

## NEWSLETTER



# apala

asian/pacific american librarians association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**W**e started our year together as APALA focused on the phrase Kulia I Ka Nu'u (Strive for the Summit) and the theme of "Building Bonds." Although this has been a difficult year for APALA and librarianship's mission and values, I can say one thing for certain: our bonds with one another are stronger than ever, and our members continue to strive to be the best professionals they can no matter what is thrown at them. It has been a privilege to watch our listserv flood with messages of congratulations, support, advice, and community building over the last year. Our members have had much to celebrate—fantastic programs, elections to leadership positions, new jobs, publishing opportunities, and successful webinars, and I like to think that our APALA community helped with each of these monuments and milestones in some small way. Our network, whether virtually or in person, has been something I know that I've relied on not just for the last few months, but since I joined APALA, and will be a re-



source I continue relying on long past this year.

We've come a long way in the last year in the fulfillment our strategic goals. We've started a robust webinar program that has expanded our reach and our message. We planned for the future through our mentoring program, pairing three mentors with five mentees. We selected our LIS Scholarship winner, Lara Maestro and continued to support our Emerging Leader, Ariana Santiago. These efforts were in addition to

*(continued on page 2)*

## APALA EXECUTIVE BOARD 2016-2017

### President

Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada

### Vice-President

Dora Ho

### Immediate Past-President

Janet H. Clarke

### Secretary

Anna Coats

### Treasurer

Peter Spyers-Duran

### Members-at-Large (2015-2017)

Ariana Hussain  
Brian Leaf

### Members-at-Large (2016-2018)

Alyssa Jocson Porter  
Ray Pun

### Executive Director

Buenaventura Basco

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developing a leadership program to be implemented next year under Vice President/President Elect Dora Ho's leadership. We had several new lifetime members, started the #iamAPALA campaign which will continue throughout the years, and we elected a strong APALA Executive Board to lead us into the future. All of our candidates this year were especially strong, but while a ballot where you have to make tough choices may be difficult, it shows just how talented and passionate our membership is.

We also continued to support our ongoing initiatives. The Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture program, in partnership with the American Indian Library Association, awarded eight grants to libraries across the country supporting APA and AIAN programming. Janet Mumford was our Travel Grant recipient, and we look forward to spending time with her in Chicago while celebrating 20 years of Spectrum and our very own Asian Pacific American Awards for Literature (APAAL). This was the first year that the APAAL were awarded to all APA authors and illustrators, supporting the need for more of our community telling our own stories. Our programming at ALA Annual in Chicago speaks deeply to current issues in protecting our APA communities on the ground: Deepa Iyer's talk on South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh Immigrants and workshop on combatting Islamophobia; as well as Bill McKibben's talk on the effects of climate change on our communities—a pressing problem for Pacific Islander communities among many others. And this is all just the tip of the iceberg. Our membership, our volunteers, continue to inspire and amaze me everyday.

As our society changes, we react and change with it as well. We released multiple statements this year, defending our mission and vision for APALA and librarianship and our funding sources. The Institute of Museum and Library Services plays such a large role in programming opportunities and for some of us the basic foundation of running our libraries that when the time came to fight for it, we did, and will continue to do so because that is who we are. We stand up for our communities, ourselves, and our profession. We are folks who believe in what we do everyday and know that it benefits the greater good.

We set out to strive to the top together. Along the way, we made sure to mālama and care for and protect each other. And now, at the end of the year, it is time to say “a hui hou”, or “until we meet again.” I reserve the use of “Aloha” for special occasions and use it fairly sparingly. It has been used and abused so often that it sometimes feels like it has lost its meaning\*. Folks say it long and loud at luau, they search for the “aloha spirit,” and while it is a term that speaks to everyone, a term which literally describes our breath and our oneness, means hello, goodbye, and love, when saying goodbye, I prefer a hui hou. For it is not goodbye, it is until next time. For there will always be a next time, especially in an organization like this, where many describe it as a family, a strong network, a rock during a tumultuous career. I am forever indebted to APALA's mission, vision, and community and the opportunities these relationships have afforded me. I look forward to continue working to strengthen APALA and pass the aloha forward. Thank you, everyone, for allowing me to be your president this year. *A hui hou.*

*\*For one of my favorite pop culture uses, as a satire on the abuse of the word Aloha, please take a moment to Google “The Rock, SNL, Hawaiian Hotel” and watch the skit. Probably at home if you laugh loudly like I do.*

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## “NEVER AGAIN, TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE!": THE 48TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

by Florante Peter Ibanez

The 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066 was remembered with the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 29, 2017.

Although I had known about it for many years, it was my first opportunity to attend the pilgrimage. I joined students, faculty and staff on two buses from Pasadena City College where I am an adjunct professor teaching the History of Asian Pacific Americans class. We left the campus at 6 a.m. and returned at 7 p.m.

Executive Order 9066 was signed on February 19, 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, authorizing the deportation of Japanese Americans to internment camps during WWII. All those of Japanese ancestry regardless of U.S. citizenship were removed from the West Coast and moved to 10 concentration camps in desolate locations, including deserts and swamplands. Initially, many spent time in staging areas such as the stables of the Santa Anita Racetrack while their camp barracks, made of wood and tar paper, were being built hastily. Manzanar is one of those camps located near Lone Pine, CA (220 miles north of Los Angeles). While having spectacular views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains snow peaks, it was always windy, dusty hot in the summer and cold with snow in the winter. Of the 110,000 internees in the 10 camps, over 10,000 men, women, children and elderly were held at Manzanar at its peak.

During this 48th Manzanar Pilgrimage, about 2,000 visitors visited the site, which is now a National Park Services site with a museum and reconstructed guard tower, barracks, and latrine. A memorial program was held next to the camp cemetery with its iconic white obelisk inscribed in Japanese with “Soul Consoling Tower,” “Erected by the Manzanar Japanese,” and “August 1943”. Our keynote speaker was former Calif. Assemblyman, and one of the founders of the Pilgrimage, Warren Furutani. Receiving the 2017 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Award was Alan Nishio, long time Asian American community activist and retired CSULB administrator. The program also included a spoken word piece “Instructions” led by Traci Akemi Kato-kiriyama. Bruce Embrey, son of Pilgrimage founder Sue Kunitomi Embrey (1923-2006),



Close-up of the anniversary T-shirt.



Loyola Law School staff (l-r) Megumi Tomatsu, Mickie Okamoto-Tsudama join APALA past president Florante Peter Ibanez at event.

spoke of the current repressive political climate and how we must not forget what happened here and stand up for others. Since 9/11, Muslims have also been participants in the annual Pilgrimage, which is always scheduled for the last Saturday in April.

Student Awards were also recognized for written projects and visual arts which demonstrated an understanding of the guiding principles of social justice and human and civil rights in today's society. After a roll call of the camps by Monica Embrey, with a procession of the 10 camp banners and Japanese American Veterans 442/100 banner, ministers of the Buddhist, Christian, and Shinto faiths offered prayers followed by attendees laying flowers on the Manzanar obelisk monument. For many, including myself, it was a day of reflection and reunion with long time Asian American activist friends from Los Angeles of the late

## APIAS IN THE VISUAL ARTS SCENE

by Jerry Dear

In the mainstream media, Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIA) have often been featured in film, politics, literature, and of course, at the forefront of ethnic minority activism, but there has been relatively little exposure of their involvement in the realm of comic books and graphic novels. Over the past several years, the San Francisco Public Library has collaborated with community organizations and authors to highlight this sector of the APIA community.

One of the earliest collaborations with the APIA artistic community introduced independent cartoonists, illustrators, and graphic novelists through Kearny Street Workshop, an organization spearheaded by poet and educator Jason Bayani as the current artistic director. Functioning as a hub for Asian Pacific American Community Arts since 1972, this multidisciplinary organization, the oldest in the nation, strives to present, produce, and promote art that empowers APIA artists and communities—offering a space where they can showcase their work. In conjunction with Kearny Street Workshop, the Main branch of the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) has hosted events that highlighted the works of APIAs in comics, graphic novels, artwork, and film. APAture, an annual multidisciplinary arts festival, celebrates emerging APIA artists in the San Francisco bay area, spotlighting independent APIA voices and their creative work in the visual arts, music, comics and illustrations, literary arts, performing arts, and film. This festival transpires over a two-week period across various community venues.

The SFPL served as a major venue for the comics and illustrations showcase where APIA groups

and communities could connect with each other in the spirit of community engagement. From this festival emerged budding artists and writers with varying degrees of skills and talents. In 2015, the festival featured Vietnamese American artist Thi Bui ([www.thibui.com](http://www.thibui.com)), whose sketch of the public library was incorporated into flyers and posters; in 2016, Filipina American Trinidad Escobar ([www.trinidadescobar.com](http://www.trinidadescobar.com)) presented her in-progress graphic memoir *Crushed*. The comics and illustrations showcase, similar to a zine festival, presented a wide spectrum of APIA comics, graphic novels, artwork, and other memorabilia. Guest artists performed drawing demonstrations, discussed the mechanics behind creating comics, and interviewed local artists in the APIA community. The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, a major supporter of this event, also highlighted cases of censored comics from around the world, illuminating silenced voices in this medium.

In addition to hosting a panoply of pan-Asian American artists, the SFPL has also invited graphic novelists to share their work via book talks. In fact, one of the featured guest artists from a previous APAture event was none other than the current National Ambassador of Young People's Literature Gene Luen Yang.

In 2011, the Main Library hosted an event—*Leveling Up with Gene Yang: Mixing Magic with Graphics*—where he introduced the range of Asian American characters in the mainstream comics publishing industry and then delineated how the superhero motif applied to Asian American identities and experiences. Three years later, Yang returned to showcase the triptych *Boxers & Saints* in the program *A Historical Duology of the Boxer Rebellion* where he narrated a fascinating episode in U.S. history by incorporating elements of magical realism and mythology. In 2015 came Yang's most recent series *Secret Coders*, described by Wired.com as “a graphic novel that's like Harry Potter, but with computers instead of wands” ([www.wired.com/2014/09/secret-coders-gene-yang](http://www.wired.com/2014/09/secret-coders-gene-yang)). He revealed

The Magazines & Newspapers Center, the Fisher Children's Center, and the Mix at the San Francisco Public Library present



### Secret Coders

Saturday, November 14, 2015  
3-4:30 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room  
Main Library, Lower Level

Exploring the world of computer programming from his experience as a computer science teacher, award-winning, best-selling author Gene Luen Yang brings this knowledge to his latest graphic novel: *Secret Coders*!



Gene Yang has written and drawn many comics, including the hit *Avatar: The Last Airbender* series. *American Born Chinese* was a National Book Award finalist, as well as the winner of the Printz Award and an Eisner Award. Visit his site at [geneyang.com](http://geneyang.com).

A book sale and signing follows the event.

The Magazines & Newspapers Center, the Art, Music & Recreation Center, the Mix at SFPL, and the International Center of the San Francisco Public Library in association with Kearny Street Workshop present

### APAture 2015 Future Tense

Saturday, October 10, 2015  
12-5 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room & Koret Auditorium  
Main Library, Lower Level

APAture is a multidisciplinary art festival spotlighting emerging Asian Pacific American (APA) voices.

Join us for a day of comics, art, short films, workshops, lectures, fun games, and Q&A with artists.



Illustration by Thi Bui

For more information:  
<http://bit.ly/1Em6DE4>

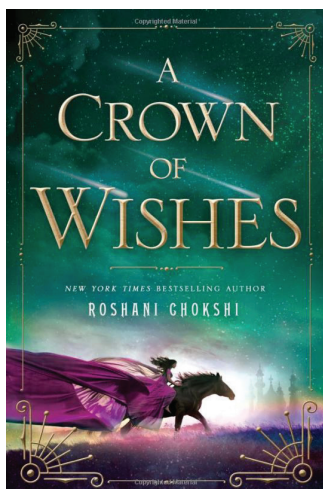


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the history and inspiration behind *Secret Coders*, a story about a diverse group of kids who stumble upon a school academy fraught with puzzles and conundrums, so they must combine their sleuthing skills and coding knowledge to uncover the school's hidden secrets. In describing the genesis of this six-part mystery, Yang also incorporated a programming lesson into his graphic novel whereupon he invited the youth to come up to the stage to solve a mathematical problem.

Serving both recreational and educational purposes, graphic novels continue to entertain and educate readers of all ages across multiple disciplines. Whether hosting multidisciplinary events like APAture or inviting graphic novelists to discuss their work, libraries not only attract APIA communities, but they feature artists actively creating art in that community. This dual functionality of the comics medium continues to draw in library patrons and highlights often overlooked APIAs in the visual arts scene.



## BOOK REVIEW: A CROWN OF WISHES

by Roshani Chokshi

March 2017, 384 p., ISBN: 978-1250085498

Roshani Chokshi's *A Crown of Wishes* is a companion novel to last year's bestselling *The Star-Touched Queen*, a fantasy novel set in a world reminiscent of

ancient India. *A Crown of Wishes* takes place in the same universe, but revolves around a different set of characters, the princess Gauri of Bharata (the younger sister of the protagonist from *TSTQ*) and Crown Prince Vikram of the neighboring kingdom of Ujjain. The book opens with Gauri's manipulative older brother, the tyrant Skanda, sending her off to be executed in Ujjain for treason after a failed rebellion, which takes place before the start of the story. Vikram, her intended executor, instead invites her to join him on a quest to compete in the Tournament of Wishes, a competition hosted by Kubera, the Lord of Treasures and ruler of a kingdom in Alaka, the Otherworld that exists alongside the non-magical world that Gauri and Vikram come from.

The majority of the book takes place in the magical realm of Alaka, where Chokshi introduces a whole new set of supporting characters, including Lord Kubera, an eccentric and powerful being who is fascinated by humanity but remains removed from it, and Aasha, a *vishakanya* (a female assassin whose touch poisons). This new cast of otherworldly characters aids and deters the protagonists on their

mission to obtain two wishes, the ultimate prizes for winning the Tournament.

Stories themselves—their timelessness and power—are at the heart of *Crown of Wishes*; Kubera essentially deals in them and states that the contestants in the Tournament are only worth the stories they can tell. In Chokshi's Otherworld, Gauri and Vikram are only valued for their stories, constructed with every interaction they have and every life-altering decision they make. Both characters display sharpness and intelligence, which enable them to get past obstacles that they wouldn't have been able to with strength and courage alone. They play off of each other well, and the dialogue and snarky exchanges between them are delightful.

*Crown of Wishes* is a very rich and creative adventure novel that draws inspiration, in large part, from Indian mythology and folklore. To readers who are not familiar with stories and storytelling of India, this could serve as a good first step to further exploration. Additionally, Chokshi's storytelling is superb, and her prose is beautiful—the paragraphs are breathtakingly effortless in the way they flow. All in all, it is a highly recommended read.

— Ammi Bui, MLIS Candidate at University of Washington/Library Assistant at NBPL

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## APALA 2017 ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to our incoming 2017-2018 Executive Board members, who will be serving under the leadership of incoming President Dora Ho.

Vice-President/President-Elect: Brian Leaf  
Secretary (2017-2019): Annie Pho  
Member-at-Large (2017-2019): Lana Adlawan  
Member-at-Large (2017-2019): Jaena Rae Cabrera  
Member-at-Large (2017-2018): Susan Hoang

All terms will begin after the 2017 ALA Annual Conference.

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### CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The following proposed amendments for the APALA Constitution and Bylaws will be open for discussion at the APALA general membership meeting at ALA Annual 2017. You can find the current version of the Constitution and Bylaws at <http://www.apalaweb.org/about/constitution-and-bylaws/>. If you have any questions or comments before the meeting, please send them to the Constitution and Bylaws committee chair Young Lee at [leebrarian@gmail.com](mailto:leebrarian@gmail.com).

#### Article II. Purpose

Proposed change: In enumerated item #7, change singular possessive “the Asian/Pacific American librarian’s” to plural possessive “Asian/Pacific American librarians”.

Reason for change: To harmonize with plural “librarians” elsewhere in enumerated list.

#### Article V. Executive Board

##### Section 2

Proposed change: Replace Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association with APALA.

Reason for change: For consistency in language.

##### Section 4

Proposed change: Add (50% + 1) after “majority”.

Reason for change: Further clarify the term majority that constitutes a quorum.

### BYLAWS

#### Article I. Membership Dues

##### Section 3

Proposed change: Change the term “Organization” to “Organizational members”.

Reason for change: For clarity of definition regarding organization entities that are APALA members.

#### Article III. Executive Director

##### Section 1

Proposed change: Replace the first line, “The position of Executive Director of Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association is appointed by the President in consultation with the Vice-President/President-Elect and approved by the Executive Board” with the following statement, “The position of Executive Director of APALA is appointed by the President in consultation with the Vice-President/President-Elect and approved by the Executive Board.”

Reason for change: For consistency in language given that APALA has been defined under the section in the Constitution, Article 1.

##### Section 4

Proposed change: Add the article “a” in the phrase “... by “a” different person...”.

Reason for change: For grammatical correctness.

#### Article IV. Committees

##### Section 1

Proposed change: Change standing committee named “Newsletter and Publications” to “Communications”

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and Media” as well as delete “j) Publicity” and “l) Web” with necessary reordering.

Reason for change: Updating to reflect changes in committees.

### Section 3

Proposed change: Insert “unless otherwise specified” after “... shall serve one (1) year terms”.

Reason for change: Allow future flexibility for adjusting length of committee member terms.

## Article VI. Elections and Recall of Officers

### Section 2

Proposed change: Replace first line, “Officers shall be elected by ballots sent to the entire APALA membership” with the statement, “Officers shall be elected by ballots sent to all eligible APALA members (i.e. paid members).”

Reason for change: To clarify with certainty the definition of voting members of the organization.

### Section 3

Proposed change: Strike out the word “mail” wherever it appears in the document.

Reason for change: To keep the language consistent with APALA’s current voting practices that use print and electronic voting formats.

## Article IX. Books, Records, Official Address, and Audit

### Section 4

Proposed change: Replace the number 4 to 3.

Reason for change: Correct numbering error.

## Article X. Amendments

### Section 2

Proposed change: Replace the phrase, “Constitution/Bylaws of APALA may be amended by ballots mailed to the entire APALA membership within four weeks after its discussion at the membership meeting.” with the statement, “Constitution/Bylaws of APALA may be amended by ballots sent to all eligible APALA members (i.e. paid members) within four weeks after its discussion at the membership meeting.”

Reason for change: Clarify with certainty the

definition of voting members.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Dr. Sarah Park Dahlen** was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at St. Catherine University, effective with her 2017-2018 contract. Dr. Dahlen teaches in the Master of Library and Information Science Program at the university. [sarahpark.com](http://sarahpark.com) @readingspark

**Dr. Sarah Park Dahlen** and **Paul Lai** have contracted with ALA Editions to co-author a textbook on Asian American youth literature (forthcoming 2019).

**Dr. Sarah Park Dahlen** was elected to the 2019 Newbery Award Committee. [sarahpark.com](http://sarahpark.com) @readingspark

In fall 2016, **Dawn K. Wing** was promoted to Assistant Professor of Library Services at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), NY. In addition to being Media Librarian, Dawn serves as faculty co-advisor to the Asian Culture Club where she mentors student leaders in coordinating campuswide educational programs on Asian cultures and Asian American issues. She helped create a scholarship for students involved with the Asian Culture Club. The scholarship criteria is based on financial need, Asian Culture Club leadership, and academic performance. APALA members who are interested in starting similar scholarships at their institutions or wish to contribute funds to the [SCCC Asian Culture Club Scholarship](#), contact Dawn for more information at [wingd@sunysuffolk.edu](mailto:wingd@sunysuffolk.edu).

**Dawn K. Wing** is excited to be exhibiting an excerpt of her illustrated story, “[The Visit](#)” at the Berlin Museum of Medical History at Charité for the [Stories of Illness / Disability in Literature and Comics. Intersections of the Medical, the Personal, and the Cultural Conference](#) in Berlin, Germany from Oct. 26 - 28, 2017. The comic is based on her own experiences providing care to her late grandmother who had severe dementia towards the end of her life. Dawn will attend the conference and exhibit opening on Oct. 26 and is curious to see how it will be displayed among human anatomical specimens.

In May 2017, **Molly Higgins** started a new position as Digital Services Librarian at the Library of Congress’ Congressional Research Service (CRS).



# APALA @ ALA ANNUAL 17

**WHEN**  
**June 22-27**

**WHERE**  
**Chicago, Illinois**  
**McCormick Place Convention Center –**  
**West Building (MCP)**  
2301 S King Dr Chicago, IL 60616

**APALA@ALAANNUAL17 CALENDAR**  
<http://www.apalaweb.org/calendar>

**REGISTER FOR CULTURAL TOURS**  
<http://apala.camp8.org/event-2550359>

**REGISTER FOR LITERATURE AWARDS**  
**BANQUET**  
<http://apala.camp8.org/event-2550330>



## EVENTS



**CULTURAL TOURS**  
**THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHINATOWN**  
**BRANCH**

Friday, Jun. 23

9:00 a.m.

**CHINESE-AMERICAN MUSEUM OF CHICAGO**  
**(CAMOC)**

Friday, Jun. 23

10:00 a.m.

**JOY YEE NOODLE HOUSE**

BYO Lunch after tour

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Friday, Jun. 23

7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Columbus G

**PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM: RISING UP**

Saturday, Jun. 24

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MCP, W184bc

**PROGRAM: BILL MCKIBBEN**

Saturday, Jun. 24

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

MCP, S102

**JCLC FUNDRAISER & SOCIAL**

Saturday, Jun. 24

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

ALA President Julie Todaro's Suite

**PROGRAM: SOLIDARITY IN ACTION**

Sunday, Jun. 25

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

MCP, W183b

**MEMBERSHIP & ALL-COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING**

Sunday, Jun. 25

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

MCP, W476

**APAAL AWARDS BANQUET**

Sunday, Jun. 25

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Mars Gallery, 139 W Fulton Market, Chicago

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## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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. Include a suggested title for your article. 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@gmail.com](mailto:anastasia.chiu@gmail.com).

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

APALA Newsletter is published three times a year, in Fall, Winter, and Spring/Summer by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, an affiliate of the American Library Association. ISSN:1040-8517. Copyright © 2017 by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without permission. Editor: Alyssa Jocson Porter, [alyssa.jocson.porter@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.jocson.porter@gmail.com).

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of APALA. The editors reserve the right to edit submitted material as necessary.

For inquiries about placing an advertisement in the APALA newsletter please contact the editor at [alyssa.jocson.porter@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.jocson.porter@gmail.com).

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## COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS TEAM 2016-2017

### Co-Chair

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