



Volume 30:1 2011

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION *Newsletter*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha and Welcome APALA Members and new members to be...

As the incoming president for 2010-2011, I want to thank all the committee chairs and members for all their service over the years and especially the Executive Boards and Officers of past administrations for guiding our association for the past 30 years. As you know we celebrated our

30th Anniversary with a GALA event in Washington D.C. during the last ALA Annual Conference on June 27 and honored all our past APALA presidents. It was an impressive and festive way to celebrate our years of service to our profession and to our communities. (Details of the celebration are captured pictorially and available from the APALA website: www.apalaweb.org. You can look forward to more 30th anniversary activities for this coming year.

For those of you who don't know me, I am relatively new to the profession graduating from UCLA in 2006 with a joint MLIS and MA degrees in Library and Information Studies and Asian American Studies. Prof. Clara Chu who was my advisor, mentor and friend initiated the program. I've worked at the Rains Library of Loyola Law School since 1992 as a Computer Resource Center Assistant until my promotion with my MLIS to Manager of Library Computer Services. I was blessed to help pay for graduate school with some scholarships and grants. I consider myself a "mature" information professional having graduated with a BA in Comparative Cultures from UC Irvine back in 1977 and having been married now for 36 years with two grown daughters and a grandson. With my MA in Asian American Studies I've been able to teach Filipino American Studies part time at Loyola Marymount University (LMU). I have served on the board of some non-profit community organizations over the years and was a part of the social justice movements from the early 70s and continue to be active today. I was selected to be an ALA Emerging Leader in 2007 and had the great opportunity to work with Past ALA President Loriene Roy. Last year, my life partner (spouse) Rose, and I co-authored a pictorial history book, *Filipinos in Carson and the South Bay* with Arcadia Publishing. I was recently appointed to the City of Carson Historical Committee. As a former APALA Board Member-at-Large and Vice President, I am honored to serve as APALA President for this coming year.

As part of our 2010-2011 plans we will be conducting an APALA Leadership Retreat for the newly expanded Executive Board. Committee Chairs will receive an invitation during the 2011 ALA midwinter conference in San Diego. Please join me to

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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welcome our two newly added Executive Board Members at Large, Eugenia Beh and Lessa Pelayo-Lozada. We are also looking forward to a new APALA website that will be more interactive with social media tools. It is currently under beta testing by you the members before we formally launch it at the 2011 ALA Midwinter Conference. Please visit and leave you comments at:

<http://www.apalaweb.org/wpsandbox/2010/08/new-beta-website/>

After extensive research and evaluation we are also getting ready to switch over from our manual membership system to an on-line membership system. It promises to make our membership renewal less challenging and more efficient. We are currently also looking forward to designating the Asian Pacific American Collection at the Library of Congress as the repository for our APALA organizational archives.

Our collaborative work with the American Indian Library Association (AILA) last year produced *Talk Story* as part of the Family Literacy Focus (FLF) initiative of ALA Immediate Past President Camila Alire. *Talk Story* shares the richness and diversity of American culture with new readers. You can review its many library resources at: <http://www.talkstorytogether.org/>. Our board has approved to continue this work with APA communities by offering library FLF project funds. We continue to push forward with our work with all the ALA affiliated ethnic librarian associations to plan the 2nd National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) to be held September 19-23, 2012 in Kansas City, MO under the theme of *Gathering at the Waters: Celebrating Stories, Embracing Communities*. APALA is represented on the JCLC Steering Committee by Alanna Aiko Moore, Program Committee Chair and myself as Publicity Committee Chair.

As you can see we have many plans ahead. But we cannot accomplish these without you the members. I recently issued a call for members to join our APALA committees. While APALA was established 30 years ago to serve the members of our profession and our APA communities by a handful of leaders with a vision, it is up to us to continue and expand that vision with new members and leaders who have the heart and talent to move us forward. I am excited for the opportunity to

collaborate with you as we face the challenges of serving our communities and our colleagues during these financial hard times ahead. Your concerns and helpful suggestions are always appreciated. I believe that the members are the organization. Please help us expand our membership so that we may serve more.

Have a Blessed Day and Future

Sincerely,

Florante Peter Ibañez

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK!

By Richard Kong



APALA's new website will officially launch during ALA Midwinter 2011 in San Diego. Before that happens, we need to know what you think of our beta site!

Although our current website has served us well for many years, we're hoping this new version will give us some features that we haven't had before, including:

- * New CMS (content management system) that will allow multiple users to contribute content
- * Ability to post quick news and updates in a blog format
- * Options to get updates via an RSS feed or email subscription
- * Connection with our other online presences, including on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and ALA Connect
- * More videos and photos
- * Calendar of upcoming local events and national conferences

We would love to know what you think about the new APALA website!

- * Do you love it? If so, what do you love?
- * Do you hate it? If so, what would make things better?
- * Are you somewhere in between? That's okay! Let us know what works and what doesn't. What are we missing? What could we do without?

Please visit the beta site at <http://apalaweb.org/wpsandbox> and leave your comments! If you prefer, you can also send your comments to webmaster@apalaweb.org or complete the contact form on the website.

RECEPTION FOR AUTHOR JUDY YUNG

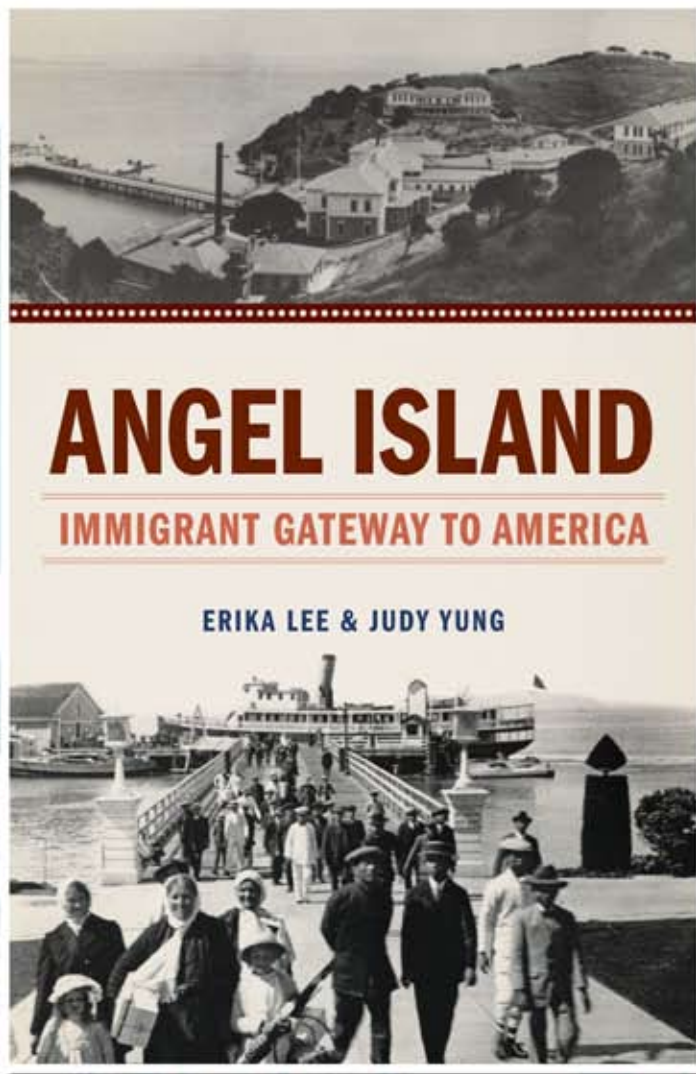
by Janet Tom

About a dozen APALA & CALA librarians gathered for a reception and luncheon at the San Leandro Public Library on August 22, 2010 to honor Judy Yung, co-author of a new book, *Angel Island: Gateway to America*. Nancy Fong, San Leandro Public Library Services Manager, hosted the event, which included a delicious catered Chinese lunch. Librarians who attended included Jerry Der and Janet Tom of San Francisco Public Library; Suzanne Lo, Yi Liang, and Joao Barretto of Rosenberg Library City College of San Francisco; Jianye He, East Asian Library, UC Berkeley; and Yiping Wang, San Jose Public Library. In addition, there were two tables of Nancy Fong's library supporters and friends.



It was a real treat to have Judy come to each of our tables to talk to us about her work and answer questions. In my personal history, I had heard that my mother came to America in 1947, under the War Brides Act. My father, born in 1910, had come to the U.S. as a child. He returned to China in 1937 to marry my mother through an arranged marriage. As the Chinese Exclusion Act was in effect (1882-1943), my mother was unable to accompany him on his return to the U.S. I learned from Judy that under the War Brides Act, 6000 women from China, wives of U.S. service personnel, were allowed into the country. My mother was part of history. Judy also told us about the National Archives in San Bruno, a wonderful resource for learning more about one's family history and genealogy. Following the librarians' reception, Judy gave a book talk and slide show for the public, which drew a remarkable 189 people!

Judy Yung, 64, is professor emerita in American Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Well-known for her books based on the oral history of Chinese American women in San Francisco, Judy's latest book is about the experiences of immigrants who passed through Angel Island. Did you know that in addition to the Chinese, there were also Japanese, Russian, East Indian and thousands of immigrants from other nations who passed through Angel Island between 1910 to 1940? Yung and her co-author, Erika Lee, use their personal stories to document the experience. Judy's first book about Angel Island was *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*, co-authored with Him Mark Lai and Genny Lim in 1980. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Angel Island Immigration Station.



LESSA PELAYO-LOZADA

As the recipient of the 2010 APALA Travel & Research Grant, I was able to attend ALA Annual this past June in Washington, D.C. It was my first time in Washington, D.C., and I was awed and excited driving to my hotel and passing all the monuments I'd only seen on television. None of them looked real, especially Abraham Lincoln, sitting way up there watching over everyone. With history surrounding you constantly in Washington, D.C., it was amazing seeing the craftsmanship on practically every corner that went into building our nation's capital.

Another amazing part of my trip to Washington, D.C. was all of the work I got to see being done by my peers. The panels and discussions I went to never ceased to be insightful, controversial, and highly educational. I found myself thinking of new programming ideas for my public library and supplemented the gaps in my library school education through panels and posters that I attended at the conference.

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One of the main reasons that I wanted to go to this particular ALA Annual was to see the fruits of the hard work that the Family Literacy Focus Committee and I put into our initiative, Talk Story: Sharing Culture, Sharing History during a panel discussion in which the participating ethnic caucuses shared their programs and their journeys. This was a touching experience for me, as I saw how everyone's programs affected so many people from a variety of backgrounds nationwide. I am privileged to have been a part of such a wonderful team who cares about APA youth literacy so much.

Some other highlights of my trip were the APALA 30th Anniversary events. I was able to attend the Smithsonian Folklife tour and the Library of Congress tour. Learning about the role of APAs in these historical institutions was enlightening and also motivating. They made me want to represent APAs in librarianship and the government proudly and to my fullest capacity. Seeing all the work that's already being done by APAs inspired me to continue my personal research started in library school on Native Hawaiians in libraries as well as become a leader in the APA world.

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The gala at the end of the conference weekend was a blast and covered so many different APA cultures that I felt proud to be an APALA member. My favorite part of the evening was presenting at and watching the APALA Literature Awards ceremony. Hearing authors and illustrators speak about their works always makes the book come alive for me and gives me new insight and more respect for the author and the work. There is so much to gain by joining authors with the community that it is always amazing what happens with the dynamic.

My first trip to Washington, D.C. was essentially four days filled with awe and wonder. Awe not only at the history surrounding me, but the history being made by my fellow librarians. I met and reconnected with so many amazing people during my trip who have inspired me, taught me lessons, and become mentors. Thank you! I also want to warm thank you to APALA for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

APALA CELEBRATES 30th ANNIVERSARY

by Ven Basco

This year marks the 30th anniversary of APALA. Turning 30 is by no means an easy feat. After over a year of planning for this momentous event, APALA finally celebrated its anniversary with a series of exciting events in Washington, D.C. which coincided with ALA's Annual Conference. Our anniversary began with a behind-the-scenes guided tour of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival (SFF), followed by a tour of the Asian American Pacific Islander Collection at the Library of Congress on Friday, June 25th, a self-guided tour of the White House and a guided tour of the National Archives on Saturday, June 26th, and ended with a fundraising dinner gala at the China Garden restaurant in Rosslyn, Virginia on Sunday, June 27, 2010.

Planning the anniversary involved a tremendous amount of dedication, overtime, and sacrifices from the 30th Anniversary Steering Committee members. After several calls for committee volunteers, followed by monthly conference calls, online chats, vendor and sponsor solicitations, including choice of entertainment, restaurant and keynote speaker, and over a hundred email correspondences, the three day event was officially scheduled.



The events were open to both APALA members



and nonmembers who pre-registered before the conference. On Friday morning, several people were treated to a guided tour of the 2010 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, where one of the three programs focused on Asian Pacific Americans: Local Lives, Global Ties. The tour was arranged by Jade Albuero, APALA member and former volunteer for the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (CFCH), the organization that puts on SFF. The tour was led by Kevin Blackerby, CFCH Development Officer, and Jim Deutsch, CFCH Curator; Phil Tajitsu Nash talked to us briefly about the APA program he was curating. In the afternoon, another group was privileged to learn the history of the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress Asian American Association and the Asian Division Friends Society sponsored the tour. APALA member Reme Grefalda and reference librarian for the Library of Congress Asian American collection was our host and tour guide. The group started by browsing the Asian American Pacific Islander Collection, followed by a reception in the Asian Reading Room Foyer. Dr. Peter Young, Chief of Asian Division graciously welcomed and briefly addressed the group before they toured the Jefferson Building Great Hall including a tour of the Main Reading Room provided by two Library of Congress docents.

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APALA CELEBRATES 30th ANNIVERSARY

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The two events on Saturday were both arranged by Rita Cacas, APALA member and National Archives Archivist. The morning tour of the White House was arranged way ahead of time and was limited to 50 people. The tour was so popular that reservations filled up quickly. The self-guided tour of the White House gave us the opportunity to see the East Room, which is normally used for large parties and receptions, the green, red and blue rooms, and the State Dining Room which is used during formal dinners for visiting heads of state. In the afternoon, another group was treated to a guided tour of the National Archives. The group was able to bypass the long line of people waiting patiently outside who wanted to see the original copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights among other things. Each one was able to experience the feeling of going beyond the walls of the Rotunda into the stacks and vaults of the National Archives. Michael Hussey, a senior archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration was the docent for the group.



The highlight of the anniversary was a magical evening packed with entertainment, literature awards ceremony, raffle drawings, recognition of APALA's past presidents, keynote address, and a sumptuous six-course dinner. Host Ben Wakashige, APALA's past president (2006-2007), started the evening by recognizing DEMCO, the event's Platinum Sponsor who provided the souvenir tote bags and printing of the souvenir program. Other sponsors were also recognized, Camila Alire (Gold), Patty Wong (Silver), and Lee and Low, Betty Tsai, and REFORMA (Bronze). Ven Basco, 30th Anniversary organizing chair and past president (2007-2008) welcomed the group, then ALA President Camila Alire appeared in a videotaped welcome address recognizing APALA's



past and present ventures. It was followed by two songs from Bollywood performer, Subodh Sen, and two cultural dances by the Lao American Women Association of Washington, D.C. The literature awards which APALA normally schedules on Sunday morning during the conference was added to the program. Dora Ho, Literature Awards Committee Chair presented plaques to this year's winners in the following categories: picture book, adult fiction and non-fiction, and children's literature. Most of this year's winners, including honorable mention winners, their families and friends attended the awards ceremony. Florante Ibañez, APALA President-Elect introduced Dr. Franklin Odo, the evening's keynote speaker. Dr. Odo is a Japanese American author, scholar, activist and historian and recently retired director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian. During the entire evening, tickets were sold for several raffle drawings with proceeds going to APALA's scholarship fund.



The Gala ended by honoring the past presidents and executive director. Thirteen past presidents (Henry Chang, Sharad Karkahnis, Ravinda Sharma, Ken Yamashita, Patty Wong, Sushila Shah, Gary Colmenar, Haewon Paick, Ganga Dakshinamurti, Ben Wakashige, Ven Basco, Michelle Baildon, and Sherise Kimura) and APALA's first executive director (Ling Hwey Jeng) were able to attend this once in a lifetime celebration. APALA would like to give a big thank you to Chris Cook who volunteered to be the event photographer. You can view all the photos at the APALA website. Finally, our celebration would not have been a success without the help of all the APALA members who volunteered and helped plan the event. Thank You!

ABOUT THIS INTERVIEW

APALA recently hosted the inaugural author chat. This is the first of many to come. Eugenia Beh was instrumental in scheduling this event and making it happen flawlessly. This is a chance for you to see a little bit of how this project came to be and hopefully inspire you to come up with ideas as well.

- Angela Boyd,
UCSB Web Services Librarian

Hi Eugenia! Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for the APALA Newsletter. I recently attended the author chat that you arranged for APALA. It was awesome, really very enjoyable. I was hoping you'd share with us some of the behind-the-scenes details of this event.

AB: Where did the idea of doing an author chat come up?

EB: After the first APALA chat in March, it was suggested that we feature special guests on our chats as a means of increasing attendance. Those of us who were on the chat felt that it was a good idea and we began brainstorming ideas for who to invite and when. We then surveyed our members shortly after the March chat to gauge interest in having a special guest for the next chat and suggested three potential guests, including Grace Lin.

AB: How was Grace Lin selected?

EB: We were interested in having Grace as a guest because she had just won the Newbery Honor for *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, and also because she was a past APALA Literature Award Honoree for her book, *Year of the Dog*. In addition, when we surveyed our members, Grace's name generated the most enthusiasm and familiarity, and we felt that she would be a great choice for a first guest.

AB: What was your favorite part of the chat?

EB: I really enjoyed learning about how Grace rediscovered her Asian roots, which she touched upon briefly in the Author's Note of *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. I also loved finding out how she created her illustrations (she uses gouache, a type of thick, opaque watercolor). And I was thrilled to learn that she's a Miyazaki fan. (In fact, when we asked about who she would want to make a movie of *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, she said she would want it to be Miyazaki!) Here's hoping. ?

EB: And I would be remiss if I didn't mention my other favorite part of the chat, which was learning that Sandy Wee's son sent Grace a letter and she answered him back with a postcard and a photo, which he keeps with his trophies.

AB: Who are some authors you're considering for future chats?

EB: One of our upcoming chats will feature Justina Chen Headley, another APALA Literature Award Winner, who is also represented by Little & Brown. Justina won the Youth Literature Award for her book, *Nothing But the Truth*, a coming-of-age novel about a biracial teenage girl. Sandy and I are also brainstorming some other potential guests, so please keep an eye out.

AB: When will the next chat be, do you know yet?

EB: Hopefully in either late September or October, depending on author availability. We will be in touch about that soon!

That sounds wonderful, I for one, cannot wait! Grace Lin was indeed a terrific choice to be our first guest. Thank you again for agreeing to talk to us and I look forward to seeing more of your work in the future!

Asian Pacific Americans Librarians Association



*An Affiliate of the American Library
Association*

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APALA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: _____ New ___ Renewal ___

Name: _____

Position: _____

Organization: _____

Address: ___ Work ___ Home

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate any APALA Standing Committees you would like to join:

<http://www.apalaweb.org/committees/standingcomms.htm>

Would you like to be added to APALA-L, discussion list? ___ Yes ___ No

Dues are enclosed for:

- ___ Personal (\$30)
- ___ Retiree (\$15)
- ___ Student (\$10)
- ___ Life (\$350)
- ___ Library Support Staff (\$15)
- ___ Institutional (\$60)
- ___ Corporate (\$200)
- ___ APALA Scholarship Fund (___)
- ___ APALA General Fund (___)

Total Amount: _____

Mail to: Gary Colmenar
Executive Director
APALA Membership
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Goleta, CA 93116-1669

HISTORY

Founded in 1980, the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) was incorporated in Illinois in 1981 and formally affiliated with the American Library Association (ALA) in 1982. A predecessor of APALA, the Asian American Librarians Caucus (AALC), was organized in 1975 as a discussion group of the ALA Office for Library Outreach Services, reflecting the interest in library services to minority communities. APALA and AALC before it, were organized/founded by librarians of diverse Asian/Pacific ancestries committed to working together toward a common goal: to create an organization that would address the needs of Asian/Pacific American librarians and those who serve Asian/Pacific American communities.

PURPOSE

- To collaborate and exchange ideas with ALA and other ethnic associations
- To mentor APA librarians
- To support library services to APA communities
- To discuss issues affecting APA librarians
- To provide scholarships and other awards
- To support organizations having similar or allied interest

MISSION

APALA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing leadership opportunities through informed dialogue that address the needs of Asian/Pacific American librarians and those who serve the APA communities.

AWARDS

Annually, APALA gives out the following awards:

- **Asian Pacific American Award for Literature** – To honor and recognize individual work about Asia/Pacific Americans and their heritages based on literary merit and artistic merit. Three awards include: Illustrations in children's picture books, youth literature and adult books.
- **Scholarship Award** - To provide financial assistance to a student of Asian/Pacific background who is enrolled, or has been accepted into a master's or doctoral degree program in library and/or information science at a library school accredited by the American Library Association (ALA).



JOIN US

Membership is open to all librarians and information specialists of Asian/Pacific descent and others who support the goals and purpose of APALA.

Benefits include:

- Meet, communicate and collaborate with ALA, their affiliates and other ethnic associations with similar interest
- Discuss challenges concerning our profession
- Participate in mentoring programs
- Seek funding or scholarships
- Join the APALA electronic discussion lists
- Receive APALA Membership Directory
- Receive APALA Newsletter

GET INVOLVED

APALA has many standing committees. Contact information can be found on the back of this flyer.

NETWORK

Keep in touch with

- Academic Librarians
- Public Librarians
- Special Librarians
- School Media Specialists
- Library School Faculty
- Library School Students
- Library Support Staff
- Information Specialists
- Webmasters
- Other Ethnic Caucuses