



apala

asian/pacific american librarians association

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear APALA colleagues:

I am delighted to update you on our organization.

Because we are a national organization, with members all across the country, much of our work is conducted virtually during the year, using a variety of meeting platforms and technologies. These can sometimes

present challenges, but our committees are resourceful and dedicated to the APALA vision, so I appreciate everyone's creativity, adaptability, and perseverance in accomplishing our work together.

In order to build in the communication flow, each Executive Board member serves as a liaison to several committees, and all committees are scheduled into the Executive Board meetings throughout the year so we can get direct input from committee co-chairs as well. Here are some committees that have reported at recent Executive Board meetings:

- Archives Task Force is considering a potential home for hosting APALA's archives, both physical and digital records. In preparation for developing an archives plan, the Task Force is designing an inventory survey;
- Literature Awards Criteria Review Committee revised the award guidelines to only consider books that are written or illustrated by APIA authors or illustrators, thereby creating a special forum for recognizing APIA talent;
- Mentoring Committee has reviewed and successfully matched four pairs of mentors with mentees;
- Scholarships & Awards Committee selected Alyssa Jocson Porter as the recipient of APALA's sponsorship of ALA's Emerging Leaders program. Congratulations to Alyssa and thank you to all who applied;

(Continued on page 2)

apala executive board
2015-2016

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Janet H. Clarke

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Immediate Past President

Eileen K. Bosch

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Anny Coats

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Members at Large (2014-2016)

Melissa Cardenas-Dow

Paolo Gujilde

Members at Large (2015-2017)

Ariana Hussain

Brian Leaf

Executive Director

Ven Basco

- Relatedly, APALA has, as in previous years, submitted an Emerging Leaders Project to ALA. Our application has been accepted and the project will focus on marketing and branding to promote a unified image for APALA;
- Local Arrangements Committee for Midwinter is working on meetings, socials, and tours. Please see page 10 for details; and
- The President's Program Committee will partner with International Relations Round Table (IRRT) and International Association of Library Associations (IFLA) to highlight the Orlando Vietnamese community that began as a refugee settlement in the 1970s and to provide a forum for exploring the current Syrian refugee crisis.

We have made some progress toward achieving our priorities this year. One of them--strengthening our partnerships with Ethnic Caucuses--was enhanced when our sister caucuses renewed commitment to reciprocal memberships for officers. This agreement facilitates structured sharing of information, initiatives, and best practices, and strengthens our collective voice within ALA on diversity issues. Another priority underway is a membership campaign to increase APALA's vitality and relevance to library professionals. To that end, I am happy to report that APALA has sponsored several regional socials in Southern and Northern California, New York, and Georgia. These regional gatherings are a great way to network with and recruit other library professionals into APALA, so I encourage you to consider sponsoring an event in your area soon. There is even a budget allocated to support these events this year. I'd also like to give a shout-out to the following APALA members who participated in recent professional meetings:

- Paolo Gujilde, Eugenia Beh, Jade Albuero, Regina Gong, "Defining Diversity in Libraries" at the Charleston Conference.
- Lana Adlawan, "Healing Through Hip Hop: Droppin' Beats in the Library" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Evan Coates, "You Can't Do That! Really? Highly Skilled Volunteers in Unusual Places" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Erica Cuyugan, "Reading Mentors: Reimagining Read Aloud Programs" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Lena Pham, "UCLA Career Forum Series: Choose Your Own Adventure--Discover Your Story in the Library" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Joanna Fabicon, "Getting Up to Code: Kids and Computer Programming" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Sari Feldman, Florante Ibanez, "Filipino American Library (FAL) in Transition" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Maria Kramer, "3 E's of Early Literacy" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Alice Kuo, organized the silent auction at the California Library Association Conference.
- Cynthia Orozco, "Rethinking for Academic Librarianship: Perspectives from New (and Newish) CSU Librarians" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Fumiko Osada, "Dare to DREAM: Library Programs & Outreach for Undocumented Residents" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Melvin Racelis, "Drop the Beat: Introduction to Digital DJing" at the California Library Association Conference.
- Sandy Wee, "Findit! In, Dewey Out" and "Managing Vendor Relationships in Technical Services -- Food for Thought" at the California Library Association Conference.

APALA's symposium to celebrate our 35th anniversary was such a success that the Executive Board agreed to plan another one to celebrate our 40th! That will be at the Annual Conference in Chicago in 2020.

I am very excited to announce that APALA has endorsed Patty Wong, past APALA president, for ALA Treasurer. She is a proven leader and strong advocate for diversity. We hope all APALA members will get out the vote during ALA elections in the Spring. We wish Patty a successful campaign!*

Starting Midwinter, we will be adding an additional working meeting for Executive Board and committees to facilitate APALA business during Midwinter and Annual conferences. As a way to better communicate with the membership, the Executive

Board has also begun publishing the minutes of the monthly meetings on the listserv. We hope this is a way for members to see the work that the Board and the committees do on behalf of our organization throughout the year, not just at the end of the year, and to encourage greater participation. APALA thrives because of its members! We look forward to seeing many of you at Midwinter.

Sincerely,
Janet H. Clarke
President

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Warm winter greetings!

On behalf of the Newsletter and Publications Committee we are pleased to offer you the latest issue, also the last issue for 2015. As the year comes to a close, let's take a moment to engage in self-reflection – a much needed pause from our busy lives to look back and review what APALA, and us individually, have accomplished this past year. I received the advice to do this periodically from one of my mentors years ago as I was beginning my professional career. It was good advice for librarians where public service and social responsibilities are fundamental aspects of the job. Indeed, these ideals are included in ALA's core values.

To begin this introspective process we could ask this question, "Have I accomplished the goals I set for myself this year?" We could follow this line of questioning with a more self-reflective tone that reminds us of the core values of librarianship: "Have I been able to incorporate the core values of librarianship in my work as a public servant?" The [set of questions](#) from the APALA symposium is an excellent place to start as well.

Keep these questions in mind as you leaf (and pause) through these pages and you'll be amazed at the collective work of APALA, as well as the accomplishments of its individual members. It begins with the President's message. Janet provided a detailed summary of the association's many accomplishments through its many committees and task forces. Topping the list is the first APALA symposium and 35th Anniversary celebration in San Francisco this summer. Indeed, the symposium was the largest event APALA has organized to date demonstrating the association's maturation. But Janet continued on to give big shout-outs to the activities of individual members demonstrating the heterogeneity and growth of its member's in their professional activities, and aspirations, but with a shared interests in serving the community and contributing to the library profession. I offer my personal big shout-out to the Executive Board for endorsing Patty Wong who is running for ALA Treasurer in 2016. Patty embodies APALA's principles and always strives for inclusivity and fairness. To learn more about Patty we invite you to follow the link in Member News of her 2013 interview with Melissa Cardenas-Dow.*

We are happy once again to include pieces from Ray Pun and Florante Ibanez, our regular contributors who shared with us their new adventures captured in words and pictures! Thank You!

As you may notice this issue contains a piece from one of the community organizations who participated at the symposium. Continuing the APALA symposium's theme of building bridges, I invited Alex Tom to share the work of the Chinese Progressive Association through its mentoring program, Seeding Change. Anticipate more of these kinds of content in upcoming issues. We are always happy to share announcements and updates from members and social events. Book reviews are back! Miriam has given us a few wonderful gift ideas for the holidays.

The [recent incident involving Valarie Kaur](#) reminds us that we are still living in a world that judges us by our differences, be it race, gender, socio-cultural background, class position, etc. These are times of uncertainty filled with failed social policies and broken promises. But I remain hopeful knowing that activists like Valarie still believe that real positive change can happen. As she reminded us who were in attendance that memorable afternoon in San Francisco, librarians are custodians of stories of resistance.

Lastly, we end the newsletter with pictures and comments from attendees of the first APALA symposium. They serve to remind us of the event's importance, to us and our association, as we remember the past, engage the present, and empower the future.

Wishing you all peace and happiness!
gary

WHAT IS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH?

By Florante Peter Ibanez

The City of Carson has long observed October as Filipino American History Month. In fact it boasts being the first city in the United States to formally recognize and declare Oct. 25 as Larry Itliong Day in honor of the labor leader's birthday. Last Oct. 3rd with the Filipino and American flags fluttering in the morning breeze besides the statue of Jose Rizal located at the Carson Community Center, Mayor Pro Tem Elito Santarina welcomed dignitaries and community leaders to start the month long celebrations. Among them were Philippines Vice Consul, Dyan Miranda-Pastrana, State Senator Isadore Hall III, and Carson Mayor Albert Robles. Award winning singer Christine Love and Manny Evaldez entertained before Roselyn Estepa Ibanez delivered her keynote talk. She is the past Board Chair for the Filipino American Library, and chairwoman for the City of Carson Community Engagement Board.



Roselyn Estepa Ibanez, co-author of "Filipinos in Carson and the South Bay" delivers City of Carson, CA keynote address for Celebration of October as Filipino American History Month (Photo credit, Florante Ibanez)

She began by recalling her own personal life immigrating as part of a Navy family, and the reasons why she was not encouraged to speak any Philippine dialect. She recalled how her father, a proud U.S. Navy man, had her stand up on a table at age 5 to recite the pledge of allegiance in the local Filipino barbershop to show off her English speaking skills (unburdened by any accent). In our immigrant parents' minds was the desire for their children to quickly assimilate into mainstream America, get an education and a good career, to have a better life.

Ibanez attributed the establishment of the designation of Filipino American History Month to the perseverance of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) found-

ed by Fred and Dorothy Cordova in Seattle who marked October for the month in 1987 when "Luzones Indios" landed in Moro Bay as crew members of a Manila Galleon. She also applauded the City of Carson for recognizing Larry Itliong Day, remembered as one of the Filipino labor leaders responsible for the 1965 Great Delano Grape Strike and later co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW).

She carefully outlined the waves of immigration from youthful pioneering plantation and cannery workers and student pensionados from the early 1900s, along with enterprising Manilamen who jumped ship from Spanish Galleons and established the first settlement in the Bayous of New Orleans as early as the 1700s. She talked about Filipino Veterans who had to petition to be able to join the U.S. Army at the outbreak of WWII and who eventually brought back War Brides and started families and communities in cities near military bases, like San Diego, Alameda, and Long Beach. After the 1965 change in Immigration policy, the floodgates opened, allowing 20,000 per year for skilled Philippine professional and workers which included nurses, engineers and other technicians as well as allowing for family reunification.

But there were challenges along the way. As Ibanez quoted Johnny Itliong, son of the labor hero, Larry Itliong, "My father came to this country when he was only 15 years old, because the U.S. was the land of opportunity. Once he came there were many hardships and injustices as to how they were treated. Just after one year in America, my dad was striking and picketing for better working conditions in the lettuce fields of Seattle. My father taught me how to be a good man, to be a good leader and to be a good father."

She also told the story of a 1970's more recent immigrant, her friend, Carolyn Ojeda-Kimbrough, recently retired Asian



Carson Library Filipino American History Month Oct. 3rd, 2015 Event. L - R Rose Ibanez, Florante Ibanez, Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Christian Lozada, Leticia Tan, Ron Buenaventura. (Photo credit, Florante Ibanez)

American Studies professor at Cal State Fullerton. Ojeda-Kimbrough recalled that upon arriving here, she didn't know anybody but her family. She also had the belief that Filipinos had only arrived after 1965. That is until she met a young Filipino American who did not speak Tagalog, whom she believed was just being "snooty", by not speaking Tagalog, but who instead educated her on our long history in America and she says it changed her life. "I was lucky I came in the 70s when many of the manongs were still alive. I met Philip Vera-cruz and many of the manongs of the UFW and learned their history with racism, discrimination, anti-miscegenation, their struggle for equality. I had the benefit of learning directly from their stories. The manongs are gone now but their stories have not been forgotten. I became a college professor and would teach the new generation of Filipino Americans about their history in this country."



Filipino American Books Display at Carson Library event Oct. 3rd (Photo credit, Florante Ibanez)

Attendees acknowledged that they all learned something new that day.

In addition the Library featured a lobby display case dedicated to the Filipino American experience which included, historical photos, books on Filipino Americans and DVDs, popular culture artifacts, such as sports trading cards for Vicki Manalo Draves (Olympic Gold Medalist), and Roman Gabriel (professional football quarterback), as well as an action figure of Star Trek's Marlena Moreau of the "Mirror – Mirror" original series episode played by Filipina actress, Barbara Luna, Rockyfellers vinyl recording, and a vintage Filipino Twirler Yo-Yo. The largely student and community audience was treated to a Filipino Mango cake to celebrate the month.



Celebrating at the Carson Library with Cake and Puto (L-R) Rose Ibanez & Lessa Pelayo-Lozada (Photo credit, Florante Ibanez)

In concluding, Ibanez challenged everyone to continue and learn from the stories that make up our collective Filipino American experience. "There are many untold stories to be said, there are many books to be written and to be read. There will be many histories to be made." Later that afternoon at the Carson Regional Public Library, patrons were treated to a program also celebrating Filipino American history month, jointly sponsored by the Filipino American Library, FANHS-LA Chapter, APALA, Friends of the Carson Library, and Inquirer.Net. The event featured book talks from the authors of "Filipinos in Carson and the South Bay" (Florante & Rose Ibanez) and "Hawaiians in Los Angeles" (Lessa Pelayo-Lozada & Christian Lozada) as well as film screenings of "Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers" and "American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawaii". Both films have previously been show on PBS.



Carson Regional Library Lobby Display for Filipino American History Month for October 2015 (Photo credit, Florante Ibanez)

Florante Peter Ibanez is Manager of Computer Services at Loyola Marymount Law School in Los Angeles, CA

INTERNET LIBRARIAN CONFERENCE 2015:

CONFERENCE REVIEW

By Raymond Pun

This past October, it was my first time attending the [Internet Librarian Conference](#) at Monterey Bay in California. For this article, I will share about my conference experience.

In this conference, there were all kinds presentations based on these five tracks:

- Info Service Biz: New Models and Roles
- Tech Tools
- Innovation and the Future
- Learning, Growing, Leading
- Engagement Strategies and Practices

These tracks had talks that were organized under similar themes so attendees would know which tracks would fit their professional interests. For example, Innovation and the Future track had talks that covered innovative trends in services and technologies that were applicable to libraries and research centers. These talks centered on that theme alone.

In general most talks focused on technical, web, mobile and digital services, systems and applications. There were plenty of interesting presentations covering user experience design, usability testing and “UX” in this conference. Some talks focused on project and idea management thinking where there are strategies to manage ones’ own creative projects and processes. Other presenters shared how to “maximize” and “design” library space such as using the “windows” as writing spaces. There were general discussions on managing vendor-relations, developing web analytics and assessment tracks too. The keynote speakers came from Pew Research Institute and Microsoft and they shared fascinating stories and research projects from their institutions.

For this conference, it was a great opportunity to be invited to give two presentations on gamification and learning. I was working closely with my co-presenter Stan Bogdanov, an instructional technologist/designer from Adelphi University. I met Stan at a METRO conference in January 2015 and he gave an interesting presentation on designing gaming apps for library instruction and information literacy. Back where I worked, I organized gaming events and programming for our students and created scavenger hunts utilizing information literacy frameworks. It made sense to collaborate with him on these presentations.

We only met once and then started meeting “virtually” to discuss our talking points and content and it worked out well. I was based in China at the time and he was flexible to meet with me online. We spent a few months planning for our sessions and communicating frequently to ensure that we were on the “same page.” We had a strong turnout and people asked about how to design research games, which could take the whole day to go through. We emphasized that not all assignments or activities should integrate gamification theories/principles but should be considered when appropriate.

Overall, anyone interested in digital services, system and collections, management, user experience and technological innovation may find this conference to be very interesting and useful. There were plenty of public, school, academic and special librarians attending the conference which was a nice mix and it was definitely smaller than ALA conferences. Also, Monterey Bay is actually a very nice and quiet seaside town with interesting local sites including the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which is a must-see!

Raymond Pun is the First Year Student Success Librarian at California State University, Fresno.

APALA AT THE CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Words and pictures by Florante Peter Ibanez

November 5-8, 2015



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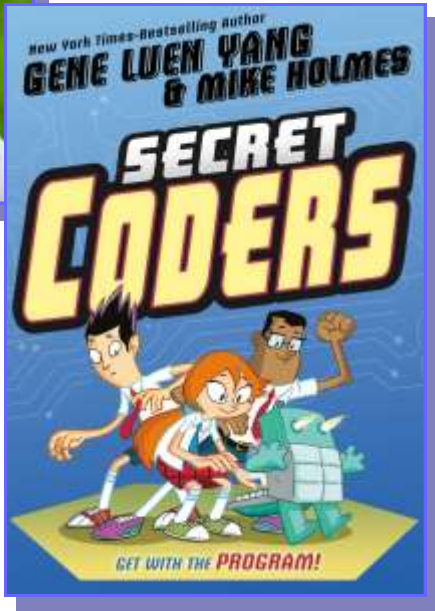
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1. APALA Supporters and friends attending Patty Wong's ALA Treasurer Campaign Event during CLA in Pasadena at Redwhite + Bluezz Lounge.
2. APALA members meet up at CLA (L-R) Sandy Wee, Melissa Cardenas-Dow, and Patty Wong.
3. APALA members gather at the CLA Poster Session on the "Filipino American Library in Transition". Moving towards community collaboration with USC, presented by Florante Peter Ibanez.
4. APALA members supporting Patty Wong for ALA Treasurer (L-R) Lana Adlawan, Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Florante Peter Ibanez, and Sandy Wee.
5. APALA members Joanna Fabicon (3rd Left) and Erica Cuyugan (front right) rock on during CLA Battledecks & Librarians Got Talent After Party!

DEMYSTIFYING THE MYSTERY OF COMPUTER CODING

By Jerry Dear

What do you get when you mix art, computer science, and comics? **Secret Coders!** From the imaginative mind of cartoonist and graphic novelist **Gene Luen Yang** comes his latest graphic novel that transports readers both young and old to the binary world of computer programming. *Wired Magazine* describes Yang's latest work as similar to Harry Potter but with computers instead of magic wands. The first chapter in a six-part series, *Secret Coders* takes readers on a mystery adventure where three kids must use their computer programming skills to solve a mystery at Stately Academy.



Yang presented an engaging and educational talk at the Main Branch of the San Francisco Public Library on a busy Saturday afternoon (November 14, 2015) where, incidentally, a Teen Hackathon was also taking place on that very same weekend. His talk garnered over 60 attendees that included children, teachers, parents, college students, and of course, graphic novel enthusiasts.

As a computer science teacher, Yang revealed the origins of his fascination with computer coding, reminiscing how he spent his childhood summers watching episodes of *Voltron*. One day, however, his mom decided to sign him up for summer school, and it was there that he entered the world of computer programming. He then discussed the basis for the characters in his book, highlighting how they were inspired in part by real computer scientists and innovators, some of whom were pioneering women such as influential coder Grace Hopper. While narrating the setup for *Secret Coders*, he asked for volunteers to solve a binary logic problem at which point several kids raced to the front of the room, eager to demonstrate their puzzle-solving skills.

Once again, Gene Yang demonstrates the alluring storytelling power of graphic novels and their ability to intrigue, captivate, and educate. The talk concluded with a lively Q&A discussion followed by a book signing. Learn more about Yang's work at www.geneluenyang.com.



Gene Yang speaking in front of audience at SFPL (Photo credit Jerry Dear)

Jerry Dear is an Information Strategist working at the San Francisco Public Library. He also teaches in the Library Information Technology program at City College of San Francisco.

FUNDRAISING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The last 6 months, the committee met and discussed several ideas to ensure the long-term financial health of APALA. The committee came up with the following ideas to consider this term.

1. Investment Option

Dora mentioned that we have about \$10,000 which we can invest both short and long-term. She will look into TIAA-CREF

2. Corporate / Vendor Sponsorship

Dora Ho, Heawon Paick, and Linda Absher will look into securing partnerships with business and related organizations for long-term sponsorships. The committee will consult with Ven Basco and Gary Colmenar to identify sponsorship candidates including those who have supported previous APALA events.

3. In-house Fundraising

During Midwinter, either on Friday after the Board Meeting and/or at the Saturday dinner. Heawon will bring Limited Edition Hello Kitty soy sauce bottle(s) to raffle off.

Send out Amazon Smile information via ListServ and on website, social media outlets.

4. Speaking to Other Ethnic Caucuses / Organizations

Shoko will reach out to other Ethnic Caucuses, CALA, BCALA, about their investment strategies and successes.

(Announcement section. Perhaps make this blurb stand out with shading or enclosing in a box)

Happy Holidays! If your holiday online shopping includes Amazon - please remember to register with Amazon Smile and select APALA as your preferred charity. When you shop, APALA will receive 0.5% of your total! Every little bit counts this season! Thank you for supporting APALA!

LITERATURE AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Literature Award Task Force updated the criteria and guidelines for the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature. Starting with the 2015-2017 award period, the new criteria states that the awards honor only authors of Asian American/Pacific Islander ancestry writing about Asian American/Pacific Islander themes. Additionally, an award category will be added to honor a distinguished writer of Asian American/Pacific Islander heritage writing on any theme or topic to be given out every few years

According to Jerry Dear, Task Force Chair, "We are changing APALA's Literature Award guidelines to better represent the breadth and diversity of works written by Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs). In updating these guidelines, we seek to challenge and empower APIAs to share their stories, histories, and experiences from their unique perspectives and in their own voices."

MENTORING COMMITTEE

Wrote APALA 2015-2016 Mentoring Pilot Program with timelines (Nov. 2, 2015-June 30, 2016)

Welcomed new Mentoring committee members:

Jennifer Garrett
Michelle Baildon
Maria Carpenter
Smita Joshipura
Sheeji Kathuria

Created a call for Mentors and Protégés
Decided we did not need a budget request this year
Worked with the Executive Board and Web Committee to advertise program and call for Mentors and Protégés

Created Mentors/Protégés match list—4 mentors/4 protégés
Notified mentors and mentees of their match

Goals:

Check in with protégés and mentors at least four times during the year.

Send out questionnaire to protégés and mentors regarding the program for feedback

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Scholarships and Awards Committee is proud to announce Alyssa Jocson Porter as the 2016 Emerging Leader for the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. APALA will provide funding to support her attendance and participation in the Emerging Leaders program at the 2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference. The Emerging Leaders program is a leadership development program which enables newer library professionals to participate in work groups, network, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity.



Alyssa's commitment to social justice and focus on diversity guides her service and volunteer work. She gained leadership and teaching experience after serving two terms in AmeriCorps, where she worked directly with English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education students. She also researched and created a genealogy resource guide for Asian Pacific Americans at the Wing Luke Museum for the Asian American Experience. In addition, Alyssa was active in the student group iEracism (currently known as iEquality) while she was in library school. The group was committed to dedicated to diversity and promoting a safe place for discussion and action. She took on a leadership role in the group and helped to promote a non-hierarchical approach to group work and collaboration.

Alyssa is a current member of APALA and is the co-chair of the Web-Content Sub-Committee and member of the Newsletter Committee. She is a librarian at Seattle Central College and Green River College. She holds an MLIS from the University of Washington and a BA from Seattle University with a double major in English/Creative Writing and Spanish. The Scholarships and Awards Committee and the APALA community are looking forward to learning from Alyssa's Emerging Leaders' project and hearing about her experience. Congratulations Alyssa!

Social Events & Member News

2016 MIDWINTER APALA ACTIVITIES

Friday, January 8, 2016

Trip to Boston's Chinatown

Contact person: Eugenia Beh 512-698-2452

\$10 Member, \$15 Non-Member, early bird by Jan. 4th

10-11am Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC)
38 Ash St, Boston, MA 02111

<http://www.bcnc.net/>

Talk by Giles Li and Tunney Lee, Chinatown and gentrification

11-11:30am Walk to China Trade Center

11:30-12:30am Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE), 2 Boylston St G-2, Boston, MA 02116

<http://www.chsne.org/>

Susan Chinsen, preserving the history of Chinese immigrants

12:30-2pm Dim sum at Hei La Moon

88 Beach St., Boston, MA 02111

<http://www.heilamoon.com/>

7:30-9:00pm APALA Executive Board Meeting, Hyatt Dedham

9:30-11:00pm APALA Informal Social Networking,
Julie Todaro's Suite

Saturday, January 9, 2016

1:00-2:30pm APALA Committee and Task Force Meetings,
BCEC Room 160C

6:00-9:00pm Dinner at Koy Restaurant,
16 North St, Boston, MA 02109, please rsvp by Jan. 4th

For more information and for registration go to

<http://www.apalaweb.org/calendar/2016-ala-midwinter/>

MEMBER NEWS

Alyssa Jocson Porter, Participating in ALA Emerging Leaders 2016. While looking at lists of past ALA Emerging Leader participants, I recognized the names of several APALA members whom I admire as leaders. Being named APALA's Web Content Editor this past summer further motivated me to apply to the program myself, and I am grateful for the APALA sponsorship to participate in EL. I look forward to strengthening my project management and leadership skills, becoming more familiar with committee work, and collaborating with other 2016 Emerging Leaders, especially on the "Who is APALA? Strategically Communicating Our Organizational Identity and Value" project.

Raymond Pun is the new First Year Student Success Librarian at California State University, Fresno. He is charged to coordinate and build the first year information literacy program. In addition, he provides student engagement and outreach services to freshmen and departments, such as student affairs that support this group. He started this new position in August 2015. Previously he was a Reference and Research Services Librarian in NYU Shanghai in China.

Sine Hwang Jensen, Ethnic Studies Library, U.C. Berkeley. Sine supports the Asian American and Comparative Ethnic Studies programs of the UC Berkeley Ethnic Studies Department through curating the circulating and non-circulating collections in these fields at the Ethnic Studies Library. I work with individuals and organizations from the Asian American and broader community to promote donations of archival and special materials and increase the visibility and effectiveness of the collections through exhibits and outreach. I provide reference and research assistance through course-integrated instruction and workshops and the creation of instructional materials. I also coordinate digital user services throughout the Library.

**Patty Wong*, lifetime APALA member and former president, is a candidate for Treasurer for the American Library Association this year. With a strong endorsement from the APALA Executive Board, we feel that Patty would be a good leader to represent librarians on issues facing our profession in these times. Read the [2013 interview](#) by Melissa Cardenas-Dow.

Since APALA Executive Board's endorsement, on December 15, 2015, ALA has issued a press release announcing Patty's [withdrawal](#) as a 2016 candidate for ALA Treasurer. Similarly, the announcement of Patty's withdrawal from the ALA Treasurer election has been distributed through APALA's email list. Please follow the links above for more information. We wish Patty the best!

APALA SOCIAL EVENTS

San Francisco APALA members welcomed APALA President Janet Clarke to town on Sat. Nov. 7, 2015, over dinner at the Golden Era Vegan Restaurant. Janet came out to the West Coast to visit her mom and sister in Marin County.



Members Jerry Dear, Brian Huynh, Janet Tom (all from San Francisco Public Library); Sherise Kimura (University of San Francisco); Angela Boyd (UC Santa Barbara) and Ray Wang (librarian-cum-Uber driver, soon to relocate to New York) shared delicious vegan spring rolls, curry wraps, spinach tofu soup, spicy sautéed green beans, crispy sea patty (fish shape made out of pressed tofu), Mama's clay pot and brown rice.

For dessert, they decided on several delectable choices: caramel flan, mango sticky rice, blueberry cheesecake, mocha cake.



As with most APALA gatherings, discussion ran the gamut from Asian American Studies to talking shop to relating and



reliving travel tales and journeys. We only stopped talking when we realized the restaurant had put up all the chairs except ours. Another wonderful evening of camaraderie and sharing stories!



APALA SYMPOSIUM AND 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A few comments about the Keynote Speaker: Valarie Kaur

SEEDING CHANGE

By Alex Tom

Seeding Change's National Fellowship Program for Asian American Organizing and Civic Engagement is looking for aspiring applicants for the 2016 program.

Historically Asian Americans have played a critical role in the racial justice movement; now more than ever this is needed as Asian Americans are often pitted against other communities of color by the right wing conservatives in issues of affirmative action, immigration and criminalization. How do we prepare the next generation of Asian American activists and organizers for the 21st century? Also, how do Asian Americans build a movement that is inclusive of all our experiences and be solidarity with other communities?

The National Fellowship Program for Asian American Organizing and Civic Engagement develops the leadership of a new generation of activists and organizers who are deeply invested in building the power of and improving the lives of working-class Asian immigrant communities. Running from June to August, the fellowship program provides 10 weeks of intensive training, ground work, and reflection.

Beginning with a week-long training and orientation, fellows come together to orient themselves to the theory behind the community work as well as build community with each other. The bulk of the fellowship is on the ground work with host organizations. Placed at grassroots organizations across the country, fellows will develop an understanding of organizing work in a local context, develop and strengthen their organizing skills, and connect theory with practice.

At the same time, fellows have the opportunity to develop personally and politically. They will learn through political education presentations and cross-site sharing with weekly reflection webinars. In addition to the national reflection calls, fellows will have the opportunity to have weekly regional community political discussions with community organizers and activists. Lastly, they will also engage in grassroots fundraising, outreach, and participate in skill building trainings.

In 2015, the National Fellowship Program for Asian American Organizing and Civic Engagement brought 26 fellows placed in 12 organizations in 6 states. Online application:
<http://www.seeding-change.org/programs/fellowship/>

“As a senior politics major with APA studies minor, I have often been asked what I plan to do with my degree. I lived in D.C. last year – not for me. I’ve also ruled out teaching, developing policy, practicing law. But I have a deep passion for diplomacy and international relations, especially interfaith peacebuilding. I was born in Saudi Arabia on 9/11/94 and lived in Amman, Jordan at the time of the attacks in 2001. My experience has been very different + I’m still searching for my path. But today you sparked a sense of direction in me. Thank you.”

“This symposium is already providing me the hope and courage that I need after Charleston, S.C. and dealing with the stress and challenges at my position [where I work], and it’s only the keynote address! Valarie Kaur thanked us as librarians for helping her – and other activists. She called us “unsung heroes”. I love the mantra ‘First we pray, then we organize.’ Thank you APALA – you did not disappoint!”

“Valarie’s presentation was inspiring + of immediate relevance to my (our) life and work. It left me feeling such gratitude for the ability to serve the public with dignity each day – reminded me how I can draw strength from the deep tradition of public service that I am part of in the library. Thank you for bringing her here today!”

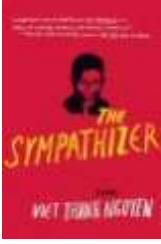
Thank you for a successful APALA Symposium and 35th Anniversary Celebration!



Building Bridges: Connecting Communities Through Librarianship & Advocacy



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The Sympathizer
by Viet Thanh Nguyen
Publication Date: April 7, 2015
Publisher: Grove

"I am a spy, a sleeper, a spook, a man of two faces. Perhaps, not surprisingly, I am also a man of two minds," confesses Captain, the incognito narrator in this compelling debut novel which opens with Saigon's imminent capture in April 1975. The Communist mole, serving as a special aide to a high-ranking South Vietnamese general, secretly chronicles the movements of his fellow countrymen as they narrowly escape the falling republic, then attempt to rebuild their lives in the United States.

On assignment in Southern California, the undercover Captain maintains a love-hate relationship with the United States. Fourteen years of war have transformed Vietnam into an American franchise managed by corrupt leaders, while Saigon's streets become populated by a demimonde. Meanwhile, America, the "land of supermarkets and superhighways, of supersonic jets and Superman, of supercarriers and the Super Bowl," has utterly failed his compatriots. In exile, they're an inconsolable, hapless and homesick fraternity of vanquished soldiers reduced to working as busboys, janitors, gardeners and welfare beneficiaries, plotting to take back their country.

As a primary character, Captain is complicatedly complex. The Communist double agent skillfully navigates the world of the exiles, expressing a genuine camaraderie with his peers, but beneath this warm exterior, he is calculating actor, capable of murder. This man of contradictions is, all at once, a misfit, antihero and revolutionary.

A masterly espionage novel and seminal work of contemporary American fiction, Nguyen's *The Sympathizer* gives voice to the Vietnamese experience and offers profound insights into the legacy of war.

- Miriam Tuliao, Assistant Director, BookOps



Flood of Fire
by Amitav Ghosh
Publication Date: August 4, 2015
Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux

"A new age is dawning, you know--the age of Free Trade--and it's men like you and I, self-made Free-Traders, who will be its heroes. If there's been an exciting time for a venturesome white youth to seek his destiny in the East, then this is it."

Acclaimed writer Ghosh completes his magnum opus *Ibis Trilogy* with this sprawling saga which depicts key historical events leading up to the first Opium War (1839 -1842) including China's attempts to block British India's import of the drug to the British expeditionary forces' military attack of South China's ports.

Ghosh skillfully illustrates the physical territories of Calcutta and Singapore, the meandering tributaries of the Ganga and Pearl Rivers and various strategic maneuvers on the battlefields and in bedroom boudoirs. His protagonists are fully-developed and wide-ranging from the proud, sympathetic Kesri Singh (a 35-year-old veteran sepoy of the East India Company), the renowned British merchant Benjamin Burnham and his wife, Catherine Burnham, to Zachary Reid (the amorous and ambitious 21-year-old sailor craftsman) and the brave widow Shireen Modi (who boldly leaves India for Canton to recover her husband's lost funds).

Ghosh's intricately plotted novel sheds light on the impact of opium--the substance that poured into the market "like a monsoon flood" and had a "magical power to turn human frailty into gold." This masterwork is a solemn meditation on colonial history, power, duty and sacrifice.

- Miriam Tuliao, Assistant Director, BookOps

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Submission for book reviews should be sent to Newsletter Editor, Gary Colmenar at colmenar@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 when appropriate.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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