



apala

asian/pacific american librarians association

NEWSLETTER

ISSN: 1040-8517

Volume 31:1 Fall 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A. Jade Alburo, APALA President, 2012-2013.

Greetings, APALA members and other readers! I'm honored to serve as your President for 2012-2013. I would like to tell you about my history with APALA, so you have an understanding of where I'm trying to take it during my presidential term.

I first became an APALA member around 2004-2005, when I was a Spectrum Scholar, and I took advantage of the free one-year membership benefit. However, it wasn't until 2007 that I really became involved with APALA. ALA Annual was in Washington, D.C., which was where I was living at the time, and that's when I attended my first

APALA dinner. I felt welcomed and at ease, and it made me want to be a part of the APALA community. I immediately renewed my membership, which I had allowed to lapse, and volunteered for a couple of committees.

At the 2008 Midwinter Meeting, there was a panel program right after the APALA Executive Board/All-Committee meeting that featured former APALA leaders, who talked about the history of and their experiences with APALA. It was followed by a discussion about the future of APALA. That was a defining moment for me. While it was great to learn about APALA's beginnings, it was even more inspiring to hear from those who have helped to shaped it, clearly still cared about it, and could see its potential. A couple of points stood out for me that evening:

- 1) While APALA had been a successful, small organization, it was time for it to grow and flourish.
- 2) In order to do so, APALA needed to continue to have committed leaders and engaged members.

As I hope most of you have discovered by now, APALA is indeed a cozy organization. In my experience, it has excelled most in providing fellowship and personal

(Continued on page 2)

apala executive board
2012-2013

President

A. Jade Alburo
University of California, Los Angeles

Vice President/President-Elect

Eugenia Beh
Texas A&M University

Treasurer

Shoko Tokoro
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Secretary

Lessa K. Pelayo-Lozada
Glendale Public Library

Immediate Past President

Sandy Wee
Millbrae Library, San Mateo County Library

Board Members at Large

Janet H. Clarke (2011-2013)
Stony Brook University

Candice A. Wing-Yee Mack (2011-2013)
Studio City Branch, Los Angeles Public Library

Tina Chan (2012-2014)

State University of New York at Oswego

Alanna Aiko Moore (2012-2014)

University of California, San Diego

Executive Director

Buenaventura "Ven" Basco
University of Central Florida Libraries

support to its members. However, given the number of APA librarians, as well as APA communities that need services from librarians of all ethnicities, I definitely think APALA should be bigger than it is. And I don't mean just in terms of membership size, but also in the degree of influence. (Though, of course, having more people enables us to accomplish more.)

In 2008-2009, I was appointed chair of the newly-created Ad Hoc Committee on Membership Recruitment (now subsumed under the Membership Committee). My team didn't do much recruiting, but we did brainstorm about what APALA needed to have in order to attract new members and retain existing ones. We came up with recommendations for new benefits, such as online or virtual resources, programs, discussions, and toolkits. One of my two main initiatives this year—the expansion of our web content—stems directly from and addresses a number of these recommendations. One of my goals for doing this is to at least lay the foundation for making the APALA website a national clearinghouse for APA-related library information, so it serves not only as a practical tool for APALA members, but for all librarians and anyone else serving APA communities.

To realize this, I have included specific assignments in a number of committees' and task forces' charges for this year. For example, I have asked: the Committee on Family Literacy Focus to add to the activities/program section of the Talk Story website; the Literature Awards Committee to add book covers and links to authors titles in our list past winners; and the Web Committee to investigate possible platforms for virtual meetings/discussions and webinars. But there are two groups that will really address the need for additional web content. This year, I have added a sub-committee for web content to the Newsletter & Publications Committee, and I have tasked it with introducing a number of monthly and/or quarterly features. I have also reinvented the Task Force on Library Services to APAs and, among other things, have charged it with: determining the needs of APA communities and information professionals serving them (in order to then decide how to address these needs), researching APA-related library programs and resources and highlighting them on the APALA website, and working with the Newsletter & Publications Committee on any features that includes resource lists. If we can accomplish most of these, we should have a more robust and valuable website.

The second point from that inspirational panel sounded very much like a clarion call for new leaders to me. And I was ready to answer. Even though I was only a year out of library school at that time, I vowed to myself that I would step up to be a leader in APALA. In fact, a year later (in early 2009), I ran for Vice-President/President-Elect. Obviously, I lost the election. That was actually just as well because, in the interven-

ing years, my three immediate predecessors had been building an infrastructure that should go a long way towards keeping APALA coordinated so that its members have more time to focus on other activities. Thus, I now have the luxury of instituting projects such as the ones mentioned above. However, I am continuing to build on this foundation with my other initiative—the creation of an APALA handbook. This would serve as a resource to APALA members and leaders and would ease the transition between committees, as well as between Executive Boards, from year to year.

To do this, the Archives Ad Hoc Committee is now the Archives & Handbook Task Force. The handbook sub-committee is basically charged with creating a handbook that includes information on both the organization and the various committees, including history or background, descriptions and charges, procedures, timelines, forms, and so on. In order to facilitate this, its members will create a template that will not only provide consistency, but could also be filled out more easily by APALA officers and committee chairs. The committees and task forces have all been asked to provide this documentation. The hope is that this handbook would be finished by Annual 2013 and would help in next year's transition.

These two initiatives are in addition to the continuation of previous years' goals of promoting APALA and its literary awards, succession planning, and fundraising. Again, I have included charges for specific committees to achieve this. However, it doesn't have to be solely the work of officers and committees to do APALA's work and to help make it grow. I encourage all of you to write promotional pieces, create resource lists, volunteer for specific projects, host fundraisers, and suggest other ideas. Though I do have a plan for what I would like to accomplish this year, I am flexible and open to suggestions.

For instance, one of the things that have already been started in the last two months is the "What's Your Normal?" series. As I have explained before, it started from an email that led to my asking someone to write an essay, which then triggered the idea for the series. This series is actually a perfect example of what I'm trying to do with APALA. On the one hand, I would like us to maintain our intimate feel, and this does that by featuring personal essays that offer peeks into our lives, thus allowing us to get to know each other a little better without necessarily having to attend a face-to-face social or conference. At the same time, we want to offer more value as an organization, whether it is to our members or the general public. While the essays do offer a certain kind of insight, the resource lists accompanying them present links for further, more objective information. This series, thus, simultaneously offers an opportunity for virtual engagement and conversa-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

tion, as well as for the creation of a useful knowledge base. It keeps us both cozy and outward-looking. And that's my vision for APALA.

Before I end, I once again want to express my thanks to Sandy Wee, last year's President, her Executive Board, all the committee and task forces chairs and volunteers, outgoing Executive Director (ED) Gary Colmenar and incoming ED Ven Basco. You have given me so much with which to work. This year, I am extremely privileged to have an excellent Executive Board in: Vice-President/President-Elect Eugenia Beh, Secretary Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, Treasurer Shoko Tokoro, Immediate Past President Sandy Wee, Members-at-Large Tina Chan, Janet Clarke, Candice Mack, and Alanna Aiko Moore, and ED Ven Basco. I am also floored by the response that I received to my call for volunteers—about a third of our total membership heeded the request, and a few others wrote to say that they couldn't do it this year but will definitely volunteer next year. This is the kind of participation we need in order to keep APALA strong and flourishing.

I know that I have an ambitious agenda for this year, but I know that we can accomplish most of it. I think that we all care about APALA and want nothing but the best for it, and I believe that my initiatives will help us move forward to the next level. I can't wait to work with you all. Let's get this started! ✨

Best,

APALA MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Bryan Thao Worra.

APALA member and Laotian American writer [Bryan Thao Worra](#) was recently selected as the Lao delegate of the Cultural Olympiad. A week-long Poetry Parnassus was hosted by the Southbank Centre, the largest poetry festival ever staged in the United Kingdom. Poets from all of the competing Olympic nations were brought together with 145 of the featured poets attending in person. Each nation was represented by one poet during the festival.

Thao Worra was chosen from among the over 6,000 nominations received from around

the world. His poem "No Regrets" was written as a response to the 2008 chapbook of the same name by Lao Minnesotan writer Saymoukda Vongsay.

"The poem highlights the importance and role of literature and books in preserving the memories of Asian Americans, including their inner lives and hopes for the future," Thao Worra said. "It was also inspired by the work I have done with other APALA members and librarians over the years."

Other countries were represented by poets like spoken word artist Kosal Khiev, who was a Cambodian refugee deported by the US to Phnom Penh. Thailand was represented by the award-winning poet Chiranan Pitpreecha, while Vietnam's poets were represented by Nguyen Bao Chan. Many of their poems were read aloud on the BBC and scheduled for inclusion in the World Record Anthology from Bloodaxe Books.

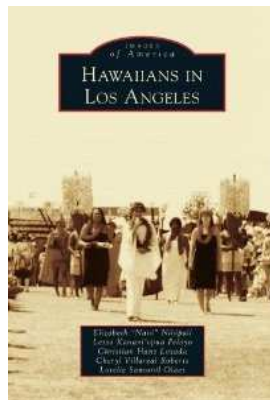
Thao Worra recently celebrated the 5th anniversary of the publication of his first full-length book of poetry, *On the Other Side of the Eye*. This August, he and other Lao American colleagues received a certificate of recognition from the governor of Minnesota to celebrate Lao Minnesotan Artists Heritage Month. With the 3rd largest Lao American population in the country, Minnesota is home to numerous international award winning artists such as Bounxou Chanthraphone, a master weaver who holds an NEA Heritage Fellowship.

You can see Thao Worra's work and the work of other poets involved at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/interactive/2012/jun/26/poetry-parnassus-interactive-map>

Thao Worra's poem "No Regrets" is printed in this Newsletter issue on page 7. ✨

=====



Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, Children's Librarian at Glendale Public Library and Secretary and Chair of the Family Literacy Focus Committee for APALA, co-authored her first book from Arcadia Press, *Hawaiians in Los Angeles* in May 2012. The book focuses on the family stories of diasporic Native Hawaiians from the 1960s until today through text and family photographs. Pelayo-Lozada hopes that this book will encourage more people in

the Pacific Islander community to document their vibrant history on the continent. To find out more about how the

(Continued on page 9)

THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

by Suzanne Im

On July 7, 2012, we invited local librarians, library students, and staff to the very first Gold Coast APALA social at [Zen Yai Thai](#) Cuisine in downtown Santa Barbara. This was an opportunity for attendees to connect with each other and learn about upcoming APALA events at ALA Annual. It was a very successful turnout with fifteen in attendance.

APALA member Katrina Nye and her husband drove out 70 miles from Santa Maria to meet us. Talk about commitment! APALA Web Committee Chair Angela Boyd donated lovely terrariums for door prizes. Lively conversation abounded, covering a gamut of topics from library student aspirations to the local Summer Solstice celebration.

After dinner, we partook in [First Thursday](#), a monthly Santa Barbara celebration of arts, culture, social activism and entertainment. UCSB Life Sciences Librarian Kristen LaBonte lead our art walk up State Street, where we cheered on the [Bike Moves](#) parade.

Such socials are not only a great way to recruit new members, but also to build community and awareness of APA issues in libraries. We hope to continue this social on a quarterly basis. The next social is slated for the first Thursday in September. ☺

Suzanne Im is UCSB Library Fellow for 2011-2013.



Good company makes the food taste even better!

APALA NORTHEAST DINNER IN NEW YORK CITY AT MORIMOTO

by Janet Clarke, Tina Chan, Alvin Dantes

It was a warm summer night on June 6 in New York City. Several APALA members met for dinner at Morimoto NYC, a Japanese restaurant in Chelsea, after the first day of the State University of New York Library Association Conference (SUNYLA). There were no sightings of Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto, but APALA members seemed energized. The restaurant was busy, the menu extensive, and all were excited about eating Japanese fusion food. The conversation was wide ranging and informal, moving from topics like Asian food to Koha. The dinner was organized by Janet Clarke (Stony Brook), Alvin Dantes (Oneonta), and Tina Chan (Oswego).

Janet Clarke, SUNY Stony Brook:

Janet H. Clarke presented a session on the work that Stony Brook University Libraries has been doing with Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students for the last 10 years. She highlighted the partnership with Stony Brook's IT department, described session content, and provided background on the EOP and its context at Stony Brook. She also moderated a lively session on Fulbright-funded librarian experiences abroad (Tunisia, South Africa, Cypress, Greece).

Tina Chan, SUNY Oswego:

Attending the SUNYLA conference at the Fashion Institute of Technology was exciting as this was my first SUNYLA conference. I am thankful to SUNYLA because I was a recipient of the Sylvia Chu Memorial Scholarship, which included free conference registration and one preconference continuing education session. The preconference I attended was called LibGuides: For More Than Just Guides, presented by fellow APALA member and SUNY colleague, Alvin Dantes at SUNY Oneonta. Alvin showed us how to use the LibGuides API, how to embed a LibGuides widget, and how to use CSS to customize LibGuides. I had not previously explored LibGuides this extensively, so I am glad I attended Alvin's informative session.

Alvin Dantes, SUNY Oneonta:

This was the second SUNYLA Conference that I have attended. Unlike the first time, I was here as a presenter. I presented a pre-conference workshop and a poster session on LibGuides and how to use the API. I am glad that I was able to meet and dine with other APALA members here in the Northeast, and I look forward to future events. ☺

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH 2012: JUDY YUNG IN RIVERSIDE

Judy Yung Presentation at Riverside Public Library in
Riverside, CA

by Melissa Cardenas-Dow

Celebrating Asian Pacific Island Heritage Month in May 2012, University of California Riverside (UCR) and its many community partners invited Professor Judy Yung to present on Angel Island and its significance to American immigration history. Between 1910 to 1940, Angel Island Immigration Center processed around one million people. This earned Angel Island its nickname of “Ellis Island of the West.” [Angel Island](#) is located in the San Francisco Bay Area and is designated as a California State Park. [The Immigration Station](#) on Angel Island is a National Historic Landmark.



Professor and Author Judy Yung discusses her book *Angel Island Immigrant Gateway to America*. Arlington Branch Riverside Public Library.

Dr. Yung’s 2010 book, *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*, provided the focus of the presentations she made at UCR’s Highlander Union Building and the Arlington branch of Riverside Public Library’s Community Room. Both events were free and open to the public. My family and I attended the Saturday, May 19th, presentation at Riverside Public Library Arlington branch, which had approximately 40 attendees. Representatives from the event’s community partners—Save Our Chinatown Committee (SOCC), and the Multicultural Council of Riverside Museum Associates (Riverside Metropolitan Museum), Riverside Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (Riverside JACL)—were also present. Refreshments of tea, water, spring rolls, dumplings, crackers, and various sweet treats were served.

Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America won the 2010 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature in the Adult Nonfiction category, an honor bestowed by APALA. The book, co-authored by Dr. Yung and Dr. Erika Lee, also won the 2011 Caughey Book Prize from the Western History Association, an annual award given for the “most distinguished book on the history of the American West.” (Western History Association, [Past Award Winners](#)) After her presentations at UCR and Riverside Public Library, Dr. Yung traveled to The Autry National Center in Los Angeles, California, where she conducted another lecture on the history of Angel Island. On a related note, The Autry National Center awarded the [Maverick Prize to the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation \(AIISF\)](#). Dr. Yung’s presentation at The Autry was part of the programs that recognize the work and contribution of AIISF to the history of the American West.



Author Judy Yung signs book at Angel Island lecture. Arlington Branch Riverside Public Library.



Author Judy Yung poses with co-sponsors and new friends. Arlington Branch Riverside Public Library.

Coordinator Judy Lee, UCR librarian, started off the presentation by introducing Dr. Yung, her work and contribution to Chinese American history and women’s history. Dr. Yung’s presentation painted a vivid picture of individual lives touched by international politics, racial, class, and gender values, and governmental policies during various times of

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

war and peace. Interspersed throughout Dr. Yung's presentation are images from Angel Island Immigration Station, which celebrated its centennial in 2010, pictures of individuals who have spent time at the station and transcriptions of written artifacts from newspapers, barracks-wall carvings, and personal diary entries.



Save Our Chinatown Committee (SOCC) board members Luz Negron and Judy Lee pose for the camera.

While Angel Island figures prominently in Asian American immigration history, Dr. Yung retold stories of people from Europe and Latin America crossing into the United States through Angel Island Immigration Station. These stories are also prominent in *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*. Dr. Yung provided signed copies of the book, the proceeds from which benefited the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation.

Dr. Judy Yung worked as a librarian at the San Francisco Public Library and the Oakland Public Library before earning her doctorate in Ethnic Studies from University of California, Berkeley.

For more information about Angel Island Immigration Station, please visit the [Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation \(AIISF\) website](#) and view the [AIISF tour video](#).

Special thanks to Judy Lee for images and additional information. Please visit Save Our Chinatown Committee (SOCC) Facebook page, Save Riverside Chinatown: <https://www.facebook.com/savechinatown>. ☺

Melissa Cardenas-Dow is Outreach/Behavioral Sciences Librarian at University of Redlands.

YES, I SEE WHAT YOU SEE: MY VISIT TO A POSTER SESSION ON RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS

by Amalia Menon

I am not an ALA poster session kind of a person. I tend to breeze through it at the exhibit hall to get to the ALA Store, but this year, something changed my mind. I was poring over the poster session abstracts the night before (for some light reading) and I happened to notice an interesting title. I read the abstract. The next day, I went to the poster session by Jaena Alabi, Reference and Instruction Librarian, from Auburn University. Her poster session was entitled, "Do You See What I See? Academic librarians' Experiences of Racism." Her research project was about racial microaggressions: "brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to people of color because they belong to a racial minority group." Jaena sought "to investigate academic librarians' experiences and observations of racism in the profession." If college students and faculty of color experience race-based microaggressions, would minority librarians experience them as well. Is this one reason why minority librarians leave the profession?

Jaena was standing alone in front of her poster. I went and asked about her research, she was happy to explain. The purpose her study was to: 1.) "investigate the prevalence of racial microaggressions in the academic library environment, and 2.) determine whether non-minority librarians are conscious of racial microaggressions their minority colleagues may be experiencing." Her methodology was an online survey distributed to various listservs, largely based on "Nadal's racial and ethnic microaggressions scale (REMS)", and literature. Jaena informed me that she still needed to pore over the data so the result was preliminary. In her handout, however, she listed twelve responses from those who responded to her survey. At least seven of the responses, in my humble opinion, came across as having "not a good" experience at their workplace.

I thanked Jaena for her time. I took her handout and business card as others waited patiently to take their turn to speak to her. I lingered at the poster sessions. I visited a few more booths and learned new things, such as, open source digital repository and other techie stuff. After awhile, I forgot to visit the ALA Store. As I returned to the program sessions, I thought about the significance of Jaena's research. Perhaps someday, one of us will expand on it. I can't wait to read about her research in the near future. I am now a poster session fan. ☺

Amalia Menon is a librarian at Stanford University. She is a member of APALA's Diversity and Outreach Task Force 2012-2013.

ETHNIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS GEAR UP FOR JCLC 2012 IN KANSAS, MO

The long awaited 2nd National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) will be arriving Sept. 19-23 following a 6 year wait from the first JCLC held in 2006 in Dallas, TX with over 1,000 participants.

This conference theme of *Gathering at the Waters: Celebrating Stories, Embracing Communities* is sure to attract participation from many students, teachers, librarians and other information professionals interested in serving diverse communities and sharing best practices and experiences from the trenches.



JCLC 2012 will be hosted in the heart of downtown Kansas City, Crown Center which is often called a city within a city. Three levels of great shopping and dining complement two of the city's most luxurious hotels, exquisite office buildings, a residential community and several entertainment attractions.

With over 200 sessions planned, JCLC will truly be a conference experience for everyone to learn from and share. Just recently added are various exciting Kansas City cultural bus tours for attendees to visit the sites and flavors of Kansas City such as, **the Haskell Indian Nations University, the American Jazz Museum, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, Nelson-Atkins Art Gallery, and a Taste of Kansas Tour.**

For APALA attendees, enjoy an APALA meeting /reception

being planned on the Friday evening of JCLC Sept. 21st. The updated detailed program is now online on the JCLC website. For more information and to register for the JCLC, please visit <http://jclc-conference.org>.

The JCLC is co-sponsored by the five ethnic caucuses of the American Library Association which include the American Indian Library Association (AILA); the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA); the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA); the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. ☺

No Regrets

Maybe one day,
A page will be found,
A song will be heard,
A stroke will be drawn
Filled with explanations.

Maybe one day,
The nuckawi and silapin, beautiful as a field of khao mai
Will be vindicated.

A family will start.

A child will learn the names of a stranger who believed in them
Before they even met.

Maybe one day,
A heart will remember a brother, a sister, a crime, a moment of love,
A chronicle of a city, a haiku from Japan.
A teacher.
A friend on the other side of your eye.

Until then, what is certain?
Night arrives, then day. The moon, the sun, the rain and waves.
A few other things, maybe something someone will write down.
Maybe not .

~ Bryan Thao Worra, APALA member and Laotian American writer
☺

BETWEEN LIBRARIANS AND SCHOLARS

by Paul Lai

As I transition from my previous career as a teacher and scholar of Asian American literatures to the world of librarianship, I hope to maintain connections to that world of Asian American studies scholarship and to the amazing faculty whom I met in those circles. One of my interests is in helping to bridge the worlds of librarianship and scholarly research by joining the ranks of librarians who actively work with scholars in developing access to the wealth of material that inform and comprise the field of Asian American studies. As part of that work, I helped to organize a roundtable panel discussion at this year's Association for Asian American Studies conference held April 11-14 in Washington, DC. This panel, "Expanding the Informational: Asian American Digital Representation and Community Empowerment," created the opportunity for about a dozen librarians and scholars to exchange ideas about the relationship between scholars and Asian American communities as well as about particular projects dealing with information and scholarly knowledge.

To start things off, Martin Joseph Ponce, Associate Professor of English at Ohio State University, and I introduced a collaborative project in an initial brainstorming phase. For years, Joe had been noticing that people tend to engage with his work in Asian American studies as if the field is so new that there is not a substantial body of scholarship already in existence. He has had to explain to colleagues, students, and librarians on multiple occasions that there are in fact decades of academic scholarship and an even longer history of intellectual production about Asian America. In order to make this scholarship more visible, Joe approached me to work with him on creating a database or portal that would help scholars and others comprehend the scope of the field and to find published research more readily. Ideally, we would like to combine the practices of creating comprehensive bibliographies of the field, something that *Amerasia Journal* used to do, for example, with new online technologies and social media to decentralize the process of entering new research and to facilitate conversations between scholars and librarians.

Next, Jina Park, who recently completed her MLIS degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, raised the issue of many librarians' lack of knowledge about the specialized field of Asian American studies and the negative impact that misperceptions of the field has on building a relationship between Asian American studies faculty, students in their classes, and librarians. Jina noted that the majority of librarians are white, which leads to both a normalization of whiteness and a focus on only certain kinds of understandings of Asian America such as Asian immigrant stories. By identifying librarians' misunderstanding of Asian American studies, Jina suggested that working to explain the field more broadly to

librarians is an important project for increasing the reach of its scholarship.

Daniel C. Tsang, Distinguished Librarian at UC Irvine for Asian American studies, picked up this thread in discussing the issues that arise when digital archives experts who are not part of Asian American communities work with material such as oral histories. Since librarians and archivists are the ones who make material accessible to others by assigning appropriate metadata and describing information resources, they are the ones who must understand enough of what they are processing in order to represent it accurately. Dan mentioned as one specific problem the complexities of representing romanized Chinese names. He then also discussed a project that he is working on to record oral histories from the Chinese Vietnamese diaspora (Chinese who lived in Vietnam before being displaced in the civil war to other countries like the United States). This project highlights the importance of expertise in complex histories to understand the place of ethnic minorities in the Vietnamese diaspora in the United States, who by and large are subsumed under the mantle of Vietnamese America.

Then, MLIS student Touger Vang talked about the dangers of ethnographic research when scholars enter a community, take information and stories from its people, and then benefit in their publications and careers from that research without more fully engaging with that community. As an activist who has worked extensively with Hmong and Southeast Asian communities in North Carolina, he advocated greater collaboration between scholars and community members so that the production of knowledge about Asian American communities is less a one-way movement of information and cultural capital. Instead, he called for engaged scholarship in which the types of research projects that academics undertake for their own professional advancement would include dynamic partnerships with community members who help to shape that research as well as concrete benefits for the community.

Finally, University of North Carolina at Greensboro LIS professor Clara M. Chu and Rutgers University history professor Kathleen López discussed their joint project to update and reintroduce an online portal of information about and for Chinese in/from Latin America. Clara began by taking up Jina's earlier comments about the lack of rigorous and sustained discussion about Asian America and race more generally in librarianship. She noted that the Information Professional 2050 conference at UNC Chapel Hill, billed as a celebration of that university's LIS program but also as a look forward to the future of the field, did not include any presenters of color nor did it foreground diversity as a topic. This blindspot was especially stunning because the year 2050 is

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

the year other commentators often note as the year when the United States will officially reach a point where white Americans drop below 50% of the total population. Clara asked how librarians might take into account more fully this demographic shift and the importance of approaching the field without white patrons and librarians as the norm.

Kathy then shared the mockup of the website that she and Clara have been assembling about the Chinese in and from Latin America. Kathy emphasized that the goal of the website is to make scholarly research available to the community while also enabling community members to contribute content. Echoing Touger's call for a two-way exchange of information and cultural capital, Kathy and Clara envision creating a digital space for cultural heritage preservation. As Clara noted, students in ethnic studies classes often are sent to libraries to learn about their own communities or others rather than learning how to turn to themselves to generate and analyze those stories and information.

After the brief presentations, we all had a chance to share some insights, experiences, and suggestions for the issues that we all raised. One audience member, for example, discussed her own experiences as an historian in using university archives and being treated by the archivist as someone who didn't quite seem to belong, perhaps because she looked too young to be a serious scholar and because she didn't look the part of a scholar because she is Filipina. We also talked about the dynamic between scholar and community, exploring different ways that scholars might be held more accountable to the communities they study but also acknowledging the importance of supporting scholars of color who are working hard to gain tenure and promotion in academia.

We left the session with hopes of sustaining these conversations in our individual projects, as well as in creating more bridges between scholars and librarians. What is clear from the discussion is the need for making Asian American studies scholarship more accessible to those outside the immediate circle of scholars--to reach out to librarians and community members in particular--as well as to create online spaces that facilitate conversations between scholars and community members. I hope that we also continue to carve out a regular space for librarians to meet up at the annual AAAS conference, and I look forward to meeting other APALA members in future conference settings. ☺

Paul Lai has just completed a year of coursework for the MLIS degree and looks forward to learning more about librarianship, archives, and digital information. He currently works as the library intern in the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota.

APALA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

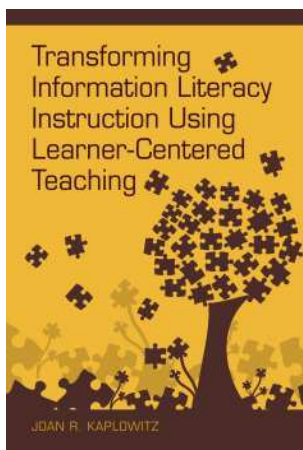
authors are continuing to document the community, visit their blog at: <http://hawaiiansinla.wordpress.com> or like them on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/HawaiiansInLosAngeles>. ☺

=====

Rebecca "Becka" Kennedy began a new position at Seattle Public Library in July 2012. She is a Librarian for Arts, Recreation, and Literature at the Central Library. Previously, she was a social sciences librarian for Chicago Public Library and most recently, worked in publications for The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), a think tank focused on U.S.-Asia policy. Becka is thrilled to return to public librarianship, and she also continues to freelance as an editor. ☺

=====

APALA member **Jerry Dear**, Librarian/Information Strategist at San Francisco Public Library and Library Information Technology Instructor at City College of San Francisco, submitted a couple of highlights from his recent information professional accomplishments.



Contribution to Information Literacy Instruction Book

Last fall I had a privileged opportunity to work with [Joan Kaplowitz](#), a retired faculty member of UCLA's Library and Information Science program. Her strong interest and passion in the information literacy field in collaboration with [Esther Grassian](#) led her to explore the dynamics and benefits of student-centered teaching in school, academic, and public libraries. Her

research in this subject evolved into a book entitled [Transforming Information Literacy Instruction Using Learner-Centered Teaching](#) (Neal-Schuman, 2012). I was thrilled and honored to submit a vignette to this work, delineating my instructional strategies in teaching a Power Googling class to the general public at the San Francisco Public Library.

BayNet Event Featuring David Silver

Last spring I also had an excellent opportunity to invite [David Silver](#) from the University of San Francisco as the keynote

(Continued on page 12)

ALA ANNUAL 2012 ANAHEIM

by Catherine H. Phan

The most obvious statement I can make as a first-time attendee of ALA's Annual Conference is that it is an overwhelming experience. Tens of thousands of attendees, hundreds of exhibitors, a couple thousand events, and hundreds of programs is, well, *huge*. Thankfully, it was not so huge that it prevented me from having an excellent time. It was tremendously helpful to travel with veteran conference goers who helped me navigate the hugeness that is ALA Annual. Being an APALA member and meeting fellow APALA members via email took away some of the intimidation too. It was nice to have an official APALA hotel where you knew you would meet friendly faces.



APALA members at ALA Annual 2012. Front row, from left: Susan Hoang, Dawn Wing, Tien-I Tsai . Back row: Fred Park, Janet Tom, Joy Panigabutra-Roberts, Catherine H. Phan . Photo courtesy of Dawn Wing.

Here are a few of my lessons learned as a first-time Annual attendee. First and foremost: find a conference mentor, preferably before the conference. As mentioned, without insight into getting the most out of Annual from veterans, I would have been completely lost. They can give you tips on setting up your schedule (are you *really* going to have time to get from this session location to that one?), reassure you on acceptable behaviors (really, it's okay to leave a session early), and inform you of unadvertised events (come to this vendor's reception!). At the very least, research the plethora of tips available online people have provided for first-time attendees and sign up for one of the many first-time attendee sessions.

Second, check and then re-check that you've brought your business cards. If you don't have business cards, make some. You'll need them. I, unfortunately, left my neat stack of business cards on my desk back home. I can't count the number of times I had to say, "Sorry, forgot my business cards at

home. I can write down my contact information for you." I think the most valuable thing that ALA Annual provides is the networking opportunities and your tiny little three and half by two in cards are priceless. Be sure to attend sessions or events outside of your area. It's a great way to extend your networking circle to those you'd never meet otherwise. On the business cards you receive, jot a note on the back about where you met this person and why you connected. Then write them when you get back home.

Third, take some down time. I realize conferences are not inexpensive and you sometimes feel this need to cram in as many session and events as possible, but for the sake of your mental and physical sanity, schedule in a break. It did wonders for me to leave the conference world behind a bit when I enjoyed dinner with local friends and caught a Sunday afternoon baseball game. It gives your head some time to relax, digest, and reload for the following day. Down time can be as simple as turning down dinner with colleagues for a quiet evening alone. Plus, you won't burn out so quickly from being submerged in the library world at all times.

Lastly, write some notes down at the end of each day or immediately when you get back, i.e. *as soon as you can*. It'll keep things fresh, you'll remember the details, and you'll be able to articulate what you've learned to your boss, your co-workers, or whomever is asking.

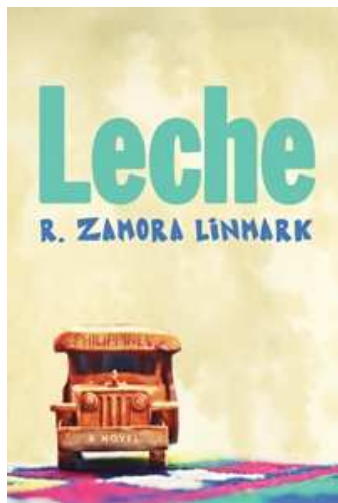
As for what I've walked away with from the conference, one big idea stuck with me: networks. Relationships, partnerships, outreach, collaboration. These things are all related. Whether it was discovering a Wisconsin connection between so many members at the APALA social dinner or wrapping my head around David Weinberger's ideas of how knowledge has evolved in the Age of the Net or listening to catalogers across several institutions talk about distributing their skills across library units, ALA Anaheim was shouting connect, connect, connect at me.

After all, that's one of the big reasons for flying across the country for a conference, isn't it? To make personal connections, to cultivate relationships with people you don't regularly encounter, to expand your network. Because *networks* make you better, make your work better. I've said it once and I'll say it again, networking is the most valuable thing that a conference like ALA can give you.

My involvement in national initiatives - APALA committees included - will grow from my ALA experience. The whole experience couldn't and wouldn't have happened for me without the generous support and travel award from APALA. We all know these are tough times for travel funding so scholar

(Continued on page 13)

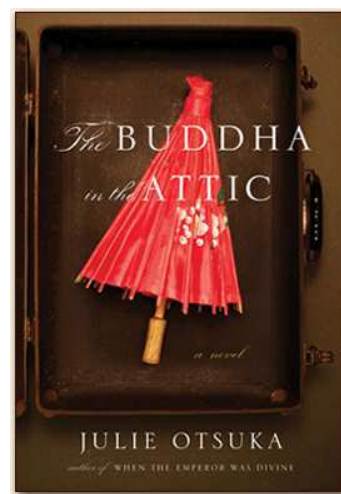
BOOK REVIEWS



Linmark, R. Zamora. *Leche*. Coffee House Press. Apr. 2011. 280 p. ISBN 978-1566892544

Written by R. Zamora Linmark and published by Coffee House Press, *Leche* was selected as the honor book in the adult fiction category for the 2012 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature. This hilarious and high-spirited novel pushes the envelope, offering a brutally honest portrayal of the Philippines in post-Marcos 1991. Vince, a twenty-three year old Filipino American gay man, wins a trip back to his homeland as the first runner-up in a beauty pageant for Mr. Pogi (i.e. handsome in Tagalog). The story follows Vince's escapades as he experiences the sights and sounds of the hot, humid and frenzied country after thirteen years away. He fondly recalls his early childhood living in the province with his adoring grandfather. Vince's happy memories contrast with grim later years spent in Hawaii living with his parents who eventually divorce. The spot-on dialogue captures the phonetic accent spoken by locals. Filled with fascinating details of everything Filipino from popular canned foods to the obsession with celebrities and superstitions, *Leche* is a great read for those who want to understand more about the Philippines and its culture.

Karen Fernandez, Reference Librarian & Instructor, Highline Community College



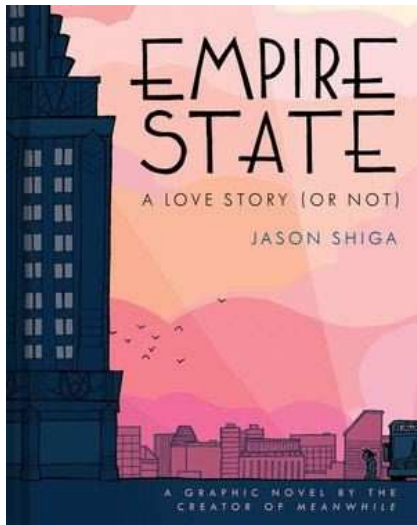
Otsuka, Julie. *The Buddha in the Attic*. Knopf Doubleday. Aug. 2011. 144 p. ISBN 978-0307744425

Julie Otsuka's second novel sings with poetic flair as she dramatizes the plight of Japanese mail-order brides at the start of the twentieth century just decades before World War II. Employing a first-person plural point of view, Otsuka delineates the manifold struggles and discrimination Japanese women faced as they left Japan, sailed across the Pacific, and arrived upon the shores of California to reach San Francisco. From the backbreaking toiling in the fields and pressure to assimilate by mastering a new language to the impending war that profiled Japanese Americans as enemy aliens, *The Buddha in the Attic* chronicles the varied experiences of Japanese women spanning four decades of American history. Not only are the Japanese Americans represented. At one point, the choral voice shifts to that of the white Americans, thereby adding another layer of complexity to this beautifully wrought novel.

Through a unified collective voice, Otsuka depicts glimpses of the triumphs and struggles of a down-trodden community that perseveres against extraordinary odds in spite of blatant prejudice and hostility. Resonating with bouts of despair, fueled by flashes of anger, and punctuated by moments of hope, the women, and on a grander scale, the Japanese American community, persist in asserting their rights as loyal American citizens. Overall, Otsuka crafts a deeply researched and compelling piece of writing infused with emotional and haunting overtones, long after the novel is over.

Jerry Dear, Librarian/Information Strategist, San Francisco Public Library; Library Information Technology Instructor, City College of San Francisco

BOOK REVIEWS



Shiga, Jason. *Empire State: A Love Story (or Not)*. Abrams. May 2011. 144 p. ISBN 978-0810997479

From the mathematical mind of graphic novelist Jason Shiga comes a charming tale about two twenty-somethings searching to find their place in the world and in life. Jimmy is a nerdy geek who works at the Oakland Public Library, dabbles with HTML coding for Web pages in his spare time, signs his paycheck over to his mother, and has never traveled out of California. His best friend (and crush) Sara, wants to venture off to New York and work in the publishing industry. After Sara departs for New York, Jimmy yearns to be with her and with romantic hope, sends her a letter, proposing that they meet at the top of the Empire State Building at sunset.

Part autobiography sprinkled with satire, Shiga's *Empire State* explores the idiosyncratic and amusing dynamics of love, jealousy, and desperate desire, underscored by a subversive tone of cynicism. Alternating scenes colored first in blue and then in red signify chronological time shifts, sustaining and diversifying the narrative pace of the story. Equally outstanding is the witty and sardonic dialogue interspersed between characters as they ruminate and poke fun at different issues from ethnic misidentification to job interviews, unrequited love and disenchantment with life—all encapsulated by the universal journey towards adulthood in this coming-of-age story.

Jerry Dear, Librarian/Information Strategist, San Francisco Public Library; Library Information Technology Instructor, City College of San Francisco

Those interested in contributing to the book review section should contact Miriam Tuliao, New York Public Library, [miriamtuliao\(at\)nypl.org](mailto:miriamtuliao(at)nypl.org).

APALA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)



David Silver, BayNet 2012 Keynote Speaker.

speaker for BayNet's annual business meeting. In his talk, David shared his observations and insights on what happened when he challenged the 80 students in his Introduction to Media Studies class to participate in a media fast. He also discussed how libraries are strategically positioned to teach the learners of tomorrow. This engaging lecture, entitled "[Digital Natives on a Media Fast: A Few Findings about College Students, Collective Curiosity, and Libraries](#)," featured the good, the bad, and terribly frightening results of this digital fast

and can be found here: <http://bit.ly/KloOr0>



Jerry Dear planning BayNet 2012 with BayNet President Nicole Greenland from Paul J. Cushing Library, Holy Names University.

[BayNet](#) is a multi-type library association in the San Francisco Bay Area that strives to foster professional development for diverse libraries and information resource centers. Its mission is to “strengthen connections among all types of libraries and information centers, and to promote communication, professional development, cooperation, and innovative resource sharing.” ☀

////////////////////

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 10)

ships such as these are so valuable and helpful and encouraging. Valuable because they are sometimes the only way a person can attend a conference. Helpful because they make it known that these experiences are within your reach. And encouraging because they let people know that there are organizations that want a diversity of people to participate.

☺

Catherine H. Phan is the APALA Travel Grant 2012 awardee and Digital Services and Metadata Librarian at University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center.

APALA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

(Continued from page 12)

APALA member and Rutgers University librarian **Anjali Goyal** presented a poster in the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2012 held in Helsinki, Finland. The Congress' theme is *Libraries Now! Inspiring, Surprising, Empowering*.

Goyal presented with her colleague Miraida Morales. Their poster, *Mapping the Arab Spring: Identifying Key Skills of Transliterate Users*, featured their current research. Below is the description of their poster provided during the IFLA 2012 Congress.

"We aim to identify the core skills of transliterate users by defining transliteracy as a different mode of literacy than information literacy. Our research is based on the definition of transliteracy as "the ability to read, write, interact across a range of platforms, tools, and media, from signing and orality through handwriting, print, TV, radio, and film, to digital social networks." For information literacy to encompass transliteracy, it must address the ways different media interact and affect an individual's information behavior: can a user successfully find information across multiple databases, encyclopedias, books, tweets, blogs, and videos? Our research determines that transliteracy does indeed encompass a discrete set of skills not included under information literacy as generally defined by the ALA's Association of College and Research Libraries' Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education, and we identify these skills and suggest ways to evaluate or measure a user's level of transliteracy. We use the example of the dissemination of information about the Arab Spring in order to better understand how these individuals navigate the different, new, and ever-changing information sources in the 21st century digital information environment. "

☺

WHAT'S YOUR NORMAL?

A New APALA Feature Series

by Jade Alburo, APALA President 2012-2013

APALA is launching a new series called [What's Your Normal?](#) that will feature personal essays, accompanied by resource lists, highlighting the different kinds and forms of identities within APA populations.

The idea for this series is an essay, entitled "[Six Yards of Normal](#)," written by [Gurpreet Kaur Rana](#), who is Sikh Canadian and Global Health Coordinator at the Taubman Health Sciences Library at the University of Michigan. I had asked Preet to write an essay in response to the [mass shooting](#) at the [Sikh Temple of Wisconsin](#) on August 5, 2012, and what she came up with was an extremely personal and poignant essay, in which we learn a little bit about what is "normal" for her. I was especially struck by her last sentences:

We need to have a discourse on "normal". You need to learn about my "normal". I need to learn about your "normal". We need to be aware and educated about the communities and people that make up the fabric of this country. Our differences do not make us different.

Preet is absolutely correct about the need to have such a discourse. Hence, the idea for the series was born.

"[Six Yards of Normal](#)" is the inaugural essay in the [What's Your Normal?](#) series. The hope is that APALA members (and other interested parties) will heed Preet's call to "learn about your 'normal'" and offer a slice or two of what is ordinary or typical in our individual lives but may be uncommon for or unknown to others. By sharing our stories, I believe that not only will we learn about each other, but we would also showcase the diversity of identities within APA populations.

Each essay will be accompanied by a list of resources, to which others are free to contribute. The links will eventually be compiled, expanded on, and put in the resources section of the [APALA website](#). With the personal glimpses in the essays and the vetted resources in the lists, this series, thus, offers us the opportunity to provide both subjective and objective information.

If you are interested in contributing to the series, please send your essays, along with a list of resources, to Melissa Cardenas-Dow (melissa.cardenasdow@gmail.com). These will be published at regular intervals and will go in the features section of the APALA website. ☺

Note: This article is a reprint of a post originally from [APALA-web.org](#), dated August 31, 2012.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The APALA Newsletter Committee is always looking for submissions. Please send us your articles, stories, letters to the editor, and announcements. Stay tuned for the next deadline for submissions.

Submissions to the APALA Newsletter may be made by any current APALA Member or APALA affiliate. Please send your submissions electronically in one of the following formats: MSWord, RTF, PDF, or plain text pasted into the body of an e-mail. We ask that submissions be kept to a length of 500 to 1,000 words. Graphics are encouraged. Please submit images as separate files along with a list of file names with corresponding captions. If using images that are already on the Internet, the URL of the image and a caption or description may be added to the text of the submission.

Please send submissions and inquiries to APALA Newsletter Editor Gary Colmenar at colmenar(at)library.ucsb.edu. Please indicate "APALA Newsletter" within the subject line of your e-mail. A confirmation of receipt will be sent in a timely manner. Notification of our decision to accept or reject your submission for publication will be sent after the submission deadline.

Submissions for book reviews should be submitted to the book review editor Miriam Tuliao at miriamtuliao(at)nypl.org. Submissions should be sent electronically in MS-Word format or a Word-compatible format. Reviewers should keep their reviews to 300-500 words. Any length much shorter or longer should be discussed with the reviews editor prior to submission. Reviewers should avoid conflicts of interest. Full disclosure should be made to the book reviews editor when appropriate.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

APALA Newsletter is published twice a year (and sometimes thrice) by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, an affiliate of the American Library Association. ISSN: 1040-8517. Copyright © 2012 by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without permission. Editor: Gary Colmenar, colmenar(at)library.ucsb.edu. Book Reviews Editor: Miriam Tuliao, miriamtuliao(at)nypl.org.

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

For inquiries about placing an advertisement in the APALA newsletter please contact the editor at colmenar(at)library.ucsb.edu

NEWSLETTER & PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

2012-2013

Sandy Avila,
University of Central Florida

Miriam Tuliao,
Book Reviews Editor
New York Public Library

Melissa I. Cardenas-Dow,
Layout Editor
Armacost Library, University
of Redlands (CA)

R. Niccole Westbrook,
University of Houston Librar-
ies

Gerardo "Gary" Colmenar,
Committee Chair, Editor
U.C. Santa Barbara

Dawn Wing
University of Wisconsin,
Madison

Charlene Hsu Gross,
Savannah College of Art &
Design (GA)

Everlyn Shimazu Yee,
Azusa Pacific University (CA)

Alyssa Jocson,
University of Washington

Jiun Kuo,
Rice University (TX)

Charlotte Roh,
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Lori Tagawa,
National Network of Libraries
of Medicine, Pacific South-
west Region (CA)