

## NEWSLETTER



# apala

asian/pacific american librarians association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the reasons I love APALA so much is because it is my professional *Ohana* (Home) and my involvement in APALA has helped me become the librarian I am today. When I first joined APALA as a graduate student, I had no idea that I was joining one of the most supportive and fun professional organization.

APALA members showed me the ropes of attending a large professional conference like ALA and made 20,000 librarians in one place seem a lot less intimidating. APALA members have been and are my mentors and friends. They have helped me through the trials and tribulations of graduating with an MLIS, especially in the middle of a recession, which resulted in my having several part-time library jobs and long commutes.

APALA has and continue to be that *Ohana* for its members. Indeed, the greatest value APALA can give to any librarian is a professional home.

While we value networks and a strong sense of community, as an organization, we also seem to embrace the motto of Queen Kapi'olani: *Kulia I Ka Nu'u* or translated as, Strive for the Summit. This phrase focuses on continuously pursuing improvement and personal excellence,



and over the eight years I have been an APALA member, I have seen our members become better individuals while our organization improve year by year, building on the wisdom of those who came before us with the goal of making a better organization for those who will follow.

Holding these values close to me, I've had the privilege of speaking to APALA and non-APALA members about why I love this organization and why I have spent the last 8 years working as hard as I can to make it the Go-To place for Asian Pacific American (APA) librarians and those serving APA communities. I've also had the privilege to hear why so many of you love

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## APALA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2016-2017

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APALA as much as I do, why some of you have left and returned to the association. During my presidential term I will reflect on what I learned from my conversations as we move APALA forward as an organization and a home for librarians in the U.S. and worldwide.

Under the leadership of Immediate Past President Janet Clarke, we incorporated your ideas into the 2016-2021 APALA Strategic Plan. It is a plan that positions our association to continue in its mission to be diverse, inclusive, and social-justice oriented through advocacy, leadership, and collaboration. How are we going to get there? By focusing on these strategic goals

- Cultivating APA leadership and engagement.
- Promoting and strengthening diversity and social justice.
- Advocating for the interests and welfare of Asian Pacific Americans.
- Increasing the visibility of APALA to the library profession and APA communities.

To keep track of our progress each committee will incorporate measurable, attainable, and realistic benchmarks that will be part of each committee's priorities. Combined with the 2016 Emerging Leaders report, I can say that we have our work cut out for us but when we reach the summit, it will be well worth the journey.

For this journey to succeed it would require the collective effort of all of us so we need to focus on building bonds because this is the strength of our organization. The social relationships we have developed and continue to nurture among ourselves and the bridges APALA has created with communities have been crucial to our association as evinced by the successful 35th APALA Symposium. I want to encourage members that we continue in this direction. One of the main sentiments that we heard from our strategic plan survey last year was that people want more engagement from each other. They want more opportunities to learn from each other and share information, whether it's through informal networking or through official webinars. Our members want to connect with each other in person and virtually. We want to be each other's support systems and life lines. We want to be the best organization we can be. To get there, we have some projects and programs we want to try out:

- The newly formed Communications and Media Committee (merger of three committees) will experiment with utilizing Twitter for programming and marketing purposes such as monthly Twitter Chats.
- The Family Literacy Focus Committee will work on a concrete plan to make our *Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture* program the go-to place for resources on Asian Pacific American and American Indian youth literature and programming.
- The Membership Committee will hold a spring membership drive focusing on the benefits that APALA can bring to APA library professionals and allies.
- The Mentoring Committee will coordinate and create a calendar of regional networking opportunities for APALA members and investigate the possibility of a place on the APALA website for members to learn about presentation and publishing opportunities.
- Finally, the Mentoring Committee and the Program Planning Committee will explore and create a plan for virtual programming in between conferences, including offering a professional development webinar for mid-career librarians.

To accomplish these would require teamwork which is a trait we seem to be good at. The dedicated volunteers, committee chairs, advisors, and executive board are all on board as we strive to take APALA to the summit. I encourage each of you to visit the APALA website and get to know this year's committees and group of volunteers who are leading these initiatives. We are only as strong as our connections, bonds, and enthusiasm, and I have no doubt that we are the strongest APALA possible right now.

That strength shines through not only in our commitment to each other but our commitment to our communities. Whether we are talking about the communities we serve in our libraries, institutions, and organizations, or our allied organizations, we are strong for them as well. Since the Executive Board started its work in July, we have:

- Signed on to the Joint Statement for AAPI Solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter and the Movement for Black Lives.
- Sent a letter of support for California Bill AB2016: Ethnic Studies for All
- Continued to participate in the planning of the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color scheduled for Fall 2018
- Approved the 2016-2021 APALA Strategic Plan

Following the series of successful APALA events at the ALA Annual such as: the well-attended APALA President's Program moderated by President Janet Clarke focusing on services to refugees, a screening of Felicia Lowe's documentary, *Chinese Couplets*, literature awards which brought tears to the eyes of many (check out some of the acceptance speeches later in this newsletter!); interspersed with meetings, lunches, late night drinks, and hallway conversations, I am excited to begin my presidential term with high expecta-

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I thank our 2015-2016 Executive Board for setting a high bar and I thank our 2016-2017 Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and members for striving to the summit with me. I look forward to continuing to grow our organization together over the next year and build more bonds. Imua!

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## 2016 LITERATURE AWARDS: PULITZER PRIZE & CARNEGIE AWARD WINNER INCLUSIVE

by Evelyn Shimazu Yee

Perfect host Dora Ho, Co-Chair of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association Literature Award Committee, welcomed APALA members and guests to the celebratory and festive 2016 APALA Literature Award Dinner Ceremony, together with Co-Chair Ven Basco. The ceremony was held in Orlando, Florida during the American Library Association's Annual Conference. Janet Clarke, President of APALA and Associate Dean of Research & User Engagement at the Stony Brook University Libraries, gave a warm introduction and welcome at one of Orlando's premier Indian restaurants. The audience was honored this year to have a Pulitzer Prize & Carnegie Award Winning author, Viet Thanh Nguyen in attendance, as well as distinguished Asian American film producer Felicia Lowe.



*Film Producer, Felicia Lowe enjoys her evening at the Awards Ceremony.*

### LITERATURE AWARD CHAIRS 2015-2016:



Literary category presentations were made by award committee Chairs: Sandy Wee (Chair of the Adult Fiction Committee, Library Services Manager of the San Mateo Public Library); Evelyn Shimazu Yee, (Chair of the Non-Fiction Awards Committee; Associate Professor, Head of Community Relations and Curator at Azusa Pacific University Libraries); and Irene Zapata, (Chair of the Young Adult Literature Committee, Teen/Adult Librarian at the County of Los Angeles Public Library - Lynwood Branch). The Chair of the Picture Book Category was Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan (faculty member, San Diego State University School of Teacher Education). Tarida Anantachai, Learning Commons Librarian at Syracuse University Libraries, Chaired the Children's Literature committee this year.

### LITERATURE AWARD WINNERS

#### Adult Fiction Category

##### Winner:

"Sympathizer"  
by Viet Thanh Nguyen,  
published by Grove Press

Nguyen was born in Vietnam and raised in America. He is a professor, writer, and scholar with essays and fiction published in journals such as *American Literary History*, positions: *East Asia cultures critique*, *Best New American Voices 2007*, *Narrative Magazine*, *Tri-Quarterly*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *Gulf Coast*. He is also the author of a scholarly book, *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America*. His writing has been translated into many languages, and he has been invited to speak in China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Germany.



*Nguyen wins the adult fiction Category with his title "Sympathizer."  
Photo by G. Colmenar*

Viet Thanh Nguyen's debut novel opens with the words, "I am a spy, a sleeper, a spook, a man of two faces." So begins the narrator's confession of his life as a sleeper agent for the Communists, first as an aide to a general of the South Vietnamese army and later in America as an observer of the resettled Vietnamese refugee community in Los Angeles. The narrator faces difficult choices as he builds his duplicitous life, and the story unfolds full of intrigue and suspense. Nguyen's prose is wonderfully rich, layered with historical and literary allusions that make rereading the novel a different and rewarding experience each time.

This first novel received much recognition. A few prestigious recognitions include: 2015 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, 2016 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

— Sandy Wee

#### Adult Non-Fiction Category Winner:

"The Making of Asian America: a History"  
by Erika Lee, published by Simon and Schuster

Erika Lee is the granddaughter of Chinese immigrants who entered the United States through both Angel Island and Ellis Island. She grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and received her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. She teaches history at the University of Minnesota where she is also the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History Research Center. Lee compiled an intriguing 17-chapter single volume of Asian American history. Its publication falls

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*Erika Lee receives the 2016 Literature Award for Non-fiction from APALA Non-Fiction Award Chair, Evelyn Shimazu Yee.*

on the 50th anniversary of the commemoration of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. Lee's significant compilation, spanning over a century, includes research on some of the most significant events in the annals of Asian American history in the areas of immigration and civil rights.

Professor Lee's title documents how distinct Asian American communities of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Sikh, Hindu and others of Asian ancestry and heritage rose to meet the challenges of exclusion in the halls of justice, & proved themselves loyal Americans on many a battlefield.

Lee chronicles early Asian sailors as they crossed the continents in the 1500s. Professor Lee documents the historical inequities and unequal treatment of Asian immigrants and how, historically, US immigration policies were highly inequitable for Asian immigrants in comparison to immigrants from European origins. Lee examines the exclusionary laws, first specifically aimed at excluding Chinese from immigration and later excluding Japanese immigration and that of other minority groups.

It is noteworthy that Professor Lee was inspired by the work of Shucheng Chan and Ron Takaki. Her title represents the proud history of early Asian pioneers, the overcoming of their struggles, and the documentation of their successes. Despite the documentation of centuries of institutionalized discrimination and numerous setbacks, Lee's facts also encourage Asian Americans with the knowledge that they remain the fastest growing group in the U.S. and the most educated. As Asian Americans have embarked on the twenty first century, Professor Lee inspires all to recognize the rich history of Asian Americans as an integral part of the past and present tapestry of our American landscape and heritage.

— Evelyn Shimazu Yee

### Picture Book Category Winner:

"Juna's Jar"

written by Jane Bahk, illustrated by Felicia Hoshino, published by Lee & Low Books

Jane Bahk is a former schoolteacher and an Emmy Award-winning television writer/producer. She was inspired to write "Juna's Jar" by her own fond memories of playing with empty kimchi jars. And like Juna, Bahk is always up for a good adventure, especially one that involves her kids and their jars. Bahk lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her family. This is her picture book debut.

Felicia Hoshino is a graphic designer and an award-winning illustrator of picture books, among them Lee & Low's *A Place Where Sunflowers Grow* and *Little Sap and Monsieur Rodin*. In addition to creating mixed-media images for children's books and magazines, she enjoys painting children's portraits, cooking with her husband, and decorating the wall at home with art created by her son and daughter. Hoshino lives in San Francisco, CA with her family.

Best friends Juna and Hector love to collect critters in the park in Los Angeles's Koreatown with the help of Juna's empty kimchi jars. When Hector moves away without having a chance to say goodbye, Juna is heartbroken—who will play with her now? To cheer her up, Juna's brother, Minh, gives Juna different treasures to put in her jar whenever it is empty. He gives her a small fish, which takes Juna on an underwater adventure to find Hector: "Can you help me find my friend Hector?" He brings a bean seed home from school, which Juna climbs into a magical rainforest in search of Hector: "I wish Hector was here, she thought." Lastly, he brings her a cricket that Juna rides across the glittering night sky. They ride to Hector's new home where Juna sees the kimchi jar she gave him by his bedside. She sees that Hector is happy: "Hector looked like he was having happy dreams." Juna finally gets to say goodbye, and opens her heart up to new friends the next day at the park.

"Juna's Jar" is a story of friendship, imagination, and one of life's hard lessons: missing a best friend. Author Jane Bahk was inspired by her childhood adventures playing with empty kimchi jars, and by her husband's memories of growing up in Koreatown with his best friend Hector who moved away. Felicia Hoshino's sweet illustrations pair nicely with Bahk's heartwarming story. Hoshino's soft, whimsical watercolor illustrations bring Juna's adventures to life. The spread in which Juna flies over the city on the back of a cricket is particularly lovely with dots of yellow to depict "a trail of cars that lit up the hill like a string of holiday lights."

This book celebrates imagination, while also showcasing cross-racial best friends in modern day Los Angeles. The committee chose "Juna's Jar" to be this year's APALA Picture Book Award winner for charmingly capturing the adventures and heartache

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of a little girl—who just happens to be Korean American.

— Virginia Loh-Hagan

**Young Adult Literature Category Winner:**

“P.S. I Still Love You”

by Jenny Han, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Jenny Han is the New York Times bestselling author of “The Summer I Turned Pretty” series; Shug; the “Burn for Burn” trilogy, co-written with Siobhan Vivian; and “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” and “P.S. I Still Love You.” She is also the author of the chapter book Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream. A former children’s bookseller, she earned her MFA in creative writing at the New School in New York City.



*Jenny Han, YA Award Winner receives her Award from Irene Zapata, Chair of the YA Award Committee.  
Photo by G. Colmenar*

First love – beautiful, pure, exciting. First heartbreak – painful, confusing, humiliating. In “P.S. I Still Love You,” we find Lara Jean in a bit of a conundrum. Lara Jean never meant to feel something for Peter until she did, then almost out of nowhere another boy from her past emerges only to have her question what she really feels. Through her romantic struggle, her relationships with her sisters and her father, as well as recollections of her late mother, Lara Jean learns as much about love as she does about herself and growing up.

Jenny Han seamlessly and organically weaves aspects of Lara Jean’s Korean culture into the story. Lara Jean’s culture does not define or typecast her, but it is indeed very much a part of her that she does not deny. The result is a strong character who is Korean and American, and is also contemporary, current, and normal.

“P.S. I Still Love You” is a coming of age story that touches on romantic and familial relationships, with plotlines and characters that are both realistic and relatable and depicts Asian American culture that translates across borders and is accessible to all.

— Irene Zapata

**Children’s Literature Category Winner:**

“Full Cicada Moon”

by Marilyn Hilton, published by Dial Books/Penguin Random House

Marilyn Hilton has published numerous short stories, poems,

essays, and two previous children’s books. She lives with her husband and three children in Northern California. “Full Cicada Moon” was a Kirkus Best Book of 2015 and received 3 starred reviews from SLJ, Booklist, and Kirkus. Her work has won several awards including the Sue Alexander Award for 2011.

Marilyn holds a MA in English/Creative Writing and has worked for several years in the computer software industry as a technical writer and editor. Marilyn is a member of several professional organizations. As a freelance editor and a frequent contest judge, she enjoys helping other writers develop their gifts.



*Marilyn Hilton Children’s Literature Award Winner is presented her award by Irene Zapata.  
Photo by G. Colmenar.*

Written in free verse, “Full Cicada Moon” follows the experiences and maturing reflections of Mimi Yoshiko Oliver, a half-Japanese, half-black seventh grader who has just moved with her parents from Berkeley, California to a predominantly white town in Vermont. Hilton skillfully weaves Mimi’s growth alongside the similarly transitional landscape of the US in 1969 (including references to the Apollo 11 lunar landing, Vietnam War, and civil rights movement)—paralleling a time of change both in Mimi’s own life as well as in US history. Mimi herself does not fit into the conventional societal norms of the time: instead of home economics, she wants to take shop class; instead of focusing on more so-called feminine pursuits, she is fascinated with science and dreams of becoming an astronaut. Viewed as the “other” on multiple levels, Mimi is soon confronted with marginalization and micro-aggressions within her community.

Yet despite these slights, her intelligence, courage, and determined strength shines through, providing readers an inspiring protagonist they can’t help but cheer on. Mimi notably grows to stand confidently on her own, finding additional advocates through the support of her caring parents, her trusty friends, and by the end, her fellow classmates. Hilton’s beautifully crafted writing delicately unveils a lovely story of empowerment, social justice, and the power of embracing one’s dreams and identity. It is a story as poetic as it is moving, and will touch children and adults alike.

— Tarida Anantachai

**Note:** Evelyn would like to thank Dora Ho for providing excellent notes and prompting all of us to write the reviews for our titles which contributed greatly to the success of this compilation!

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## AUTHORS' ACCEPTANCE SPEECHES

Jane Bahk

**T**hank you so much APALA, for honoring this book that is a childhood dream realized in so many ways. Ever since I was 9 years old, I have wanted to be a writer. Some of my childhood works included a 30 page novel and its sequel. I recently had the pleasure of re-reading these stories, thanks to my parents who decided that they'd had enough of storing my "great works" for decades. It was actually quite a painful exercise to read them – not because of what an 11 year old thought was good writing, but because of what my 11 year old self thought what was worth writing about. My protagonists were, without fail, spunky girls who I aspired to be like. Without fail, they were always white blond girls. The stories make me cringe now because of what is missing from them. They reflect how much I didn't value who I was or my own experiences. I believed that no one wanted to hear my stories because I never read any stories about girls like me. This is why what Lee and Low, my amazing publisher, does is so important. They give voice to previously unheard stories, putting mirrors and windows in the hands of kids, and changing the world, one book at a time.

Thank you to my visionary editor Jessica Echeverria, who created such a beautiful book, and helped craft the story into something so much better than where it first started. Thank you to the extraordinarily talented artist Felicia Hoshino, who brought Juna to life in such a gorgeous, magical way I never could have imagined. And Hannah Ehrlich and Keilin Huang and the Lee and Low team for putting the book in the hands and consciousness of so many, reaching so many more people than I ever thought possible.

Big kisses to my kids, Ena and Keo, who are the heart of "Juna's Jar" and my reason for everything.

And a huge thank you to the librarians of APALA. Thank you for recognizing "Juna's Jar" and putting it in the hands and hearts of children everywhere.

Erika Lee

**T**hank you so much for honoring "The Making of Asian America". The APALA Award for Literature is so meaningful to me because as a historian I rely so much on the great-- and often underappreciated-- work that all of you do.

Despite the dramatic growth in the Asian American population in recent decades, Asian Americans remain largely invisible in American history and life. This is partly because— as is the case for other marginalized groups— there are not as many archival collections and institutions documenting and preserving that history. For so long, Asian Americans were thought to be minor subjects in American history, but thanks to dedicated librarians

and community archivists and historians like yourselves, bits and pieces of that history began to be preserved. More and more of it is being preserved and shared every day. And professionals like you are making sure that books about the Asian American experience are available in libraries, getting read by diverse audiences, and receiving recognition in the wider world.

We rely on the great work that you are doing to do the work that we do. Without you, we cannot write the histories that need to be remembered. Without you, we cannot preserve these stories for future generations.

So, thank you for this award. But more broadly, thank you for the work that you do everyday for all of our communities.

Erin Entrada Kelly

**I** grew up in southern Louisiana, in a place with very few Filipinos. From elementary school through college, I never shared a classroom with a single Filipino. People would ask me, "What are you? What are you?" And they'd say, "Where are you from?" When I'd say, "I'm from here" they'd say, "No, where are you really from?"

As a kid, I was treated like an other, and I felt like an other. I wanted more than anything to look like everyone else.

Many years ago, my cousin invited me to read a short story for a Read Philippines event in New York City. When I walked into the event—a Southern girl in a big city—I was extremely nervous. I'd never done a reading before. More importantly, I second-guessed the story I selected, a piece called "Here Was Miralinda," about a Filipino girl in the south who prays every night for God to unslant her eyes. The event was packed with Filipinos, naturally, and I didn't want anyone to think that I grew up resentful about my ethnicity—even though I had—and I wasn't sure they would relate. After all, Miralinda lived in an area where she was a total outsider and the people in the audience lived in New York City, one of the most diverse cities on earth.

But after the reading, an extraordinary thing happened. People came up to me, one after another, and told me that they'd wished the same thing when they were little. Even though they lived in diverse area. Even though they lived among other Asians. Even though they were surrounded by Filipinos. They still felt like an other. And it dawned on me how universal this feeling of otherness is, no matter where you live. It seems naïve to think back on it now, but at the time it was life-changing.

That's why I'm so thrilled that books like those honored by APALA exist, and why I'm so very honored to receive this award. It's incredibly important to me. Thank you.

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### Jenny Han

It really was such a lovely night. I was very honored to be there. Until I walked into a room full of Asian people, I didn't realize that was something that had been missing for me at ALA. It was so heartfelt and celebratory!

### Marilyn Hilton

Thank you so much, to the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association Literature Awards Committee for honoring "Full Cicada Moon" with this award. It was such a wonderful surprise when I heard the news, and as I read the list of past winners and understood your mission in the American Library Association, I realized more fully what a great honor this was. Thank you so much.

I also want to thank my editor, Namrata Tripathi, who worked tirelessly to bring this story to fullness and then to tell everyone about it. I'm so fortunate to be able to work with her. Katharine McAnarney in the Penguin publicity group also worked miracles to publicize this book, and I want to thank her, too, as well as all the people at Penguin who helped bring "Full Cicada Moon" to fruition. Thanks also to my agent, Josh Adams, who fully supported this story from the beginning and gave me courage to continue writing it.

And, of course, thank you to my husband, Leon, and my children for their support and encouragement. It's not always easy living with me and the people inside my head. I loved every moment spent writing "Full Cicada Moon". I couldn't wait for the next free moment so I could continue working on it. This was largely because of the main character, Mimi Yoshiko Oliver. Mimi came to me so fully formed and so real that I couldn't write fast enough to keep up with her. It was as if I were taking dictation for her memoir instead of making her up from my imagination.

She may have seemed this way to me because I wrote this book with my husband and my children in mind. I wanted to write this story for them, because of who they are and who they came from.

When my mother-in-law, a young Japanese woman who had been orphaned by World War II, married my father-in-law, a young African-American man serving in the military in 1959, their marriage wasn't recognized by the United States government. It took two years before it became official. And when she married him, her family disowned her.

Then, she moved with her new husband to the United States, a country that still held memories of the war. I can only imagine the isolation and loneliness she must have suffered while my father-in-law served his country overseas. But, despite the prejudice that she and my father-in-law endured, they managed to raise their children to be kind, respectful, and loving toward everyone.

In view of the horrific events this city, Orlando, experienced less than two weeks ago, it's even clearer that what this world needs is kindness, respect, and love. But, mostly love. Love can bend rivers and move mountains. It can soften the hardest heart and sweeten the bitterest soul. Love triumphs over everything. Over fear, over sorrow, over loneliness, resentment, over hatred, even over death. Love overcomes everything and it endures forever.

Knowing brings understanding, understanding brings empathy, and empathy fosters love. When a person can understand and empathize with another, love isn't far behind. My hope is that every child—every person—has the opportunity to read books and hear stories that foster empathy and love. Because where love exists, there's no room for anything else, and the things that threaten to divide us no longer have power.

Thank you very much for recognizing and honoring "Full Cicada Moon" with the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature.

### Valynne E. Maetani

I continue to be humbled and surprised whenever "Ink and Ashes" receives attention because it was never supposed to be a real book. As a child, I never got to see myself in TV shows, in movies, or in toys. And the only time I saw myself in books was in works of historical fiction where someone like me was hated for the way we look and/or sent to internment camps. I wrote "Ink and Ashes" for my sister's birthday so she could have one of the gifts I never had. I'm so honored to receive this award and happy to know there is a place for my book in this world.

Thank you to Lee and Low, my editor Stacy Whitman, APALA, and children all over who need to know that people who look like us can be the heroes of stories too.



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## APALA EVENTS

### SAADA Digitization Day

Would you like to have your family's materials digitized? Join the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA) on Saturday, October 22 for Digitization Day at the Pio Pico - Koreatown Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. Anyone can bring in their family photographs, letters, newspaper clippings, and documents and we'll digitize them for you! A digital copy will be provided to you, and with your permission, may also be added to the archive. Event sponsored by APALA.

### SAADA Digitization Day

Saturday, October 22, 2016

Digitization -- 10am to 2pm

Presentation about SAADA -- 2:30pm to 4pm

Pio Pico - Koreatown Branch Library

694 S. Oxford Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90005

Preregistration is suggested at: <https://www.saada.org/losangeles>

### Larry Itliong Day at the Carson Library

Join the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) on Saturday, October 22 at the Carson Library. Come celebrate Filipino American Heritage Month at the Carson Library and learn about the rich history of our Pioneer Manongs who co-formed the UFW with Cesar Chavez and started the Great Delano Grape Strike of 1965. The event includes a special talk from Johnny Itliong; a report back from local Carson youth who attended the FANHS Conference in New York; and a screening of the documentary "Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers". Event sponsored by APALA.

### Larry Itliong Day at the Carson Library

Sat. October 22, 2016

1pm - 4pm

Refreshments provided

Carson Library

151 E. Carson St.

Carson, CA 90745

To RSVP call Rose at 310-218-8258

### Where We Belong: Artists in the Archive

Join the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA) in April 2017, for a conference at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, celebrating the conclusion of SAADA's "Where We Belong: Artists in the Archive", a year long collaboration between SAADA and a multidisciplinary cohort of artists investigating how collaboration between artists and archives might effectively counteract the symbolic annihilation of immigrant and minority

communities. We'll share what we've learned from the project, and be joined by other archives and artists from around the region to share their experiences. Watch the APALA list-serv and the Where We Belong website for more information as April 2017 approaches. Event sponsored by APALA. APALA members will receive discounted conference registration.

## MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to APALA members who recently started or accepted new jobs!

**Jaena Rae Cabrera** accepted a temporary librarian position within the San Francisco Public Library system. Her title is Librarian I and she will be working with many different communities within San Francisco.

**Alyssa Jocson Porter** accepted a temporary full-time faculty contract for Fall 2016 and a permanent full-time faculty position beginning Winter 2017 at Seattle Central College. Her title is Reference & Instruction Librarian, liaison to BITCA (Business, Information Technology, Creative Arts) and Science & Math.

**Sofia Leung** accepted the Teaching & Learning Program Manager and Liaison Librarian position at MIT Libraries. She will be joining a library team already including several APALA members: Michelle Baildon, Eugenia Beh and Tina Chan.

**Yen Tran**, member of APALA since 2008, recently accepted a new position at San Jose State University's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library as a Science Librarian. Her subject areas include: physics & astronomy, biological sciences, chemistry, meteorology & climate science, and geology, and comes with all of the responsibilities of a subject librarian. As a tenure-track faculty, Yen will be looking for research opportunities; if you are interested in collaborating, get in touch with her at [yen.tran@sjsu.edu](mailto:yen.tran@sjsu.edu).

## BOOK REVIEW

"Blackbird Fly"

by Erin Entrade Kelly (Green Willow Books/Harper Collins)

Twelve-year-old Analyn ("Apple") Yenke has always felt like an outsider. As a first-generation Filipino American in a less-than-diverse town in Louisiana, she feels annoyed both by her mother's insistence that she is "too American," as well as embarrassed by her ethnic identity and appearance. At the same time, she can't escape the ridicule of her classmates, who refer to her as a Chinese "dog-eater." Her social shaming is further exasperated when she discovers she has been added to the "Dog Log," a secret list of the ugliest girls in her school. Apple turns to her love of music as an escape, repeatedly listening to her late

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play, and through both her music and the encouragement of two loyal friends and a kind teacher, she discovers her own voice. Her confidence gradually rebuilding, Apple also begins to develop a greater awareness and appreciation of her background and the many traits that make her uniquely special. Kelly's remarkable debut novel is both funny and quirky at times (for instance, each chapter references a Beatles song title), but also manages to carefully balance the adolescent angst of a young girl as she grapples with and eventually overcomes her insecurities. In addition to receiving APALA's 2016 Honor Award for children's literature, it has also earned an ALA Notable Children's Book Award, a School Library Journal Best Book, among other commendations. Readers will find Apple's journey relatable and real as she finds the strength to both embrace who she is and—like the titular blackbird—take flight.

— Tarida Anantachai, Learning Commons Librarian, Syracuse University Libraries

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APALA Communications & Media Committee's Publications team is always looking for submissions. Please send your articles, stories, letters to the editor and announcements to Newsletter Editor, Alyssa Jocson Porter at [alyssa.jocson.porter@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.jocson.porter@gmail.com). Deadlines for submission are announced via the APALA list-serv.

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, Google Docs or plain text pasted into the body of an email. We ask that submissions be kept to a length of 500 - 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 Anastasia Chiu, [anastasia.chiu@temple.edu](mailto:anastasia.chiu@temple.edu).

Reviews should be 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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## COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS TEAM 2016-2017

### Co-Chair

Melissa Cardenas-Dow  
[melissa.cardenasdown@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.cardenasdown@gmail.com)

### Co-Chair and Newsletter Editor

Alyssa Jocson Porter  
Seattle Central College  
[alyssa.jocson.porter@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.jocson.porter@gmail.com)

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Jaena Rae Cabrera  
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