

# E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

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*(from Linda Devine, Editor)*

Happy New Year, and Happy Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dog!

As always, thank you to those who submitted material for the e-newsletter, and to my husband Ed for his photo preparation work. I also continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles for the publication if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership.

Please feel free to send me any suggestions or recommendations that you might have for any aspects of the e-newsletter. My email address is: [devinefive@comcast.net](mailto:devinefive@comcast.net)

May 2018 start off well for you!

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## **News from the Maryland Chapter**

Maryland Chapter members enjoyed attending the OCAW Virginia Chapter's 20th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, December 23, 2017 in Centreville, Virginia. *(See "News from the Virginia Chapter.")*

## News from the Virginia Chapter

### OCAW Virginia Chapter's 20th Anniversary Celebration

*(from Donna Byler, National Executive Director, and Chi-Hua Yang, President)*

The OCAW Virginia Chapter celebrated its 20th Anniversary at Sino's Inn in Centreville, Virginia, on Saturday, December 23, 2017, just two days before Christmas. Nearly forty people joined in the celebration, including more than a half-dozen men who were dubbed the "OCAW Auxiliary." Santa Claus (*a.k.a.* Tony Byler) stopped in for pictures and to find out who was naughty and nice.

On his list were past Virginia Chapter President and National President Christina Chang; founding president of the Virginia Chapter Joanne Wang; past presidents Donna Byler, Jane Pan, and Maria Yang; and current President Chi-Hua Yang.



Former Virginia Chapter Presidents Christina Chang, Jane Pan, Donna Byler, Joanne Wang, and Maria Yang, and current President Chi-Hua Yang

Also present were Virginia Chapter Vice President Alice Way, Secretary Noreen Hom, and Treasurer Cathy Roberts. New member Barbara York was in attendance as well.

The Virginia Chapter had nicely extended the invitation to its sister chapter, OCAW Maryland. Maryland members, including President Ping Zhu and Treasurer Christina Poy, enjoyed the festivities. Christina is also a founding charter member of the Virginia Chapter.



Virginia President Chi-Hua Yang (*left*) with Maryland Chapter members



Christina Chang, Santa, and Steve Chang





Donna Byler and Santa



Jane Pan's family with Santa

Everyone enjoyed delicious dim sum and other banquet dishes. Maria Yang's friend, Hui-Ching Chen, thoughtfully brought calendars on behalf of the Overseas Community Affairs Council of Taiwan, and she and Maria distributed them to attendees. (Hui-Ching also wrote an article about the event afterward, which appeared in the local Chinese newspapers.) In addition, there was a raffle fundraiser created by Alice Way, which helped support the cost of the food as well as raised money for future events. It was a wonderful celebration to mark the chapter's milestone.



Chi-Hua Yang, Santa, and Glen Schwartz

*(Photos courtesy of Chi-Hua Yang and Glen Schwartz)*

### **News from the New Orleans Chapter**

*(from Patricia Ellzey, Vice President)*

#### **Chinese Presbyterian Church Senior Panda Club Meeting**

On Thursday, December 7, 2017, a meeting was held of the Senior Panda Club of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, Louisiana. Members of the OCAW New Orleans Chapter attended and supported a presentation on the "Early History of the Chinese Presbyterian Mission, 1882-1928" given by Winston Ho.







Winston had previously given a presentation on Shaie Mei Temple, the founder and first President of the OCAW New Orleans Chapter. His lecture in December discussed the early years of the church and the founders who were female missionaries to the local community.



**Christmas Party**

The OCAW New Orleans Chapter Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 9, 2017, at the Imperial Garden Restaurant in Kenner, Louisiana. Everyone enjoyed a festive time.



Maurice Hew, Rev. Peter Choi, Mayling Hew, Brian Huynh, and Wendy Huynh



Patricia and Will Ellzey, Nancy Chung, Jimmy Yeh, Yvonne Louie, Mangjee Yeh, and Thuy Vu





Judy and James Wong, and George and Beth Chin



Tien Ho accepting a Certificate of Appreciation for her son, Winston Ho, who is a researcher and historian documenting local Chinese American History and who has given presentations of his work



Pat Ellzey awarding George Chin a Certificate of Appreciation for his support of the OCAW New Orleans Chapter



Celebrating Wendy Huynh's birthday – son Brian, Wendy, and Jasmine Wu



Our Christmas cake



Rev. Peter Choi installing the 2018 officers: Nancy Chung, Treasurer; Jeanette Hew, Secretary; Patricia Ellzey, Vice President; and Dr. Lihua Zhang, President







The lady above received a treatment for knee pain relief, etc.

Our Treasurer Nancy Chung is pictured below receiving a treatment. Member Jasmine Wu received a treatment later.



Lihua was very generous and accommodating and gave at least two dozen attendees free pain relief treatments.

Below are two examples of the many signs that were displayed in her patients' treatment rooms to show all of the problems that acupuncture can relieve.



At our Chapter meetings, Lihua is sharing much information and demonstrating how to help us become and stay healthy.

She has also started to send us monthly emails to educate us and keep us well informed on various health topics.

Some of us plan to be her patients so that we can be nutritionally healthy, be taught specific exercises, and take treatments to relieve our chronic pains.

*(All photos courtesy of Pat Ellzey)*



## News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

*(from Sophia Yang, President)*

### Annual Members Holiday Social

We held our Annual Members Holiday Social in the Community Room of the San Jose City Library, Calabazas Branch, San Jose, California on Sunday, January 7, 2018. Many members were excited to come and meet with friends.

The highlight of this event was the talk given by Ms. Lily Hsueh. Her topic was “Visits on the Sites of Literature and Movies.”



Ms. Lily Hsueh

Lily was born in Mainland China, grew up in Taiwan, and immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1970s. She is a writer of novels, short stories, and dramas, and is also a columnist. Over thirty of her books have been published in Hong Kong, China, and Taiwan. Many of her works have received awards.

Lily loves traveling. Some of her trips were specially arranged for her favorite books or movies, or even for a writer, an artist, or a movie director. She met with many famous writers and artists in China before they passed away, and captured very precious dialogues and photos during her visits.

Through the slides she brought for her talk, we learned of her stories with Ba Jin, Mao Dun, Shen Congwen, Mu Xin, San Mao, and Zhang AiLin. They were very famous and important writers of the past few decades. On her trips, she visited their hometowns, the houses they lived in, and their memorial museums. She even visited the tomb of Yasujirō Ozu, the Japanese film director of “Tokyo Story” and “Early Spring.”



Lily also told us of the trip of unexpectedly finding the home of Arundhati Roy in India. Ms. Roy is the author of The God of Small Things.

She shared the story of running into the famous Russian Poet and Essayist, Joseph Brodsky, at Stanford University.

In her 90 minutes' talk, we viewed over 100 slides. At the end, everyone felt as if they had just traveled with her on a wonderful journey!



Lily Hsueh and SVC President Sophia Yang

In addition to Lily's presentation, we played "BINGO" and some other games.





Each winner from the games received a small gift donated by the officers.



We enjoyed delicious food as well.

All in all, it was a wonderful afternoon, and we surely had a very good time together!







### **Upcoming Event**

Our next event will be the Saratoga Blossom Festival on March 24, 2018.

In the meantime, we wish everyone a prosperous Lunar New Year, Year of the Dog!

### **News from the Hawaii Chapter**

*(from Rena Young Ochse, Communications Chair and Newsletter Editor)*

#### **Christmas/Installation Luncheon**

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter's Christmas/Installation luncheon was a smashing success. It was held on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at the Oahu Country Club in Honolulu. Thanks to Queenie Mow Chee and her committee, we had over 120 members and guests.

Our special guest was none other than the Hawaii ambassador of Aloha, Danny Kaleikini. "Aloha ke kahi I ke kahi," he always says. "Love is everywhere, love is where you find it, love comes from the heart."



Danny Kaleikini, Hawaii President Dr. Lei Ahu Isa, and Linda Wong

Chapter officers for 2018 were installed by Dr. Lawrence K. W. Tseu, prominent philanthropist and supporter of OCAW events and projects. Congratulations to our new officers!



2018 OCAW Hawaii Chapter Officers

Dr. Lawrence K. W. Tseu, Installing Officer; Dr. Lei Ahu Isa, President; Susan Chong Wong, Esq., Vice President; Jerilyn L. O. Jeffryes, Secretary; and Susan Louie Lee, Treasurer



Lei Ahu Isa; Rena Young Ochse, OCAW-Hawaii Communications Chair and Newsletter Editor, and Past President of the Hawaii Chinese Civic Association; and Gladys Lee, OCAW-Hawaii member and Hawaii Chinese Civic Association Mandarin Award winner





Wallace Chow, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu (*second from left*) and wife Samantha (*right*), with Dr. Tseu and Hawaii Chapter officers

*(Photo courtesy of World Journal Chinese News)*



Two lion dancers with Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, OCAW-Hawaii Immediate Past President, and Lei Ahu Isa



### **Chapter Donation**

President Lei Ahu Isa presented the Lanakila Multipurpose Senior Center with a \$1,000.00 donation in honor of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter.



### **President's Message from Dr. Lei Ahu Isa**

Kong Xi Fa Cai! Gong Hey Fat Choy!

Welcoming a New Year is always a joyous celebration as we start the new year refreshed. But this year, I must share with you regarding the situation with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). By the time you receive this message, Congress will have probably temporarily fixed this unfair situation... or President Trump will have ended DACA.

As the Vice Chair of the State Board of Education, and a Professor at Hawaii Pacific University, I have profiled/talked with many local young immigrants about DACA, who told me that they were so grateful for the opportunity to live and work in America. Among them were young Asian women...

This was the policy former President Barack Obama signed into law in order to bring out of the shadows the young people who were brought to America as children and know this country as their only home. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has already made it clear that the Justice Department would prefer to abandon DACA "because it is very questionable, in my opinion, constitutionally." If this Program lapses, lives for these young immigrants would end as they know it, and their futures would be extremely bleak.

These Dreamers are not invisible. They are everywhere. They are college students majoring in medicine, engineering, and law. They are small business owners and serve in the military. They have lives and history

in this country. It would be chaotic and disruptive if the government were to snatch them from their jobs/schooling, handcuff them, and deport them to countries which are completely alien to them.

These kids took a huge risk by registering with the government to receive DACA. This leap of faith could very well lead to deportation. They were submitted to strict background checks, and they complied with every rule to be eligible for a two-year period of deferred action. The goal was to create a full legalization of their status with comprehensive immigration reform. And the deal was that in return for their submission, America would protect them. We cannot fail them. Their fate rests in the hands of President Trump who plans to announce whether he will end the Executive Order on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

As women of OCAW, our mission statement should read at this point in time: “To Advocate for the *lives* of DACA immigrants here through no fault of their own, both men and women, by being a political voice or force.” In my humble opinion.

### **Chinese New Year, the Year of the Earth Dog**

Celebrations began on Thursday, February 9, 2018 in Chinatown when we celebrated “Choy Cheng,” with lion dances beginning at sunset. Over 50 organizations and clubs were involved. The Narcissus Queen and her court appeared and wished good luck to all.



The 2018 Narcissus Queen and her court: 3rd Princess Tiffany Chen, 1st Princess Kristina Pollock, 69th Queen Jami Zhong, 2nd Princess Tyler Ordenstein, and 4th Princess Kathy Kaw

Note: Queen Jami Zhong immigrated to Hawaii as a child from Guangdong, China, and is pursuing a nursing degree from the University of Hawaii. In the competition, she also won in the categories of most photogenic and talent.



### **February General Membership Meeting**

Lei Ahu Isa will be presiding over her first meeting as President on Sunday, February 18, 2018 at the Maple Garden Chinese Restaurant in Honolulu. The program speaker will be Mr. Tom Yamachika. He is the President of the Tax Foundation of Hawaii, a private, nonprofit educational organization dedicated to informing the tax-paying public about the finances of our state and local governments in Hawaii. We have invited other organizations to join us to listen to this valuable information from Mr. Yamachika.

### **Finding Kukan**

OCAW-Hawaii member Robin Lung announced that you can now download her documentary.

Here is the information website:

<http://www.hawaiiwomeninfilmmaking.org/so/fM5O0Ti3/click?w=LS0tDQpIYjRlZTg0Zi1jMGM5LTQzMGYtOTA1MS04ODdiOGZiZTA5NmENCmh0dHA6Ly93d3cuaGF3YWlpd29tZW5pbmZpbG1tYWtpbmcub3JnL3dvdw0KLS0t>

### **From and About Our Members**

#### **7th World Kungfu Championships**

*(from Dorothy Hsiao, National Secretary, and Susan Young, former OCAW-MD Secretary)*





In November 2017, OCAW-MD members Susan Young and Dorothy Hsiao were part of a group of seven Chinese-American women from the O-Mei Wushu KungFu Center in Fairfax, Virginia, who went to Emeishan (near Chengdu), Sichuan China as part of the USA team to compete in the 7th World Kungfu Championships.

This was an international competition with over 3200 competitors from 52 countries competing in individual, dulian (choreographed sparring), and group routines. Susan and Dorothy competed in the Group Taiji Barehand (without weapon) competition with five other students of Shifu Xiaolin Lu. The group performed the 24 taijiquan form and were thrilled to win a gold plaque after tying for first place.

Susan also competed in Individual Taiji Barehand, winning a silver medal for her 24 taiji form.

Susan and Dorothy are indebted to OCAW-VA member Henriette Levy and to OCAW for introducing them to the O-Mei Wushu Center in March 2015, as part of OCAW's cultural program.

*(Photos courtesy of Shimei Guo)*

*(Editor's Note: OCAW congratulates Susan and Dorothy!)*



Dorothy Hsiao and Susan Young

### Asian Pacific American Society Christmas Children's Party

*(from Pat Ellzey, New Orleans Chapter Vice President)*

Pat Ellzey volunteered to help at the New Orleans Asian Pacific American Society's (APAS) Annual Christmas Children's Party on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

The OCAW New Orleans Chapter is a corporate member of APAS which is primarily a local Asian heritage and cultural association that sponsors an annual heritage festival, a Fall Gala, an Autumn festival, and a free Christmas Children's Party. It also participates in various local activities such as the New Orleans Children's Museum World Cultural event, and it assists various local Ethnic Asians who are in need, such as the Asian American fishermen who were in need after Hurricane Katrina and other bad storms.

Two Chinese lions initiated this event, followed by storytelling, a magician, and Santa giving gifts to each child. There were 10 tables of various craft activities for the children to do. Lunch and punch were served along with cookies.



Pat Ellzey (*left*) at the APAS Christmas Children's Party

## **Ikebana**

*(from Betty Butz, New Orleans Chapter Past President)*

Betty writes that the New Year arctic plunge helped to clean out her garden of tropical foliage. The picture below shows a few plant specimens that still thrive in freezing temperatures. The carnations came from a store. She hopes this Ikebana helps us all plan for a warmer season.



Materials: Golden euonymus, kumquat, magnolia picata, and carnations

*(Photo courtesy of Betty Butz)*

And speaking of Ikebana...

## **Ikebana International is Coming**

*(from Linda Devine)*

Ikebana International will be returning to the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. in April 2018. From April 13 to April 22, two different exhibits of lovely Japanese floral arrangements will be on display, courtesy of the Washington, D.C. Chapter. Also during this time, 4 demonstrations will be given, each representing a different Ikebana school. These will be held on April 15, 21 (two demos), and 22.



In April 2016, Linda Devine attended all of the demonstrations and exhibits, and was happy to be joined at times by several OCAW members, partners, and friends. This year she plans on attending all of the demos and exhibits once again. She would be pleased if anyone has an interest and would like to join her at some point. Before or after the demos, one can view the exhibits. And afterward, if you wish, you can also spend time seeing the various other sights that the Arboretum has to offer.

She will provide more information to Maryland and Virginia OCAW members as April gets closer. However, to OCAW sisters in New Orleans, Silicon Valley, and Hawaii: if you will be in the Nation's Capital during this period of time, Linda and other MD and VA sisters would love to have you join us! Please email Linda at [devinefive@comcast.net](mailto:devinefive@comcast.net) to let her know of your plans.

### **Diversity and Reading Aloud**

**by Audrey Lee**

*(Editor's Note: Audrey is a former OCAW-MD Vice President.)*



Last year while researching children's "diversity" books, I learned more about the annual World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) celebrated this past February 1, and Read Across America (RAA) to be celebrated on March 2. As a Kiwanis Club member, I had volunteered to participate in the Reading Program that assigned us to read

aloud every Tuesday morning to a neighborhood kindergarten class. Admittedly, while I support having more “diverse” characters in our media, I was nonplussed when the teacher handed me the book, Goldy Luck and the Three Panda Bears written by Natasha Yim. This book was, of course, based on Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

I ended up stumbling through the cultural stereotypes while reading aloud under the direct gazes of innocent young, mostly non-Asian, faces. Children can be disarmingly frank. Fortunately, they seemed very pleased to have anything read aloud to them.

Prompted by this “Goldy Luck” experience, my online research resulted in references to WRAD, RAA, and, by extension, Dr. Seuss, the famous author of such childhood favorites as The Cat in the Hat. I further read that many 1940s cartoons drawn by Dr. Seuss are “racist” and culturally inappropriate. Horrified, I recalled all the wonderful artwork in the Dr. Seuss books, but yes, the images I saw online did crudely depict Asian caricatures. However, Dr. Seuss allegedly recognized his earlier biases, and set about to atone by publishing his Horton Hears a Who!

Recently, the Dr. Seuss Museum finally removed its mural depicting Chinese caricatures in “yellow face” copied from the Dr. Seuss book, And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street, and issued an apology.

In conclusion, since the Goldy Luck book was based during the Chinese New Year celebration, I’ll take this opportunity to wish all my OCAW sisters, Happy Brown Earth Dog Year!