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### Submission information

Form: [2014-2015 Mid-Year Report Form](#)

Submitted by Visitor

Thursday, December 18, 2014 - 10:27

132.170.207.186

### Your Name:

Sai Deng

### Email:

saideng@gmail.com

### Committee Name:

Best Book Award Committee

### Committee Roster:

Sai Deng (co-chair) saideng@gmail.com

Jia Mi (co-chair) jmi@tcnj.edu

Judy Jeng jeng.judy@gmail.com

Haiying Qian QianH@lincolnu.edu

Xiaoyan Zhou x.zhou@brooklynpubliclibrary.org

### Committee Charge:

Seek nominations for the Best Book Award and 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.

### Task Completed According to the Five Goals Outlined in the CALA 2015 Strategic Plan if Applicable and Please Be Specific:

The committee chair searched for news, reports and documentations from past committees in CALA web and newsletters, and sent them to the committee members to start the conversation. After several rounds of discussions, some actions were taken:

(1) The Committee revised the guidelines for CALA Best Book Award. The major change made to the guidelines is the award category. The categories have been inconsistent since the creation of this award, and the past committees have made different decisions each year:

Adult Non- Fiction, Adult Fiction, Juvenile Fiction, and Children's Picture Book (2007/2008)

Adult Fiction Book, Non-Fiction Adult Book, Young Adult Book, Children's Book (2008/2009)

Academic Books, Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction, Young Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction, and Juvenile Books (2010/2011)

Academic Books, Adult Fiction and Non-fiction, Young Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction, Juvenile Books, Book of Special Honor (2011/2012)

Academic Books, Adult Non-fiction, Fiction, Juvenile Books (2012/2013)

Academic Books, Fiction, Non-fiction, Juvenile and children's Books (2013/2014)

The Committee decided to use these four categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Juvenile Books (Age 12-18) and Children's Books (Age 11 and under). Initially Jia raised the question on how to define the "Academic Books;" the Committee had no strong opinion on whether to define it in additional documentation or to get rid of it. Due to the fact that the "Academic Books" is hard to be distinguished from "non-fiction," we decided to only keep the more universal category "non-fiction." At the same time, we added age requirements for the Juvenile Books and Children's Books.

(2) The Committee updated the Nomination Form. Besides the category and the mailing address changes, the other revision is to change the "Copyright Date" to the "Publication Date" as part of the "Book Information." The CALA Best Book Award Nomination Form is now available at: <http://cala-web.org/node/302>

(3) The Committee updated the Call for Nomination and sent it to the CALA Listserv in December, 2014. The "Call for Nomination for 2014 CALA Best Book Award" has also been posted to CALA web (<http://cala-web.org/node/1965>) and CALA Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/CALA-Chinese-American-Librarians-Association/281336511932864>). The CALA webmasters Minyan Li and Weiling Liu helped with updating the website.

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.

**Work in Progress & Timeline:**

(1) The Committee Chair raised questions on whom to contact and where to search to get book information. The past committee Co-Chairs Kuei Chiu and Jiaxun Wu had been requested to provide some past committee activities and information; they recommended to contact The Society for Chinese Studies Librarians and The Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), and to search for USA Best Book Awards, New York Times Best sellers and some internet book lists. The Committee will further discuss these questions and take corresponding actions.

(2) The Committee discussed the possibility of contacting publishers and getting nominations. To promote the award, Judy will bring related information such as the call for nomination to the Exhibits at ALA MidWinter Conference in January, 2015.

(3) The Committee will resend the call to CALA Listserv and a more expanded list in spring 2015.

(4) After the nomination closing date, April 19, 2015, all committee members will review the books, write critiques and submit feedback to the Committee. Recommendations will be made in each category after careful evaluation and discussion in May.

**Goals and Objectives for the Second Half Year:**

- (1) Continue to promote the award, gain nomination support from CALA members, general readers, professional organizations and publishers;
- (2) Evaluate the nominated books in time and promote the winners in various communication channels and social media outlets.

**Budget Requirements or Reimbursement Requests (if any):**

NA

**Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the Board (if any):**

NA

**Attachment1:**

**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.