



Volume 29:4 2010

# ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha APALA members,  
Last month, in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we honored the traditions, histories, legacies, and cultures of the many ethnic groups that comprise Asian Pacific Americans (APAs). I know many of you have organized wonderful events and displays in your libraries to commemorate our community. At the same time we celebrate our heritage, we also recognize the importance of honoring all cultures and people. I recently had the privilege of traveling to Egypt and experiencing another culture. I was amazed by beauty of the Nile and the many magnificent ancient sites such as the temples at Abu Simbel, the tombs of New Kingdom pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings, and the pyramids of Giza. I learned so much about Egyptian history and culture, and had such a great time that I didn't want to return home. My trip reinforced my belief that we need to expose ourselves to other cultures through travel, art, music, food, and books to help deepen our understanding of other people and cultures.

Closer to home, I recently read about a CNN-commissioned pilot study that revealed the not-so-surprising racial beliefs of black and white children and their bias towards lighter skin. The results of the study reaffirm the need to engage young children in conversations about race and racial stereotypes. Like travel, books have an important place in breaking down misconceptions. With this in mind, Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture, APALA's family literacy project in collaboration with the American Indian Library Association (AILA), serves this purpose of helping children of all backgrounds learn about APA and Native American people and cultures through storytime, storytelling, music, art, dance, and other activities. This program also helps instill self-esteem and pride in APA and Native American children.

*continued on page 3*

## Letter from the Editor

Dear readers,

As APALA celebrates its 30th anniversary in Washington, D.C., I would like to welcome you to look through this conference issue of the APALA newsletter for events at the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. It contains the events and tours your APALA colleagues have organized in celebration of our anniversary, culminating with a gala dinner on Sunday evening.

APALA as an organization has grown in number and has made a positive impact on our members and the library community. I would like to say that we have taken similar steps in making the APALA newsletter an important and integral part of the association for sharing information and news about our members and librarianship in general. In 2000, we began publishing the newsletter online for reduce cost and for greater accessibility. You may have also noticed in the last few issues that the design of the newsletter has radically changed as Karla, our new coordinator of the newsletter, has put her creative imprint on the newsletter. I hope that you have enjoy the new look and feel of it.

I have also benefitted from a number of volunteers who have submitted articles, book reviews, and provided editorial assistance to make our newsletter a welcome document in your in-box. I want to thank you all for your help!

In the coming months I will call upon you to help me in how we could further improve the APALA newsletter.

I am also happy to hear your thoughts about the newsletter, on the current issue or future issues. I welcome your feedback and critiques.

Thank you,

Gerardo Colmenar



# President's Message

*continued from page 1*

This exciting yearlong project culminates this month with Talk Story events at seven selected public and tribal libraries throughout the country. We will share our experiences in a program at the upcoming ALA Annual Conference, along with colleagues from other ethnic affiliates and ALA President Camila Alire, who generously funded the project as part her family literacy focus initiative. The program will take place on Saturday, June 26, 1:30-3:30pm at the Embassy Suites Convention Center, Capital A/B. The long-lasting impact of this project will be in libraries with similar goals being able to utilize the program manual, storytimes, and bibliography of recommended children's books our team developed, and contributing their ideas as well. I would like to thank the members of the APALA team—Jeannie Chen, Anchalee "Joy" Roberts, Cecilia Poon, Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Jade Albuero, Saima Fazli, Sarah Park, and Sandy Wee, our liaison to the Diversity Initiatives Committee—and many other volunteers for their tremendous work and contributions to the project. Many thanks as well to Liana Juliano, president of AILA, and the rest of the AILA team, for being fantastic collaborators.

Reflecting back on my message in my last newsletter, I encouraged members to step forward and volunteer even if you're not able to attend ALA conferences. I realize that other than through the APALA listserv, most members may not know what's going on behind the scenes in APALA and may not have many opportunities to get more involved. This past spring the Executive Board hosted its first online membership chat meeting on ALAConnect as a way to include members in a dialogue about the future of APALA. Our discussion was lively, and the board came away with many ideas for improving the organization. One idea in particular that we liked was the idea of a planning retreat, tentatively planned for Midwinter 2011.

Given the enthusiastic response from participants about online membership chat meetings, I would like to continue to offer these periodically throughout the year, as I realize most members are unable to attend our meetings at ALA conferences.

Related to volunteering, I would like to announce a couple of recent appointments of APALA members to important ALA committees. Anchalee "Joy" Roberts will represent APALA on the Presidential Task Force on Traditional Cultural Expressions. Joy is Catalog & Metadata Services Librarian / Multicultural Services Team Member at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Our 2009 APALA sponsored Emerging Leader, Lana Adlawan, will serve as the APALA representative to the "Why I Need My Library" contest planning group, as part of ALA President-elect Roberta Stevens' presidential initiative. Lana is Children's Librarian at Brooklyn Public Library. Thank you to both Joy and Lana!

I can't believe how quickly the ALA Annual Conference is approaching. The 30th Anniversary Committee has been hard at work planning all of our events, and I hope you'll join us. For a list of events and to reserve your space at any event, please go to <http://www.apalaweb.org/events/30thAnniversary.htm>. Be sure to attend our APALA program, Asian American Political Participation: Librarians, Media & Advocacy, on Sunday, June 27, 10:30-12:00pm. We're pleased to have a diverse group of speakers who will share their work as political activists in literature, media, and libraries. As in previous years, APALA will have a table at the Diversity Fair on Saturday, June 26, 3:00-5:00pm at the Washington Convention Center, Hall C, Aisle 700. Our table will showcase members' activities in libraries and their communities to support library services to APAs. Even if you're not attending Annual, please share your photos, websites, handouts, etc. with Linda Ueki Absher ([absherl@pdx.edu](mailto:absherl@pdx.edu)), who is coordinating our table and collecting material from members. She is also seeking volunteers to help staff our table. Please consider volunteering or just stopping by. The Diversity Fair is a great place to learn about diversity-related activities of other organizations and even better, to meet people interested in these initiatives.

*continued on page 4*

## President's Message

*continued from page 3*

Lastly, I cannot encourage you enough to attend our 30th anniversary gala on Sunday, June 27 at 6:30p.m. at China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn, VA, a short ride from D.C. on the Metro. I am delighted that Franklin Odo, recently retired director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian Institution, will serve our keynote speaker. We plan to honor our past leaders of APALA as well as this year's APALA Literature Award winning books. This is a first-of-its kind event for APALA not to be missed! Everyone can help by publicizing the event and inviting friends and colleagues.

My year as president has been busy yet incredibly rewarding. I am thrilled to see our activities, projects, and 30th anniversary celebration come to fruition. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to those who supported me and APALA throughout the year-- the Executive Board, Executive Director Gary Colmenar, committee chairs and members, and many others volunteers. A big thank you to the 30th Anniversary Committee, especially our chair, Ven Basco, and Vice President/President-elect Florante Ibanez for their tireless work with programming, arrangements, the anniversary program, publicity, and countless other items required for planning this special event.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at ALA!

All the best,  
Sherise

## AWARDS *and* RECOGNITIONS

The 2009 Up and Coming Award is presented to a relatively new Illinois Chapter member who, through work and professional involvement, shows promise of becoming an outstanding member of the profession. This year the award has been given to Laura Fu, an APALA member and a student at Dominican University. She received the award because she has set an example of librarianship expanding to non-traditional media. Laura's dedication and commitment to helping students by providing mentorship and encouraging new students to expand their education and gain new experiences helped her win the award this year. As Laura stated in an article published in the SLA Illinois Chapter website, "We rely a great deal on our interns, in testing, implementation and application. I've really enjoying managing their participation, mentoring them as new members of the field and also learning a great deal for my own career."



Laura began her career as a news archivist in Baltimore and now works in Chicago in video asset management. Laura has designed a system for cataloging all in-house materials and recently pitched the idea for a new service at her

employer, a stock footage provider. It was received well and will be another responsibility of hers in 2010! Let us congratulate Laura for getting this award.

# APALA *Socials*



APALA members met for dinner at the recent Public Library Association National Conference in Portland, March 23-27, 2010. Included in the photograph are Richard Kong, Sandy Wee, Julie Ann Oiye, and Beatriz Pascual Wallace. The dinner was held at Dragonwell Asian Bistro.



## TALK STORY

sharing stories, sharing culture

a joint project of the american indian library association  
and the asian/pacific american librarians association

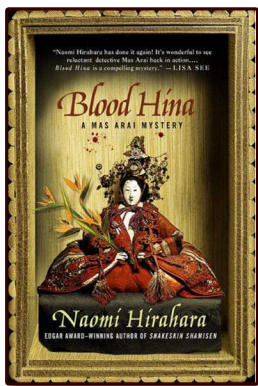
[www.talkstorytogether.org](http://www.talkstorytogether.org)

### *Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture*

is a literacy program that reaches out to Asian Pacific American (APA) and American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) children and their families. The program celebrates and explores their stories through books, oral traditions, and art to provide an interactive, enriching experience. Children and their families can connect to rich cultural activities through *Talk Story* in their homes, libraries, and communities. We welcome all ethnicities to customize *Talk Story* as needed for your community family literacy needs.

This project is generously supported by the American Library Association, as part of 2009-2010 ALA President Camila Alire's Family Literacy Focus Initiative.

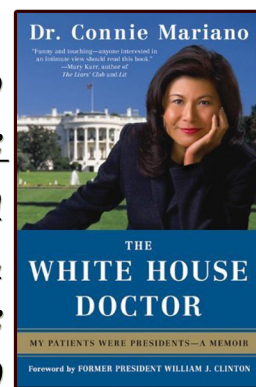
# BOOK REVIEWS



**Naomi Hirahara.**  
**Blood Hina:**  
**A Mas Arai Mystery.**  
**New York:**  
**Minotaur Books, 2010**

When asked to be the best man at his bosom buddy's wedding, Mas Arai reluctantly agrees, keeping his personal opinions quiet ("Why was Haruo, at seventy-one years of age, even thinking of getting remarried? Might as well just buy two cemetery plots right next to each other and put a bow tie on one headstone and a veil on the other"). Although Mas claims never to have been 'best' at anything in his life ("other than perhaps regrets"), he feels a weight of responsibility. Haruo, a former gambler who's "lost his wife and house to craps" clearly has faults, but he and Mas share history and a common bond, having both survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. When the wedding is abruptly canceled and the groom is suspected of stealing a valuable set of imperial Japanese dolls, Mas turns amateur detective. Hirahira's elderly protagonist, the self-described "has-been good-for-nothing gardener," is a thoroughly likable hero. Although the novel is sluggish at times, the author brings a different lens through which to view Los Angeles's Japanese-American community.

**Book Reviews by:**  
**Miriam Tuliao**  
**Assistant Director,**  
**Central Collection Development**  
**Collections Strategy**  
**New York Public Library**



**Connie Mariano**  
**The White House Doctor:**  
**Behind the Scenes with Clinton**  
**and Bush Families.**  
**New York:**  
**Thomas Dunne Books, 2010**

Dr. Connie Mariano is a notable Filipina woman. "Keeper of the presidential pulse," she served as the White House physician from 1992 to 2001, directing the White House Medical Unit and achieving the prestigious rank of rear admiral in the United States Navy. In her absorbing memoir, Mariano writes about her humble beginnings growing up as the daughter of a Navy steward and her profound desire to "pay back" through service. She chronicles both the expected and unexpected on-the-job challenges, including performing search-and-rescue exercises, adapting to the new face of the White House ("This would become a delicate dance in which both partners struggled to avoid stepping on each other's toes"), preparing for the worst-case scenario ("The specter of assassination hung over all of us"), caring for visiting dignitaries, surveying cities to identify environmental health risks, and accompanying the President on his travels across America and around the globe. In recounting the Clinton years, Mariano not only gives insight into the private side of the American presidency, but shares her own personal triumphs and tragedies ("My greatest achievements as a physician and career naval officer would be my most painful failure as a wife and mother").





Join us as we celebrate our 30th anniversary in Washington, D.C. with a six-course Chinese dinner, speakers and live entertainment. Dr. Franklin Odo, recently retired Director of the Asian American Program at the Smithsonian Institution, will be the keynote speaker. The event will also honor APALA's past officers, present literary awards, and feature live performances by the Lao American Women Association (LAWA) dance group and Subodh Sen of the Bollywood band, Sangeet.

All proceeds from this event will go to support the APALA Scholarship Fund.



Dr. Franklin S. Odo is a Japanese American author, scholar, activist, and historian. He recently retired as the director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian Institution.

Subodh Sen is a semi-professional singer-actor who has performed both in Mumbai and the U.S. He is a member of the D.C.-based Bollywood band, 'Sangeet' and an actor with Natya Bharati, an organization that stages Hindi plays for the D.C. Metro area.



**Sunday**

**June 27, 2010**

**5:30 - 6:30 pm (VIP Reception)**

**6:30 - 9:30 pm GALA**

**China Garden**

**1100 Wilson Blvd**

**Twin Towers - Mall Level**

**Rosslyn, VA 22209**

**<http://www.chinagardenva.com/>**



The Lao American Women Association of Washington, D.C. (LAWA) is the first women's organization in the nation's capital established by Lao-born American women. They will perform two dances: Sao Lao Lan Xang (Women of Lan Xang), and Lao Houm Pao (Lao Ethnic Group Unity).

Advance GALA tickets purchased by June 8:  
\$75 VIP/\$35 APALA members / \$40 non-members  
After June 8: \$40 APALA members / \$45 non-members/  
\$45 at the door if available  
For more information, email [bbasco@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:bbasco@mail.ucf.edu)  
Life Member Special: Become an APALA life member today  
and receive a free VIP ticket to the gala!

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**apala** asian/pacific american librarians association  
**Events • June 25 - 27, 2010 • Washington, D.C.**

**Friday, June 25, 2010**

10:00 - 11:00 am

**Smithsonian Folklife Festival: Asian Pacific American Connections. A Behind-the-Scenes Tour**

Donations will be accepted to support the Festival. This visit to the annual festival will be limited to 50 guests. <http://www.festival.si.edu/>

3:00 - 5:00 pm

**Library of Congress Tour**

This tour will focus on the library's Asian American Pacific Islander Collections. A reception will precede in the Asian Reading Room Foyer. Limited to 50 guests.

7:30 - 9:30 pm

**APALA Executive Board Meeting (open to all)**

Grand Hyatt Washington, Independence G

**Saturday, June 26, 2010**

1:00 - 2:30 pm

**White House Tour**

This tour will be limited to 50 guests. (Closed - No longer accepting reservations.)

3:00 - 4:00 pm

**National Archives Tour**

Tour the gallery and the vault with an emphasis on the archive's Asian Pacific American collection. Limited to 30 guests.

**Sunday, June 27, 2010**

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**APALA Program: Asian American Political Participation: Librarians, Media & Advocacy**

Renaissance Washington, Auditorium

This program looks at Asian/Pacific American activism and coalition building through political participation, media, creative writing, library programming, outreach, and other forms of mobilization. In particular, we will focus on public/cultural institutions and spaces such as libraries, social policies, education, and public services, which promote an equitable and just civil society. Our speakers will share their experiences in forming coalitions and social movements at the local and international level with people from different backgrounds of class, race, and gender.

6:30 - 9:30 pm

**30th Anniversary Dinner Gala at China Garden (See page 6 for more details.)**

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

1100 Wilson Boulevard Twin Towers - Mall Level, Rosslyn, VA 22209

For more information, please visit us at [apalaweb.org](http://apalaweb.org)





## Announcing 2010 APALA Scholarship Recipient

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Harrison W. Inefuku has been selected as the recipient of the 2010 APALA Scholarship. Harrison is currently completing a dual degree in Archival Studies and Library and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. His research interest focuses on appraisal policies of South Africa and how archives in South Africa are working to ensure documentation of minority and marginalized groups whose records were lost or confiscated during apartheid. Harrison hopes to become a professor in

Archival Studies and participate in the "recruiting and mentoring of APA librarians in the library/information science professions."

**Congratulations, Harrison!!!**

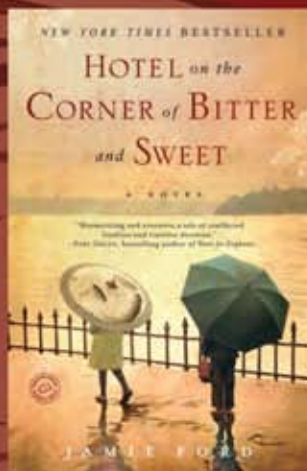
Thank you to our Scholarship Committee chair Heawon Paick and members Daniel Berdaner, Jee-Hyun Davis, Anchalee (Joy) Panigabutra-Roberts, and Thu-Phuong Lisa H. Nguyen for their excellent work!



# 2010 asian/pacific american awards for literature

asian/pacific american librarians association

## adult fiction



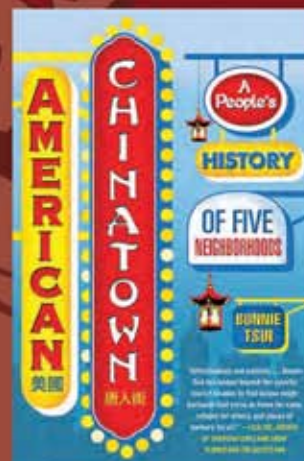
Jamie Ford. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*.  
New York: Ballantine Books, 2009.

### Honorable Mention

Lisa See. *Shanghai Girls*.  
New York: Random House, 2009.



## adult non-fiction



Bonnie Tsui. *American Chinatown: A People's History of Five Neighborhoods*.  
New York: Free Press, 2009.

### Honorable Mention



Lane Ryo Hirabayashi. *Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens*.  
Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2009.

# 2010 asian/pacific american awards for literature

asian/pacific american librarians association

## picture book



**Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore.**  
*Cora Cooks Pancit.*  
Illustrated by Kristi Valiant.  
Walnut Creek, CA: Shen's Books, 2009.

## youth literature



**Sung Woo.** *Everything Asian.*  
New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2009.

### Honorable Mention

**Malathi Michelle Iyengar.**  
*Tan to Tamarind.* Illustrated by  
Jamel Akib. New York:  
Children's Book Press, 2009.



### Honorable Mention

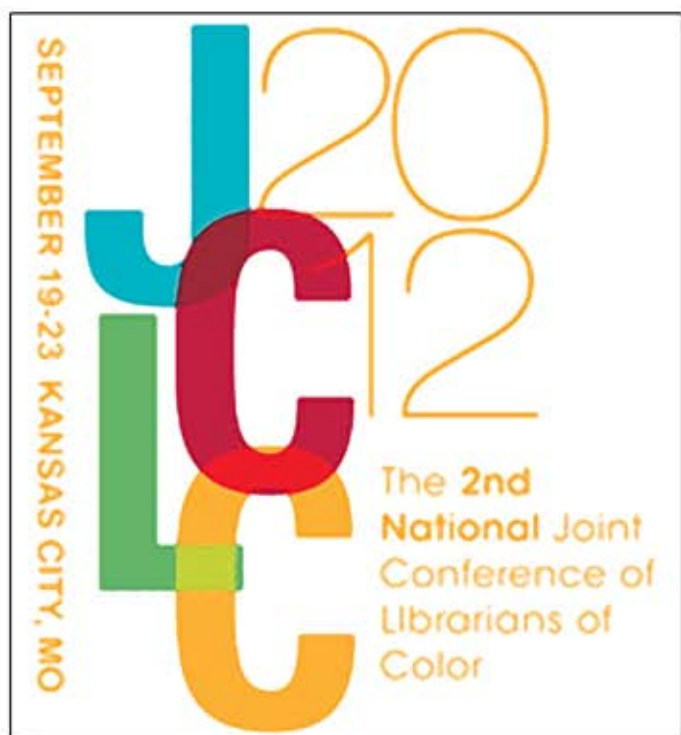
**Ching Yeung Russell.**  
*Tofu Quilt.* New York: Lee &  
Low, 2009.



### Selection Committee

**Chair:** Dora Ho (Los Angeles Public Library, CA)  
**Members:** Janet H. Clarke (Stony Brook University Libraries, NY); Cora Dompur (San Diego Public Library, CA); Jennifer Donohue (San Francisco, CA); Susan Hoang (East Los Angeles College, CA); Rebecca Kennedy (Chicago Public Library, IL); Suhasini Kumar (University of Toledo, OH); Jiun Kuo (Rice University, TX); Corliss Lee (UC Berkeley, CA); Candice Mak (Los Angeles Public Library, CA); Michelle Miller (Jamestown, OH); Susan L. Minobe (UCLA, CA); Kyung-Ah Gina Moon (Fort Lauderdale Public Library, FL); Anchalee Pangabutra-Roberts (University of Nebraska—Lincoln, NE); Sarah Park (Saint Catherine University, MN); Lessa K. Pelayo-Lozada (Woodcrest Library, CA); Liladhar R. Pendse (UCLA, CA); Jeffrey Sichaleune (County of Los Angeles Public Library, CA); Becky Lasswell Stromberg (UCSB, CA); Kate Vo Thi-Beard (University of Wisconsin—Madison, WI); Melanee Vicedo (Online Computer Library Center, OH)

Please see the APALA website for descriptions of the book and past award winners.  
[www.apalaweb.org](http://www.apalaweb.org)



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Celebrating Stories,  
Embracing Communities*

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[www.ala.org/jclc](http://www.ala.org/jclc)

# JCLC SAVE THE DATE

## September 19-23, 2012

Destination Crown Center - Kansas City, MO

The second collaboration of the five ethnic library affiliate groups with the American Library Association (ALA) promises to be another milestone for increasing diversity in the profession. Following the lead of the first JCLC held in 2006, the conference plans to offer tools to create and support diversity policies, programs, and services for library staff who serve diverse communities. Its programs will focus on literacy, equity of access, diversity best practices, multi-cultural collection development, recruitment, service delivery and much more. They encourage all librarians and information professionals to come share, learn and celebrate the diversity of the profession. The conference planners invite all those interested in promoting diversity to save the dates, September 19-23, 2010, and make plans to attend.

For more information, please contact Marcellus Turner,  
JCLC Steering Committee Secretary at [Marcellus.Turner@JeffcoLibrary.org](mailto:Marcellus.Turner@JeffcoLibrary.org)



# APALA CHAT WITH AUTHOR GRACE LIN!

Join APALA for a chat with Newbery Honor-winning author and 2006 APALA Literature Award Honoree Grace Lin!

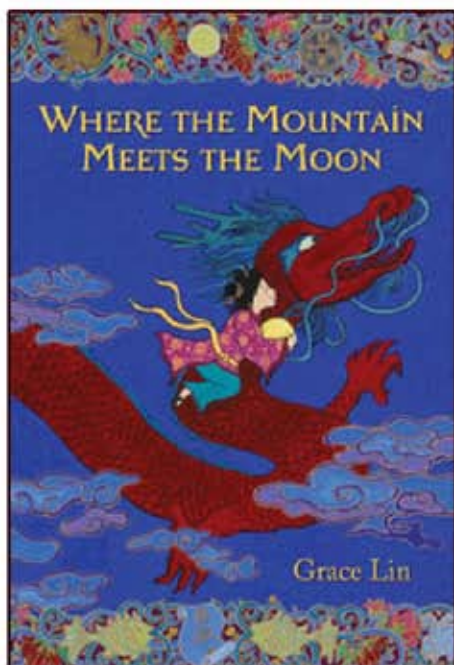
Time: 2PM EST (11AM PST, 1PM CST)

When: Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Where: <http://connect.ala.org/chatrooms/chat/798>



(Please sign up at <http://connect.ala.org/> and request to join the APALA member group at <http://connect.ala.org/node/76086> if you haven't already. Please sign up at least a day in advance so that our group manager can add you.)



Grace Lin is the author and illustrator of more than a dozen picture books, including THE UGLY VEGETABLES and DIM SUM FOR EVERYONE! Also an author of middle grade fiction, Grace's 2010 Newbery Honor book WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON was chosen for Al Roker's Today Show Kid's Book Club and was a NY Times Bestseller. While most of Grace's books are about the Asian-American experience, she believes, "Books erase bias, they make the uncommon everyday, and the mundane exotic. A book makes all cultures universal." See more about Grace and her work at <http://www.gracelin.com/>.

*And look out for information about an upcoming chat with author Justina Chen Headley in the fall!*