<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>HIGHLIGHTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President’s Message</td>
<td><strong>Reflection on CALA 2023-24</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td><strong>Mentor Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants, Conferences, and</td>
<td><strong>How Corky Lee’s Legacy of ‘Photographic Justice’ Lives On</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming</td>
<td>(book review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member News</td>
<td><strong>ALA Memorial Resolution</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td><strong>Honoring Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tributes</td>
<td><strong>Tributes Honoring Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
President’s Message

Dear CALA Members & Friends,

A few months ago, I introduced myself to you as your President and shared my presidential priorities with you. It is hard to believe that I am writing to report on what we accomplished this year as my term concludes.

One of the presidential priorities this year is to provide professional development opportunities that align with the interests of CALA members. In addition to providing travel grants for CALA members to attend conferences, CALA sponsored 25 CALA members to attend two workshops offered by LibraryWorks that focus on leadership and conflict management. Besides, nine CALA members received free registration to attend the 2023 Open Education Conference through a partnership with SPARC. In addition, CALA obtained a promo code for CALA members to attend the NISO webinar, Trend Spotting, Trend Setting, organized by NISO (National Information Standards Organization). As there is no IFLA WLIC this year, CALA offered five travel grants for members to attend a conference in China.

Thank you for the leadership of Grace Liu and the effort of the Annual Conference Planning Committee and the Local Arrangement Subcommittee; there were various events for CALA members to learn and connect. This year, the CALA President’s Program featured a panel to discuss artificial intelligence’s impact on libraries, which 80 attendees attended. A reception was held during the CALA Poster Session as attendees reviewed posters covering topics on DEI, open access, generative AI, and more. It has been a few years since CALA held an annual banquet. Thanks to our sponsors Sage, OverDrive, and EBSCO for helping us make this year’s annual banquet possible! In addition, CALA was one of the sponsors for the program “Collecting Chinese Jewish Stories for Your Library: A Panel of Voice from Two Cultures” at ALA Annual.

In July 2013, Dr. Tze-chung Li, Professor and Dean Emeritus of the Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences and one of the founding members of CALA, donated to establish Dr. Tze-chung Li’s Student Membership Scholarship to support CALA recruit student members by waiving application fee for new student membership. Since then, more than 53 student members benefited from the scholarship. This year, Lily Li, daughter of Dorothy Li and the late Dr. Tze-chung Li, agreed to donate generously to sustain Dr. Tze-chung Li’s Student Membership Scholarship. Since Lily Li’s donation, seven new students have joined CALA. The CALA Board of Directors recognizes Lily Li as a CALA honorary member to show our appreciation.

Have you checked out the CALA website lately? If not, I strongly encourage you to do so. During the past year, the Web Committee and the Digital Services Evaluation Taskforce worked together on a new user interface for the CALA website. The new interface enhances navigation and searchability and incorporates professionally designed graphics and logos that provide CALA with a professional and consistent appearance across all digital presences.

While it may not be noticeable, a few committees and task forces are working hard behind the scenes on projects to enhance CALA’s operational efficiency. The Digital Services Evaluation Taskforce reviewed
technology systems currently utilized by CALA and made recommendations on systems that best align with the operational needs of CALA. In addition to implementing a new user interface for the CALA website, the Web Committee also implemented a helpdesk system for users to submit requests to the committee. A mailing list was also established for each committee/task force to facilitate communication among committee members. The Assessment Committee conducted a thorough review of CALA's committee structure, and the committee recommended future committee structure to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The Assessment Committee plans to seek input from CALA members on their recommendations, so share your thoughts when the committee reaches out for feedback.

Throughout the year, chapters have hosted virtual events to engage with CALA members and provide CALA members with professional development opportunities at the local level. It is exciting to learn that events hosted by chapters were well attended. This year, the Asia Pacific Chapter was officially launched at the 2023 China Library Annual Conference, and they actively engaged and communicated with members through WeChat, listserv, website, and newsletter. The Midwest Chapter established a professional development award to recognize dedicated members. They enhanced their collaboration with the APALA Northeast Chapter for the NE Chapter. They submitted and deposited conference materials in CALASYS for the Canada Chapter for the first time. The chapters, committees, and task forces did a lot of great work this year! While I cannot report all their achievements here, I encourage you to review their reports, which are available under About->Documents-> Committee Reports once you log into the CALA website.

Ray Pun was elected as the 2025-2026 president of the American Library Association in April 2024. While Ray will step away from the position due to health reasons, his leadership and accomplishments are affirmed by colleagues. We are very proud of him.

This year, over 70 individuals indicated they are willing to serve on CALA committees/task forces for the next year; I am very grateful for the active participation of CALA members to help build an excellent future for CALA. I learned a lot as I served as your President. Thank you so much for the support from the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Committee and Chapter leaders, CALA members, and sponsors. You all are part of the critical pillars of CALA's continued success!

Very Respectfully,

Vincci Kwong
CALA President 2023-2024
Announcements

NALCo Joint Statement – Dr. Ray Pun

June 26, 2024

We are deeply saddened that Dr. Raymond Pun, an esteemed and dedicated member of both the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Associations of Librarians of Color (NALCos), will be unable to fulfill his role as ALA President-Elect due to health reasons.

Dr. Pun’s commitment to the field of librarianship, both nationally and internationally, has been nothing short of extraordinary. His tireless work has not only advanced our profession but has also touched countless lives around the globe. Dr. Pun has been a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and compassion in our community, consistently advocating for access to information and inclusivity in our libraries.

His contributions to ALA and NALCos have been invaluable, embodying the spirit of collaboration, diversity, and service that our organizations strive to uphold. Dr. Pun’s vision and leadership have left an indelible mark on the field, inspiring many of us to continue his legacy of excellence and dedication.

While we deeply regret that Dr. Pun will not be able to serve as our President-Elect, we stand by him with unwavering support and gratitude. We extend our heartfelt wishes for his health and well-being, knowing that his influence and contributions will continue to resonate within our community for years to come.

In solidarity,

Allison Waukau, AILA President, 2023-2024
Jaena Rae Cabrera, APALA President, 2023-2025
Nichelle M. Hayes, BCALA President, 2022-2024
Vinci Kwong, CALA President, 2023-2024
David Lopez, REFORMA President, 2023-2024
Liangyu Fu Appointed Director of Asia Library, University of Michigan

by Liangyu Fu

Liangyu Fu 傅良瑜 was appointed the Director of Asia Library at the University of Michigan (U-M) Library in March 2024. In her new role, Liangyu oversees the library's development of collection, services, and programming, and leads the library's partnerships with U-M's entire East Asian Studies community, including the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, the Center for Japanese Studies, and the Nam Center for Korean Studies.

Founded in 1948, the U-M Asia Library is one of the largest East Asian libraries in North America, with a physical book collection of more than one million volumes. The Asia Library collects and provides access to resources in all formats in the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages. Please see this link for more information.

Liangyu previously served as the Chinese Studies Librarian at the U-M Asia Library from 2013 to 2024. She is a CALA life member and has served on various committees of CALA and its Midwest Chapter, including president of the Midwest Chapter, 2020-2021. She was a fellow of ARL Leadership and Career Development Program, 2022-2023.

Ping Fu Elected Member of HathiTrust Board of Governors

by Ping Fu

Ping Fu, Library Director and College Librarian at Whitman College, and a CALA life member, has been elected as the newest member of the HathiTrust Board of Governors, beginning in January 2024.

In his role as corresponding author, Ping Fu collaborated with Xiaozhu Zou, Research Librarian at the University Libraries of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, along with two graduate students of Zou, resulting in the publication of their research article with Sage Publishing in the IFLA Journal. The title of their work is “AI-generated Content Tools and Students’ Critical Thinking: Insights from a Chinese University”. Zou had previously served as a three-month visiting scholar at Central Washington University Libraries in 2018, where Ping held the position of Library Full Professor and served as Zou's supervisor. The permanent link for the article is: https://doi.org/10.1177/03400352231214963.

Furthermore, as corresponding author, Ping Fu co-authored a research paper on Virtual Reality (VR) and the five elements of singing, published by the Journal of Music, Technology & Education. The lead author, Professor Zhang, had been a one-year visiting scholar at the Music Department of Central Washington University, where Ping assisted him in gaining acceptance into the music department. The DOI for this paper is: https://doi.org/10.1386/jmte_00052_1.
New Publication: The Flower Adornment Sutra, Chapter 25

*by the Buddhist Text Translation Society*

*The Flower Adornment Sutra*, also known as the Avatamsaka Sutra in Sanskrit, or 大方廣佛華嚴經 Dàfāngguāng Fóhuāyán Jing in Chinese, is considered the king of Buddhist scriptures due to its length of more than 700,000 characters. The 39 chapters of this text reveal the vastness of the Buddha’s realization, the different stages of the bodhisattva path and the interpenetration of the realms of the cosmos.

This sutra is the basis for the Huayan school of Buddhism.

The ten volume Chinese sutra is being translated into English, along with the commentary of the late Tripitika Master Hsuan Hua, and published over a period of years by the Buddhist Text Translation Society. The completed English translation should be over 100 volumes.

The newest release is four volumes in English which covers Chapter 25 of the sutra, The Ten Dedications. These volumes detail the dedication of bodhisattvas (enlightened beings).


The team leader for this translation is Reverend Heng Sure, a monastic disciple of Master Hsuan Hua, who also holds an M.A. in Oriental Languages from University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union. Reverend Heng Sure has taught at the Graduate Theological Union, Bond University in Australia, and Dharma Realm Buddhist University.

For more information see [www.buddhisttexts.org](http://www.buddhisttexts.org).
Grants, Conferences, and Programming

New Jersey Collaboration to Uplift API Voices & Culture
by Natalie Lau, Seton Hall University Library

LibraryLinkNJ’s Culture Connection event focused on supporting API library workers.

Readers can see media from the event at the Recap article on the LibraryLinkNJ’s website.

With a diverse group of attendees from across the state, there was a fantastic turnout to LibraryLinkNJ’s inaugural Culture Connection event, focusing on API library workers. Attendees ranged from school librarians to public librarians, to academic librarians, as well as community members. The event was held on March 22, 2024 and was hosted at Piscataway Public Library. The event marked the start of work towards the new statewide Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) project which was initiated by EDI-NJ. Groups such as LibraryLinkNJ, the New Jersey Library Association, and the New Jersey State Library all participated and was funded by the Hasbrouck Heights Public Library, Hoboken Public Library, LibraryLinkNJ and co-sponsored by NJLA and MentorNJ.

The full-day event started with the informal program which included networking, trivia based on API fun fact posters around the space, and food booths. This portion of the event was also marked by Japanese origami instruction and a Chinese Yo-yo demonstration.

Moving into the formal program, state organization leaders made remarks and promoted the importance of building on principles such as developing cultural diversity and appreciation across New Jersey’s many types of library workplaces. Speakers included representatives from LibraryLinkNJ, NJLA, NJALA, NJASL, VALE, EDI-NJ, AAPI of East Brunswick, and Make Us Visible NJ & E Pluribus Unum Project Inc.
The formal program also featured lightning talks which featured different cultural practices and traditions as well as insights into the mental challenges AAPI folks face because of racism in the workplace in the form of microaggressions.

The main program featured the keynote speakers- Raymond Pun and Tarida Anantachai who led an interactive, hybrid discussion focusing on racial microaggressions and the sociological background of stereotypes that form these issues in library workspaces. API attendees shared experiences and reflections and attendees present as allies were open to these discussions by providing validation and support. Discussions touched on historic Asian American events which impact AAPI library workers ranging from history like the Chinese Exclusion Act to Vincent Chin’s murder as well as more recent events such as Anti-Asian hate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Mandarin Classes for All, at San Francisco Public Library**

*by Hai-Qing Chen, San Francisco Public Library, Main Library, Chinese Center*

Summer is an opportunity to bridge the gap of learning loss occurring in low-resourced areas.

The public library is a catalyst for learning about culture and language.

San Francisco Public Library, in partnership with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, provides free Mandarin classes for adults and children this summer. Just one of hundreds of programs being offered as part of the Library’s Summer Stride summer learning initiative, the classes are available at 11 Library locations throughout the City.
Now in its sixth year, this popular summer language program features instructors from Taiwan Center for Mandarin Learning and Taiwanese American Center of Northern California. All courses are free, and each class covers a different theme. Six locations, including the Chinese Center at the Main Library, offer classes for adults. Children can take classes at five branch locations. Individuals with no prior knowledge of Chinese are welcome to participate.
Member News

Reflection on CALA 2023-24 Mentor Program

by Mingyan Li, University of Illinois Chicago
Wen Nie Ng, Virginia Tech University

From Mingyan:
I signed up as a mentor for the CALA Mentor Program 2023-24. Being a professional librarian for nearly 20 years and looking back, I would like to help junior librarians by telling my own story. Hopefully, they can learn from my experience and be inspired while pursuing their career goals. I am pleased to work with my mentee Wen Nie, who is talented, hard-working, and passionate. Usually, Wen Nie and I are not likely to run across each other at conferences because of our different focus on librarianship. Through the CALA mentor program, we have embarked on a meaningful journey together since November 2023.
I was very impressed by Wen Nie’s accomplishments at such an early stage of her career as a professional librarian. She has built up an excellent foundation and keeps pursuing higher achievements. After reviewing her current profile and improving her CV in the first couple of meetings, I got to know more about the challenges she was facing. To help her achieve her career goals, I invited a friend of mine, Professor Hong Ma from Loyola University Chicago, to join our mentor session as a guest speaker. Hong has a similar focus on librarianship as Wen Nie, and I hope she can give her some more detailed advice, which worked out very well.

Wen Nie and I just finished our last meeting in May. I enjoyed working with her in the last several months and am confident she will go far in her future career.
From Wen Nie:
Having spent six years in the field of library science, I find myself at a unique crossroads—experienced enough not to be a novice yet still far from mastering our profession’s expansive and evolving landscape. Faced with the relentless demands of a librarian's schedule, engaging in sustained, deep learning and professional networking becomes increasingly challenging. To bridge this gap, I joined our mentorship program as a mentee, seeking a structured setting that would enable me to delve deeper into the complexities of the field and expand my professional connections meaningfully.

My professional focus lies in digital collection management, driven by a passion to enhance user experiences in information seeking. This involves innovative work in digital libraries and optimizing metadata to make searching as intuitive and effective as possible. My goal in joining the mentorship program was to refine my cataloging skills, specifically to address the challenges of integrating bibliographic data with metadata for born-digital materials within disparate systems, all while ensuring equitable access to information.

Mingyan Li, who shares my enthusiasm for metadata, was assigned as my mentor. Her proactive approach quickly identified areas where she could provide guidance. Recognizing my need for specialized knowledge, Mingyan introduced me to Hong Ma, whose experience aligned closely with my goals. This collaboration was transformative, broadening my problem-solving, leadership, and self-motivation perspectives. It encouraged me to initiate more projects and improve my negotiation skills to secure the necessary resources for impactful work.

The mentorship sessions, co-led by Mingyan and Hong Ma, were pivotal. They provided a comprehensive view of effective leadership and strategic career advancement, covering personal branding, team leadership, and active participation in professional communities. Both mentors shared their experiences and strategies for overcoming common professional challenges, such as overextension across various work responsibilities and getting buy-in from colleagues and leadership. Mingyan and Hong Ma shared personal stories and coping strategies, illustrating how they navigated these issues throughout their careers. Their openness about these challenges and the practical advice they provided gave me a more precise roadmap for my own career development.

One key lesson from our discussions was the importance of visibility and thought leadership within the professional community, emphasizing that advancing one’s career involves more than fulfilling job responsibilities—it also entails becoming a central figure in driving industry innovations.

Additionally, both mentors highlighted the ongoing value of mentorship and learning in professional growth. They encouraged embracing mentorship roles to give back to the community and enhance personal leadership skills, which they demonstrated through their own commitment to nurturing emerging talents in our field.

This mentorship experience, enriched by the combined expertise of Mingyan and Hong Ma, has significantly influenced my approach to leadership and career progression in library science. Their guidance was not only enlightening but also inspiring, offering a blend of practical strategies and philosophical insights that exceeded my initial expectations.

I advise those considering mentorship to remain open to new possibilities and proactively express your needs. Engaging effectively with mentors can dramatically enhance your understanding and capabilities, propelling your professional growth.

By Lian Ruan and Kelda Habing

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Illinois Fire Service Institute Library, UIUC School of Information Sciences, and Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) are pleased to announce their collaboration as co-partners on a recently awarded Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grants for Libraries project: Libraries as Partners for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Times of Crisis (LG-254819-OLS-23). Occurring from August 2023 through July 2025, this two-year planning type project is a preliminary investigation into partnerships between multitype libraries and emergency response groups in their communities such as the fire service, emergency medical service, public health departments, and others during community-wide crisis. Libraries of all types have proven themselves as providers to their communities during a myriad of emergencies, including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, natural disasters and severe weather, gun violence, and more. However, little research has been conducted on the scope and nature of these partnerships and the role of libraries as partners during emergencies. The Libraries as Partners project intends to begin to fill this research gap and lay the groundwork for future in-depth studies in this area.

Major grant activities are divided between the two years of the project. Year One focuses on a case study survey of Illinois libraries, taking the Illinois library community as a microcosm of the national library community, to gain an initial understanding of library-community partnership during emergencies. Survey findings will directly contribute to the development of two Community Engagement Roundtables in Year Two, to raise the discussion to the national level and bring together librarians and emergency responders from across the United States for a conversation on survey findings and future roles of libraries as partners during emergencies. Every stage of the project will be guided by a network of Illinois state and national advisors who represent library and emergency response organizations. The project’s close work with both state and national advisors will ensure that findings uncovered through this preliminary planning investigation are abundant and well-representative of library and partner communities across the nation, as well as reflective of the needs of the diverse communities which libraries and partners serve during emergencies.

The project’s intended results include multiple deliverables such as a survey findings report, CERs findings reports, and a project white paper. The completion of the Libraries as Partners project and its activities will provide a baseline understanding of library-community partnerships during emergencies, especially the scope and nature of these partnerships and the role of libraries in these partnerships. This project will underscore the role of libraries as uniquely suited to serve and support their communities during public crises in ways that no other organization can, especially marginalized and underserved communities, and inspire libraries of all types to take their place as equal partners for emergency preparedness and response. The outcomes of this initial investigation and future research that it will make possible will deepen the bond and strength of community networks, and
ultimately increase libraries’ capacity for constituency support during emergency preparation, response, and recovery.

The project team includes: Dr. Lian Ruan, IFSI Head Librarian/Director of International Programs and a CALA member who has served CALA in multiple capacities, as Project Director; Dr. Jessie Chin, iSchool Assistant Professor, as Research Director; Dr. Sharon Comstock, iSchool Assistant Professor, as Coordinator for the Advisory Committee and National Advisory Board as well as conducting research; Anne Craig, Senior Director of CARLI, as Member Engagement Coordinator; Dr. Karen Brown, Professor Emeritus at the Dominican University School of Information Studies, as Facilitator for the Community Engagement Roundtables; and Kelda Habing, IFSI Research and Grants Librarian, as Project Assistant.

The Year One Illinois case study survey is currently nearing completion and will be released by the end of November and run through early 2024. While we ask that only librarians in Illinois complete the survey, librarians from across the United States are invited to participate in the Year Two Community Engagement Roundtables in 2025.

For more information or to see how you can be involved, contact libraries.as.partners@gmail.com or visit the project’s website at https://imlsgrant.web.illinois.edu/.
Book Review

How Corky Lee’s Legacy of ‘Photographic Justice’ Lives On

By Michelle J. Lee


These stunning, moving images are a small sample of more than 200 pictures in the newly published photography book, "Corky Lee’s Asian America: Fifty Years of Photographic Justice."

Lee, a beloved activist from Queens and self-proclaimed "Asian American photographer laureate," worked tirelessly to record life throughout New York City and beyond from 1971 until his tragic death at 73 years-old from coronavirus in January 2021.

This posthumous collection, edited by artist/photographer Chee Wang Ng and Columbia University professor Mae Ngai, is an epic tribute to the dedicated freelance photojournalist who supported the Asian American community and ensured our faces and stories were always in the picture, even when we were shunned, misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream news, other photographers and countless history books.

Accompanying essays by writers, photographers, historians, activists and Lee’s loved ones provide further historical and social context to his personal life and community work, which includes co-organizing Manhattan Chinatown’s first public health fair, advocating for bilingual English Chinese election ballots, mentoring young photographers and fundraising for the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA).

The book also offers further insight into some of the momentous events he covered: the anti-Vietnam War movement; protests against the 1982 racially motivated murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit; the 1980s congressional testimonies by Japanese American World War II internment camps survivors; and the double impact the Sept. 11 attacks and coronavirus pandemic had in spreading anti-Asian hate and damaging Chinatown economically and emotionally.

A self-taught photographer and second-generation Chinese American, Lee first became interested in photography during junior high school when he noticed a famous 1869 photograph celebrating the completion of the U.S. transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah, featured none of the thousands of Chinese laborers who worked on the massive project.
To right that wrong, Lee often said he picked up a camera like a sword and made it his mission to use "photographic justice" to push back against visual discrimination.

In the process of taking millions of photographs of "every notable Asian American event and person in the second half of the twentieth century, Corky Lee single handedly created a photographic archive for social justice and for the history of Asian American activism and civic engagement," activist and writer Akemi Kochiyama, co-director of the Yuri Kochiyama Archives Project, noted in her essay for the book. "By telling its story, it reflects Corky's conviction that 'We do matter (pg. 121).''

I became friendly with Corky Lee (no relation) in the late 2000s while working as a small-town newspaper journalist, meeting him at various AAJA programs and other community events.

His kindness, witty personality and enthusiasm for sharing photography tips and Asian American historical facts was enduring and it made me treasure every encounter. Reading this book and looking at his photographs briefly made me feel his warm, energetic presence again.

Lee's camera captured a wide variety of images: streetscapes and candid portraits from an ever-evolving Chinatown and New York City, religious ceremonies and community festivals, voter registration fairs and election campaigns, musical performances and Asian holiday celebrations like the Lunar New Year, Obon and Diwali.

His pictures convey an equally wide range of emotions: exuberance, joy, anger, anguish, a kinetic sense of energy and urgency.

In addition to being a one-man amateur visual archivist, Lee was one of the most prolific catalogers of all the different ways Asian Americans spoke up for their rights, protesting against racism, stereotypes in the arts, sexism, homophobia, gentrification and a massive Chinatown jail or for workers' rights, civil rights, housing improvements and better educational opportunities.

The photos show various examples of protest solidarity, from Black Panther Party and the Young Lords members attending Chinatown events in the 1970s to the National Queer Asian Pacific Islanders Alliance supporting the Black Lives Matter movement in 2015.

Famous figures appear in unexpected ways.

One black-and-white picture shows Chinese artist and activist Ai Wei-Wei wearing a white funeral headband, carrying a massive black mourning banner and marching with a large crowd of demonstrators at the United Nations headquarters after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

Future Hong Kong film director Tsui Hark raises his fist and wears a large sign as he protests with others against a neglectful Chinatown landlord on the street in 1972.

Civil rights activist and feminist Grace Lee Boggs appears twice - once with a megaphone speaking against the Vietnam War in 1971 Washington D.C. and again in 2012 at her Detroit book signing party, smiling and bursting her floral jacket open, Superman-style, to reveal her black and white "revolution" t-shirt.

But it's Lee's pictures of ordinary people in unguarded moments that are among the most transfixing.
A child playing with paper inside a 1976 Chinatown garment factory surrounded by stacks of fabric and women working on sewing machines.

A portrait of Lily Chow, New York City's first Chinese woman taxi driver, taking a coffee break in her checkered cab in 1982 with a large advertisement of Uncle Sam on top, rolling up his sleeves to chop wood and instructing us to "Get it done! America."

A Buddhist priest in red and saffron robes, giving a blessing in front of a windswept altar with flowers and fruit by the Chinese Arch at Golden Spike National Park, Utah, in 2018. The natural limestone monument honors the 19th century Chinese railroad workers who camped there. Lee paid multiple visits to the park starting in 2014 to recreate a modern version of the 1869 photograph with Chinese Americans.

This book - which gives a brief taste of Lee's extensive, multifaceted photography collection - captures so many decisive moments in American history it would be a welcomed and important addition to all libraries, archives and classrooms.


Michelle J. Lee is a young adult librarian for the New York Public Library.
Tributes

ALA Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee

By Shali Zhang

 Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) lost a valued member and a colleague on December 17, 2023, with the death of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee;

 Whereas Lee graduated from National Taiwan Normal University; received a master’s degree in education at the University of Pittsburgh, a master's in library science from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Ph.D. in education from the University of Pittsburgh;

 Whereas Lee worked as a librarian at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University; Lee worked as the library director at Edinboro University and served as founding library director of Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand; Lee was also the associate director of libraries and professor of library administrator at Colorado State University; Lee was dean of libraries at Ohio University; Lee also served as chief of the Asian Division at the Library of Congress and helped build the Asian American Pacific Islander collection;

 Whereas Hwa-Wei Lee, while at Ohio University, demonstrated his generous spirit by mentoring international students; created the International Librarians Internship Program, an exchange program for more than 175 librarians from the Asian and Pacific Region who would train at Ohio University Libraries; developed significant international collections including the creation of an Overseas Chinese library, one of several significant resources within the Hwa-Wei Lee Center for International Collections; cultivated meaningful donor relationships that would have a huge impact on the Ohio University Libraries; and shepherded Ohio University Libraries into the Association of Research Libraries in 1996;

 Whereas at the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), Lee served as President from 1978-1979; Lee was an active member and was instrumental in creating CALA; Lee made a tremendous difference and impact supporting and mentoring countless librarians and library school students through his leadership;

 Whereas Lee was very active in the profession globally; Lee served as a distinguished visiting scholar for OCLC, a Fulbright Senior Specialist at Chiang Mai University in Thailand; Lee was very active and co-founded China-US library conferences; and served as founding director of OhioLINK, a statewide academic library consortium;

 Whereas Lee published and presented extensively including authored seven books and hundreds of published academic articles; Lee was a recipient of numerous professional honors such as the American Library Association’s John Ames Humphrey Award in 1991; the Melvil Dewey Medal in 2015 (now ALA Medal of Excellence); CALA’s Outstanding Leadership Award in Memory of Dr. Margaret Chang Fung in 2016, and the Medal of Appreciation from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand in 2018; Lee also received APALA’s Distinguished Services Award in 1991, the Ohio Hall of Fame Librarian in 1999, and an honorary doctor of letters degree from Ohio University;

 Whereas Hwa-Wei Lee was a devoted and proud husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather;
Whereas Hwa-Wei Lee was a warm, generous, humble, and kind person who believed that libraries enrich lives;

Whereas his legacy is the great influence he has had on the lives of individuals, by building cooperative ties for a common good that resulted in a profound impact on international librarianship relations worldwide;

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA) and the Chinese American Librarians Association, on behalf of its members, now therefore be it

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

Mover: Raymond Pun, ALA Councilor-CALA Representative
Seconder: Hong Yao, ALA Councilor-at-Large

Endorsed:
Mario Gonzalez, ALA Councilor-at-Large
Joan Weeks, ALA Councilor-at-Large
Anchalee Panigabutra-Roberts, ALA Councilor-at-Large
Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, ALA Councilor at Large

Version: January 11, 2024

Photo 1. Shali Zhang with Mary Lee, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee’s wife (sitting), and Dr. Lee’s two daughters, Shirley Lee and Pam Lee, at the ceremony event on Feb 17, 2024
CALA Member Tributes in Memory of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee

1. Tributes to A Giant – Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee
   by Sally C. Tseng

I am saddened by the news of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee’s passing. He was a giant in library history, especially in the Chinese American Library Association. His more than sixty years of achievements, commitments, contributions, friendship, ideas, mentorship, and establishments of American-Asian library cooperation and development had a lasting influence on his time and on our world. It is a tremendous loss for both our country and the world.

Dr. Lee was a legendary, role-model library leader whose devotion to innovative library services was one of the most important icons. His library leadership and influence will be felt as a legacy in our profession, eminent and timeless.

We lost a giant as the world mourns this huge loss. We all know that Dr. Lee touched many lives and shattered many glass ceilings. Dr. Lee was “a true pioneer” and “a friend to cherish”!

My sincere, heartfelt condolences to Dr. Lee’s beloved wife, Mary, and his family. We shall miss him dearly!

Sally C. Tseng
CALA President, 1984/85
CALA Executive Director, 1999-2007
2. Tributes to Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee
by Xiaolan Cheng

Dear CALA Members,

We are shocked to learn that Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, whom we admire very much, has passed away. We are very sad and would like to express our deepest condolences and kind regards to his wife and children! His merits, achievements, and outstanding contributions have benefited countless people around the world. His contributions to the development of libraries in the United States and China have been huge. I will miss him forever! I still remember Dr. Lee’s kindness, kind voice, and smile!

Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee had visited Zhejiang University Library and Zhejiang Provincial Library several times, made high-level academic reports, and was appointed as the honorary consultant of Zhejiang Provincial Library. In 1999, my colleagues in the library and I interviewed Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee. The interview transcript will be sent to you in the following email for your reference.

I have contacted the relevant person in charge of the Library Society of China and hope to pay tribute to Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee in the name of the Library Society of China. He and you have won the medal of honor issued by the Library Society of China. We will always remember his outstanding contributions and carry forward his professionalism!

I have told Mr. Zhu Haikang, the former director of the Zhejiang University Library, that we will mourn and miss Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee together!

Xiaolan Cheng
Former Library Director
Zhejiang Provincial Library, Hangzhou, China

English Translation: We are shocked to learn that Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, whom we admire very much, has passed away. We are very sad and would like to express our deepest condolences and kind regards to his wife and children! His merits, achievements, and outstanding contributions have benefited countless people around the world. His contributions to the development of libraries in the United States and China have been huge. I will miss him forever! I still remember Dr. Lee’s kindness, kind voice, and smile!

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Xiaolan Cheng
Former Library Director
Zhejiang Provincial Library, Hangzhou, China
Figure 1. Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee’s Interview by Xiaolan Cheng, Director of Zhejiang Provincial Library which was published in Library Science Research and Work in 1999.

Figure 2. On November 4th, 2002, Zhejiang Library awarded Dr. Li Huawei an honorary certificate when Shen Caitu, Director of the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Culture attended (left: Cheng Xiaolan, middle: Dr. Li Huawei, right: Mr. Shen Caitu).
3. Director Lee Hwa-Wei—a bridge-builder for Sino-US library exchanges  
by Wu Jianzhong

I saw the news in the group last night that our beloved Director Lee Hwa-Wei left us due to illness. Director Lee Hwa-Wei has made great contributions to the opening of Chinese libraries to the outside world. In the 1980s and 1990s, many Chinese visiting scholars in the library field received Director Lee’s care and guidance.

Director Lee and I have known each other for a long time, but our direct contact was at OCLC. At that time, Director Lee had just retired from Ohio University and served as a consultant at the OCLC Research Institute. I visited the United States in the fall of 1999 and discussed with Director Lee at the OCLC headquarters how to introduce the metadata project to mainland China. He was supportive and worked with the institute’s director, Eric Jul, to make it happen. The first metadata and knowledge management training class was successfully held in Shanghai from May 23 to 25, 2000. Director Lee and Eric came to Shanghai together. The three of us shared the teaching courses. Director Lee taught knowledge management, and Eric and I taught DC and CORC projects. Ji Luen and others served as demonstration guides. Later, we cooperated to hold two training courses in Guangzhou and Hong Kong. What deeply touched me was that Director Lee had a problem with his waist, but he still insisted on taking economy class for the round trip. Director Lee prepares lessons very seriously. During the training in Hong Kong, in order to have new content in every lecture, Eric and I went shopping while Director Lee was still preparing lessons in the hotel.

This is just a small episode in Director Lee’s assistance and guidance in the library exchanges of Chinese librarianship. At that time, our country had just opened and did not know much about foreign librarianship. Director Lee not only arranged food and accommodation for visitors but also conducted exchanges for them. It is no exaggeration to say that Director Lee is the bridge-builder for exchanges between Chinese and American libraries.

Wu Jianzhong
Former Director, Shanghai Library, China
4. “纪念李华伟博士”专题前言

by 程焕文

2023年12月18日清晨6点43分44秒，李华伟博士的长女雪莉 (Shirley Lee Kennedy) 在“脸书”(Facebook)上连续发布一简一详两篇讣告：李华伟博士，2023年12月17日晚，在美国佛罗里达州杰克逊维尔市柏树村退休社区 (the Cypress Village retirement community in Jacksonville, Florida)，在家人和朋友的陪伴下，平静地仙逝，离开与他相濡以沫65年的妻子Mary Kratochvil、6个儿女、11个孙子孙女和3个曾孙，享年92岁......谨订于2024年2月17日在佛罗里达州墨尔本市 (Melbourne, Florida) 举行李华伟博士追悼会 (Memorial Service)。讣告发出，举国震惊，中美两国图书馆界全网痛悼。


李华伟博士不仅是20世纪以来最为杰出的华美图书馆学家之一，而且是20世纪80年代以来最为杰出的中美图书馆交流合作贡献者之一，同时与广州有着不解之缘。为表达中美图书馆界的哀思，2023年12月20日，经与远在美国得克萨斯州旅居的吴晞先生沟通，笔者提议组稿设置专栏悼念李华伟博士，广东图书馆学会理事长、广东省立中山图书馆馆长、《图书馆论坛》主编王惠君即刻表示全力支持；原文化部副部长、中国国家图书馆原馆长、中国图书馆学会原理事长周和平亦表示大力支持，并嘱托笔者借《图书馆论坛》对李华伟博士的逝世表示沉痛的哀悼，向李华伟博士的亲人表示亲切的慰问。

稿约发出后，中美图书馆界纷纷响应。美国国会图书馆亚洲部 (Asian Division, Library of Congress, USA) 主任邵东方博士专门发来美国国会图书馆亚洲部撰写的讣闻 (Obituary) 供《图书馆论坛》转载发表。美国华人图书馆员协会 (Chinese American Librarians Association, CALA) 原会长曾程双修 (Sally C. Tseng) 女士，俄亥俄州立大学 (Ohio State University) 图书馆中韩文部主任李国庆教授，旧金山州立大学 (San Francisco State University) 电影系张伟民教授，中国国家图书馆原国际合作处 (港澳台) 处处长、中国图书馆学会原秘书长周和平亦表示大力支持，并嘱托笔者借《图书馆论坛》对李华伟博士的逝世表示沉痛的哀悼，向李华伟博士的亲人表示亲切的慰问。

在撰写过程中，笔者在翻阅电脑资料时，发现一篇2012年撰写的论文《论李华伟博士对图书馆事业的卓越贡献》。该论文是笔者应邀参加加拿大卑诗大学 (University of British Columbia) 图书馆与中国俄亥俄大学 (Ohio University) 图书馆于2012年5月16-19日在卑诗大学共同举办的主题为“华人的美洲移民之路”的第五届海外华人研究与文献收藏机构国际会议 (18日的闭幕晚会主题为“贺华伟博士八秩寿辰”)，为美国华人图书馆员协会举办的“华美图书馆员及其成就”专题研讨会撰写的主旨报告文稿。这篇论文十分精…
5. **Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee:** A visionary leader in Library and Information Science profession  
*by Sha Li Zhang*

Upon the invitation from Pam Lee, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee’s daughter, I was very honored to attend the event Celebration of Life: To Honor the Memory of Hwa-Wei Lee on February 17, 2024, in Rockledge, Florida. The family members and friends spoke about their connections and experiences with Dr. Lee. I was the only librarian at the event.

In the library world, Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee was a prominent figure for many of his contributions to advance the profession. He passionately advocated for international exchanges and cooperation among the librarians and libraries in the world. During his distinguished career, Dr. Lee left footprints on five continents, where he gave lectures, presentations, workshops, and consultancy on library and information science.

Dr. Lee’s accomplishments were recognized through his many awards and honors, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Chinese American Librarians Association, the Medal of Excellence from American Library Association, which is given to “an individual who has demonstrated “creative leadership of a high order,” and the Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award from the American Library Association’s International Relations Committee for Dr. Lee’s contributions to librarianship on a global scale. In 2018, Dr. Lee was awarded the Medal of Appreciation for his role both as the founding director.
of the Asian Institute of Technology Library in Bangkok, Thailand, and the Regional Information Center under the sponsorship of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

I heard about Dr. Lee when I was still an entry-level librarian at Lanzhou University in the northwestern part of China in the mid-1980s. In the fall 1986, Dr. Lee visited our university and the library. Though I was not able to meet him then, one year later, at the American Library Association’s annual conference in 1987 in San Francisco, I met Dr. Lee in person as a library science student. I was very impressed that everybody seemed to know Dr. Lee very well. Dr. Lee was well respected by colleagues from the U.S. and abroad. That was 37 years ago.

U.S.-China Library Conference
In August 1996, Dr. Lee led great efforts with a group of librarians from the U.S. and China and organized the first U.S.-China Library Conference in Beijing. While I served as a bilingual interpreter at the event, I saw that Dr. Lee rolled-up sleeves in the hot summer (by that time, there was no air-conditioning in the conference venue), and he was busy working with the library staff in Beijing to get all logistics done for the conference.

Back in the mid-1990s, the libraries in China were still in a very difficult financial situation. While the National Library of China agreed to facilitate local arrangements, it did not have the funds to bring library leaders from China to the conference site in Beijing. Dr. Lee took on the task of raising funds for the conference participants. He convinced several U.S. agencies and library publishers to join the sponsorship of this conference. It enabled the library colleagues from both countries to gather together for the first time and discuss, share, explore, and plan for library initiatives benefiting library users in both countries. Dr. Lee also presented a paper outlining major events, exchanges, and contributions from American librarians that helped the development of libraries in China.

Since the first conference in 1996 in Beijing, five more U.S.-China Library Conference series have been held through 2018, the longest library conference series so far, rotating in the U.S. and China respectively. Dr. Lee was always the conference organizer or special advisor to ensure the success of the gatherings. He believed that with emerging technologies, the information environment has experienced rapid changes in the library world. Sharing best practices, learning from each other, and engaging in conversations on a high policy level became imperative for all of us. Dr. Lee’s contributions, through his tireless efforts for the conference series, have had a far-reaching influence.

The platform for resource sharing for academic libraries in China
In the 1990s, in academic libraries in China, card catalogues were still major tools to find out library materials by students and faculty there. At that time, I worked at a university library in Ohio. One afternoon in late fall 1996, I received a phone call from Dr. Lee when he was Dean of Libraries at Ohio University. Dr. Lee asked if I would be able to help pick up the library colleagues coming from Beijing flying into the Columbus International Airport in Ohio and take them to Ohio University in Athens. I happily agreed. The library colleagues from Beijing wanted to learn how to build a national academic library consortium. They wanted to learn how a library consortium worked in U.S. academic libraries. Understanding their needs, Dr. Lee arranged for them to visit OhioLink, the largest consortium of university libraries in the country, and Dr. Lee was a founding director of OhioLink. He gave them informative talks on OhioLink and how it functioned at the Ohio University Libraries and took them to visit different departments of the libraries. Dr. Lee even opened the door to host the guests at his home in Athens.

A few months later, another group of eight library colleagues from Beijing came over to Ohio University; they wanted to learn more about the library technologies at the Ohio University Libraries. Dr. Lee invited me to help with the host. Even after the visit, Dr. Lee continued providing expertise and consultancy to
these colleagues for resource sharing. Dr. Lee’s tireless efforts and his vision for supporting library colleagues around the world will be forever remembered.

**CALA**
Dr. Lee was instrumental in creating the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) in the U.S. in the early 1980s. There are now over 1,200 CALA members throughout the U.S., Canada, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan. Dr. Lee was CALA’s president and board member in its early years and made a tremendous difference and impact by supporting and mentoring countless librarians and library school students through his leadership. During the American Library Association’s annual conferences, Dr. Lee often spoke to the CALA members and encouraged them to do well and to move up to leadership positions in libraries. Dr. Lee also served as a reference for many CALA members who applied for new jobs, for the applications of awards, and for tenure and promotion. When I was still a department head at a university library, Dr. Lee encouraged me to set a high goal and consider a library dean position in a few years. I followed his advice to prepare myself. In 2012, when I accepted my first library dean position at the University of Montana, I called Dr. Lee and thanked him for his guidance. We kept communicating on this topic. A few years later, he encouraged me to look at a large environment where I could contribute more to the profession. When I was offered the position of library dean at Auburn University, a member of Association of Research Libraries (ARL), in early 2019, I quickly shared it with Dr. Lee. He was very happy for me, and we still kept email exchanges then. In the middle of 2023, I shared with him that I kept up with the news about him and his wife Mary through his Facebook. Dr. Lee was very proud of posting photos and the family news on Facebook which kept his friends informed.

**Closing remarks**
Dr. Lee was a visionary leader, a role model, and a source of inspiration for many of us in the library and information science profession. In the recent ALA’s Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee, it recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Dr. Lee over the course of his career, mourns his death, and extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family. I am very fortunate to know Dr. Lee and to have benefited from his guidance, mentoring, and professional support. He is our role model forever.

Sha Li Zhang, Ph. D.
Dean of Libraries at Auburn University
E-mail: slz0002@Auburn.edu
May 10, 2024
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Lily Li, Daughter of Dorothy Li
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