



apala

asian/pacific american librarians association

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



[apala executive board
2015-2016]

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Greetings, APALA colleagues!

I'm very excited about the various 2016 Annual Conference programming. On Friday, we will have an opportunity to tour the Orange County Regional History Center in downtown Orlando. On Saturday, June 25, 2016, the President's Program will feature "From Vietnam to Syria: Refugees, Their Stories, and Needs," a program highlighting Orlando's largest Asian population as well as the role libraries serve in meeting the needs of today's refugees from Syria, Iraq, Libya, and other countries. This timely program is co-sponsored by the International Relations Round Table (IRRT) and the National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA).

Then, we look forward to an evening of celebration at the Literature Awards Ceremony and Banquet on Saturday night, where many of our award winners will join us. This is a unique opportunity to recognize the best literature of APIA experiences by APIA writers and illustrators. On Sunday, APALA is sponsoring a "Now Showing @ ALA" film, Chinese Couplets, by Felicia Lowe. Many thanks to the President's Program Committee, Local Events Task Force, Literature Awards Committee, Finance & Fundraising Committee and others who worked with enthusiasm and dedication to bring all these events together. The teamwork and shared vision is truly inspiring!

(Continued on page 2)

We also conduct several business meetings at Annual Conference. The Executive Board meets on Friday, June 24, 2016, 7:30-9:00 PM. Also, on Sunday, June 26, 2016, we will have an All-Committees Orientation of new officers and committee leadership to jump start our administrative transitions.

We worked on several priorities this year.

We continue to strengthen our mutual commitment to diversity, social justice and professional leadership with our sister ethnic caucuses and other strategic partnerships, such as in our Annual programming, above, and in the upcoming Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC) planning for its next national conference. We activated our reciprocal memberships for officers to solidify our information sharing among the caucuses.

We embarked on a strategic planning process to update our organization's vision, mission and goals, with valuable input from the membership via several town hall meetings and online surveys. This process was designed to be informative and inclusive. We learned that our previous vision and mission were basically still very relevant to us. So it was a powerful reminder of the commitment and belief of our members in APALA and its role in advancing librarianship through diversity, inclusiveness and professional participation. We updated our strategic plan, with some new goals to help us focus our efforts for the next 5 years. I am especially indebted to the task force members Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Frans Albarillo and Ven Basco for their analytical skills, determination, and teamwork this year.

With Sandy Wee and Ken Yamashita's leadership, we launched a targeted membership campaign, reaching out to Spectrum Scholars, Emerging Leaders, APIA librarian leaders, and setting a structure for institutional memberships to grow our funding base. Regional meet-ups and events were encouraged to also facilitate networking opportunities.

We made significant progress toward streamlining our publicity and communications workflows among the various committees and task forces by merging two of the three key committees: Publicity and Newsletter & Publications committees. The Web Committee was renamed Tech Infrastructure, to better reflect its function as a technical support group, rather than content supplier. We will tweak this new structure during this next year, and if it makes sense, we will incorporate it formally. Many thanks to our Communications Coordinator and chair of Newsletter & Publications, Melissa Cardenas-Dow, Vice President, Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, and the leadership of the Web and Publicity committees for their enthusiastic and critical thinking throughout the year, Brian Leaf, Ximin Li, Yen Tran, and Johana Orellana.

We also accomplished several things to streamline and improve our organizational structure. These are:

- We incorporated committee working meetings at Midwinter and Annual Conferences to take advantage of in-person communications.
- Improved attendance at monthly online Executive Board (EB) meetings and clarified responsibilities/roles of EB members. For example, we asked Members-at-Large to lead a Presidential Initiative so each has a tangible role on EB.
- Updated and reorganized the wiki workspace.
- Established a shared master calendar.
- Published EB meeting minutes to the membership.
- Created an online ticket system for publicity requests and website updates.

All of these initiatives point to our efforts to improve communication and transparency, and to facilitate succession planning. I am grateful to the Executive Board for its commitment to strengthening APALA's administrative structure.

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Kudos to APALA's Emerging Leader project team (Katherine Donaldson, Annah Hackett, Alyssa Jocson Porter, and Meredith Wickham) which worked very successfully on the APALA branding and marketing project. The team conducted a survey of APALA and non-APALA members of the profession to gather data and helped us to create a roadmap for next steps. Please look for their poster at the Friday Emerging Leader Poster Session at Annual.

Our colleagues participated in professional conferences and meetings around the country, some presenting together as a result of their APALA connections. This is a great example of APALA's role in professional development and networking in action.

All of our work together this year reaffirms my belief in our organization's vision of diversity, leadership and camaraderie. APALA is small but mighty because we have a sharp focus on what our members value. Thank you all for allowing me to serve APALA this year. I look forward to working with incoming President, Lessa Pelayo-Lozada and the Executive Board. Congratulations to the new officers!

Sincerely,
Janet Hyunju Clarke
President, 2015-2016

APALA Newsletter

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WHAT'S YOUR NORMAL?

FIVE GENERATIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS

WEB CONTENT RE-ISSUE

By Molly Higgins

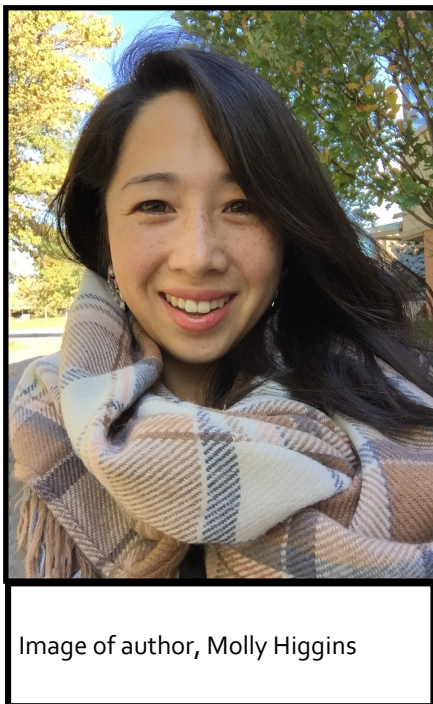


Image of author, Molly Higgins

This piece is a re-issue of an exclusive web article published on the APALA website on February 1, 2016. It is available at <http://www.apalaweb.org/five-generations-of-asian-americans-by-molly-higgins/>

Have you ever read a book called *Jin Guo*? Probably not. It's a history of the earliest Chinese Canadian women. On page 100 is a photo of a first generation Chinese Canadian woman, Haw Chow See, holding her

Canadian-born daughter Avis. Avis is my great-grandmother. The photo is dated 1897 and it's one of the earliest records I have of my mother's family in the Americas. Since that photo, three more generations of my family have lived in Canada and the United States. That makes me a fifth generation Chinese American.

In some ways, I'm connected to Chinese American/Asian American culture because my parents actively chose to preserve those cultural connections-- I grew up on the border of Boston's Chinatown; went to a bilingual English/Cantonese elementary school; and attended Chinese School every Saturday, where I ate Cup Noodles and learned traditional Chinese dance. In other ways, my version of Asian America is different than many of my first and second generation friends-- my parents both grew up speaking English (so did their parents, for the most part); I never felt any serious pressure to conform to Asian whiz kid standards (I had to ask my parents to let me take piano lessons); and no one ever made fun of the school lunches my mom packed for me (perfectly American turkey sandwiches, accompanied by apples and bags of chips).

There's been a lot of talk lately about whiteness and librarianship (Hathcock, 2015, Vinopal, 2016, Bourg, 2016). To recap, librarianship is very, very white. 88% of credentialed

librarians are white, compared with 63.7% of the general US population. For Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, we represent 2.7% of credentialed librarians and 4.8% of the general US population (ALA, 2012, US Census Bureau, 2014). Retention of librarians from underrepresented populations is low. And to succeed as a librarian of color, librarians of color do better when they act like their white colleagues.

How does this relate to my story? In one-on-one interactions, I generally feel racialized as an Asian American— people asking where I'm from (where I'm really, really from); romantic partners who have asked me to straighten my hair to look more exotic; a patron who told me that he preferred to “wait for the real librarian.” I also embody several types of privilege-- I'm the college educated daughter of college educated parents; I speak with a “neutral” American accent; I have a name that lets me pass for white on paper. I recognize these privileges.

Still, I'm unsettled by this idea of “performing” or “playing” at whiteness. I don't believe that I am un-Asian American, or inauthentic because I embody privilege. I am a privileged, fifth generation, mixed race Asian American. I prefer the term “code switching.” Code switching refers to the different dialects (and their related behavior and body language) that multi-cultural and multi-lingual individuals move between depending on who they're interacting with (Demby, 2013). The ability to code switch is still a privilege, but I prefer this concept because it deemphasizes the idea of authenticity, in favor of emphasizing identity as fluid and context dependent. The persona I project at work is no less authentic than the persona I display with my family or with my heavily Asian-American church. Nor is any one persona a complete version of myself.

Sometimes code switching is a matter of choice, like my “professional no-jargon voice” that I use when talking to students, faculty, and the public. And sometimes code switching is a pure necessity. When I'm at a restaurant surrounded by fluent Chinese speakers of any dialect, I let other people do the ordering. But, if you were at the APALA lunch at ALA Midwinter this year, you heard me flip between English and heavily accented Mandarin and Cantonese trying to order vegetables off the menu because they don't come around on the carts.

Resources:

American Library Association. “Diversity Counts 2012 Tables.” *ALA: Diversity Counts Website*. 2012. <http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/diversity/diversitycounts/diversitycountstables2012.pdf>

Bourg, Chris. “whiteness, social justice and the future of li-

braries." *Feral Librarian*, January 9, 2016. <https://chrisbourg.wordpress.com/2016/01/09/whiteness-social-justice-and-the-future-of-libraries/>.

Chinese Canadian National Council. *Jin Guo: Voices of Chinese Canadian Women*. Toronto: Women's Press, 1992.

Demby, Gene. "How Code-Switching Explains the World." *NPR code switch*. April 8, 2013. <http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/04/08/176064688/how-code-switching-explains-the-world>

Hathcock, April. "White Librarianship in Blackface: Diversity Initiatives in LIS." *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*, October 7, 2015. <http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2015/lis-diversity/>.

US Census Bureau. "Population Estimates, 2010."

Vinopal, Jennifer. "The Quest for Diversity in Library Staffing: From Awareness to Action." *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*, January 13, 2016. <http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2016/quest-for-diversity/>

DOMINGUEZ RANCHO ADOBE MUSEUM HOSTS "LOCALS TALK STORY" FEATURING APALA AUTHORS

By Florante Peter Ibañez

Last July 25, 2015 Books from the ARCADIA Publishing's "Images of America" series were featured as part of the Dominguez Museum's ongoing Speakers Series. APALA authors Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada and Florante Peter



Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada and Christian Lozada speaking in front of the audience

Ibañez presented together with their respective co-authors/spouses Christian Lozada and Roselyn Ibañez.

Their books *Hawaiians in Los Angeles* and *Filipinos in Carson and the South Bay* were brought to life visually with presentation slides, engaging the full audience from local families and community.

Hawaiians in Los Angeles covered the immigration and push-pull forces in Hawaii, highlighting job limitations primarily focused around the military, tourism and lure of relatives already settled in Los Angeles. Many got employment in the booming aerospace industry of the 1950s-60s of the South Bay and raised families that held on to their culture and traditions. This was especially true with the tradition of Hula, with many Halau or schools led by various Kumu (teachers). They expressed the open "Aloha" friendly attitude shared by both those of Hawaiian blood and those who were Hawaiian at heart. At the same time, there is community in festivals and civic clubs, such as the annual Ho'olaule'a, held at Alondra Park, organized by the Hawaiian Inter-Club Council of So. California (HICCS).

Filipinos in Carson and the South Bay recognized the settlement of Filipinos in the Los Angeles Harbor area, long before Carson became an incorporated city in 1968. Early farmers and military families came as early as the 1910s, some estab-



Presenters, l-r, Christian Lozada, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, Rose Ibanez, Florante Peter Ibañez.

lishing small businesses in the San Pedro area. The presenters showed photos of local heroes like Bobby Balcena, the first Filipino American to play on a major league baseball team, as well a local Filipino American politicians in Carson and activities like the annual Festival of Philippine Arts & Culture (FPAC). An interesting statistic gathered from a Carson Kumu Hula, Sissy Kaio, was that her Halau was 75% com-

(Continued on page 6)

prised of Filipino Americans. So much is shared among Hawaiians and Filipinos.

At the close of the local talk story presentation, during the Q&A session, attendees expressed their gratitude for learning so much from the event and requested more such informational events in the future. Besides current APALA Vice President Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada and past president Florante Peter Ibañez as presenters, former APALA Executive Director Gary Colmenar traveled from UCSB to attend.

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

APALA AUTHOR INTERVIEW: CELESTE NG

WEB CONTENT RE-ISSUE

By Molly Higgins



Celeste Ng

This piece is a re-issue of an exclusive web article published on the APALA website on October 2, 2015. It is available at <http://www.apalaweb.org/apala-author-interview-celeste-ng/>

Celeste Ng is the author of *Everything I Never Told You*, which won the

2014-2015 APALA Literature Award for Adult Literature.

Molly Higgins: Please introduce yourself and briefly describe your literary work and career path to date.

Celeste Ng: I grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Shaker Heights, Ohio (a suburb of Cleveland), and was always writing stories and poems and plays as a kid. I went to Harvard thinking I'd go into publishing, with writing as a side hobby, but I tried editorial work after graduating, and it wasn't for me. Fortunately, a mentor pointed me towards writing programs, and I ended up attending the MFA program at the University of Michigan (now called the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan). After I graduated in 2006, I published some short stories while working on my novel, and eventually published my debut novel, *Everything I Never Told You*, in June 2014.

MH: As a mixed-race Asian American, I felt myself drawn to the mixed-race and Asian American themes in your book. Did you intend for this book to be viewed through the lens

of "Asian American literature"? What does the term "Asian American literature" mean to you?

CN: I have a somewhat complicated relationship with the idea of "Asian American literature." I did want to write about some aspects of what it might be like to be Asian American and mixed-race—those are issues that are very close to my heart and that need to be talked about more. But at the same time, I never wanted the book to be viewed as purely an Asian American story. So I've been so glad that an "Asian American" novel is getting read so widely, and I'm also glad that many readers are connecting not only with the questions of cultural identity but also with the family relationships depicted in the book. Part of the problem has to do with how we define the term "Asian American literature." Is it literature about Asian American themes? Is it literature by Asian Americans, regardless of theme? You see the problem — under this kind of classification, as others have pointed out, *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson (a non-Asian American) would be considered Asian literature, while *Southern Cross the Dog* by Bill Cheng (an Asian American) would not. I don't have a good answer for this — but it's something we have to think more carefully and explicitly about.

MH: Your book has received an amazing response since its publication — glowing reviews, multiple awards and nominations, and translations into 16+ languages including Dutch and Chinese. Does your perception of your story and/or its characters change when you see people respond to your book?

CN: I've been thrilled at the response from readers — of any ethnic background — who've told me the book made them rethink their relationships with their own parents or children, but I am especially touched by the readers who are Asian American or mixed-race who've written to tell me that they felt "seen" by this book, that they'd never read a book that mirrored their experience. I'd never thought of the Lees as representatives of anything, but I'm glad if they are allowing people to see themselves on the page for the first time.

MH: How do you think your personal identity influences your writing and/or the diversity of your readership?

CN: I'm a first-generation Asian American, in a mixed-race marriage, and the mother of a mixed-race child. So some of the major themes in my novel definitely have their roots in real life. It's becoming more important to me to touch on these issues in my writing, as we become more and more aware of the lack of diversity in publishing.

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MH: We're always looking for more to read. Who are five authors we should be reading? Why?

CN: Only five?! Okay:

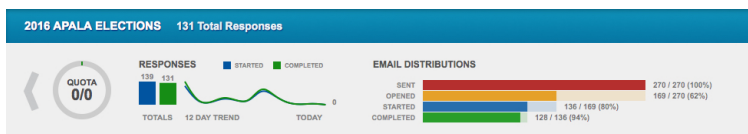
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, one of the smartest and funniest writers on race and feminism working today. I recommend *Americanah* and her TEDx Talk "We Should All Be Feminists" as starting points.
- Roxane Gay, a powerhouse of the literary world, with smart and provocative things to say on race, culture, gender, and feminism. If you don't know her work, get on it.
- Mia Alvar, whose debut collection *In The Country*, is one of the best I've read in years — actually, ever.
- Mira Jacob, whose debut novel *The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing* is a moving, bittersweet, warm portrait of family life.
- Anthony Marra's *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* took my breath away. How can a book be so heartbreaking and yet so uplifting and genuinely funny? I don't know, but I'm looking forward to his forthcoming book, the collection *The Tsar of Love and Techno*.

MH: You're being interviewed by a librarian, for an audience of progressive Asian American librarians. What are your thoughts on libraries, and their place in building diverse communities?

CN: I often write in the Cambridge Public Library, and the more time I spend there, the more I realize how invaluable libraries are in building communities. Libraries are gateways to knowledge of all kinds — everything from books and internet access to events, workshops, and story hour — and librarians are the most patient guides. At the CPL, I've heard librarians help people with their tax forms, track down books they need and find community resources. There's no other place like a public library. It's open to all, and whatever you need, someone there can help you find it. And because it's accessible to anyone — regardless of economic status or age — libraries can reach across a population to reach diverse groups and create a community. I'm a huge, huge fan of libraries, if you can't tell already.

APALA News: 2016 Election Results

You voted and the results are in!



Congratulations to our incoming Executive Board members who will be serving under the leadership of incoming President Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada. All terms will begin after the 2016 ALA Annual Conference.

Vice-President/President-Elect: Dora Ho

Treasurer: Peter Spyers-Duran

Member-at-Large (2016-2018): Alyssa Jocson Porter

Member-at-Large (2016-2018): Ray Pun

Continuing Terms:

President: Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada

Secretary: Anna Coats

Member-at-Large (2015-2017): Ariana Hussain

Member-at-Large (2015-2017): Brian Leaf

Immediate Past-President: Janet Clarke

Executive Director: Ven Basco

We are pleased to report that APALA elections 2016 had high percentage of voter turnout compared to ALA and other national library association elections!

Kudos to all of you!

APALA @ ALA Annual 2016 Orlando, Florida

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016 TO SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

Guided Tour of the Orange County Regional History Center

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy a private guided tour of the Orange County Regional History Center. The 1 to 1½ hour-long tour will be followed by a casual group lunch (on your own) at nearby Pho Vinh restaurant. Bus/Shuttle Pick-Up will be at the Convention Center (Westwood Lobby Entrance). Please arrive no later than 9:45 a.m. Bus/Shuttle will leave promptly at 10 a.m.

Members \$ 30, non-members \$35 for early registration, After June 3, 2016 regular registration \$35 members and \$40 non-members. Day of the event, depends on availability \$45 to all. Limit to 45 attendees.

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For more information and to register, visit the APALA website at <http://www.apalaweb.org>.

Executive Board Meeting

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

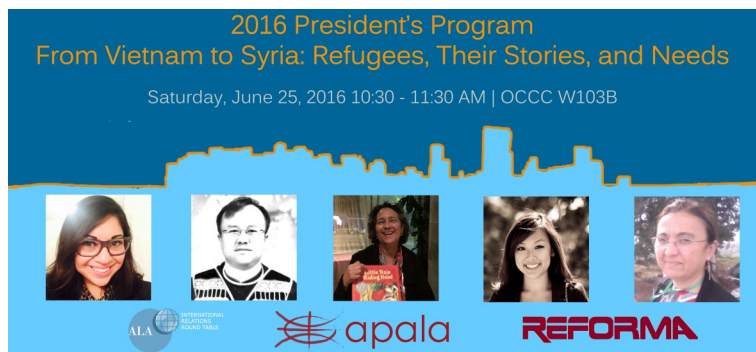
Location: Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) W240A

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016

President's Program: From Vietnam to Syria: Refugees, Their Stories, and Needs

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The APALA President's program, co-sponsored by IRRRT and REFORMA, *From Vietnam to Syria: Refugees, their Stories, and Needs* explores the many parallels between the refugee crisis during the Vietnam War, the current crisis in the Middle East, and refugees crossing the Southern border of the United States. The program will include: stories from Vietnamese Americans about resettling in the local Orlando area



from Krsytle and Thuy Vincent Nguyen; an overview of the work of REFORMA's "Children in Crisis Task Force" from Ady Huertas and Oralia Garza de Cortés; information about the Syrian refugee crisis from Laila Hussain Moustafa; and tips and strategies for helping libraries and librarians to serve refugee communities from Touger Vang.

Location: Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) W103B

ALA Ethnic Affiliates Exhibit Booth Exhibits Hall

Time: TBA

Location: Exhibits Hall – Booth # TBA

ALA Diversity & Outreach Fair

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Exhibit Hall - Special Events Area Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (APAAL)

Awards Banquet

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: Chutneys Indian Restaurant

The celebratory evening includes a dinner buffet, literature awards presentation and will feature several of our award winning authors. Following the formal presentation and dinner buffet, authors will be available for book signing.

Advance Registration for Members is \$35, and non-members is \$40. After June 3, 2016, \$40 for members and \$45 non-members, \$50 on site.

Tickets can be purchased online from the APALA website (<http://www.apalaweb.org>).

Contact information: Dora Ho: dorah2005@gmail.com

Ven Basco: Buenaventura.basco@ucf.edu

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016

All Committee Meeting

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Manatee Spring I

Now Showing @ ALA

Chinese Couplets

Felicia Lowe, filmmaker (56 minutes)

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/153130821>

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 n.n.



Location: Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) Room W207C

APALA is sponsoring a screening of the film *Chinese Couplets* as part of Now Showing @ ALA. The film will be followed by a Q&A and panel discussion that includes EMMY winning filmmaker

Felicia Lowe, Erika Lee, Director of the Immigration History Research Center and the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History at the University of Minnesota, Melissa I.

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Cardenas-Dow, Reference Librarian, University of California, Riverside, and moderator Gary Colmenar, Librarian, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Chinese Couplets is part memoir, part history, part investigation, the filmmaker's search for answers about her mother's emigration to America during the Chinese Exclusion era reveals the often painful price paid by immigrants who abandoned their personal identity, the burden of silence they passed on to their offspring and the intergenerational strife between immigrants and their American-born children.

APALA Committee & Member News

2016 APALA Travel Award



Jennifer Shellman, 2016
APALA Travel Award

Jennifer Shellman has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 APALA Travel Award. Jennifer is currently pursuing an MLIS at the University of Southern Mississippi with a concentration in Public Librarianship and plans to graduate in December of 2016. Her primary academic interests are Asian American Studies, diversity in youth literature, and library services to multicultural populations. She is currently employed as a youth services associate at the Smyrna Public

Library in Atlanta, Georgia. Jennifer has over four years of paraprofessional experience including youth services at the West Florida Public Library System in Pensacola, Florida and reference and outreach services at Pensacola State College Library.

Jennifer is excited to be a new member of the APALA as well as the American Library Association. This is her first time attending an ALA conference. She is thrilled to meet the members of APALA is honored to be selected for this travel award.

2016 APALA Scholarship Award

Jessica Tai is the 2016 APALA Scholarship Award recipient.

Jessica Tai grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. She received her BFA in Photography from Ontario College of Art and Design University in Toronto, Canada. This coming fall she will begin her first year of graduate studies at UCLA's Library and Information Science Program where she will spe-

cialize in archival studies. Jessica's primary focus is historical photographic collections. She has completed projects with the Sierra Club's historic photo collection at the William E. Colby Library, processed collections of historic glass plate negatives at the Oakland History Room, and currently works as the conservation documentation assistant at Nzilani Stained Glass Conservation. Jessica is interested in community-based archives and collection building practices such as crowd sourcing and participatory collecting. In her studies, she seeks to further investigate how to develop archives that are inclusive, and representative of the wide array of histories in our communities.



Jessica Tai, 2016 APALA
Scholarship Award Recipient

Special thanks to the APALA Scholarships and Awards Committee for its work: Frans Albarillo, Anna Coats, Harrison Inefuku, Christina Nhek, Cynthia Orozco, Hannah Rainey.

We would like to also acknowledge the work of the APALA Web Committee. This year we have a record number of applicants and this event happened because now APALA has a better website. Thank you, Brian!

—Valeria E. Molteni and Melanee Vicedo 2015-2016 Co-chairs

Member News

The International Federation Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) National Committee, with generous donations from the North American library community, has awarded fellowships to librarians from 75 countries to attend the IFLA 2016 Congress in August 13-19 in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

Buenaventura "Ven" Basco and Raymond Pun were selected among the thousands of applicants from 120 countries who went through a very competitive reviewing process. Congratulations to both of them!

**

Charlotte Roh has accepted position at the University of San Francisco as the Scholarly Communication Librarian. Her responsibilities will focus on scholarly communication, including open access issues and library publishing. More importantly she will be integrating social justice principles, a

(Continued on page 10)

core value at USF to scholarly communication. She starts in May of this year.

**

Annie Pho, has moved to the University of California, Los Angeles. Her official title is the Inquiry and Instruction Librarian for Peer-to-Peer Services and Powell Library Public Programs.

**

Sarah Park Dahlen, Assistant Professor in the Master of Library and Information Science Program at St. Catherine University helped Lee & Low Books administer the Diversity Baseline Survey to more than thirteen thousand employees in the publishing industry. The survey asked questions regarding race, gender, sexuality, disability status, and department. Lee & Low published the results on their blog, which have already sparked some publishers and review journals to implement new diversity initiatives.

Dr. Dahlen is also serving a 2-year appointment on the Children and Librarians Editorial Advisory Committee of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). Please contact her if you have ideas for an article: spark@stkate.edu.

**

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee's biography "The Sage in the Cathedral of Books" has been published by Ohio University Press. The author is Yang Yang, an OU alumna and current documentary film director of CCTV, and the translator is Dr. Ying Zhang, Research Librarian for Asian Studies at UC Irvine. On May 19, 2016 Ohio University Libraries will hosted an Authors@Alden series event: Hwa-Wei Lee and interviewer Charges Ping (Ohio University's president emeritus), in honor of Dr. Lee's new biography. Both Dr. Zhang and Ms. Yang attended the event which was open to the public and free.

TRIBUTE TO LISA ZHAO, COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

On March 22, 2016 our librarian colleague Lisa Zhao died at the age of 66. APALA extends their sincere condolences to Lisa, her family, and CALA. Below we have reprinted statements from the CALA Executive Committee and Dr. Ling Hwey Jeng, former CALA President and APALA Executive Director.

Zhao, Lisa (赵力沙) 02/15/1950—03/22/2016 Chicago IL -- In recognizing the passing of Lisa Zhao, the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) wants to celebrate the character of this distinguished and dedicated CALA member. Lisa



Lisa Zhao

was the Catalog Librarian (1990 - 2015) in University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and CALA President (2013-2014). She passed away on March 22, 2016 after her battle with cancer.

Lisa joined CALA in 1996 and was CALA President (2013-2014). For the past 20 years, she took upon a wide range of capacities from being committee chairs to chapter president and from board member to CALA president. She passionately and whole-

heartedly carried out her responsibilities and contributed a great deal to the advancement of CALA and to the library community and beyond. She was one of the five members who initiated CALA's 21 Century Seminars providing professional development opportunities for members.

Lisa was a positive, brave and passionate member and officer of CALA and she cared members and friends more than herself. She set a high standard for herself as a CALA President. At numerous occasions when CALA was in critical moments and facing challenges, Lisa stood firm on her ground, fighting for the goodness of the organization and the benefit of the members.

Lisa will be missed dearly: her smile, commitment and devotion to as well as strength and passion for CALA and librarianship will be remembered for a long time to come! Learn more about Lisa and express thoughts and memories in the online Guest Book at <http://www.never-gone.com/Memorials/lisazhao>

Sincerely,

CALA Executive Committee (EC) 泣告

Li Fu 付荔

CALA Executive Director 2013-2016

Chinese American Librarians Association

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Lisa first contacted me in Spring of 2011, at which time she didn't even know me since I had not been active with CALA for more than a decade. She only heard about me from a colleague and asked if I could help with CALA leadership orientation at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference. Lisa put her

(Continued on page 11)

heart and head together to create a wonderful panel for CALA leadership orientation including Ms. Barbara Ford, then Director of Mortenson Center of International Library Programs, and the late Nancy S. Hershoff of Florida International University. The audience included a group of more than 12 visitors from China. That night was the first time I witnessed this incredible, dedicated woman whose sole purpose in serving CALA was to promote professionalism among CALA leadership.

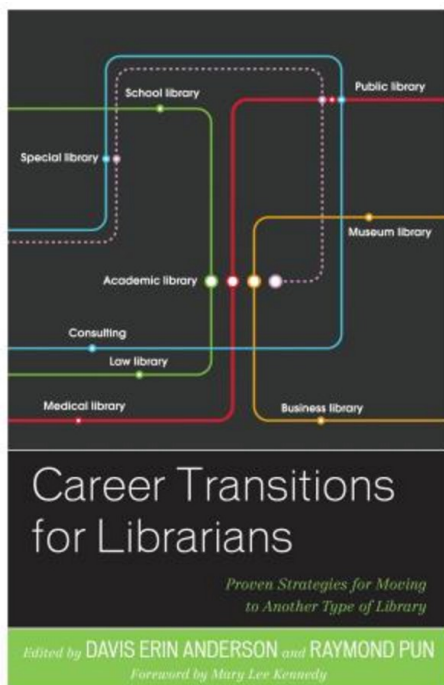
Lisa and I kept in touch afterward until she became ill, allowing me further opportunities for interacting with CALA leadership on various topics of non-profit management and leadership development. She understood the issues in CALA, always did her research on the backgrounds and context, and was always diligent in proposing solutions. She sought out colleagues with equal passion and good will, and always encouraged others to come forward to join CALA leadership. She kept her passion for CALA even at the most difficult times. Her perseverance and courage were second to none. I have missed her. And this is what I will always remember of Lisa Zhao. —Dr. Ling Hwey Jeng

## BOOK LAUNCH: LIBRARY CAREER SHIFTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

By Raymond Pun

I am excited to announce that after a year and half of planning, editing and coordinating with Davis Erin Anderson of MET-RO (since July 2014)—the edited volume: *Career Transitions for Librarians* (Rowman and Littlefield) will be available in May 2016!

In this edited volume we focus on librarians in transition: librarians who moved from one type or another successfully. How did they shift from public to academic or from academic to special or from special to academic libraries? We featured over thirty librarians that share their success stories and strategies in making the “leap” to another library.



Some of these librarians include APALA members: Janet H. Clarke (Current APALA President), Lisa Chow and Lian Ruan (also a CALA member, and Current CALA President). We’ve also featured librarians who are active in ALA, SLA, ACRL, IFLA, CALA, BCALA, and ALISE and attempted to cast a wider net to show that librarians around the world have made transitions. These librarians come from Argentina, Philippines, Sweden, Korea and more!

I personally found this project to be worth pursuing because I’ve made that transition from public to academic librarianship and many colleagues back at NYPL had asked me how I made the “move.” So this project is really for all those wanting to gain a bit of insight on other people’s experiences and perspectives.

There are not many articles or books about this topic either. The essays came from librarians working in different libraries such as medical, legal, government, corporate, public, academic, school, and museum.

The overall experience was deeply informative as I learned how to navigate the publishing world and develop a stronger sense of where our profession is heading – where are the underlying shared themes, patterns or values in our information ecosystem. Many people often decided to make their moves because of economic reasons – but others simply felt a stronger calling in the other libraries and they certainly do not regret making that leap, giving up that tenure track position or public level of engagement to be where they truly want to be.

One of the library leaders today: Mary Lee Kennedy – Chief Library Officer of NYPL – agreed to write the foreword for this book since she had made similar moves from Microsoft to Harvard University Libraries to NYPL – and it was an inspiring moment when I met her back in 2013. Her insights in the foreword will give readers the “big picture” of our industry and how we should consider carefully our roles and values when we make our moves in the information world.

Most importantly we hope this book can serve as a resource and inspiration to those who are eager or reluctant to make the move – librarians have done this and it has worked for them! We tend to typecast different libraries and fail to understand that all skills are transferrable and we need to focus on contributions and values of the individuals and not simply where they are coming from.

*Raymond Pun is currently the First Year Student Success Librarian at California State University, Fresno. Before that, he was Reference & Research Services Librarian at NYU Shanghai in China from 2013 to 2015 and Reference Librarian at New York Public Library from 2006 to 2013.*

## FUTURE BOOK LAUNCH:

### CFP: CHAPTERS & ESSAYS ON BEST PRACTICES OR RESOURCES SUPPORTING APA COMMUNITIES OR PERSPECTIVES FROM APA LIBRARIANS

We are looking for essays for this exciting new book! This edited volume is tentatively titled *Asian Pacific American Librarians and Library Services Today (in contract with Rowman & Littlefield.)* The book will bring together contributions from librarians who are of Asian and Pacific (APA) heritage and their work experiences, and librarians who support APA communities and their best practices in the United States.

For consideration, please submit an abstract proposal no more than 150 words (1-2 paragraphs) and a brief professional bio to [APALibrarianship@gmail.com](mailto:APALibrarianship@gmail.com) by **June 15, 2016**. The book is scheduled to come out in 2017. We are seeking abstract proposals that address the topics below.

To start this discussion, this edited volume explores ways that libraries support APA communities through services and resources.

- Who are the APA communities that these libraries serve?
- What do these APA communities need from their libraries?
- How do libraries serve these communities?

We approach these questions by considering the diversity of APA communities thriving in the US, the different kinds of libraries and archives (academic, public, school, special), their functions in relation to these APA communities, and the successes and challenges of these efforts. The volume would conclude with a discussion of what's ahead for serving the needs of the diverse and vibrant APA communities in the US.

In this volume, APA is defined broadly: heritage from East, Southeast, and South Asia, and Pacific Islands including Hawaiians. The book will aim to cover and provide resources to support different APA communities: from Hmong, Laotian, Burmese to Chinese, Japanese, Nepalese, Bengali communities, etc., and in the contexts of language, religious, cultural and social diversities. We will also include experiences about APA librarians with mixed heritages and adoption experiences.

The following is a list of sections that will be included:

**Section 1:** Who is the APA community and what do these communities need from their libraries? Several chapters covering case studies of the diversity of communities we

serve, layered by different types of library settings (academic, public, school, special).

#### ◇ Academic

- Information literacy
- International students
- Campus engagement
- Staffing and Retention
- Celebration of APA heritage, other cultural programming (Lunar New Year events, etc.)
- Collections Building

#### ◇ Public

- Language resources, community center, ESL resources, children's programming, etc.
- Outreach, advocacy.
- Staffing and Retention
- Collections Building
- Celebration of APA heritage, other cultural programming (Lunar New Year events, etc.)

#### ◇ School

- Children's programming
- Staffing
- Collections Building
- Celebration of APA heritage and other cultural programming

#### ◇ Special

- Health/Medical resources and services
- Government and Legal resources and services
- Museum/NGO Digital Collections
- Underserved or emerging sectors: adoptees, elderly, at-risk youths, and new immigrants
- Celebration of APA heritage
- Archives of culture and history (oral histories, digital archives, curation of history and heritage, etc.)

#### Section 2: Current issues/Gaps/Challenges ahead.

- Recruitment/retention/mentorship (best practices, systemic problems, library school student perspective-recent grad).
- Sustained structural integration of diversity in collections, resources, services, programming.
- Ongoing assessment of communities' needs/agility to meet evolving needs.
- Cultivating APA library leaders (on social justice, diversity, inclusion, impacting the profession).
- Strengthening professional networks with strategic partnerships (ethnic caucuses, other partners in ALA--SRRT, IRRT, IFLA, JCLC, LBGTRT, etc.).

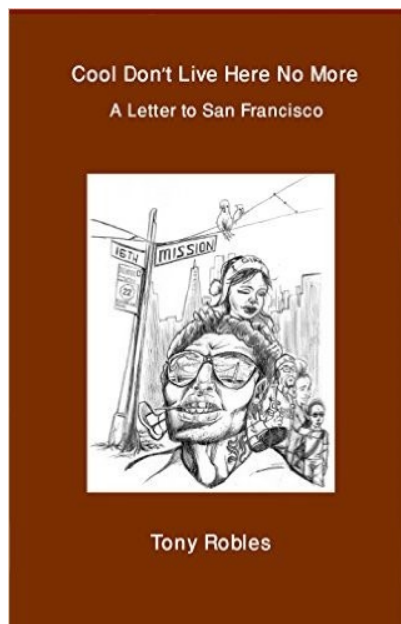
The volume will be edited by Janet H. Clarke (Stony Brook University), Raymond Pun (Fresno State, California), and Monnee Tong (San Diego Public Library).

If you have any questions or would like further information, please email us at [APALibrarianship@gmail.com](mailto:APALibrarianship@gmail.com)

## Book Review

### **PRESERVING THE LIFE OF A CITY SPIRALING TOWARDS DECAY**

By Jerry Dear



Cool Don't Live Here No More: A Letter to San Francisco  
by Tony Robles

Publisher: Ithuriel's Spear.

2015. 162 p.  
ISBN: 978-1- 943209-07- 1

In Homer's epic myth *The Odyssey*, which takes place nearly two decades after the Trojan War, the Greek hero Odysseus returns home to find his palace infiltrated with men whose

ultimate desire lies in winning the heart of his beloved wife Penelope. Disguised as a beggar, he methodically slays the would-be suitors left and right, leaving only a priest and poet standing in the wake of this bloody massacre. In this final act, Odysseus slays the priest and spares the life of the poet, rendering the soul of the artist to endure in the end.

Tony Robles, a poet and community activist of our times, crafts lucid poetry whose words capture the eroding heart and soul of San Francisco. In his first book of poetry ***Cool Don't Live Here No More: A Letter to San Francisco***, Robles chronicles the voices of the poor, the struggling middle class, the inhabitants of a city who once made San Francisco their home for generations, but are now being evicted from their homes due to the onslaught of gentrification. Gone is the communal sensibility that once distinguished neighborhoods like the Fillmore, gradually phasing out the elder generation, heralding the arrival of a new tech-minded generation.

In the last stanza of "Letter to San Francisco," a foreboding tone permeates this forlorn farewell:

San Francisco, your eyes are empty, your houses are empty, your canvas is bare of poems. Your mirrors and windows are missing reflection. Your flowers are drained of color. Your eyes hold no murals, your skin is scrubbed raw. Your canvas contains no art. Your poems are eviction notices . . . I don't know you anymore. (50)

Like an artist whose creativity has shriveled up and gone dry, so has San Francisco lost its alluring attraction, devoid of vitality and sustenance. It is as though this City by the Bay—which once opened its doors to people from all walks of life as an immigrant entry point—can no longer promise refuge for those seeking to start their lives anew. Instead, a shadowy menace has somehow snuck in, robbing this city of its cultural vitality over time.

Despite this spiritual decay, bridge builders, social workers, employment counselors, community ambassadors, local artists, tenant advocates, and many others comprise the pastiche of characters populating the pages of Robles's book with stories of their own to tell. Each story bears a slice of life, each dispensing its unique brand of experience in an original voice, crying out to be heard, savored, and remembered. By employing various forms through poetry, vignettes, and monologues, Robles combines a mosaic of styles to illuminate various social identities that shape the cultural essence of San Francisco.

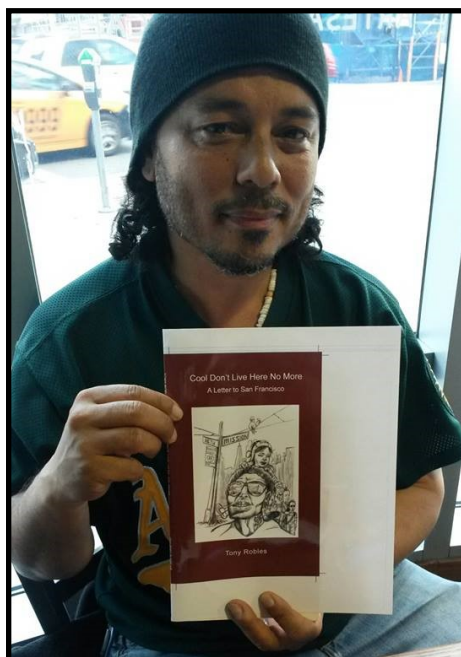
In the vignette "The City of Searching," Robles rekindles a hope that still persists, albeit in subtle ways:

I search the streets for a face, a face that knows me, a face that sees me, not only in the present but a face with eyes that look into my face and say, with unsaid words: I remember you . . . It is beautiful to experience the spontaneous beauty of memories that come out of hibernation and see light and breathe; and when you come across someone whose face you know in a city that no longer knows you or acknowledges you, it's one of those rare moments when life is once again lived. (110)

This nostalgic moment wherein one recognizes a familiar face highlights an aspect of Robles's writing that resurrects the rhythms and pace of life mirroring times gone by, yet it seemingly fades away like a melancholy jazz tune with each passing moment. But have these moments truly gone forever? Or can they still live on through our memories and experiences?

(Continued on page 14)

Tony Robles has collected a panoply of heartfelt poems that speak to one's spirit in ***Cool Don't Live Here No More***. Like the poet whose life was spared by Odysseus, his words transcend time and space, radiating with emotional resonance that emanates from the heart. Individual lives connect with one another, and he succeeds in capturing the numerous voices and experiences shared by many, both past and present, with honest sincerity. In honoring their lives and stories, Robles's book may very well uphold the last bastion of hope and remembrance for San Francisco and its diverse communities, reserving it from being reduced to yet another app and succumbing to a spiraling digital void of decay.



*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.*

## APALA Affiliate News

### LATEST FROM ALA TASK FORCE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (TFEDI)

By Melissa Cardenas-Dow, APALA Representative to ALA-TFEDI

After two years of meetings, deliberations, and information-gathering, the ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion will be delivering a report consisting of a list of recommendations and the results of the three surveys the group conducted from 2015 to 2016.

At ALA Annual Conference 2016 in Orlando, ALA-TFEDI will present recommendations to improve and ensure the openness of ALA's organizational climate to its stated values of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Additionally, ALA-TFEDI will disband as a task force and the ALA Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Implementation Working

Group (ALA EDI-IWG) will be formed. Starting in the Spring of 2016, the ALA EDI-IWG is charged with ensuring the implementation of the recommendations made by ALA-TFEDI. ALA EDI-IWG will work in cooperation with ALA groups and units identified in the ALA-TFEDI recommendations. ALA EDI-IWG terms will conclude at the end of ALA Annual 2018, with an option to renew terms for another year until the end of ALA Annual 2019. Some current members of the ALA-TFEDI will remain on ALA EDI-IWG. The official roster of ALA EDI-IWG will be released soon.

In addition to ALA-TFEDI's list of recommendations, survey reports, service work during ALA Annual 2016, and information about ALA's response to the concerns raised about Florida's Stand Your Ground Laws, ALA-TFEDI will be holding its final business meeting as a



group. To learn more about ALA-TFEDI and the upcoming ALA EDI-IWG, please attend ALA-TFEDI's final business meeting on **Saturday, June 25, 2016, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Orange County Convention Center, Room W307A.**

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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.

Submissions to the APALA Newsletter may be made by any current APALA Member or APALA affiliate. Please send your submissions electronically in one of the following formats: 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.

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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