Submission information

Form: Committee Report Form - June 2015
Submitted by Visitor
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Your Name:
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Committee Name:
Best Book Award Committee

Committee Roster:
Sai Deng (co-chair) saideng@gmail.com
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Committee Charge:
The Committee was charged with seeking nominations for the Best Book Award and to find books about general and modern life in China and Chinese-American life in the United States.
Contact publishers and other parties to send books for review.
Read, and contribute opinions for as many nominated books assigned as possible.

Tasks Completed According to the Five Goals Outlined in the CALA 2015 Strategic Plan if Applicable and Please Be Specific:
Call for Nomination: The Committee Co-Chairs worked with the committee members especially Haiying Qian to update the call for nomination and translate it to Chinese. The English and Chinese versions of the call were posted to CALA web at: http://cala-web.org/node/1965. The call for nomination was sent out multiple times in spring 2015.

Sought nominations from CALA members, various organizations and publishers. The Committee consulted previous committee Co-Chairs, and searched for ways to promote the award including seeking nominations from the Society for Chinese Studies Librarians, The Council on East Asian Libraries, and North America Writers Association.

The Committee Chair Sai Deng requested publishers' contact information from her colleague Ven Basco, Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA). A publishers' list was compiled based on updated information from that list and additional publicity contacts collected online.
The Committee solicited nominations from CALA members, friends and many publishers. To promote the award, Judy Jeng visited and talked to publishers at the Exhibits at ALA MidWinter in January, 2015. Sai also asked two of her colleagues to pass the call for nomination to publishers at MidWinter.

Compiled a list of 2014 books by authors of Chinese descent. The Committee members searched for possible candidates in various databases, vendor websites and book lists including USA Best Book Awards and New York Times Best sellers. Jia Mi compiled lists of fiction, non-fiction and children's books from the Books in Print database, and Sai compiled a preliminary list of 2014 books by authors of Chinese descent taken from Amazon and Jia's lists.

The committee continued to reach out to CALA members, friends and publishers to solicit nominations. A final list of books published in 2014 by authors of Chinese descent with publisher contacts was compiled.

Nominations. The Committee received 43 official nominations via the Best Book Award Nomination Form (http://cala-web.org/node/302), among which 27 are unique title nominations. Each committee member received 10 books except that the Chair received one more through online request.
In addition, informal nominations were received through emails, including 6 titles for Children and Young Adults recommended by Dr. Yolanda Hood and 9 non-fiction titles suggested by Ying Zhang from the University of Central Florida.

If including the nominations from the nomination form and via emails, a total of 58 nominations were received.

Committee communication and book review. The Committee also utilized Google Docs to store documents and facilitate collaboration, but email remained as the major communication channel. All committee members actively participated in discussion and made collective decisions.

All members read and discussed nominated books via emails and some wrote book reviews including Sai, Jia and Judy. Revision of committee documents. Coordinated by the Co-Chairs, the Committee revised its section in the CALA Handbook; Haling made important contributions to the committee documents revision.

Nominated Books posted to CALA Facebook. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair promoted nominated books on the CALA Facebook page in the whole month of May. A total of 25 titles were introduced under "One Book Per Day by Authors of Chinese Descent". Each book was posted with title, author, publisher, cover image, introduction and review. Each has reached over 100 to over 1100 readers. The postings can be viewed at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/CALA-Chinese-American-Librarians-Association/281336511932864.

Xiaoyan Zhou shared an interesting event "Literature & Film with Chinese famous authors Mai Jia & Su Tong" to be hosted by her library, New Utrecht Branch Library on May 30. Mai Jia is one of the winning authors.

Recommendations sent to the Board and the Executive Committee. The Committee sent its recommendations to the CALA Board and the CALA Executive Committee, and these are the winning titles:

Fiction
Two Sons of China, by Andrew Lam (Bondfire Books)
Decoded, by Mai Jia (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
The Three-Body Problem, by Cixin Liu (Tor Books)

Non-Fiction
Chinese Comfort Women: Testimonies from Imperial Japan's Sex Slaves, by Peipei Qiu, with Su Zhiliang and Chen Lifei (Oxford University Press)
Contemporary Chinese Art, by Wu Hung (Thames & Hudson)
The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited, by Louisa Lim (Oxford University Press)

Juvenile Books (Age 12-18)
The Shadow Hero, by Gene Luen Yang, illustrated by Sonny Liew (First Second)
Secrets of the Terra-Cotta Soldier, by Ying Chang Compestine and Vinson Compestine (Amulet Books, an imprint of ABRAMS)

Children's Books (Age 11 and under)
Summoning the Phoenix: Poems and Prose About Chinese Musical Instruments, by Emily Jiang (Lee & Low Books)
The Year of the Fortune Cookie, by Andrea Cheng, illustrated by Patrice Barton (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Honorable Mention

2014 CALA Best Book Award Winners with book reviews. The committee compiled "2014 CALA Best Book Award Winners" with book summary and reviews from the nominators and the committee members.

The President announced the winners of the 2014 CALA Best Book Awards in CALA Listserv on May 31, 2015.

Goals and Objectives Completed:
The CALA Best Book Award can contribute to Goal 1 and Goal 5 by promoting Chinese culture, language and heritages and sharing excellent works in and beyond the Chinese American librarians community.

Goals and Objectives to Be Completed:
Contact nominators, authors and publishers to deliver the final results, send award certificates via emails and invite the award recipients to the CALA Banquet at ALA/CALA Annual;
Promote the award and its recipients via CALA Facebook, CALA Newsletter and other publicity venues;
Work with the CALA Annual Programming Committee to present the award recipients who'll be attending the banquet.

Budget Requirements or Reimbursement Requests (if any):
The Committee would like to request courtesy meals in the CALA Banquet for the award recipients if possible. The award certificates may need a small fund as well.

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the Board (if any):
The Committee would like to recommend adjusting the timeline and start the process early, instead of beginning to contact publishers in the spring of the award year, starting to solicit nominations and books from publishers in the year when the books are published.

**Summary: In a few sentences, highlight your achievements, concerns, or suggestions that you mostly want addressed. This should be the main point of your committee work:**
The 2014-2015 CALA Best Book Award Committee worked diligently to solicit nominations from CALA members, friends, authors and publishers. The committee searched for databases and vendor websites to compile a possible candidate pool. The award was promoted to various professional organizations, individuals and publishers and nominations were sought consistently. The nominated titles were introduced to CALA’s Facebook page in the whole month of May under the program "One Book Per Day by Authors of Chinese Descent". Each book has reached over 100 to over 1170 readers. The committee members read the books, searched for literature and other reviews and made careful selections. The recommendation for the award recipients was sent to the Board and the Executive Committee and the 2014 CALA Best Book Award Winners with book reviews were compiled. The Committee would like to recommend adjusting the timeline and start to solicit nominations and books in the year that they are published, which is obviously before the award year.

**Attachment1:**
2014CALABestBooksReviews.pdf

**Attachment2:**

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Your comments and suggestions are important. Please use Suggestion Box to tell us how we can do better on CALA’s business.