

# E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

February 2023



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501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

*(from Linda Devine, Editor)*

Happy New Year, and Happy Chinese New Year – especially to all of the Rabbits! I hope that for everyone, your year has started out well.

Thanks as always to those who contributed material for this issue, our first of 2023. And my gratitude also to my husband Ed for his work on the many photos.

I continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles or submit information for the e-newsletter if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership.

Furthermore, please feel free to send me any suggestions that you might have for the e-newsletter at: [devinefive@comcast.net](mailto:devinefive@comcast.net)

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## **News from the Virginia Chapter**

*(Maria Yang, President)*

## **Memoir Writing Presentation**

*(from Veronica Li, former Acting President)*

At the invitation of the Fairfax County Public Library in Virginia, I gave a presentation on memoir writing on Saturday, November 5, 2022, along with my husband, Sverrir Sigurdsson. It was held at the Sherwood Regional Library in Alexandria, VA, to celebrate Indie Author Day.

I have written one and a half memoirs. The first was *Journey Across the Four Seas*, which is about my mother's life, and the second was coauthored with Sverrir about his life, titled *Viking Voyager: An Icelandic Memoir*. At the library event, Sverrir and I talked about how we turned memories into memoirs.



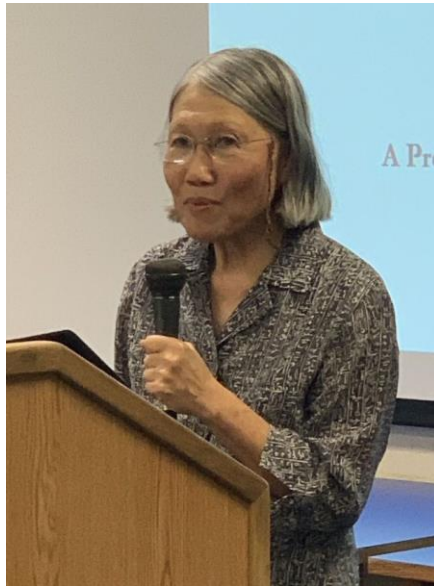
When my mom was in her eighties, I decided to record her stories for posterity. My mother was the one who brought the family to the U.S. and thus was the “founder” of our clan in America. Over the course of a year, we sat down together from time to time with a tape recorder. When she'd said everything she wanted to say, I transcribed the tapes. This first draft went through many revisions before it was finally printed, bound, and published.

Sverrir, too, loves to tell stories of his life, especially his travels. He usually does it over a few drinks with friends. Then someone suggested he write his memoir. He thus started jotting down memorable recollections and saving them in a folder called “Episodes” on his computer. When he showed me a chapter, I was going to humor him and encourage him to carry on – just to keep him busy during retirement. But my reaction came as a surprise. What an interesting life he had lived before we met! I'd heard about some of his trips before, but didn't realize how crazy they were until he connected the dots for me. So I rolled up my sleeves and helped him turn his memories into a memoir.

These writing experiences have taught me the necessary ingredients for cooking up a good memoir. The first one is the theme. In a memoir, the theme is the aspect of your life that you want to focus on. In *Journey*

*Across the Four Seas*, the theme is my mother's search for a home, and in *Viking Voyager*, the theme is Sverrir's Viking career. You can think of your life as a pie, and a memoir is a slice of that pie. If you want to write about your whole life, then your project is called an autobiography. It's like a scrapbook in which important pieces of a life are pasted.

Regardless of which category you take on, you should try to make the story as absorbing as a novel. In a novel, we read about a character struggling with a problem, eventually finding revelation and resolution. Descriptions of vivid scenes transport the reader to the character's world and the reader experiences what he experiences. For a memoir to be captivating, it needs all these elements of a novel. The only difference is that the characters in a memoir are real, and so are the happenings.



Sverrir and I concluded our presentation by talking about the rewards of writing memoirs. By putting down our life events on paper, we can make better sense of them. It's also a way to pass on family history to future generations. My family has certainly benefited from my mom's stories. For generations to come, members of our "clan" will know where they came from and take pride in their ancestor's struggles as well as achievements.

Here is a recording of our presentation, called "The Essential Elements of Memoir Writing":  
<https://youtu.be/eSXHX2hbK-8>

I would also like to express appreciation for the support of OCAW members in attendance.



Maria Yang, OCAW-VA President; Veronica Li; Sverrir Sigurdsson; and Susan Young, former OCAW-MD Secretary

*(Editor's Note: Veronica and Sverrir's presentation was very engaging. They took turns at the podium as they discussed each element of memoir writing as it pertained to their books, and the vivid passages that they read from their works drew the audience's interest.)*

### **Chinese New Year Celebration**

*(from Maria Yang)*

This year is the Year of the Water Hare, and January 22 was New Year's Day. The OCAW Virginia Chapter celebrated Chinese New Year by joining in on a Zoom webinar of the Asian American Association of the Library of Congress (LCAAA) on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. LCAAA invited the world-renowned speaker, Khadro Crystal Chu Rinpoche, to talk about the prediction of luck in 2023, her method of prediction, and advice for people to deal with bad situations during the year.

Combining one of the 10 Heavenly Stems and one of the 12 Earthly Branches, this year is also called the year of "Gui Mo" in the Chinese calendar, which corresponds to "Water, Wood" in the theory of the Five Elements. "As water produces wood in the generative cycle, this year is supposed to be a rather smooth year. However, given that 2022 was such an unstable year filled with uncertainties that led to negative



consequences, we are still facing a bumpy road ahead in 2023,” as Khadro Rinpoche mentioned in her publication, 2023 Calendar by Yun Lin Temple.

She also mentioned that in the calendar, “the hare is agile and witty; it can easily and quickly get out of trouble. With the title on the cover page of the calendar, ‘Out of Harm’s Way Like a Witty Hare,’ we pray for the entire world to be as clever and agile as the hare, escaping from the dangers of rising inflation and economic recession. We also pray for the peaceful ending of the war, the upholding of international justice, and the restoration of international order.”



Khadro Crystal Chu Rinpoche (*left*) and Chang Xiang, Hostess of the webinar  
at the Library of Congress

(Photo taken by Maria Yang)

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

(from Pat Ellzey, President)

#### **Chinese Presbyterian Church Anniversary Celebration**

The Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, LA, is the gathering place for many of the OCAW New Orleans Chapter events, and chapter members are active in other church activities. The church celebrated the 140th anniversary of its ministry on Sunday, November 20, 2022. Over a hundred individuals were in attendance.

Students and teachers from the local Academy of Chinese Studies sang and danced to music from ancient Chinese dynasties, and also performed Tibetan and Mongolian dances, all in costumes. Church members feel very blessed that the church has existed for so long.

The following is a link to a video that briefly tells of the church’s history:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cuUgF7cb9oIkPRDHqJGQ04WIdmEACidD/view?fbclid=IwAR10DVZGuZAg5EE49VxPfn\\_3fOSgwwpRmboC2duiWPMWewhGIA4OkKWcmp4](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cuUgF7cb9oIkPRDHqJGQ04WIdmEACidD/view?fbclid=IwAR10DVZGuZAg5EE49VxPfn_3fOSgwwpRmboC2duiWPMWewhGIA4OkKWcmp4)

### **APAS Children's Holiday Party**

The OCAW New Orleans Chapter joined with the Asian Pacific American Society (APAS) in organizing and hosting the annual APAS Children's Holiday Party. It was held on Saturday, December 10, 2022, in the Fellowship Hall of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, LA.

Pat Ellzey helped coordinate the event. Nellie Underwood, OCAW New Orleans Chapter Secretary, is OCAW's representative to APAS, as well as APAS Secretary, and Nellie was principally involved in the party. Because of the COVID pandemic, this was the first time in three years that the function was held.



Nellie Underwood (*seated, second from the right*)

This was a free event for all children, and approximately 50 participated. Several different table games were played, various crafts were made, and stories were told. Lunch and drinks were provided, and anyone could talk to Santa Claus and take pictures with him. This occasion is always a fun time.

This coming year the party will be held on December 2, 2023, once again at the Chinese Presbyterian Church since the facilities are so accommodating. There is tentative talk that a balloon animal maker, a face painter, and a portable enclosed jumping tent might be added to the festivities.



Nellie Underwood loaned her husband to play Santa Claus.

**Thank you!**

On behalf of the Chinese Presbyterian Church which suffered extensive damage from hurricanes in 2021, Pat would like to express much gratitude for the generous contributions given to it to assist with the needed repairs and renovations.

Many thanks to the OCAW Hawaii Chapter; Queenie Chee, Secretary and Event Chair, OCAW Hawaii Chapter; and Janet Biermann, OCAW Maryland Chapter and former National Executive Director, for their donations. Pat is appreciative of their kindness, generosity, and thoughtfulness.

She is happy to report that the church has been repaired and has been able to resume all of its activities for the local community, and that contributions helped it to once again host meaningful, charitable events such as the APAS Children's Holiday Party discussed above.

## **News from the Silicon Valley Chapter**

*(from Jen Tsao, President)*

### **Silicon Valley Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs**

Following is the list of officers and committee chairs for the 2022-2023 term:

President	Jen Tsao
Vice President	Yufan Lu
Treasurer	Sophia Yang
Secretary	Carol Yuan
Membership	Hong W. Tai, WenMei Tai
Public Relationship	Cynthia Chang
Scholarship Committee	Monica Hsiao, Sherry Hsu, WenMei Tai
Flyer	Candace Huang
Photographer	Michelle Huang
Hospitality	Cynthia Ho, Phyllis Tung, Wendy Chang
Historian	Alice Chiou
Activity	Ai-chu Wang, Wendy Chang, Anne Hu
Board of Directors	Ai-chu Wang, Cynthia Chang, Alice Chiou, Sophia Yang, Carol Yuan, Wendy Chang, Monica Hsiao, Anne Hu



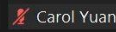

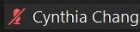







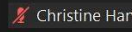

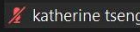
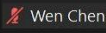

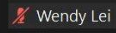



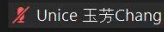

### **Holiday Cooking Demonstration**









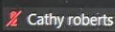




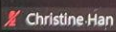




The Silicon Valley Chapter hosted a holiday cooking demonstration entitled “Holiday Entertaining Made Easy,” and it was presented by Wendy Chang, former President. It was held on Sunday, November 13, 2022, at 2 p.m. PST. It was broadcast via Zoom, and all were invited to join in.

OCAW-SVC calls Wendy the ‘Rachel Ray of Asia.’ ☺ She demonstrated how to prepare easy-made holiday dishes. She showed how to put together a charcuterie/cheese board, and made delicious salads and canapes.

There were about 25 participants via Zoom, and about 35 members requested the video recording of the event. Cathy Roberts, OCAW National Vice President for Membership and Virginia Chapter Treasurer, also attended the event. SVC members were so pleased to meet her via Zoom.



 Wendy Chang	 OCAW-SVC 美華婦女會砂...	Carol Yuan 	L King 	Cynthia Chang 
Mindy 	Jean 	Cathy roberts 	Chingchi 	May 
 Yuh Ni	Alice 	Christine Han 	Helen 	katherine tseng 
Wen Chen 	 Chia-Huei Chen	Wendy Lei 	Lydia 	Linda 
	Monica H 	Unice 玉芳Chang 	 Aichu Wang 葉愛珠	

 Wendy Chang	 Carol Yuan	 OCAW-SVC 美華婦女會砂谷分會	 Cynthia Chang
 Unice 玉芳Chang	 Chia-Huei Chen	L King 	Mindy 
Cathy roberts 	Chingchi 	May 	 Yuh Ni
Alice 	Christine Han 	Wen Chen 	Wendy Lei 
	Linda 	 Aichu Wang 葉愛珠	



2022 11 13 OCAW-SVC 節日宴客輕鬆做 Holiday Entertaining Made Easy by Wendy Chan















*(Photos taken by Carol Yuan and Jen Tsao)*

The following is the link to the recording of the event:

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\* \* \* \* \*

*Editor's Note:* I'd like to take a moment to digress. Since 2009, when I began producing the OCAW e-newsletter, I have felt very grateful that all of Silicon Valley Chapter's Presidents, through current President Jen Tsao, have been strongly supportive of the e-newsletter. Without fail, for the past 14-plus years, they have all provided me with numerous articles and photos for the issues, thus significantly increasing the quality of our e-newsletter. They have all been incredible to work with, and former President Wendy Chang was no exception.

However, I'd like to add further comment about Wendy. I was pleasantly surprised to learn, and was impressed, that she is a lady of multiple talents, matched only by her modesty. For members of other chapters who do not know her: in addition to Wendy's culinary talents as displayed in the article above, she was a civil engineer for her career, but she is also a professional florist, with photos of her arrangements attesting to her lovely work. No doubt her skill also as a creator of ikebana is related.

On top of these achievements, though, she is an artist. In 2018, then chapter President Sophia Yang informed me that the City of Saratoga, CA, launched a project to beautify its utility boxes with artwork. Numerous designs were submitted, and between the Saratoga Public Art Committee and voting by city residents, Wendy was one of only seven artists selected for this project! An article submitted by Sophia appeared in the April 2018 *OCAW E-Newsletter*.



Winning artist Wendy Chang

OCAW should continue to be proud of its multi-talented members like Wendy. ☺

### **Cynthia Chang Honored**

Former OCAW-SVC President Cynthia Chang was honored by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District at a reception honoring outgoing Board of Trustee members. The event took place on Tuesday,



November 15, 2022 at Saratoga High School.

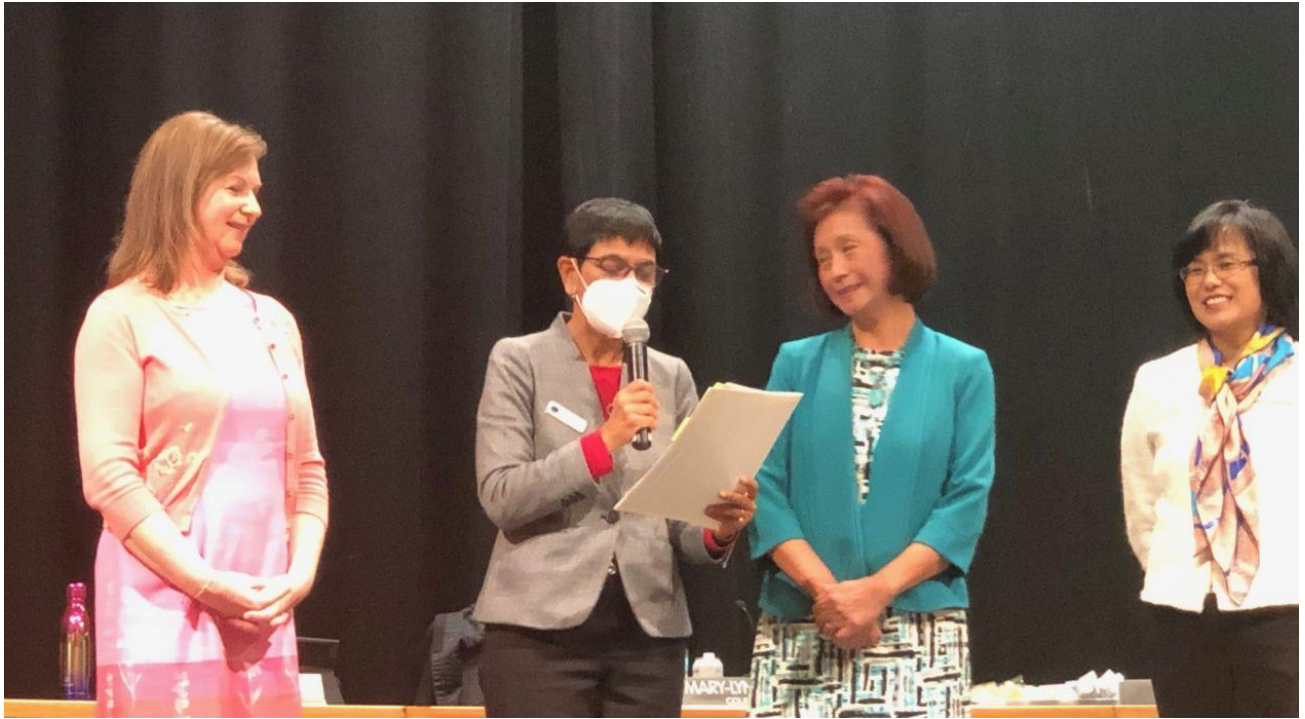
Cynthia joined the LGSUHSD Board in 1998 after serving on the Saratoga Union School District Board from 1994 to 1998. She is active in the community, having served as the Boy Scouts of America Troop 508 Committee Chair for six years, and as the Co-Chair of Saratoga's Memorial Day Observance event. She was recognized as Woman of the Year for the California Assembly's 24th District in March 2010 for her decades of service to the community.



Cynthia Chang (second from the left)

Retiring as an LGSUHSD Trustee, Cynthia was also honored on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, by City of Saratoga Mayor Tina Walia and Councilmembers with a commendation for her service to the community.

Many OCAW-SVC members were in attendance at the ceremony.



City of Saratoga Mayor Tina Walia and Cynthia Chang, flanked by two Members of the City Council







Cynthia's son presenting flowers to her



City Council members, OCAW-SVC members, and friends congratulated Cynthia.



Cynthia with OCAW-SVC members and friends

*(Photos taken by Sophia Yang and others)*

*(Editor's Note: Congratulations to Cynthia for her well-deserved recognition for decades of unselfish service to the community!)*

### **Crime Prevention and Home Safety Event**

*(from Cynthia Chang, Public Relationship)*

The OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter hosted a very successful Safety talk event on Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 2 p.m. PST, via Zoom. We collaborated with the Parent-Teacher-Student-Organization of Saratoga High School which invited its membership to join the talk. There were 45 people in attendance.

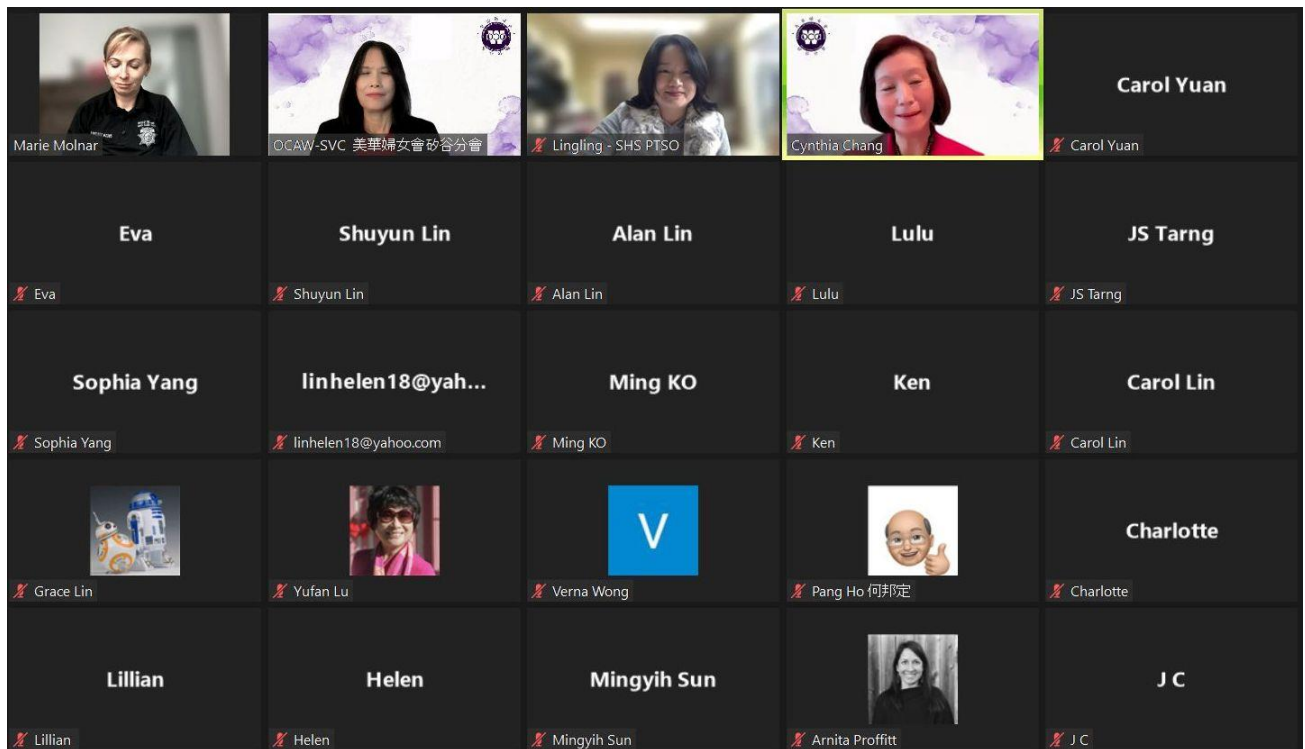
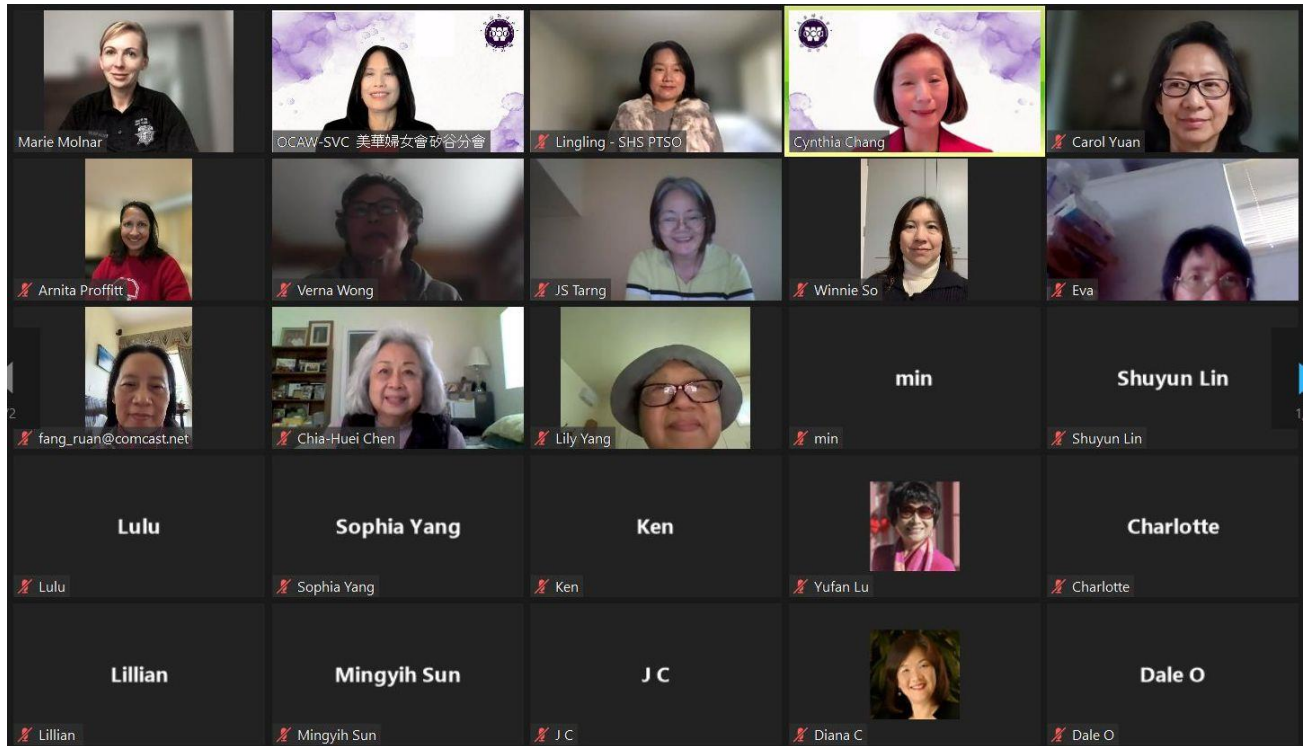
Our speaker was Deputy Sheriff Marie Molnar of the Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff, School Resource Officer, City of Saratoga. She spoke about the following topics:

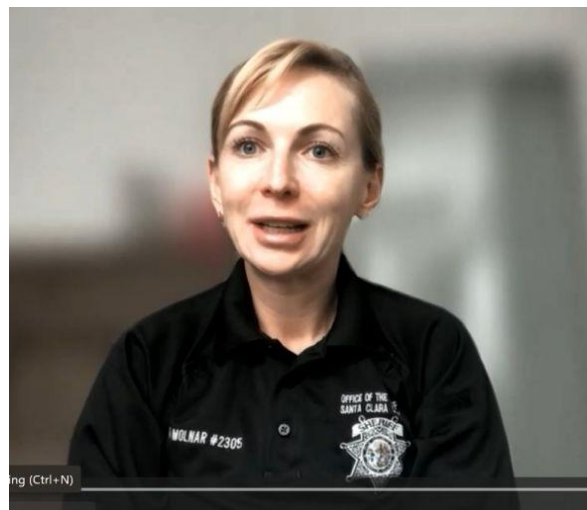
#### **Fraud and Crime Prevention**

What is fraud?

Fraud involves deception or misrepresentation to cheat a person out of money or property.







Deputy Sheriff Marie Molnar  
Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff

### **Common scams and how to protect yourself**

Don't trust emails from people or organizations you don't know  
Never reply to emails or messages asking for personal information



Never click on unfamiliar links in emails or text messages  
Don't fall for pressure tactics

## Be Aware, Be Safe!

- Stay aware of current scams through news outlets
  - Find online scams through: [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov)
- Do not give personal information to anyone who contacts you



- Don't trust emails from people or organizations you don't know
- Never reply to emails or messages asking for personal information
- Never click on unfamiliar links in emails or text messages
- Don't fall for pressure tactics

### What is identity theft and how to avoid identity theft

Protect yourself and avoid identity theft with the "Five Ss."

*Seal* your lips (Never give away personal information and avoid talking about finances in public.)

*Secure* personal documents in a safe place

*Shred* personal information

*Suspect* other people's motives

*Scrutinize* receipts

Take immediate action if you are a victim of *identity theft*.

1. Notify the business where you believe the fraud took place.
2. Place a fraud alert on your personal file by calling one of the three major U.S. credit report companies.
3. File a police report.

### Crime prevention at home

Exterior

Install exterior lights to illuminate potential entry points

Install timers on interior lighting

## Crime Prevention At Home

### ➤ Take care of your residence by eliminating the opportunity for crime:

- Always lock doors & windows
- Close blinds & curtains after dark
- Use your home alarm system
  - Install real or fake cameras
  - Report suspicious activity around your home & neighborhood
- Let neighbors know if you are leaving for vacation & put a hold on your mail or newspaper



Street numbers should be at least 4" high to ensure that first responders can see them  
Trim vegetation near entry points

Take care of your residence by eliminating the opportunity for crime:

Always lock doors and windows

Close blinds and curtains after dark

Use your home alarm system

Install real or fake cameras

Report suspicious activity around your home and neighborhood

Let neighbors know if you are leaving for vacation and put a hold on your mail or newspaper

In Santa Clara County Office of Sheriff Department jurisdictions only:

Patrol Check Request: If you are going to be away from your residence/business, you can request a deputy to check on your property while you are away.

Complete the form via the website and deputies in your area will check your property if they are available.

Visit: <https://countysheriff.sccgov.org/services/patrol-check-request>

Deputies can also provide a Home Safety Walkthrough as a courtesy. Call 408-868-6600 for more information.

### **Reporting suspicious behavior**

Call 9-1-1 before calling family or neighbors  
Be a good witness  
Know your location  
Be alert to a suspicious person  
Be alert to a suspicious vehicle  
Be aware of solicitors

Be Safe!

Never place your personal safety in jeopardy  
Take mental pictures

### **9-1-1 call centers and phone technology**

Text to 9-1-1 is now available in Santa Clara County  
Call if you can. Text if you can't.

How to Text 911  
Enter the numbers "911" in the "To" field  
Include address, city, and type of emergency in the "Message" field  
Push "Send" button  
Answer all the 911 dispatcher's questions  
Text in simple words (no abbreviations or slang)  
Text only in English  
Standard text messaging rates will apply

The following questions and topics were raised during the Q & A session after the presentation:

1. Anti-Asian Hate Crimes. Not much is being reported in the City of Saratoga, although some crimes might not be reported. Avoid confrontation but do report to the police afterward.
2. The role and work of the School Resource Office at our K-12 public and private schools in the City of Saratoga

We received positive feedback from people who attended this talk as they felt they were provided valuable information such as the availability of a Patrol Check and how to Text 911.

*(Photos taken by Sophia Yang and Jen Tsao)*

The following is the link to the video recording of this event:

<https://youtu.be/unBDSEUiXfY>

### **Upcoming Event**

We will host our annual Member Social on Sunday, February 12, 2023, from 2 to 4 p.m. It will be held in the Community Room of the Saratoga Library in Saratoga. Presentations will be made by Anne Hu, Immediate Past President.

*(Editor's Note: We look forward to reading about this event and viewing photos in the next e-newsletter!)*

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

*(from Edwina Lee, President)*

#### **November General Membership Meeting**

On Sunday, November 13, 2022, the Hawaii Chapter held its fourth and final general membership meeting of the year. The guest speaker was Cyndy Ning, and her presentation was titled "Do Chinese People Have Humor?"

#### **2023 Hawaii Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs**

The chapter's 2022 officers and committee chairs have carried over into the 2023 year, with the exception that Sharlene Chun is the new Membership Chair.

### **OCAW Hawaii Chapter Installation and Chinese New Year Celebration**

**by Queenie Mow Chee, Event Chair**

On Sunday, January 15, 2023, the Hawaii Chapter held its 34th installation of officers and celebrated the Lunar New Year at the Harbor Village Cuisine restaurant at the Koko Marina in Hawaii Kai, Honolulu.

Eight tables of members, their guests, and VIPs from the local Chinese community were treated to a loud and joyous opening ceremony with 'fake' firecrackers and a pair of lively and colorful Chinese Lions, dancing and prancing through the little restaurant.





*(Photo taken by Wendie Liu)*



*(Photo taken by Sharlene Chun)*





*(Photo taken by Sharlene Chun)*



With this blessing, the installation of the 2023 officers was then held.

Former OCAW Hawaii President, Frances Goo, swore in the officers, all who had held their same offices in 2022:

President – Edwina Lee  
Vice President – Susan Chong Wong  
Treasurer – Lisa Lau  
Secretary – Queenie Chee



(Photo taken by Sharlene Chun)

Frances presented each officer with her handmade *Deco Claycraft* flowers, which she painted in symbolic colors for each person, along with a reminder of their duties and a request for diligence and faithfulness. In her words:

“For Lisa Lau, Treasurer, the white orchid: White denotes complete truthfulness and honesty. She has the most trustworthy position in this organization. She is the keeper of our funds and assets.

“For Queenie Chee, Secretary, the red rose: The color of Red is a symbol of vigilance and alertness. Both of these qualities will help her record the important events and decisions of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter accurately.

“For Susan Chong Wong, Vice President, the rare orange parrot tulip: The color of Orange signifies loyalty. She is the President’s right-hand person. She will need to help the President whenever necessary.

“For Edwina Lee, President, the yellow and gold peony: These are the colors of the Emperor in China. Yellow is the color of leadership and power. Edwina is now the Queen of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter. Gold signifies unity. Her members are united to help her achieve the goals of this chapter during the coming year. She should remember to rely on them when she needs help.”





*(Photo taken by Wendie Liu)*



*(Photo taken by Sharlene Chun)*

All members present were then asked to also pledge their help and support.

(Frances was the most recent recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, having retired from a successful business she founded and of which she was president, Guardian Escrow Services, and she served as an active leader of a prestigious list of community and professional organizations.)

Dr. Doug Petersen, husband of our “Keto Queen” member Kelly, was then called upon to lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

What a special treat we had: Dr. Sun Hui Hung, who received her doctorate in ethnomusicology from The Ohio State University, played for us the ancient Chinese musical wind instrument called the Sheng, followed by two songs on the two-stringed violin, the Erhu. It was fascinating to hear Chinese instruments play “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” and “Besame Mucho.”



*(Photo taken by Sharlene Chun)*

Gretchen Jong said the prayer before lunch. She has been our “go to” person for invocations so often that we may just title her as our club chaplain.

Lunch was then served: a delectable mixture of several kinds of dim sum, followed by several savory entrees and egg tart dessert. With lots of tea!









President Edwina Lee subsequently came forward to summarize her 2022 year and shared her vision for 2023. She handed gift bags expressing her gratitude for the support she received to her fellow officers and committee chairs: Sharon Chun, Webmaster and Communications Chair; Victoria Ho, Membership Chair; Gretchen Jong, Nominations Chair; and Ex-Officio, Roberta Wong Leung.

Ex-Officio Roberta Leung presented a token of OCAW Hawaii's appreciation to Edwina for her leadership in 2022. It was a silver cloisonne compact mirror designed with exquisite butterflies for her to reflect upon her successes with joy.



*(Photo taken by Sharlene Chun)*

It is the Hawaii Chapter's long tradition to recognize how abundantly blessed we are, and so at installations, in lieu of party favors, each member is encouraged to give back to those less fortunate. Toiletries and other useful new or gently used items are donated, along with checks, to the Women's Shelter at the Institute of Human Services. Susan Chong Wong kindly delivered the donations for us.





The celebration concluded with thanks and appreciation expressed to all those who helped in making it an enjoyable event.



A parting game was played called “Three Question Quiz” with a prize for each person to be first to answer correctly.

Question #1: When was the OCAW Hawaii Chapter established?

Answer: 1989. Winner: Dr. Doug Petersen, the snowbird from Wyoming!

Question #2: Who was the first OCAW Hawaii Chapter President?

Answer: Dr. Margaret Lee. Winner: Sharon Chun, our Webmaster!

Question #3: Name the author who is also a Hawaii Chapter Member who wrote a book that is now being made into a movie series.

Answer: Claire Chao. Her book which she co-authored with her mother, Isabel Sun Chao: *Remembering Shanghai: Memories of Socialites, Scholars and Scoundrels*.

Winner: Yen Chun, a wonderful potential member, a guest of Gretchen Jong

***Gong Xi Fa Cai! Happy Year of the Rabbit to Everyone!***

*(Photos courtesy of Roberta Wong Leung and Sharlene Chun, except where specifically noted otherwise.)*

## **From and About Our Members**

### **November E-Newsletter note**

*(from Christina Chang, National President)*

Christina noticed interesting details about our November 2022 OCAW e-newsletter, which was unusually long, in part because it contained extensive coverage of our successful 45th anniversary celebration in October.

She noted that the issue was 99 pages long. Also, if you add 4 and 5 from the ‘45th’ celebration, the sum is 9. In Chinese, the number 9 means longevity and eternity, and Christina interprets these numbers to mean that OCAW will have longevity and a forever life! 😊

### **Cornell Engineering Program**

*(from Faith Breen, former National President)*

Dr. Peter Jessel is a Professor and the Director of the Masters of Engineering Program at Cornell University. Faith met him on their recent trip to Antarctica. He is especially interested in recruiting U.S. citizens into Cornell’s engineering program, and Faith wanted to spread the word to OCAW members.

If you have any questions and/or are interested in pursuing this for yourself or someone you know, please feel free to contact Dr. Jessel.

Dr. Peter G. Jessel  
Director, Masters of Engineering Program  
Cornell University  
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
[pgj2@cornell.edu](mailto:pgj2@cornell.edu)

## **Antarctica 2023 – Checked off my Bucket List!**

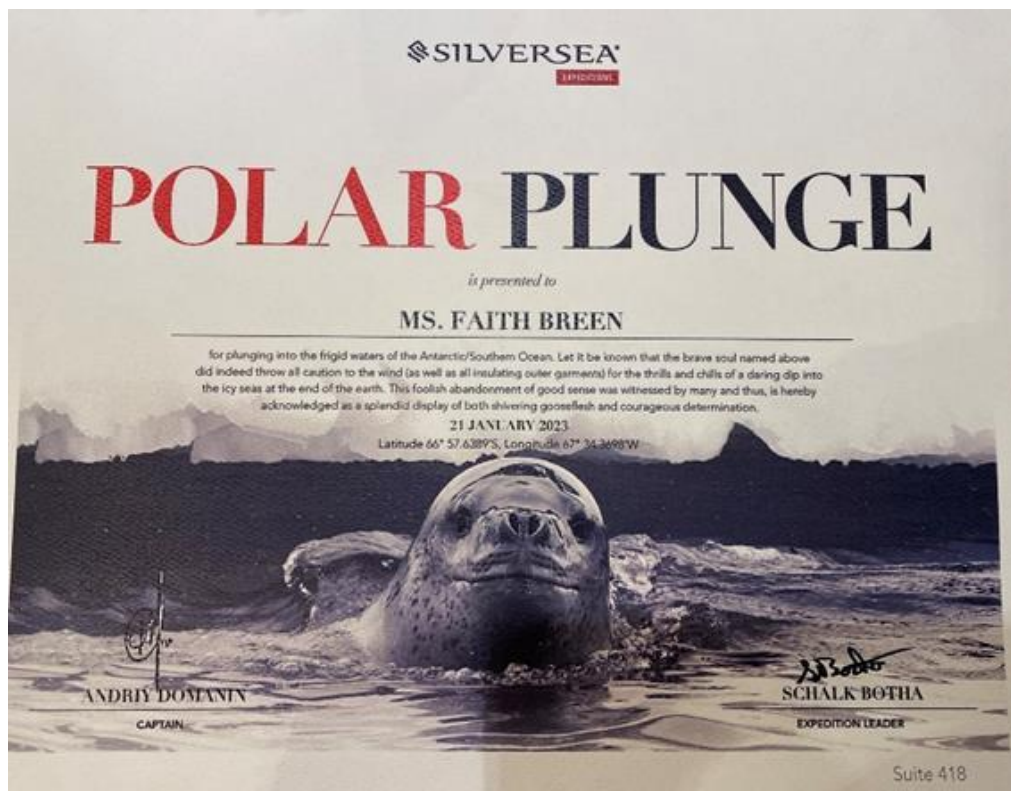
**by Faith Breen**

*(Editor's Note: Faith is a former OCAW National President.)*

I had never even thought about going to Antarctica. All I knew was that it was very far away, and cold. But after two years of COVID caution, six months sounded far enough in the future that there was no reason not to go. Besides, my husband and I would be going with a group of friends and my commitment of a cruise to Antarctica was in January of 2023 and that was six months off!

Before I knew it, it was December and well past the time when we could get our deposit back. So we were committed to having the trip of a lifetime. Luckily, we had a great travel agent who made our travel arrangements. We went from Houston to Miami, caught a red-eye, and slept our way in business class to Santiago, Chile. One night at the Mandarin Oriental, then a three-hour flight to Puerto Williams where we boarded The Silver Cloud Cruise Ship and sailed through the Drake Passage for two days! Luckily, we were able to spend those two sailing days listening to lectures, socializing with our friends, and eating. Lots of eating!

The Ship's four restaurants offered totally different menus and ambiance. But over the course of the Cruise, the most interesting thing was observing the different people. Our group of twenty was loud and full of laughter. But there were others that sat quietly and never spoke. Because I had just read an article in the *Wall Street Journal* about how important social relationships were to happiness, even more important than exercise or diet, I was even more grateful for having the opportunity to share and strengthen my friendships.



Antarctica is the most pristine place on the planet. And to really appreciate it, you need to get into zodiacs, pontoon-like boats, and go ashore to see the penguins, and kayak to see the icebergs, whales, and sea birds. Or you can just stay on deck and watch. Either way, you have time to reflect on life and gain perspective on what is important to you. Of course, if you are adventurous, you can do a Polar Plunge and jump into the frigid waters – and that is a real wakeup call to reengage with life!