 56 attendees, including authors for the five different categories at the APALA Literature Awards and Banquet at KJ Dim Sum & Seafood Restaurant. Both of these events raised over \$300 for our scholarship funds! Our Scholarships & Awards winners are: Ariana Hussain (Emerging Leader), Gerie Ventura (Travel Grant), and Hannah Rainey (Scholarship) – congratulations to our scholarship recipients! The APALA President's Program: Immigration Reform, Asian Americans and Librarianship focused on the impact of immigration reform to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and how libraries and librarians can help Asian immigrants navigate the immigration system. In partnership with AILA, the APALA Family Literacy Focus Task Force received \$2500 from Toyota for the 2014-2015 year. Lastly,

thanks to all our members who voted on the APALA constitution and bylaws amendments. Each of the five amendments passed with 94% to 100% of voting members accepting the proposed changes. We will soon publicize the changes on our website.

One of our goals for this year is to provide professional & service opportunities to all APALA members who are interested in learning more about our association and getting involved with committees. I really think that by creating opportunities for our members to either get cross-trained and/or explore the work of other committees, we are helping our members to expand their professional networks and develop leadership skills. Moreover, we know that the stronger we are as an association, the stronger our individual voices will be, and the stronger APA communities will be!

As part of my goals for this year, I would like to continue our work on the recruitment of new members; streamline our communication between EB, committees, and members; and create opportunities for our members to get involved and develop leadership skills. I believe that by helping our members expand their professional networks and hone their leadership abilities, the stronger we become as an association, the stronger our individual voices will be, and the stronger APA communities will be!

Thank you for being a part of APALA. Each one of you has a role to play and contributes to APALA's mission success. I was happy to see many of you at Midwinter in Chicago! Visit APALA website at www.apalaweb.org for the most current information available about our association, members, updates, and news. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or ideas you would like to share, or simply would like to become more involved in APALA.

Best regards,

Eileen K. Bosch
APALA President, 2014-2015



APALA DINNER LINDA SUE PARK: THE KERLAN, THE KOREAN, AND THE AWARD

By Sarah Park Dahlen

In March 2014, I had the opportunity to introduce Newbery Award-winning author Linda Sue Park at the Kerlan Award ceremony at the University of Minnesota. The Kerlan Collection, with more than 100,000 children's books and original manuscripts, is one of the largest and most comprehensive children's literature research collections in the world. It was a special honor to serve on the committee that selected both Linda Sue Park and Russell Freedman to win the 2014 Kerlan Award, which "is given in recognition of singular attainments in the creation of children's literature and in appreciation for generous donation of unique resources to the Kerlan Collection for the study of children's literature" (<https://www.lib.umn.edu/clrc/kerlan-award>). It has previously been awarded to authors such as Katherine Paterson, Jane Yolen, and Walter Dean Myers, and as far as I can tell, Linda Sue Park is the first Asian American recipient. She was especially pleased to be honored alongside award-winning nonfiction author Russell Freedman, who unfortunately was unable to join us for the event.



My daughter Ruth met Newbery Award-winning authors Kate DiCamillo and Linda Sue Park.

In 2002, I was in graduate school and had learned that a Korean American author had just for the first time ever won the Newbery Award, and it was for an historical fiction novel set in Korea. I had grown up with a strong sense of my Korean American identity, but had never seen a Korean person in children's literature, so when I learned about and read

A Single Shard, I was blown away. This novel was one of the reasons I decided to get my Ph.D. to study Korean American children's books. Soon after, Linda Sue came to Los Angeles' Pio Pico Koreatown's Public Library, and I got to meet her for the first time. I've seen her a few times between then and now, but seeing her at the Kerlan was definitely the most special, as I was able to introduce my daughter to a Korean American author for the first time in her life.



Linda Sue Park shows some of her book covers during her acceptance speech.

Between winning the Newbery and the Kerlan, Linda Sue has accomplished much. She is the author of at least twenty books for young people. Her historical fiction novel has garnered the most prestigious award – the John Newbery – and her other books also have been highly commended by organizations such as the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award Committee, the Cooperative Children's Book Center, Bank Street, Booklist, and School Library Journal. Linda Sue's texts include various genres and address multiple audiences - she has written picture books, poetry, historical fiction, contemporary fiction, and books in the *39 Clues* series and short stories in *Click* and *The Chronicles of Harris Burdick*. Her stories celebrate Korean food and the beauty of Korean celadon in *Bi-Bim-Bap* and *A Single Shard*. They reveal the painful histories of the Korean War and Japanese colonialism in *Keeping Score* and *When My Name Was Keoko*. She has introduced readers to "Lost Boys" and the Water for Sudan project in *A Long Walk to Water* and to the many different sounds made by animals from all over the world in *Mung Mung: A Foldout Book of Animal Sounds*. Just as *Mung Mung* shows both the differences and commonalities of animals from different parts of the world, Linda Sue loves how all her stories make connections. She emphasizes the connectivity and connective role of her work in bridging relationships between people and places and time periods. For example, her stories brought readers of different ages and backgrounds and from different parts of the children's literature universe to the Kerlan Award ceremony.

Kerlan Award winners must have made substantial contributions of their work to the Kerlan in order to be considered for the award. At one book signing, I remember Linda Sue mentioned that she had 37 complete drafts of *When My Name was Keoko* on her computer. While I'm not sure all 37 made it into the Kerlan Collection, Linda Sue's generosity to the Kerlan is remarkable. One of my favorite things to read in the Kerlan's author files is the correspondence between author and editor because you learn so much about how the work develops. Linda Sue's files begin with her first rejection letter, and you can trace her confidence and feel her persistence as you read through her polite and ever optimistic exchange with her editor. The Kerlan is fortunate to have Linda Sue's files because through her documents, scholars and readers can learn more about the development of her unique contribution to children's literature.



Children's Literature Research Collection Curator Lisa Von Drasek presents the Kerlan Award to Linda Sue Park.

Thanks to Linda Sue's hard work and talent, one million Korean American children can see mirrors of their own lives and understand the history and culture of their parents and grandparents, while millions more have opportunities to learn about a culture and history other than their own. As a child, I may have never seen a Korean person in literature, but my daughter's generation will see *many* reflections of our culture, thanks to writers such as Linda Sue Park, An Na, Paula Yoo, David Yoo, Derek Kirk Kim, and Marie Lee. I hope these authors will continue to be honored and awarded and that their books will be book talked and promoted so that all readers can enjoy the stories told about the Korean diaspora. I'm thankful that the Kerlan is one such organization that has honored Linda Sue Park for her tremendous contribution to the study of children's literature, and pleased to have participated in the wonderful event.

* Note: This article has been adapted from the introductory speech I gave at the Kerlan Award Ceremony on March 29, 2014.

Sarah Park Dahlen is an assistant professor at the St. Catherine University Master of Library and Information Science Program. She co-edited *Diversity in Youth Literature: Opening Doors Through Reading* with Jamie Campbell Naidoo (ALA Editions, 2013). sarahpark.com

A TOUR OF ZAPPOS HQ AND THE DOWNTOWN PROJECT

By Michelle Lee

Las Vegas is known for all things gaudy and glitzy. The Zappos.com headquarters, located downtown inside the former Las Vegas City Hall, seems to reflect its colorful surroundings and the online company is among the most unusual workplaces.



Zappos exterior and interior



New employees parade down the halls in party hats, waving noisemakers and social media signs. The hallways, walls and work cubicles are decorated with holiday lights, books, murals, and other objects, such as inflatable llamas, the favorite animal of company CEO Tony Hsieh (pronounced Shay). The Zappos leaders sit in an open section called Monkey Row and there's even an employee nap room among the break areas.



Zappos.com headquarters entryway, complete with welcome mural and an art installation by Blue Man Group shown by art curator/historian Brian "Paco" Alvarez.



Several members of the Asian Pacific American Librarians Associations and other librarians/information professionals toured the Zappos.com headquarters last June while in "Sin City" for the American Library Association's annual meeting.

At first glance, there may not be much in common between an online retailer and librarianship. Dig a little deeper, though, and there are many lessons that can be learned from Zappos.com about customer service and how to set a creative and collaborative work environment.

Zappos.com was founded in 1999 by entrepreneur Nick Swinmurn when he became frustrated after shoe shopping in a San Francisco mall, according to the company website. The company's name is a play on *zapat*os, the Spanish word for shoes. Hsieh, who co-founded and sold the website banner company LinkExchange to Microsoft, joined the company as

an investor and a business advisor. He further helped develop Zappos with Fred Mossler, who worked in shoes for Nordstrom. Amazon.com purchased the company, which expanded its sales inventory beyond shoes into fashion, accessories, beauty, home wares and more, in 2009. Zappos.com now has about [3,144 employees and \\$256.6 million in 2014 sales revenue, according to the December 2014 Hoovers industry report](#).

Zappos employees Dani Greer, the "Culture Kitten," and Brian "Paco" Alvarez, the art historian and curator, lead the hour-long tour around the new headquarters. The building opened in September 2013 following a \$48 million renovation, according to The Las Vegas Sun.



Workplace parades for new employees

The company's vision and purpose has evolved over the years from "the largest selection of shoes," to "customer service," to, finally, "delivering happiness," Hsieh wrote in his 2010 business book/memoir *Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits,*

Passion and Purpose. In the book, Hsieh wrote that customers often referred to Zappos packages as "happiness in a box," and he wanted to focus on experience together - the "happiness" customers feel when they find the perfect item, talk to the Zappos Customer Loyalty Team, and the "happiness" Zappos employees "feel from being part of a culture whose values match their own personal values."

The Zappos work atmosphere itself is very relaxed and employees are encouraged to "think outside the box," Alvarez and Greer said. The Zappos family has ten core values:

- 1 [Deliver WOW Through Service](#)
- 2 [Embrace and Drive Change](#)
- 3 [Create Fun and A Little Weirdness](#)
- 4 [Be Adventurous, Creative, and Open-Minded](#)
- 5 [Pursue Growth and Learning](#)
- 6 [Build Open and Honest Relationships With Communication](#)
- 7 [Build a Positive Team and Family Spirit](#)
- 8 [Do More With Less](#)
- 9 [Be Passionate and Determined](#)
- 10 [Be Humble](#)

Alvarez and Greer said Zappos's strong customer service also helps the company stand out. Staff members are encouraged to follow "the golden rule" of being courteous to others, be it to customers, fellow co-workers, vendors, and other business partners.

The Zappos phone line at 1-888-927-7679 is important to customer service, Alvarez said. The call center is staffed at all times with workers ready to answer whatever questions customers may have or provide additional help. All new employees - no matter their title - undergo customer service training and working in the call center, Alvarez said. During the busiest season - the end-of-year holiday shopping time - all Zappos employees, including Hsieh, spend time answering telephones.

While many phone calls could be about changing an order, asking for more advice about a product, or might not even

lead to a sale at all, Alvarez said the staff's main goal is to provide the best experience possible for the customer. There are no limits to how long customers can stay on the phone, and the record time for one telephone call was about [ten hours spent with a person who ultimately ordered one pair of shoes](#), Alvarez said.

The creative, open-minded company culture spills over into the office space. Workers decorate their cubicles to reflect their personalities, there is no dress code and workers are encouraged to read books and further their education, according to Alvarez. Hsieh wrote in his book that he encourages Zappos employees to grow, professionally and personally, and the company offers courses to all workers on such topics as communications, leadership essentials, public speaking and stress and time management. There's an employee lending library on-site and a number of authors have visited the company to speak.

Furthermore, the company holds team-building events for the staff; the Zappos 2012-2013 Culture Book has many upbeat testimonials and glossy photos of workers at running and biking marathons, company parties and other events.

Another positive aspect about the company is the diverse workforce, Alvarez said. There are people from all over the world working at Zappos; there is a wide range of ages among the workers (the oldest employee is 70 years-old); and the company is friendly toward people who are LGBT (lesbians/gay/bisexual/transsexual), Alvarez said.

The physical headquarters in the refurbished City Hall also embodies Zappos's culture, Alvarez said. The 40 year-old building is "a great example of adaptive use" of existing architecture - the interior has been retrofitted to be environment-friendly and follows the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold standard.

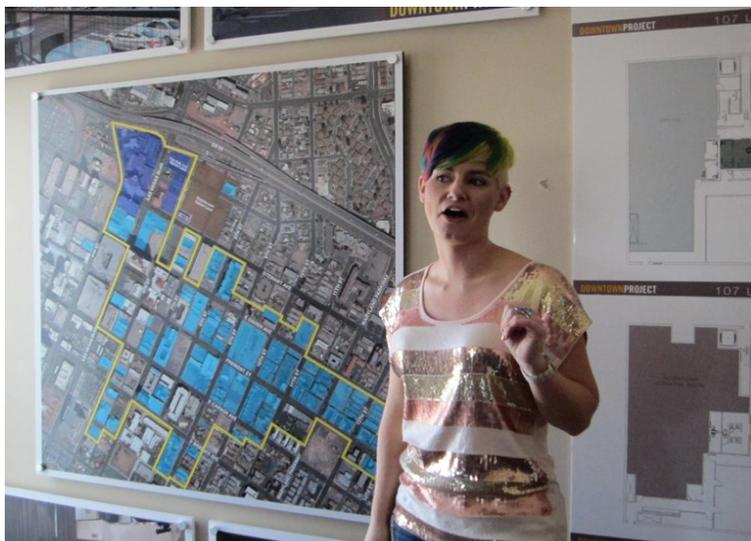
"We hope you bring a little of our culture back to your office," Alvarez said at the end of the tour. "Even if it's just some party streamers at your desk."

Hsieh's other large business venture in Las Vegas is the Downtown Project, an effort to revitalize the city's central business district by Fremont Street - the original gambling strip - with a \$350 million investment in buying real estate and developing a new community with a local school, health clinic, tech startup companies and other small businesses, such as restaurants and retail shops. The project, which started in 2012 and covers about 60 acres, began with the "goal and purpose" of turning downtown Las Vegas into "a place of inspiration, entrepreneurial energy, creativity, innovation, upward mobility and discovery through the three C's of colli-

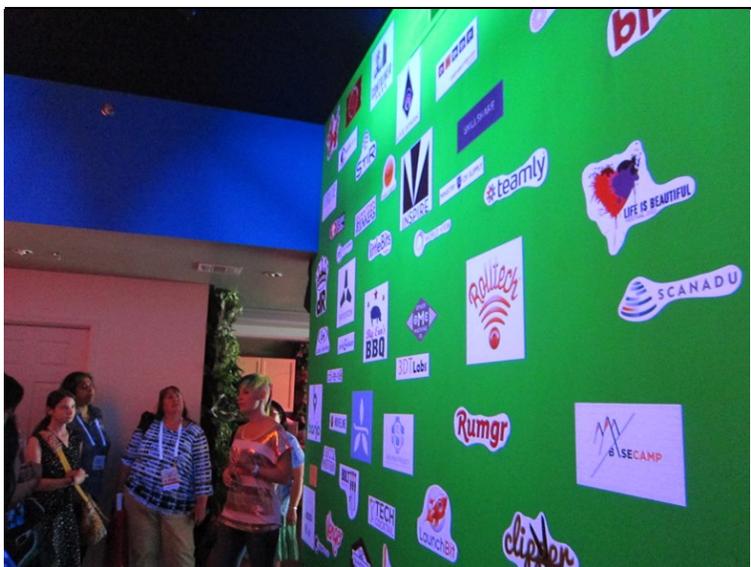


Group photos in the Zappos.com headquarters, above, and in the "jungle room" of Zappos.com CEO Tony Hsieh's apartment in The Ogden building during a tour of The Downtown Project, below





Heidi Noelle Stamper, the "pixie of positivity" for the Downtown Project, shows a map of various buildings involved in the Downtown Project, above, and a wall of logos for various companies and developments connected to the Downtown Project, below.



sions [socializing/ interacting], co-learning and connectiveness," Hsieh wrote on the project's website, <http://downtownproject.com>.

Downtown Project tour guide Heidi Noelle Stamper showed the APALA tour group architectural renderings of the various projects inside Hsieh's apartment inside the Ogden condominium complex and a wall of Post-Its filled with brainstorming and business ideas from local residents. Stamper called the Downtown Project a "social experiment" to create bring everyone to downtown Las Vegas and have a space "for the community at large" to connect with one another, access important services and become a business/tech incubator. The project website states that it created 974 jobs as of early December.

Post-APALA tour, the Downtown Project went through some difficult times. In late September, the project laid off ten percent of its staff, 30 workers out of 300 workers, according to

an [article](#) in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and other news outlets. The project's former "director of imagination," David Gould, who left a teaching position at the University of Iowa after reading Hsieh's book, wrote a searing [resignation letter](#) that was published in *Las Vegas Weekly*. Gould expressed sympathy for those who were laid off and he called the Downtown Project "a collage of decadence, greed, and missing leadership." The technology news website *Re/code.net*, which wrote a [seven-part series](#) on tech startups in Las Vegas and the Downtown Project, reported in an [October article](#) that many small businesses within the Downtown Project were struggling and the recent suicide of three entrepreneurs connected to the project had an effect on some in the community.

Despite the layoffs and other changes, a reporter for *The Guardian* website wrote in [late November article](#) that he saw some signs that "downtown Las Vegas as a whole has come only more to life: the Downtown Project recently rehabilitated the Oasis motel to its full mid-century glory and then some, and a grocery store has finally arrived in the form of the aptly named The Market, something of a scaled-down Whole Foods. As troubling as observers have found the souring of the Downtown Project's once-golden relationship with the media, downtown itself still inspires some optimism."

The final takeaway lesson librarians and information professionals can gain from the Downtown Project and the Zappos tour is resilience. The layoff news is devastating and reflects the tough times many libraries have been facing with ever-dwindling funding and staff. Zappos, too, went through a [large round of cuts](#) - 8 percent of its workforce - in 2008 following the economic crash. The company turned around with the 2009 purchase by Amazon.com for \$1.2 billion, and subsequent growth in sales and staffing, according to a [2010 blog post](#) by Hsieh. Hopefully, with luck, hard work, more support, perhaps the situation will turn around in downtown Las Vegas, the Downtown Project community and others.

Michelle Lee is an Adult Teen Librarian at the Free library of Philadelphia, Wynnefield Branch

Related Links

Zappos website listing the company's core values

<http://about.zappos.com/our-unique-culture/zappos-core-values>

Zappos Library List

<http://www.zapposinsights.com/about/library-list>

The Downtown Project website

www.downtownproject.com

Website for Delivering Happiness, a company that grew out of Zappos CEO Tony

Hsieh's book <http://deliveringhappiness.com/>

Zappos breaks record with 10-hour customer service call, GlobalPost.com

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatches/globalpost-blogs/weird-wide-web/zappos-breaks-record-10-hour-customer-service-call>

Innovate Nation: Las Vegas, seven-part series on tech industry in Las Vegas and the Downtown Project, *Re/code.net*

<http://recode.net/special-series/las-vegas/>

ONE YEAR AFTER NYU SHANGHAI: NEW LIBRARY, NEW COLLECTIONS, AND NEW SERVICES

By Ray Pun

Some of you may recall that I work in New York University Shanghai, the first U.S.-Sino joint venture university in China. In the previous APALA newsletter, I described what I was doing as a librarian there and how the library functioned. It's been one year later and things have greatly changed.



The new NYU Shanghai building



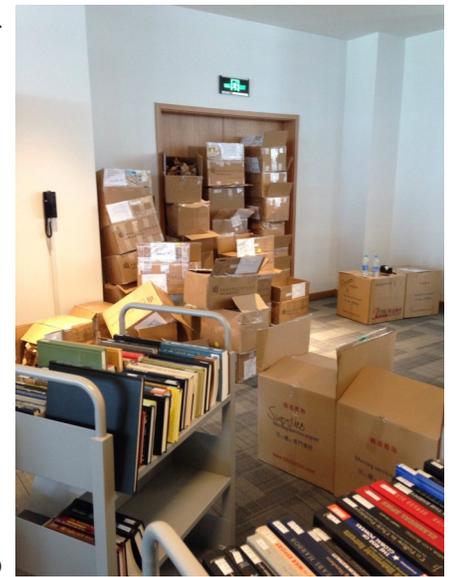
The new Library space

In the summer of 2014, NYU Shanghai relocated from East China Normal University, our partner university, to a new building in Pudong also known as the financial district in Shanghai. This transition was expected but we made it through. When you are moving to a new space, particularly for a library, you'll need to make sure collections are boxed up and shipped properly. We spent about 3-4 full days shelving the stacks in the new building.

At our temporary campus, we were scattered in different rooms: one room for circulation, a closed stack behind the

circulation desk, another room for study, and another room for processing materials. Now we have one huge floor with classrooms, office spaces and reading rooms. It's been a huge transformation. Now that the number of students have doubled at NYU Shanghai, many of them are studying constantly in the library, which is great! We've reopened our services to receive delivery from New York. We've been receiving tons of new books to be added into

our stacks; they tend to be requested by students or faculty, or we explore the syllabus and order books that are needed. We also started building our periodicals and now we have magazines from Rolling Stone to Times Literary Supplement. We never had these before in the temporary campus.



Tons of boxes from permanent collect to be re-shelved



New stacks area in the Library

The library is also expanding its services. We've recently launched an interlibrary loan service and it works! Books from the U.S. can be sent to our campus library. It's been a great development for us. We also launched our social media networks including Facebook and WeChat (a popular mobile app created in China) where our student/faculty can connect with us virtually through these tools.



Photo Credit: @johnxlibris

lasting one was the people I worked with. Our instructors were enthusiastic and always willing to spend time with us working on our individual projects both during formal instruction time and in our free time. Thanks in large part to their efforts; everyone in my class now has projects that we feel confident will be completed successfully. We grew very close as a class and often continue to work and help each other. We pose questions to each other, suggest materials or habits that can improve the research process, and goad each other to complete our work and succeed. Each of us completed a survey during the program, which I found to be an excellent example of how research can be conducted. They will include the results of the survey in a publication about IRDL as well as used them to improve the experience for the next class.



Photo Credit: @FransNYC

Students working projects with instructors Lili Luo and Greg

I strongly recommend this experience to any academic or research librarian who wants to publish and encourage our members to apply to the next class.

IRDL is held in Los Angeles California on the Loyola Marymount University campus. The IRDL program provides all transportation, housing, and meals.

To learn more about the IRDL, please visit the website: <http://irdlonline.org/>

If you are interested in applying for IRDL, the date for the next Institute is July 12-24th, 2015. Applications will be accepted starting December 1st 2014 and closing February 2015. You can also view tweets and photos from the 2014 class at <https://storify.com/IRDL/irdl-2014>.

ALA MIDWINTER HAPPENINGS

"DRINKS WITH CORNEL WEST" AN EVENING RECEPTION HOSTED BY BEACON PRESS



Several APALA members had the incredible opportunity to share a memorable toast with Dr. Cornel West, internationally renowned intellectual and Professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, on Sunday evening at Midwinter. He was at Midwinter as the keynote speaker at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sun-

rise Celebration

on Monday morning. Those who stayed to meet Dr. West at the Sunday reception not only got to literally share a drink with him, but also received copies of his books (*Black Prophetic Fire* and *The Radical King*), courtesy of Beacon



Sharing a toast with Dr. Cornel West are: Janet Clarke, Gerardo Colmenar, Sandy Wee, Isabel Espinal, Dr. West, & Eileen Bosch.

Press.

APALA President Eileen Bosch noted that "it was a special opportunity to meet one of our activist heroes in person. Dr. West was so down-to-earth and personable! He seemed right at home hangin' with librarians!" Dr. Em Claire Knowles, of Simmons College, and a member BCALA who also attended the reception, shared a personal story of vying with the younger Cornel West for Sunday school readings as children in Sacramento!



TOUR OF THE CHINESE-AMERICAN MUSEUM & THE CHINATOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Eileen Kuan-Veng Bosch

On Friday, January 30, APALA members gathered during ALA Midwinter Conference for a full day of activities. The group started the day by going to downtown Chinatown and having a delicious lunch of dim sum at the Triple Crown Restaurant. From there, the group walked to the Chinese-American Museum of Chicago (CAMOC) to visit their new exhibit, "Traditional Chinese Festivals: A Celebration of Culture." The mission of CAMOC is to promote the culture and history—through exhibitions, education, and research—of Chinese-Americans in the Midwest. Anyone interested in discovering the fascinating history of Chinatown in Chicago shouldn't miss this museum!

As soon as we arrived to the museum, a docent was waiting for us in the reception area to welcome us. The museum was small and modest, but it was very well kept and organized. Right from the beginning, I was amused to learn so much about Chinese traditions from our docent. The main exhibit room on the first floor included many objects nicely displayed. There was a big dragon, a Chinese New Year food display, and several objects representing the various traditions. Our docent gave us an overview of these items and shared interesting facts. She was very charismatic and informative. The way she described some of these Chinese traditions, some which were new to me, was just amazingly





We also had some time to play with some Chinese traditional toys and games. Remember Chinese jacks? For those of you who remember, Chinese jacks are all about balance. You start with one jack in your hand (palm up) and throw the jack in the air. The object of the game is to catch the jack on the back of your hand. If you catch it, you add one more Jack to your hand and throw both Jacks up. This goes on until you drop a jack.

entertaining! Growing up mostly in Brazil and learning about Chinese traditions from my grandma, who lived in Peru, I really enjoyed being able to “go back in time” and be appreciative about all the stories my “apo” shared about Chinese heritage.

One of the things I didn’t know about Chinese New Year was that the celebration begins half a month before the new year for families to have time to clean up their house, thank the gods for blessings bestowed, pay debts (really?), and prepare for a new beginning. And, that this celebration takes 15 days – it ends 15 days of the first month after the first full moon of the lunar New Year! Another thing I didn’t know was that the round shape of the moon represents the important concept of family unity and togetherness or Chinese people. So, this is why families always have abundance of round fruits such as tangerines and oranges that symbolize prosperity, and sticky foods that symbolize unity.



Docent led tour of the exhibit second floor with Chinese history timeline. From left to right: Ania Hsueh Luk, Ven Basco, Samantha Hewakapuge

On the second floor (accessible only by a staircase) there is a permanent exhibit regarding the history of Chinese-American experience in Chicago. One of the first displays one sees in the room is a large timeline poster of events that chronicle Chinese immigration in the last century. The room also displays many original artifacts of Chinese restaurants and Chinese hand laundries such as a mother-of-pearl dining table from Chiam Restaurant and a typical pick-up/drop-off counter for a Chinese laundry. This floor also displays the artifacts of various local families, from their experiences entering the U.S. from China and then leaving the U.S. for visits back “home.” Before the tour ended we watched “My Chinatown: Stories from Within,” a 15 minute video that highlights the narratives of some Chinese-American families living in Chinatown telling their own stories about their neighborhood.



APALA members at the Chinese-American Museum of Chicago (CAMOC) (l-r) Peter Spyers-Duran, Cynthia del Rosario, Melissa Cardenas-Dow, Susan Luevano, Michelle Baildon, Heawon Paick.

Our next stop was the Chicago Public Library, Chinatown Branch. We were greeted by Si Chen, Branch Manager who gave us a tour and a brief introduction of the library. The library building sat in a building complex with several other businesses such as small businesses, banks, local stores, and restaurants. So, it was located in the very heart of Chinatown! The building complex had a very colorful and vibrant



Dim sum lunch at Triple Crown Restaurant (l-r) Eugenia Beh, Melissa Cardenas-Dow, Eileen K. Bosch, Heawon Paick, Gary Colmenar, Cynthia del Rosario, Buenventura "Ven" Basco, Peter Spyers-Duran, Shawn P. Calhoun.

architecture and two stone lion sculptures guarded the front door entrance.

She took us to the conference meeting room where she gave a brief introduction about the branch. The Chinatown Branch was opened on September 28, 1990 in order to serve as a cultural and information center for those who seek information about the Chinatown community and Chinese culture. Currently, this branch serves four neighborhoods: Chinatown, Armour Square, South Loop, and Bridgeport. We also learned that this branch (together with other 12 public branches) would begin lending Wi-Fi hotspots and devices to their patrons. Anyone with a library card in good standing would be able to take home the devices. This program is part of a grant to close the city's digital divide in some of the low-income neighborhoods where home broadband usage rates are the lowest. This initiative will help people needing Internet to do homework, do applications for jobs, and apply for benefits. As part of this program, there will also be in-library staff experts to teach digital skills.



Another notable feature of the China-

town Branch Library we learned from the tour was that several librarians spoke several Chinese languages to address the cultural and linguistic demands of their library users. In fact, we were able to see many of the library users either asking questions to them or sitting and reading a magazine in Chinese in the reference area. Since it was a school day, the children's section was packed with elementary school students and teenagers working on their homework or receiving tutoring. The library had a wide selection of children's books and Chinese literature.



In addition, towards the back of the children's section, there was a quiet reading area where they kept their media collection and other collections. To provide good directions to their patrons, all the library signage used in the library was displayed in Chinese and English. All in all, it was a great day! A big thank you! goes to the Midwinter Local Arrangement Task Force: Annie Pho, Richard Kong, Samantha Hewakapuge, and Sangeeta Bhargava for organizing and planning an entire interesting, educational, and fun day in Chicago's Chinatown!

Eileen K. Bosch is Associate Professor and Coordinator of Library Instructions, Bowling Green State University.

ALA TASK FORCE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (TF-EDI) REPORT TO THE ALA COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Background Information

Embracing and celebrating diversity, and creating a more inclusive profession have been long-standing goals of the American Library Association. However, the impetus for creating the Task Force was the grave concern expressed by some members about the Association hosting its 2016 Annual Conference in Orlando, FL in light of Florida's application of the "Stand Your Ground" laws as it relates to the Trayvon Martin case [Appendix I – the BCALA statement].

Following the release of the statement from the BCALA, ALA president Barbara Stripling engaged by e-mail and phone with leaders from ALA and the Ethnic Caucuses who subsequently issued a joint statement [Appendix II – the Joint Statement]. The ALA's Executive Committee and BCALA's Executive Board decided that the best way to respond to the Florida situation is by turning it into an opportunity to educate, build awareness, and advocate for equitable treatment, inclusion, and respect for diversity. Among the agreed-upon items was the creation of a special task force.

The roster of members, including our staff liaisons, is available at

<http://www.ala.org/groups/task-force-equity-diversity-and-inclusion>.

Many members of the Task Force met informally at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Formal meetings of the TF, however, did not begin until August, after which time the TF members have met bi-weekly, via teleconference.

Actions and Accomplishments

Before moving forward with programs, actions, or recommendations, the TF members believed it was important to first define what we mean by equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to solicit feedback on those definitions from the library community. The TF developed the definitions and circulated them on ALA Connect and via various listservs during September and October 2014 for comment. We

incorporated the comments we received in the final version of the definitions, attached as Appendix III.

To further address continued concern about the ALA Conference in Orlando in 2016, the TF also issued a separate statement noting why the conference will be held in Orlando. The TF members also direct the library community's attention to the ALA-produced web page on how conference locations are selected (<http://www.ala.org/offices/conference/confservices/ccc/faq>). Although some information on that site is dated, much of the information about conference site selection remains relevant and accurate.

Because the work of the TF got underway in the fall 2014, we are still in the information-gathering phase. To aid with information gathering, we will launch a series of short ALA member surveys to understand the culture of the association, the profession, and our communities with respect to equity, diversity and inclusion.

The first survey will be conducted in January/February 2015 [Appendix IV].

Subsequent surveys will launch at or around the time of future ALA conferences.

At the 2015 Midwinter Meeting in Chicago, the Task Force will host a facilitated dialogue with conference attendees. This conversation, which will use the Harwood Approach [<http://www.theharwoodinstitute.org/about/>] and will be facilitated by ALA past president Nancy Kranich, continues the recent "kitchen table conversations" that have taken place at recent conferences to gather information about members' perception of a desired future within ALA and the profession.

The TF has also begun planning for a program to be held at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. We will share additional information about this program when it is available.

Future Plans

Although TF members represent a wide variety of areas within the Association and the profession, we know that many divisions, round tables, caucuses and others are engaged in work to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. Following the Midwinter meeting, we intend to reach out to all groups interested in this topic so that we can coordinate a cohesive plan for our efforts within the Association and our affiliated organizations.

As recent events in Ferguson, Cleveland, and New York have shown, our country and our communities continue to struggle with divisions based on race and other differences. For libraries to show our continuing relevance to our communi-

ties, the task force believes we must demonstrate how libraries must be an essential part of helping our communities work towards wholeness and healing. Therefore, we also intend to plan activities that will engage the communities in the cities in which ALA conferences are held not only to highlight that we, as librarians, are a part of the communities we serve, but that we are – and can be – change agents working for social justice.

We welcome your continued feedback on the work of the task force and look forward to your participation in our activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Trevor A. Dawes (Co-Chair)
Martin L. Garnar (Co-Chair, and GLBTRT Liaison)
Melissa I. Cardenas - Dow (APALA Representative)
Danielle Geller (AILA Representative)
Andrew P. Jackson (BCALA Representative)
Majed J. Khader (Chapter Relations Committee Representative)
Max Macias (REFORMA Representative)
Mike L. Marlin (ASCLA Accessibility Assembly Representative)
Louis Munoz, Jr (Diversity Committee Representative)
LaJuan Pringle (SRRT Representative)
Mark A. Puente (Member-at-Large)
Lian Ruan (CALA Representative)
Teri Sierra (Membership Meetings Committee Representative)
Nancy J. Snyder (Member-at-Large)
Barbara K. Stripling (Executive Board Liaison)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Michelle Lee has started a new position as Adult teen Librarian, Free library of Philadelphia Wynnefield Branch

Melissa Cardenas-Dow is now Reference & Instruction Librarian at University of California, Riverside's Tomás Rivera Library.

Molly Higgins is the new Health Sciences Librarian at Stony Brook University (SUNY at Stony Brook) at Stony Brook, NY. She started her position in February 2015.

Paul Drake: After five years working at the University of Guam (and being tenured), he has a new position as the new library director at Pacific Islands University, a small Christian University established in 1976. Coming to PIU marks a completion of his professional career, which began when he was a library worker while in seminary many years ago.

According to Paul, "It's a personal and professional joy to be part of this community".

PIU consists of a graduate seminary, and undergraduate Bible college and Christian College. It has less than 100 students, with students primarily from the Micronesian islands with a few others from Indonesian and Korea. The University strives to cover all costs for the students above their financial aid and family support. Many faculty are volunteers and are truly dedicated to student success and creating indigenous leaders when they return home.

Funding for the Library is limited so he is looking at crowd-funding to support the wish-lists of titles by faculty. He has started a wish-list on Better World Books.

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, former chief of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress, has been awarded the 2015 Melvil Dewey Medal. This annual award, presented by the American Library Association (ALA) recognizes "creative leadership of high order, particularly in those fields in which Melvil Dewey was actively interested: library management, library training, cataloging and classification, and the tools and techniques of librarianship.

www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2015/02/hwa-wei-lee-receives-melvil-dewey-medal

Anna Coats and Mimi Lee, New Jersey State Library: The Livingston Public Library has won the Multicultural Program Award for 2015 for the Multicultural Celebration Series. Multicultural Celebration Series is a yearlong program series that includes major holidays from cultures represented at Livingston Public Library (LPL). Each Celebration is meant to stand alone and has two objectives: 1. To welcome people of all backgrounds into the library, and 2. To raise awareness in the whole community about different cultures.

Some Celebrations saw great collaborative relationships built and community impact. Coats had one community parent, Nada Akmal, involved in the Eid al-Fitr planning and by Eid al-Adha had five parents involved in the planning. All five parents remain actively involved for next year's Muslim Celebrations. 100 participants attended Eid al-Fitr and several patrons said emotionally, "Thank you so much for having this. It is so wonderful to have this event at the library and that our children can have this experience in the community." After Eid al-Adha, Sonia Ahlawat, a Livingston mother of five, said, "Thank you so much for having this program. My children now feel comfortable here. We came to [Eid al-Fitr Celebration] too. My children don't have an opportunity to talk about our religion in school so they don't, but now with these library programs they feel comfortable."



Attending Hello Kitty Con 2014 (L-R) Member and former APALA Secretary, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada getting ready to chow down with friend, Kathryn Chinvejakitvanic - photo by Lessa Pelayo-Lozada

We even found time to work on her Halloween costume before leaving at five in the morning. We made it home in time to make dinner for her friends before 'trick or treating'." Yes, we're heading out to Hello Kitty's Supercute Friendship Festival. Have you bought your ticket?"

Another APALA member, Dora Ho, had this to say about the whole HK experience: "When I first heard about the Hello Kitty Conference to take place in Los Angeles I was ecstatic. Ever since I was a little girl, Hello Kitty has been my favorite character. I can recall my pencil case, stickers, toys and many things that I possessed had Hello Kitty on it. I now even have a room in my house dedicated just for my Hello Kitty Collection. On the day of the conference, I waited over an hour in order to get into the Conference. Needless to say there are more lines and waiting before one can get to anything else inside the exhibits and venues. I did not enjoy the conference itself due to the lack of programs, mainly my fault that I did not sign up for any workshops ahead of time, by the time I registered that same day, all the workshops are full. Waiting for two hours just to shop for the 40th Anniversary and Conference specific items was definitely not my cup of tea. Inside the exhibit one can find the Hello Kitty icon in every item available – figures printed by 3D Printer, Lego Hello Kitty, wall with Hello Kitty print, Hello Kitty in a plane, on a bike, bonsai Hello Kitty, a giant Hello Kitty purse. This will amuse even a mere Hello Kitty lover.

Despite the crowd inside the conference, I was able to find paradise as I escape to JANM (Japanese American National Museum). With the badge of the conference, one can visit the museum for free. A normal entry fee will cost \$20, but with the HK Con badge it is free. I was able to spend hours inside the museum for the "Hello! Exploring the Supercute

World of Hello Kitty", the exhibit has everything -- from regular household items (sewing machine, toaster, rice cooker, etc.) to many unusual items (bike, skateboard, surf board, etc.). At the end of the exhibit along the hallway, visitors can see a display representing 40 years of Hello Kitty Figures with a figure for each particular year. The two things that I am happy to leave with in my mind is the Giant Cleopatra Hello Kitty and the dress that is made up of hello kitty plush toys.



JANM Exhibit Cleopatra Hello Kitty. photo by Florante Ibanez

If you are a HK fan you can still catch the Japanese American National Museum exhibit until April 26, 2015. <http://www.janm.org/>

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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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.

Any current APALA Member or affiliate may make submissions to the APALA Newsletter. Please send your submissions electronically in one of the following formats: MS Word, 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.

Send book reviews to the Newsletter Editor, Gary Colmenar at colmenar@library.ucsb.edu. 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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### CALL FOR VOLUNTEER: BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

The APALA Newsletter is looking for a new Book Review Editor. The primary responsibility of the position is to write and solicit book reviews in accordance with the book review submission guidelines of the APALA newsletter. If interested please contact one of us. Thanks.

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