



ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

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President's Message

What a difference a year makes. One year ago, "Lehmann Brothers" and "Bernard Madoff" were two of the most respected names on Wall Street. The word "TARP" suggested camping and swimming pools rather than bank bailouts, and you had probably never heard of "toxic assets." Unless you're from Alaska, you'd likely draw a blank if asked about the now-ubiquitous Sarah Palin. The hard-fought primaries were still a fresh (and possibly painful) memory, and the punditocracy just was not sure if white people would vote for Barack Obama.



Now it is the summer of 2009, and we seem to be in a new world. The bad news, for starters, is that two of the "Big Three" auto companies went bankrupt and we apparently barely escaped a Second Great Depression. But there's also plenty of good news, including the joyous inauguration of the first African American president. Obama shocked many political observers—and even many supporters—with his seven-point popular vote margin and 192 electoral-vote margin, including wins in Virginia, North Carolina, and Indiana, all stalwart red states.

The greater meaning of the Obama presidency for the United States has been analyzed, re-analyzed, and then over-analyzed some more by every columnist and commentator. Still, the popularity of a politician with Obama's cosmopolitan and hybrid background bears attention and appreciation. So too does his advocacy of a new national discourse that abandons the Baby Boomers' cultural battles and reframes progressive goals as a pragmatic good. May I add that some have called Barack Obama the first Asian American president? With a childhood spent in Hawai'i and Indonesia, a hapa sister, and

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President's Message

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a Chinese Canadian brother-in-law, Obama is certainly the closest we've had so far, and his appointment of three Asian Americans to the Cabinet was very satisfying.

Despite the heartbreaking setback in California, the past year has also seen advances for GLBT rights, with same-sex marriage either currently or imminently legal in Iowa and most of New England. Just as young people came out in force to support Barack Obama, so too do they support same-sex marriage. In polls, younger Americans also profess less racist and sexist attitudes than their elders. What we're seeing is *progress* as the more racially diverse, more liberal, and more open-minded Generation Xers and Millennials come into adulthood and into leadership. What was marginal will become mainstream.

So what does all this have to do with APALA, Asian/Pacific American librarians, and service to A/PA communities? I would first call attention to the way these broad patterns in American life have changed and will continue to change our association. APALA has in recent years put less emphasis on rigid categories of ethnicity and is moving away from highlighting concepts of heritage and identity. Many of us who have become interested in APALA in recent years, who have been elected or become committee leaders, and who have won scholarships or other awards from the association are young (some in spirit if not in age) and also "hybrid," by which I do not only mean people who are mixed-race (though there are plenty of us too!). These are people who break down categories, blend disparate interests, and re-conceptualize what it means to be a library or archives professional.

The President has asked us to step away from the "ownership society" and into a more humane society of service and concern for fellow citizens. While APALA continues to advance the vital goal of professional development, mentoring, and recruitment of Asian/Pacific American librarians, the organization is also putting more emphasis on service to A/PA communities. In the last election, grassroots and local efforts were key to the outcome. In APALA, we see that more and more of us unabashedly identify as progressive and have an activist bent. I think we have seen that our face-to-face interactions are more energizing and

meaningful than many of our interactions at a distance. We should also consider how local activity makes us into a stronger, more cohesive, more effective organization.

When it comes to my personal and family life, I have also had to grapple with the great changes one year can bring. As many of you know, my father Richard J. Baildon was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a swift and brutal form of cancer, shortly before my term as APALA President began. Though he battled hard and we gave him all the support and love we had, he passed away in February. I regret deeply that this family tragedy corresponded with my term as President. Unfortunately, I was forced to miss both the 2008 ALA Annual and 2009 ALA Midwinter Conferences. I haven't been able to provide the energetic leadership APALA deserves, nor made big steps towards implementing the vision I briefly discussed above. I am afraid this message to the membership is both my hello and goodbye!

What we're seeing is *progress* as the more racially diverse, more liberal, and more open-minded Generation Xers and Millennials come into adulthood and into leadership. What was marginal will become mainstream.

I am incredibly grateful for the patience, support, and kindness I've received from my APALA friends and for the efforts that the rest of the APALA Executive Board especially Vice President Sherise Kimura and Executive Director Gary Colmenar - made to keep APALA on track and moving forward. The organization will be in good hands when Sherise takes over as President in July!

My dad was ahead of his time, a guy who took paternity leave and who cooked and did the laundry. He was a white guy from the country who married a woman from the other side of the world and embraced her Filipino family; he was comfortable living in a hybrid household. He was an Eisenhower Republican who supported Barack Obama even before the surprise of the Iowa primaries. My dad was also the most caring person I have known, and never happier than when helping others. It might sound strange, but when I looked at my dad, I always thought I saw the future, the way the rest of the country would soon be going. Breaking down barriers and breaking through categories, caring for and helping others—that sounds like a great future for our country, and for APALA.

Interview with Remé Grefalda

E-mail interview with Remé Grefalda,
Librarian/Curator, Asian Pacific American
Collection, Asia Division, Library of Congress

By Anchalee (Joy) Panigabutra-Roberts
Metadata & Multicultural Services Librarian and
Women's and Gender Studies Faculty & Liaison

1) *How did you get involved with the Library of Congress, prior to your current position at Library of Congress? What personal background and life experience led you to your current work at LC?*

I became fully involved with the Library of Congress Asian Division Friends Society when *Our Own Voice* collaborated in 2005 with ADFS in coordinating the Carlos Bulosan Symposium. Since then, I've assisted in staging some of the Asian Division's programs and was an active consultant for the proposed establishment of a National APA Center in the Library. We owe the reality of an APA center to Congressman Mike Honda, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. It was his brainchild from the beginning. Former Asian Division Chief, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, pulled out all the stops to make it a reality.

What broadened my experience in community outreach was my participation in a research project that culminated in the report, *Towards a Cultural Community: Identity, Education and Stewardship in Filipino American Performing Arts*. The report, funded by the Ford Foundation, profiled the Filipino American cultural communities nationwide. Before that, my involvement in theater and literature as venues to bring Philippine history and heritage to the next generation of Filipinos in America became natural pathways in reaching out to different communities.

For more than 12 years, I was the resident playwright and artistic director of Qbd Ink, a community theater in Washington D.C. In 2000, I founded an online magazine together with author Nadine Sarreal and web designer Geejay Arriola. It was to be a literary journal for Filipinos in the diaspora, *Our Own Voice* <<http://www.ourownvoice.com>>.

2) *What is LC's mandate/charge for your current position?*

I am charged with the development and direction of the Asian Pacific American Collection.

3) *What is your own vision for the growth of the collection, strategic plan and agendas for the collection/services in the next five years?*

My intent for the next 3-5 years is to increase the library's holdings of primary papers from Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and to enhance the library's role as a conduit for other APA collections nationwide.

All I know is that I have the opportunity to make a difference in the way future generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders assess what we are doing today as far as building a national heritage for them.

4) *When I met you at Michigan State University's APA Studies Conference in April 2008, I felt your strong passion for the collection and your work whenever you talked about them. May I ask where such a passion came from?*

I'm not sure where that "passion" is coming from. All I know is that I have the opportunity to make a difference in the way future generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders assess what we are doing today as far as building a national heritage for them. I am in a position to start from scratch. I want a live and vibrant primary papers collection. I aim to build readership, encourage research with the hope of increased scholarly interest in what Asians and Pacific Islanders have contributed to America, their struggle to maintain identity and how simultaneously they can enrich their knowledge about their "homegrown" heritage in America. Enhancing this collection must go hand in hand with sustaining a relationship with APA communities. They are the collection's sources as well as the collection's future users. It is their contribution and collective pride in the library's collection that will advance and sustain its reason for being.

5) *You also have a fabulous publishing record. May you please share with APALA members some of your books and magazines (print and online)?*

Thank you. I am fortunate in having a venue for my writings on the Internet. Not quite a blog, but certainly a haven for essays, poems and short stories. Below is a short list:

PUBLICATIONS:

- "The Locus of Our Yearning," *Field of Mirrors: An Anthology of Philippine American Writers*, Edwin Lozada, editor (PAWA Inc., 2008)

- "Portrait of A Kundiman Artist," *Philippine News*, Dec. 2006

- "Who Was This Man Who Gave Us A Face When Faceless We Were in The Land?" [on Carlos Bulosan], *Our Own Voice*, March 2006.

<http://www.ourownvoice.com/laptop/editor2006-1.shtml>

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E-mail interview with Remé Grefalda

By Anchalee (Joy) Panigabutra-Roberts

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- "Paul Tanedo, Film Producer on The Making of Ebolusyon", *Our Own Voice*, Dec. 2005
<http://www.ourownvoice.com/essays/essay2005e-7.shtml>
- "Pacita Abad: D.C. Artist and World Gatherer," *Our Own Voice*, Jan. 2005
<http://www.ourownvoice.com/essays/essay2005e-7.shtml>
- "Introduction" and "Directorial Notes," in *Luto Linis Laba* by Alfred Yuson (UST Press, 2005)
- "Lyricism and Poetic Vision in Playwriting," in *Pinoy Poetics*, Nick Carbo, editor, (Meritage Press 2004),
- Biographical essays on David Mura & Lawson Inada, *Contemporary American Ethnic Poets*, Linda Cullum, editor (Greenwood Press 2004)
- *Towards a Cultural Community: Education, Identity and Stewardship in Filipino American Performing Arts*, co-editor with Anna Alves, a NaFFAA project with support from The Ford Foundation (NaFFAA / FirstFruits 2004).
- *Our Own Voice Literary / Arts Journal*, co-editor with Nadine Sarreal & Geejay Arriola (FirstFruits / PWU 2003)
- "Encounter on Moonlit Dunes," in *Love Gathers All: The Philippines-Singapore Poetry*, Ramon C. Sunico, Alfred M. Yuson, Aaron Lee & Alvin Pang, eds. (Anvil / Ethos 2002).

- "Baring more than soul," *A Collection of Poetry* (Dorrance Publishing, 1997)
- "Feeling Eleven & Other Fancies," a Limited Edition (1992)

6) Do you have some words of wisdom or message for our APALA members as a closing remark for this interview?

At this stage in my life I have learned the value of always maintaining the mindset of an APPRENTICE instead of MENTOR, of being a willing learner as opposed to being an expert.

[CAVEAT: All of the above are my personal views and do not reflect the policies or goals of the Library of Congress.]

Thank you so much, Remé, for your time for this e-mail interview. It is such an honor to be your interviewer. I think the APA Community is truly blessed to have you as the Librarian/Curator of the Asian Pacific American Collection at the Library of Congress.

APALA SOCIALS SAN FRANCISCO, CA



>>> Ida DaRoza, Sandy Wee, Ana-Elba Pavon, Richard Le



>>> Janet Tom, Mitchell Yangson, Sherise Kimura, Saima Fazli



<<< back, left to right: Ana-Elba Pavon, Richard Le; middle: Jerry Dear, Sandy Wee, Janet Tom; front: Sherise Kimura, Saima Fazli



ARL-ACRL Diversity Initiatives on Career Development

by Binh P. Le, Penn State University

Over the past decade, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) has developed many diversity initiatives to “support efforts within research libraries to promote and develop library staff and library leaders who are representatives of America’s diverse population.” These noticeable diversity initiatives on career development for underrepresented groups include: the Leadership and Career Development Program, an 18-month program to prepare midcareer librarians from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to take on increasingly demanding leadership roles in ARL libraries; the Career Enhancement Program, a fellowship program designed to offer MLS students from underrepresented groups an opportunity to jump-start their careers in research libraries; and the Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce, a scholarship program (\$10,000) intended to attract students from underrepresented groups to careers in academic and research libraries. In addition, the Office of Director of Diversity Programs offers many diversity-related services, such as staff development seminars and consultation, as well as preparing articles and publications to share the findings from the program. More information on ARL diversity initiatives on career development can be found at: <http://www.arl.org/diversity/index.shtml>.

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) has also promulgated several diversity initiatives on career development for underrepresented groups. One of ACRL’s recent diversity initiatives includes the release of the commissioned white paper by the ACRL Board of Directors’ Diversity Task Force, produced by Teresa Y. Neely and Lorna Peterson, entitled: “Achieving Racial and Ethnic Diversity Among Academic and Research Librarians: The Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement of Librarians of Color.” It is hoped that this paper will give the ACRL Board a “knowledge base through a survey of the environment and then, with this new knowledge, consider how ACRL could best have a role in the broad issue of diversity in the profession.” The paper is available at: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/whitepapers/ACRL_AchievingRacial.pdf

Currently, there are only a handful of Asian Americans holding leadership positions in American academic libraries. The situation is even more abysmal in large academic and research libraries. Perhaps these initiatives will raise the level of consciousness among the library professionals about the lack of Asian American library leaders, as well as play a significant role in eliminating this problem.

ALA Midwinter at Denver, CO

MILE HIGH AND FREEZING!!!

by Florante Ibanez

I arrived on Thursday, January 22 to attend the evening Steering Committee meeting of the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC), which is scheduled for 2012. With Alanna Aiko Moore, I serve as one of two JCLC Steering Committee representatives for APALA (two representatives are appointed from each of the five ethnic caucuses affiliated with ALA). When I arrived in Denver for the first time, the weather was chilly and sunny -- about 46 degrees -- and the snow was actually melting, but it came back again in a few days, with below-20-degree temperatures.

On Friday, Gary Colmenar and I were picked up for lunch by Nestor and Elnora Mercados, part of the author team that wrote *Voices from Colorado: Perspectives of Asian Pacific Americans*, who treated us to a home-cooked Filipino meal. We later talked about the research they had done for their book as we shuttled out to the Convention Center downtown. Little did I know when I booked the Holiday Inn in Central Denver that Central really meant “north,” and north is in the industrial part of Denver. The Holiday Inn where Gary Colmenar and I stayed happened to be one of the designated hotels for the annual Denver Stock Show (cattle and hogs) held that week at the nearby Denver Coliseum. The hotel became a popular cowboy bar and dance spot every night that week.

My week was spent in the exhibition hall, attending vendor information sessions, and also participating in a Saturday JCLC fundraising reception hosted by the ALA President, Jim Rettig, in his Hyatt presidential suite. It was revealed here that the surprise location for the conference would be Kansas City, Missouri, and it would be held September 19-23, 2012. I also attended our APALA meetings and our traditional Saturday night social dinner. I had made dinner arrangements with the Marrakesh Restaurant and had invited the local authors of *Voices from Colorado: Perspectives of Asian Pacific Americans* and the editor of the Denver-based *Asian Avenue Magazine* to join us. Dinner also included a belly dancing show, and we had a great time.

On Sunday, we had the chance to meet and hear the President’s Program speaker, Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Muhammad Yunus. Another JCLC planning meeting on Monday morning ended my meeting commitments. I later participated in the Asian/Pacific Tour of Denver arranged by APALA. It included a Buddhist Temple, lunch, and a dramatic historical presentation by a member of the Chinese community at the Japanese American Resource Center.

Online photos can be found on the APALA web site:
<http://apalaweb.org>.

AWARDS

Library Diversity Award

Helen Look, Collection Analyst at the University Library, University of Michigan and APALA member, was awarded the 2009 Library Diversity Award by the University of Michigan's Library Diversity Committee for her outstanding achievements in the area of diversity after being nominated by her peers. This award is given to a library staff member at the University of Michigan's annual Library Diversity Celebration.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Suhasini L. Kumar,
Coordinator of Information and Research Services at the Carlson Library at The University of Toledo, has been promoted to Professor of Information and Instruction Services.

Dr. Clara M. Chu,
Associate Professor at UCLA, will become the Chair of the Department of Library and Information Studies at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro beginning in Fall 2009.



2009 APALA Scholarship Winner **by Michelle Baildon**

I'm delighted to announce that Vivian Wong is the winner of the 2009 APALA Scholarship. Vivian is currently a Ph.D. student in Archival Studies at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. She has a B.A. in East Asian Studies from Bryn Mawr College and an M.F.A. in Directing from the UCLA School of Theater, Film, & Television. She has also been awarded the Spectrum Doctoral Fellowship by the American Library Association.

Those of us who attended the Association for Asian American Studies conference in Honolulu last month had the opportunity to attend programs where Vivian was a participant, and we found she was an insightful and articulate presenter and discussant. It's a pleasure to award the scholarship to a candidate of her caliber.

Great thanks go out to Sarah Jeong, chair of the Scholarship Committee, and committee members Jee Hyun Davis, Heawon Paick, and Anchalee (Joy) Panigabutra-Roberts. The number of applicants for the scholarship grows every year, and they worked hard to evaluate the applicants from a very competitive pool. Kudos!

Minjie Chen
presents
"Chinese Dragons, World War II, and Identity"

Minjie Chen presented her paper "Chinese Dragons, World War II, and Identity" at the 2008 Association for Asian American Studies Annual Meeting. She examined a problematic aspect of the representation of ethnic Chinese culture and experience in American multicultural youth literature. Stories with a focus upon the cultural traditions of Chinese and Chinese Americans, or books of the so-called "four fs"—food, festival, fashion, and folklore—have made up a large proportion of multicultural youth literature featuring ethnic Chinese people. Consequently, studies in youth literature about ethnic Chinese have paid meticulous attention to the (in)accurate representations of cultural details in texts and images. This paper argues that while "root culture" is an essential part of who we are, it is a much less rewarding attempt to understand Chinese and Chinese Americans and for them to understand themselves, while neglecting modern history which has touched their lives and the lives of their ancestors and families. The historical period of interest in this paper is World War II, which has had a great impact on ethnic Chinese. The researcher located a total of 31 titles of children's and young adult fiction relating to World War II fought in China (published from the war years through 2007) and examined the pattern of publication within a changing political milieu. Drawing upon narratives of Chinese

Americans, the article shows the significance of World War II history for a young generation of Chinese Americans to reach a fuller understanding of themselves and their ethnic group.

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Minjie Chen is a doctoral candidate in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is working on her dissertation, which compares how the history of the Sino-Japanese War has been reflected in youth literature published in mainland China and in the United States. Those who are interested in the portrayal of this history in American juvenile fiction can go to <http://people.lis.uiuc.edu/~mchen6/collection/SJbib.html> for title lists arranged by author and by date of publication.

MEMBER'S PUBLICATIONS

Incoming APALA Vice President Florante Peter Ibanez has authored with Roselyn Estepa Ibanez *Filipinos in Carson and South Bay* published by Arcadia Publishing. For library ordering and more info see: www.flashpoint-design.net/FilipinosInCarson-SB