

E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

June 2016



P. O. Box 815, Great Falls, VA 22066
Telephone: 301-907-3898
Email: ocawwomen@aol.com
Website: www.ocawwomen.org
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

(from Linda Devine, Editor)

As always, thank you very much to those who submitted material for the e-newsletter. My gratitude also to my husband Ed for his photo preparation work; there was a lot for this issue.

I continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles for the publication if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership. I am pleased to see more members sending in information.

Please feel free to send me any suggestions or recommendations that you might have for any aspects of the e-newsletter, and I will be happy to see if they work for our publication. My email address is: devinefive@comcast.net.

Lastly, since I have been having vision/eye problems recently, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize in advance for any errors that might appear in this issue. I appreciate your bearing with me!

Table of Contents

	Page
2017 OCAW National Conference.....	2
News from the Virginia and Maryland Chapters.....	2
News from the New Orleans Chapter.....	14
News from the Silicon Valley Chapter.....	19
News from the Hawaii Chapter.....	24
News from the Kohala Hawaii Chapter.....	27
From and About Our Members.....	28
The Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging.....	30
The Maryland Governor's Office of Community Initiatives Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.....	32
Lion Lives Matter.....	36
LanternAsia at the Norfolk Botanical Garden.....	40

2017 OCAW National Conference

(from Donna Byler, Executive Director)

2017 is a year to gather, celebrate, connect, and share. The theme of the conference is “Life Stages – Life Sages.” Each of us is a sage with wisdom to share.

The Conference will be held in the Washington, D.C. area from March 31 to April 2, 2017. This will coincide with the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. Events that we have been considering so far are a Friday night reception, a Saturday conference, and a Sunday anniversary celebration, but we will continue to gather input and discuss various ideas.

In addition to beautiful cherry blossoms, there is much to see in our nation's capital: museums, monuments, battlefields, homes of presidents, and sisters in OCAW.

We hope you will join us in seeing history and being part of it, too.

OCAW was founded in 1977, with a focus primarily on women's issues. Among its priorities was to provide services and assistance to Chinese American women and to other Asian and Pacific Islander women.

News from the Virginia and Maryland Chapters

More Ikebana Demonstrations and Exhibits

(from Linda Devine)

(Editor's Note: The first of four Ikebana outings was described in the April OCAW E-Newsletter.)

Saturday, April 9, 2016

This day was hardly a lovely spring day that would evoke images of beautiful flowers in one's mind. It was cold and blustery, with high wind gusts, and that morning Mother Nature had even given us rain and light snow!

Nevertheless, VA and MD members Maria Yang, Linda Devine, and Camilla Ng, and friend Julie Ennis met up at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. and enjoyed another outing at the annual Ikebana International Exhibition sponsored by the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Ikebana International. Julie had studied Sogetsu Ikebana in Japan and had been certified there.

First, we were treated to a very informative demonstration by Elizabeth Berry, who ably represented the Ikenobo School, the oldest of the Ikebana schools. This was the second demonstration in I.I.'s series, and Elizabeth's extensive knowledge, upbeat personality, and humor made for a wonderful, educational presentation as she created several arrangements and answered questions from the audience.



Demonstrator Elizabeth Berry with two of her arrangements

After the demonstration, we viewed the second installment of I.I. arrangements – 29 new ones – on display in the exhibit hall. The Sogetsu and Ikenobo Schools were well represented by many pieces, but there were also arrangements in the styles of the Ohara, Ichiyo, Sangetsu, and Saga Goryu Schools. We were inspired by the beauty and creativity before us and found it an afternoon well spent.

(Photos taken by Linda Devine)





VA President and MD Acting President Maria Yang, Maryland members
Linda Devine and Camilla Ng, and Julie Ennis

(Photo taken by Jane Newman)

* * * * *

After viewing the first two Ikebana demonstrations, Maria Yang was inspired to take what she had learned about the art from the lectures and try her hand at an Ikebana arrangement.

To the right is a photo of the result, which was lovely!

(Photo taken by Maria Yang)



Saturday, April 16

What a difference a week makes! Contrary to seven days ago, the weather for the Ikebana demonstration on Saturday, April 16 was brightly sunny and 70 degrees, and the Arboretum was filled with many visitors taking advantage of the beautiful spring day.

This week's demonstration featured the Sogetsu School, and the presenter was Diana Cull who educated the audience about many of the characteristics of Sogetsu. The exhibit hall contained the third and final set of arrangements – two dozen pieces representing the Ohara, Saga Goryu, Chiko, Sogetsu, and Ikenobo Schools.



(Photos taken by Linda Devine)

Sunday, April 17

Sunday's weather was a repeat of Saturday's – brightly sunny and 70 degrees – and Arboretum visitors were out in droves. VA and MD members Maria Yang, Linda Devine, and Susan Young, along with friend Weihua Jiang were among the Ikebana participants.

Sunday's demonstration highlighted the Saga Goryu School, and presenter Bruce Wilson taught us much about the history of this school, as well as Ikebana in general. Professor Wilson teaches English at St. Mary's College of Maryland, but he also offers a seminar on Ikebana.

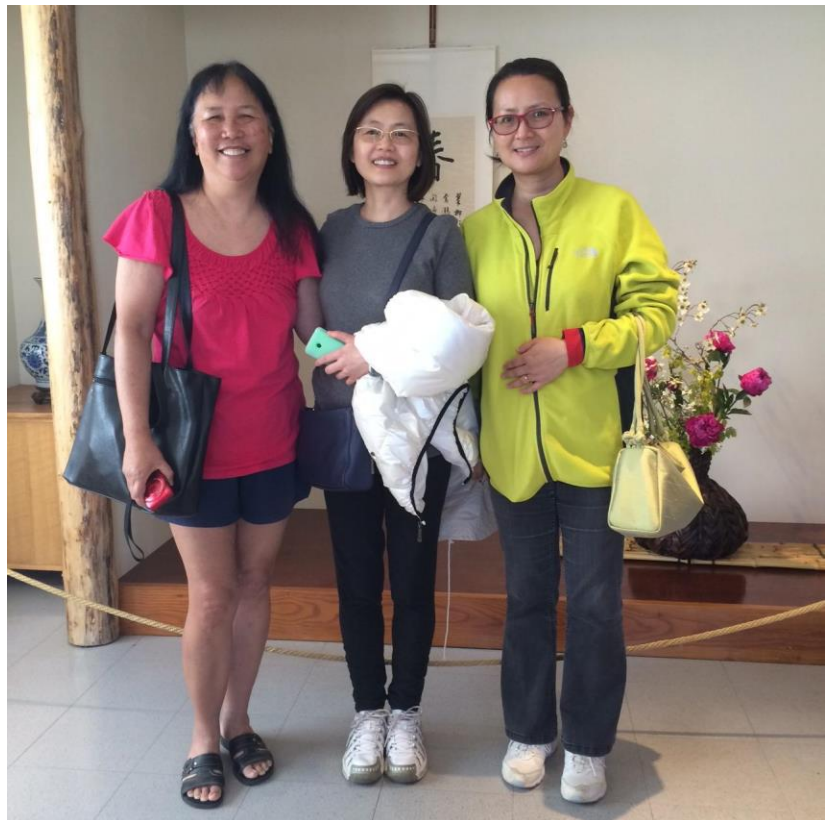
After the presentation, we viewed the exhibit and enjoyed another great variety of unique creations. And following that, Susan and Weihua took advantage of the beautiful weather and toured the displays at the Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Maria decided to take the wonderful Arboretum tram tour which gives riders a comprehensive view of the expansive grounds of the Arboretum, accompanied by informative narration.

We look forward to next year's series of Ikebana demonstrations and displays.



Arrangement by Demonstrator Bruce Wilson

Linda Devine, MD Secretary
Susan Young, and Weihua Jiang



(Photos taken by Maria Yang)



Maria Yang, Susan Young, and Weihua Jiang

(Photo taken by Linda Devine)

Visit by Hawaii's Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock

(from Linda Devine)

Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Vice President of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter, came to Washington, D.C., to attend a US China Peoples Friendship Association conference. On the morning of her arrival, Wednesday, April 20, 2016, Donna Byler, VA member and National Executive Director, greeted Chu Lan at Dulles International Airport and brought her to the lovely Oakton, Virginia home of Cathy Roberts, VA member and National Vice President for Membership. There Cathy hosted a nice breakfast for Chu Lan, Donna, and Linda Devine. Cathy's husband Dick was a gracious host as well.

At the conclusion of the conference on Saturday, April 23, Linda brought Chu Lan to Cathy and Dick's home once again, and the Roberts family hosted a lovely dinner. The group was later joined by OCAW Advisor Joanne Wang and her husband James, and everyone enjoyed a beautiful evening walk in the neighborhood. Afterward, Cathy served a delicious dessert, and all had a wonderful time visiting with one another. Cathy and Dick hosted Chu Lan at their home for the night, and the next morning they brought her back to the airport to continue her trip on the East coast.

Because of her busy conference schedule, Chu Lan's availability was not known until the very last minute; otherwise, the VA and MD Chapters would have loved to have hosted a large welcome event for her. But as

it was, those of us who had the opportunity to meet her enjoyed our fun conversations and getting to know her. Chu Lan has said that she hopes to be able to return to Washington next year for OCAW's 40th anniversary conference.

(Editor's Note: See Chu Lan's note under "News from the Hawaii Chapter.")

Mother's Day 2016

(from Maria Yang, Virginia Chapter President and Maryland Chapter Acting President)

The OCAW Virginia Chapter was invited by the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington D.C. to join them in a banquet to celebrate Mother's Day in honor of mothers who are over 70 years old. The event was held on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the New Fortune Restaurant in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Linda Tsan, M.D., a longtime member of OCAW-VA, received an award certificate for her longevity and dedication to her family. Dr. Tsan raised two beautiful daughters; one is currently an emergency medicine specialist and the other is an optometrist. She well deserves the honor of being recognized as one of the "best" mothers.

Linda Tsan's husband, Dr. Min-Fu Tsan; Veronica Li; and Maria Yang from OCAW-VA also participated in the banquet to share the joy and honor of Mother's Day.



Dr. Linda Tsan *(front row, holding her certificate)*

(Photo taken by Dr. Min-Fu Tsan)

Three mothers from the Li-Ren Chorus, Lily Liang, Man-qing Tong, and Catherine Young, all of whom are good friends of Maria Yang and are each over 70 years old, also received an award certificate for being among the best mothers in the Greater Washington D.C. area. Congratulations to all!

(Editor's Note: The Li-Ren Chorus has provided beautiful music at OCAW functions, most recently at OCAW-VA and OCAW-MD's Chinese New Year Celebration in January 2016.)



*(from left) Catherine Young,
Man-qing Tong, and Lily Liang*



(Photos taken by Maria Yang)

The Art of Penjing: A Lecture and Demonstration

(from Maria Yang)

The OCAW Virginia and Maryland Chapters were honored to invite Dr. Akey C.F. Hung to present a lecture and demonstration on the art of Penjing (Bonsai) on Sunday, May 15, 2016 from 3 to 5 p.m. The activity was held in the auditorium of the Arlington Central Library in Arlington, Virginia. About 40 members and friends attended this meaningful and inspired program.

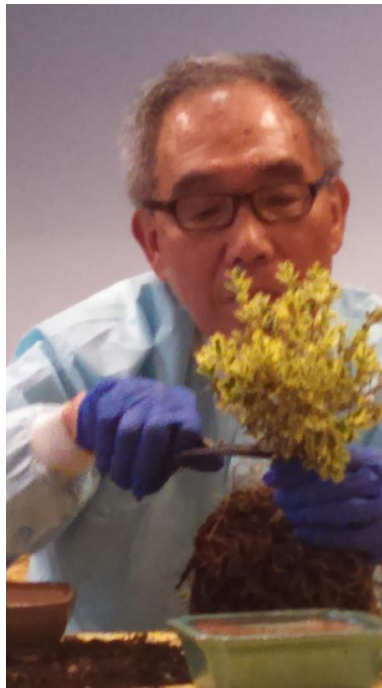
Dr. Hung is a retired U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Entomologist. He is the founder of the Bowie Bonsai Club (1981), the Mei-hua Penjing Society (1984), and the Bowie Senior Bonsai Club (2011). In his presentation, Dr. Hung discussed the history of penjing, its unique characteristics, and the differences between Chinese penjing and Japanese bonsai.



After the lecture, Dr. Hung used a boxwood tree purchased from a local nursery to demonstrate how to turn it into a “pre-bonsai.” Please view the accompanying pictures taken by Camilla Ng to learn the process of making a penjing. Dr. Hung had spent quite a few months to search for this “ideal” small tree for the pre-bonsai. He even generously paid for the tree out of his own pocket.



Variegated boxwood in pot



Removing soil from root ball



Pruning



Pruning



Fitting tree into pot

At the end of the demonstration, this pre-bonsai was raffled off to a lucky audience member who received additional instructions for its care.



Ming Hui Bon Hoa, winner of the raffle; Dr. Hung; and Maria Yang

The event concluded with Maria presenting a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Hung on behalf of the Virginia and Maryland Chapters.



We are grateful to Dr. Hung for his time and effort in preparing and offering the lecture and demonstration. Thanks to Camilla Ng, Past President of the Maryland Chapter, for taking the photos, and to all of the very thoughtful chapter members who brought delicious refreshments to share with everyone! And special thanks to Jonathan Chen, of the Li-Ren Chorus, who helped to solve the technical problem of using a library computer for the presentation!



Note: The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. is a must-see place to view many styles of amazing bonsai and penjing.

(Group photo taken by Ed Devine; all other photos taken by Camilla Ng)

(Editor's Note: Many thanks to Maria and Camilla for their conscientious work which resulted in this very successful program!)

News from the New Orleans Chapter

(from Betty Butz, Immediate Past President)

Chapter Meeting

A chapter meeting was held on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at SpiderSmart Learning Center in Jefferson, Louisiana. The center is owned and operated by Chapter Vice President Leda Fan who gave a tour of the place and talked about her business plan. Members also discussed best ways to continue to support other Asian American communities in the city.

Asian Heritage Festival

Our chapter was proud to take part in an Asian Heritage Festival, organized by the Asian Pacific American Society, on Saturday, May 21, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans.

Those who enjoy planned green urban space soon learn to appreciate the works of Frederick Law Olmsted and his associates, such as Central Park in New York City, the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, and park spaces in Boston, Portland, and Seattle. A nephew, John Charles Olmsted, was the master designer of Audubon Park in New Orleans, where citizens are forever grateful for his expansive design of a public park on the Mississippi River. More than a hundred years ago, over 300 acres of delta land were transformed into "Upper City Park," which eventually came to be known as Audubon Park, named after John James Audubon, who lived in the city in the 1820s.

Audubon Park today boasts the Audubon Zoo, horse riding stables, verdant jogging trails, a golf course with a clubhouse, tennis courts, lagoons, picnic shelters, a swimming pool, a labyrinth, soccer and baseball fields, and a view of the West Bank across the Mississippi River. Giant century-old live oak trees draped with dreamy Spanish moss dot the landscape. It is a cool, shady place in the summer, and an Edenesque spot to study the local vegetation. Sometimes, young people climb the Tree of Life, an ancient live oak with branches arching back to the ground. There is also a rookery that attracts local wading birds.

The Park is busy with joggers, cyclists, babies in strollers, dog walkers, and people soaking up the sun. Across the street from two universities, it is accessible by the streetcar on St. Charles Avenue from downtown. Occasionally, a tourist ferry docks at the river side of the park and takes people to downtown on the Mississippi.

The zoo within the park is a wonderful place for folks of all ages. Visitors are thrilled by the presence of exotic animals and birds that have made Audubon their home. Residents in the neighborhood sometimes catch glimpses of giraffes corralled in the zoo. Children visiting the zoo usually appear to be curious,

focused, and well-behaved as they enjoy an outing in the lush, gentle ambience with plenty to explore and discover. An annual fundraiser called “Zoo to Do” is held, during the day for children, and at night for adults.

In recent years, Audubon Zoo has been the setting for the Asian Heritage Festival, sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Society of New Orleans. The society serves as an anchor for local Asian American communities that wish to retain cultural bonds with their homelands. The festival provides opportunities for the communities to work together to showcase the most spectacular aspects of their culture and customs for all to share. The theme of this year’s festival was “We Are One.”

OCAW presented a China culture booth with a theme of education for young people. At the booth, members volunteered to play tangram puzzles with visitors. The tangram grid appeared difficult at first, but with some coaching, everyone was successful in enjoying the QI-QIAO-BAN, which means “seven clever pieces.” The seven pieces are made from a square, which is divided into two large triangles, three smaller triangles, a square, and a parallelogram. Endless interesting shapes can be created with these simple pieces. Leda Fan echoed our theme of education by setting up a tent next to ours to offer information on SpiderSmart Learning Center.



Calligraphy and tangram demonstrations at the OCAW booth

(Photo taken by Si Chung)



(Photos taken by Mangjee Yeh)

As in the past, the festival was a happy and colorful event. There were continuous stage performances of martial arts, music, dance, costumes, and speeches. Surrounding center stage were culture booths, tent shops, and delicious food.



Chinese Fashion Show and Colorful Dancers

(Photos taken by Si Chung)

The warm and sunny day felt perfect in the shade. Everyone shared a good feeling of seeing one's culture and ethnicity honored and celebrated deep in the American south.



Jim Yeh, Nancy Chung, Mangjee Yeh, Betty Butz, and Leda Fan

(Photo taken by Si Chung)



Finale

(Photo taken by Si Chung)

News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(from Carol Yuan, President)

Health Seminar

On Sunday, May 15, 2016, we held a Health Seminar: How to prevent Colorectal Cancer, Digestive System Cancer, and Liver Cancer. About 35 members and friends came to the presentation. It was held at the San Jose Public Library, Calabazas Branch, and ran from 2 p.m. to close to 5 p.m. The presentation was given in Mandarin.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Andy Yu who was born in Hong Kong and grew up in the Bay area. Dr. Yu received his M.D. from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in 1992. He had his postdoctoral and residency training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, the UCLA San Fernando Valley Program, the University of California Davis Medical Center, and the University of Southern California. Dr.

Yu has published numerous book chapters, abstracts, and peer-reviewed articles, and was also an Assistant Professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine from 2000 to 2003.

Dr. Yu's clinical practice has been in the area of Gastroenterology and Therapeutic Endoscopy and General and Transplant Hepatology. In 2003, he started his own clinic, Pacific Gastroenterology, in San Jose and has been the Chief Physician since then. He has been giving health presentations in communities on weekends frequently and serving in different nonprofit medical societies and foundations.



Dr. Andy Yu

Dr. Yu started his presentation emphasizing the importance of prevention and told the story of an ancient Chinese doctor, Pien Chueh, to illustrate it. Pien Chueh was the most famous doctor among the three sons of the Pien family. But he told the Emperor that his oldest brother was the best doctor. The Emperor asked why. Pien Chueh replied that his oldest brother examined people's chi and treated them before they became ill. In modern medicine, it's like performing screening and removing a polyp if detected. The patient's health was not damaged and the patient recovered fully; hence, people did not hear about his oldest brother's practices. Pien Chueh then said that his second older brother treated people at the early stages of sickness. It is like performing surgery to remove the infected area in the early stages of cancer. Most patients recovered; hence, Pien Chueh's second older brother was more famous than his oldest brother. Pien Chueh said that he himself treated patients who were at the end stage of life and were suffering from pain badly. He was able to relieve their pain; hence, he was famous even though eventually most of his patients did not survive.



Dr. Yu presented lots of information relating to stomach, colorectal, and liver cancers on developments of cancer cells from polyps, stages, symptoms of different stages, treatment for different stages, risk factors, and screening and prevention options.

Other than doing medical prevention, Dr. Yu also pointed out that for individuals, we need to maintain a healthy diet, good habits, and a low-pressure lifestyle. For public health, it's important to reduce chemical and radiation damage to the environment.

Dr. Yu presented this serious subject in a very relaxed manner. His humor, like breezes, brought laughter to the audience throughout the almost-three-hour-long presentation. I think he is a better doctor than the oldest son of Pien's family, because just visiting him and talking to him regularly, his patients would be in a happy mood all year round!



Dr. Alex Tsao; Sophia Yang, SVC Immediate Past President; Dr. Yu; and Carol Yuan, SVC President

National River Cleanup Day

For the first time, we registered and participated on Saturday, May 21, 2016, at the cleanup site on the bank of the Guadalupe River in San Jose, California. The cleanup was organized by the City of San Jose. Six OCAW-SVC members and friends, along with about 30 other volunteers, came to work at this site.



There were about 35 cleanup sites in the Bay area on that day. Look how much cleanup we did! It was a good harvest and we had good time!





Upcoming Event

Sunday, August 7, 2016 – 30th Anniversary Celebration with Annual Officer Installation, Youth Achievement Award Presentation, and Fashion and Talent Show

Please go to our website, <http://www.ocaw-svc.org/>, for updates on our chapter.

News from the Hawaii Chapter

Visit to Washington, D.C.

(from Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Vice President)

I want to share with all that I had the best visit in D.C. in April 2016 – Linda Devine, Donna Byler (picking me up and dropping me off at my hotel), and Cathy Roberts took such great care of me, fed me, housed me (Cathy), and took me to the airport. Mahalo all – so grateful to know our OCAW sisters are so kind.

I promised to return and cook for all.

Donna, Cathy, and Linda – anytime you come to Hawaii (that is, Honolulu), we will do the same. Miss you all.

President Tsai Ing-wen, First Female President of Taiwan

(from Rena Young Ochse, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor)

On Monday, May 23, 2016 at 3 p.m., the Taipei Economic Cultural Office held a reception at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza in Honolulu for the leaders and VIPs of the State of Hawaii. Many organizations were represented, and I was fortunate to attend this auspicious event. Director General Wallace Chow spoke, and the speech of Tsai Ing-wen, the new President of Taiwan, was shown on a screen. Although many of us did not understand her Mandarin language, it was obvious that she is going to lead her country to be a better place, and she intends to implement comprehensive reforms with the goal of guiding Taiwan toward a more prosperous future.



Celebrating the Inauguration of the 14th President of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen,
and Vice President Chen Chien-jen

Director General Wallace Chow and VIP members of the State of Hawaii, May 23, 2016,
at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza



I learned that President Tsai was born in 1956 and is of Hakka and Aboriginal descent and also has a Paiwan tribal name, Tjuku. She is the youngest of nine children in her family. This amazing woman was educated in Zhongshan and graduated from the National Taiwan University College of Law. She obtained her Master of Laws from Cornell University Law School, and a Ph.D. in law from the London School of Economics.

President Tsai has an impressive and comprehensive political background. Her inauguration was held on May 20, 2016. She will have a handful in running her country in the coming months as the first female President of Taiwan.

After the film, there were some congratulatory remarks from some of the politicians present, including Speaker of the House, Emeritus, Calvin Say. This was followed by special cake and fruits served to all, and people mingled to visit with other organization members and guests. The OCAW Hawaii Chapter president was invited to attend.



Zhongshan Friendship Delegation

(from Rena Young Ochse)

On Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at the Jade Dynasty Restaurant in the Ala Moana Shopping Mall in Honolulu, there were many organizations represented to welcome the Zhongshan Friendship Delegation. The program was emceed by Dr. Lawrence G. Dang, past president of the United Chinese Society of Hawaii, and Henry Ou, President of Air and Sea Travel.



Vice Mayor Yang Wenlong with
Rena Young Ochse

Welcome remarks were made by UCS Vice Chair Danny Young; Dr. Wendell Foo, President of UCS; and Eddie Flores, Jr., President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. A special guest welcoming Yang Wenlong, Vice Mayor of Zhongshan Municipal People's Government, was Kirk Caldwell, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

Vice Mayor Yang proceeded with his speech in Mandarin and it was translated into English by Hawaii Chapter member, Tina Au. The gala event ended with a toast to welcome the delegates.

Everyone had a wonderful dinner with entertainment. Some of the Hawaii Chapter members attending this event included Isabella Monzon, Pauline Young, Helen Char, Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Sharon Pang, and Rena Young Ochse.

East-West Center Gallery's new exhibition

(from Rena Young Ochse)

This exhibition features photographs of China in the late 19th century. Additional historic photos of the Hawai'i Chinese community are displayed in the dining room adjacent to the gallery.

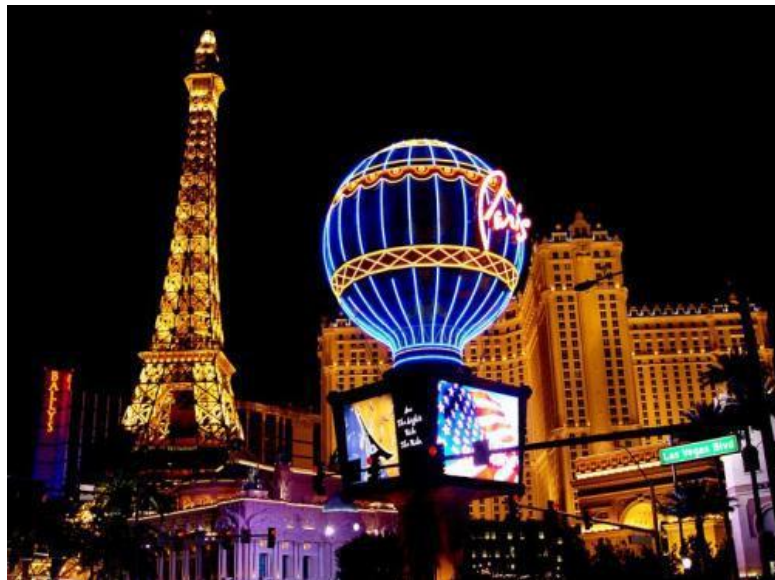
This exhibition runs through September 11, 2016. The gallery is free and open to the public. The Hawaii Chapter supports this exhibition and would appreciate your sharing this information with others.

Upcoming Fundraiser: Viva Las Vegas

(from Rena Young Ochse)

Saturday, July 23, 2016
The Pagoda Hotel International Ballroom
Buffet Luncheon and lots of entertainment and prizes
\$60 per person

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter is holding a “Viva Las Vegas” event. A buffet luncheon is planned for this fundraiser. It will have entertainment, games, prizes, and other surprises. The Chair for this event is Isabella Rose Monzon, and Gigi Ko and other chapter members will serve on the committee.



News from the Kohala Hawaii Chapter

The Kohala Hawaii Chapter continues with plans to write a book about Kohala, featuring the Neula/Lim Family and other wonderful multi-ethnic families. We will provide updates on our progress as we have them.

From and About Our Members

From Jane Pan, Virginia Chapter member

Jane Pan is Executive Director of the Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C. On Thursday, May 19, 2016, HBI-DC was honored with a **Department of Health and Human Services Viral Hepatitis Testing Award at the White House**. Jane accepted the award on behalf of HBI-DC from Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc., at the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

HBI-DC was one of 12 award recipients to be honored at this event for its “outstanding commitment to increasing the number of individuals who are aware of their hepatitis B and C status.”

Following the recognition event, HBI-DC provided hepatitis B and C screenings in front of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services office building.

Congratulations to Jane and HBI-DC!



About Veronica Li, Virginia Chapter member

Author Veronica Li was recently notified that she is an **Eric Hoffer Book Award finalist**.

Congratulations to Veronica on this great honor!

From Rose Li, Maryland Chapter member

Rose would like to announce:

**Summer 2016 Breakfast Seminar Series
on Civic Engagement by the APIA Community**

7:30 a.m. – continental breakfast • 8 a.m. – program begins

The University Club of Washington, D.C. • 1135 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

This Princeton Club of Washington seminar series, co-organized by OCAW-MD life members Rose Li and Kitty Hsu Dana (co-chairs of the Asian American Alumni Association of Princeton-DC Region), seeks to serve as a catalyst for promoting dialogue, advocacy, and action to further civic engagement by the APIA community. Participating in more substantive discussions with speakers who can bring research and facts to the table can help foster a more nuanced understanding about issues affecting APIAs and the broader communities in which we live. The proposed program of four morning seminars begins by getting to the roots of American stereotyping of Asians and what can be done to counter these fallacies and practices that perpetuate Asians in America as “others.” The second seminar challenges the myth of the model minority narrative by presenting the narrative of the missing minority – outlining how this alternative narrative was influenced by the creation of federal AAPI-serving institution legislation in 2008. The third seminar focuses on growing Asian American philanthropic giving as a means for community capacity building and empowerment. The final seminar discusses the future of the Asian American electorate and ways to exert greater influence in civic matters.

Featured speakers include Christopher Lu, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor; Jack Tchen, New York University; Neil Horikoshi, APIA Scholarship Fund; Surjeet Ahluwalia, Asian American LEAD; Angie Tang, former Executive Director, Committee of 100; Janelle Wang, University of Maryland; and Mark Lee Keam, Virginia House of Delegates. All are welcome on a space-available basis. For more information, refer to: <http://www.pcw-dc.org/article.html?aid=1721>

From Rose Li

DSFederal’s IDEA Foundation (IDEA) and The Amitofo Care Centre (ACC) are proud to present: **The ACC Goodwill Mission-2016** – coming to Bethesda, Maryland, on July 9! The ACC is an African-Buddhist school in Malawi, Africa. Children who attend the school travel annually to perform their exceptional Kung Fu, music, and dancing to raise funds for their upcoming school year. Last year, the ACC kids came and rocked Washington, D.C. with great success. This year, they are returning on July 9th to Walter Johnson High School to continue exhibiting their unique blend of Chinese and African martial arts, music, and dancing.

When: Saturday, July 9, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Where: Walter Johnson High School, 6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814

For more information, see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/goodwill-mission-2016-tickets-25358109789>.

Please email or call Maggie.Lin@dsfederal.com (or 301-208-2829) if you need further information.

In addition to the stop in the D.C. area, the Amitofo Care Centre Goodwill Mission-2016 is traveling to cities in Taiwan, the United States (D.C., Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Miami, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Chicago, New York City), and Canada. All proceeds will go toward building the next orphanage in South Africa.

The Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging

by Veronica Li

(Editor's Note: Veronica is a Virginia Chapter member.)

I participated in the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging held May 2-3, 2016 in Richmond, Virginia. AARP, one of the sponsors, invited me to speak on the multicultural panel about my caregiving experience. I was most honored to address such an illustrious gathering.

The four hundred attendees consisted of professionals and volunteers in the field of elder care. The speakers were an array of high-level state officials, policy makers, lawyers, gerontologists, and members of academia. My only claim to fame is that I took care of my parents during the last stage of their lives and turned the experience into a novel called *Confucius Says*. Filial piety, the Confucian doctrine of love, respect, and care for our parents, is the foundation of Chinese culture.

Jim Rothrock, Commissioner of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services in Virginia, outlined the focus of the conference: to find ways "our communities can be more livable; how we can assure a safe environment for all adults, free of abuse and exploitation; and how we can change the culture of how we age."

Here are the statistics: 10,000 baby boomers turn 65 every day. By 2030, 20 percent of the U.S. population will be over 65. The conference confronts both the advantages and challenges of this phenomenon. Seniors are living longer and healthier lives. Many stay active and contribute to society by volunteering or holding jobs. As a group, they have accumulated wealth through a lifetime of savings, and they do more than their fair share for the economy. Their short-term memory may not be that great, but they have wisdom to impart to their children and grandchildren.

However, seniors have special needs for their physical well-being. The challenge is, how can society meet those needs? Remember, it is not "us" versus "them." We are in this together because we all meet the definition of senior sooner or later – that is, if we are lucky.

The morning plenary set the stage for a dialogue for the above issues. This was followed by breakout sessions that covered a variety of topics: tools to prevent abuse and financial exploitation of seniors, innovations in dementia and other areas of health care, creation of livable communities for seniors who want to live at home, and caregiver support.

The afternoon plenary was a multicultural panel. Three members of diverse backgrounds talked about their caregiving experiences and the cultural traits of aging in their communities. I shared the stage with a Filipino and an Hispanic American.

In the Q&A that followed, the audience was interested in ways to improve service for seniors of minority groups. Fortunately I had canvassed my OCAW sisters beforehand and had gotten valuable suggestions from them.

I was able to express some of their suggestions:

- The Area Agency on Aging, the government agency in charge of senior issues, should hire Asian American staff who are culturally attuned and linguistically capable. They can reach out to Asian American communities to let them know about the services available. Brochures and flyers should be in various languages such as Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese, as well as show pictures of Asian Americans participating in senior care programs.

- Care providers should make the effort to hire more Asian American workers. A Chinese American nurse in the audience gave strong support to this idea. She pointed out that of the hundreds of professionals in the audience, there was only a handful of Asian faces. (I saw two.) This was a sign of the shortage of Asian American professional caregivers in Virginia.
- Meals programs for Asian American seniors should cater to ethnic tastes, such as by substituting potatoes with rice and vegetables, and salt with soya sauce.
- Transport is another major need for seniors. This was discussed in an earlier session. Dr. Rodney Harrell of AARP discussed new transport options in the making, such as joint programs with Uber and Zip Car. Transport is an issue for all seniors but more so for those who have language difficulties.

I came away with a positive feeling that policy makers were listening to our voices. The conference promised to kick off a number of state policy discussions. We'll have to wait and see if these discussions will lead to action. But just the fact that the state invested so much into organizing this conference indicates that it means business.



(Editor's Note: Veronica Li is seated third from the left.)

The Maryland Governor's Office of Community Initiatives Celebrates
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

by Christina Wong Poy

(Editor's Note: Christina is the OCAW Maryland Chapter Treasurer.)

Despite inclement weather and two major traffic jams on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, over 100 guests, state officials, and legislators attended an evening observance and reception celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month co-hosted by the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs at the House Office Building in Annapolis, Maryland. The event began with film producer Samantha Cheng displaying DVDs of her documentary on Congressman Dilip Singh Saund (the first U.S. Congressman born in Asia) as well as books and DVDs of her latest documentary "Honor and Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese." There were also displays of Korean artifacts and art provided by some of the Korean commissioners on the Governor's APA Commission and members of The Korea Society of Maryland.

As the administrative director of both the Governor's Asian Pacific American and South Asian American Commissions, Christina Wong Poy emceed the evening's program. She began her welcome remarks with a description of Maryland's expanding population of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. "According to the latest U.S. census, there are about 130,000 Asian Pacific Americans living in Maryland. It's one of the fastest-growing communities in the state with Frederick County leading with a 172 percent increase over the last 10 years." She introduced the chairs of the Governor's APA and SAA commissions, Henry Kim and Jesse Singh respectively, who each spoke about their commission's role in Maryland's communities. She then introduced Secretary George W. Owings III of Maryland's Department of Veterans Affairs. He spoke about Governor Hogan's appreciation of veterans, service members, and first responders, and he shared some of the historical contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders' honorable service in the U.S. Military starting with the War of 1812.

Did you know that during the American Civil War, Asian Americans fought for both the Union and the Confederacy? At the beginning of the 20th century, Asian Americans began to attend U.S. military academies, and the first Asian Americans were awarded the Medal of Honor. During World War II, significant contributions by Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and Korean Americans were documented. The first Asian Pacific American to reach general officer rank was Brigadier General Albert Lyman, part Chinese American and Native Hawaiian, commanding general of the 32nd Army Division.

Secretary Owings mentioned a proclamation ceremony in Annapolis attended by Christina Poy, in which he presented a Governor's Proclamation to some members of the Army's 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, which all consisted of Japanese Americans. Of note, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team is the most decorated unit in U.S. Military history, having received a total of 18,143 awards, including eight Presidential Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, and 9,486 Purple Hearts, among others.

Owings noted, "With the desegregation of the U.S. Military in 1948, segregated Asian American units ceased to exist, and Asian Americans served in integrated armed forces. Asian American combatants in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts were awarded the Medal of Honor, and Asian Americans have continued to serve until the present day. Today, there are 67,577 Asian American and Pacific Islanders serving in the U.S. Military – that is 56,201 enlisted and 11,376 officers."

With great pleasure, Christina then introduced former OCAW National President Jeanie Jew, who in 1976 contacted government officials about the lack of Asian Pacific American representation in U.S. bicentennial events that year. In 1979, it started as a week, and in 1992, legislation was signed, designating May of every year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Jeanie provided a very moving and inspirational speech about the challenges she faced as an Asian American woman and how she was able to overcome obstacles by knocking on doors on the Hill, making her voice heard, and working with like-minded community members.

Jeanie's speech was followed by Christina's introduction of Maryland's First Lady, Yumi Hogan, who is the first South Korean-born first lady in the United States, as well as Maryland's first Asian Pacific American first lady. First Lady Hogan recalled her childhood as the youngest of eight children growing up on a chicken farm outside of Seoul and later immigrating to the United States while in her twenties. She became a U.S. citizen in 1994, and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2008 and a Master of Fine Arts degree from American University in 2010. First Lady Hogan's artwork, primarily abstract landscapes in Sumi ink on Korean Hanji paper, has been shown locally and around the world, and it was at an art show in Columbia, MD that she and Larry Hogan met. They were married in 2004 and he became governor of Maryland in January 2015.

First Lady Hogan and Steve McAdams, executive director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI), presented the Governor's Citation to Jeanie Jew for her role and efforts in creating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which is nationally recognized. The Governor's Proclamation of May's designation as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was presented to Chairman Kim and Chairman Singh.



Jeanie Jew, First Lady Yumi Hogan, and Executive Director Steve McAdams

Jeanie Jew then presented a beautiful painting to First Lady Hogan and the State of Maryland on behalf of OCAW.



Jeanie Jew, First Lady Yumi Hogan, and Christina Wong Poy

The dinner and networking reception concluded with delicious Indian, Japanese, and Korean cuisine, which was generously given through the sponsorship of the China-U.S. Forum and Jesse Singh, and provided by the restaurants, Woomi Garden and Royal Taj.





Indian, Japanese, and Korean cuisine



Christina Poy, Jeanie Jew, Isabella Balakit, First Lady Yumi Hogan, and Steve McAdams

Lion Lives Matter

by Camilla Ng

(Editor's Note: Camilla is a Maryland Chapter member.)

During **Washington, D.C.'s Environmental Film Festival** this spring, I attended the screening of half a dozen documentary films. The two films that struck me the greatest were ***Blood Lions*** and ***India's Wandering Lions***. The first film raises awareness of the exploitation of captive-bred African lions. The second film reflects hopefulness in the incredible survival of the Asiatic lions.

Blood Lions is a documentary feature film that followed acclaimed environmental journalist and safari operator Ian Michler, and Rick Swazey, an American hunter, on their journey to uncover the realities about the multi-million-dollar predator breeding and canned lion hunting industries in South Africa. The African lions bred in captivity and raised by hand are a big money-making business catered to hunters who want a guaranteed trophy. The film says that 99 percent of the lions killed in South Africa are hand-reared and specially bred for bullets. Hunters pay as much as \$20,000 for a big male captive lion. Male lions with black manes are more desirable and higher-priced, while lionesses which are not considered good trophies as they do not have the iconic manes are priced at about \$5,000. There are currently around 200 captive lion farms, with about 8,000 lions. Michler estimates that about 1,000 hunters go to South Africa to bag lions. Shockingly, 50 percent of the hunting clients are Americans. These canned hunting operations offer catalogs of lions with a price on each photo. With one click on the photo of your choice, the trophy is guaranteed.

The lion farms are often under the guise of conservation, research, and education, attracting many tourists for cub petting, lion walking, and volunteer recruitment. The recruits may pay \$1,500 a month to have the privilege of taking care of the lion cubs, believing that they are helping to raise orphaned cubs. Now who doesn't want to experience cuddling a lion cub with bragging rights, warm and fuzzy, the do-good feel-good of contributing to conservation? In reality these are cubs who were taken away from their mothers just days after birth. The cubs are hand-raised by humans to get them used to humans so they can be easily managed by the handlers. The loss of the cubs causes the lioness to go into estrus, so it can be bred continuously. The intensive breeding for decades leads to visible inbreeding and stress on the captive-bred lions. If the condition of the trophy lions is bad, the condition of the non-trophy lions is much worse. These poor creatures are farmed for a growing Far Eastern market in lion bones, which supposedly have medicinal properties, to replace the tiger bones in China, due to restrictions on importing tiger parts.



(Source: www.bloodlions.org)

Blood Lions is a global campaign for action to stop lions from being bred for the bullet. One positive development is that the Australian government was the first country to ban the importation of all African lion trophies, in March 2015. In November 2015, France followed with a ban on the import of lion trophies, just months after the furor over the killing of Cecil the Lion in Zimbabwe by Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer.

Cecil was not part of a canned hunt, which is virtually unknown outside South Africa. Instead, Cecil was lured from the safety of the Hwange National Park by two guides trailing meat behind a vehicle. Palmer only injured Cecil with a high-powered crossbow, and Cecil suffered in agony for 40 hours before being tracked and killed off. Cecil's head was hacked off by the hunt team for Palmer to take home. However, the Zimbabwe government confiscated it, leaving Palmer with nothing to show for the \$55,000 he spent for the kill.

Conservationists are calling on the U.S. government to ban the import of lions killed in trophy hunting, following the death of Cecil. In January 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that two subspecies of lions would be listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which impose stricter permit requirements for trophy hunting and importing lions or their parts into the U.S. One subspecies of lions located in India and western and central Africa, which number about 1,400 in the wild, are listed as Endangered. However, lion subspecies from southern and eastern Africa are listed as Threatened under the ESA. This means that the import of sport-hunted lions from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and South Africa will sadly continue.

India's Wandering Lions

Once prowling from the Middle East to India, the Asiatic lions were hunted to the brink of extinction, dwindled to a single population of only 20 lions in the 1920s in the Gir Forest National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Gujarat, India. Due to protection and conservation, the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary is now highly overpopulated with over 523 lions in 2015. The lions have outgrown their sanctuary and have spilled out into the surrounding countryside and villages. This film is an amazing testament to the commitment of the villagers and the farming community of Gujarat who have found a way to co-exist with minimal conflicts with the wild lions. Here a unique relationship has developed between lions and people, revealing a story not of continual conflict as we might expect, but of one of survival and tolerance. It makes us rethink our views of dangerous top predators.



(Source: *India's Wandering Lions*)

The filmmaker tracked the lions over three years, captured the extremely rare occurrences of lions' daily living, and opens the door to Indian wildlife of the **Gir Wildlife Sanctuary**. Using specially developed night cameras – a color Starlight camera that can see when there's only moonlight or starlight, and an HD thermal camera and special infra-red cameras which can see in any conditions – combined with traditional daylight cameras, we are shown the first true portrait of the natural lives of the Asiatic lion, day and night. The cameras also captured other species like hyenas, jungle cats, leopards, jackals, nilgais (the largest Asian antelope), wild boars, porcupines, and deer, roaming unhindered right next to villages, in orchards, and in fields, with people totally unaware of their presence.

I would like to point out that these Asiatic lions are wild animals, not friendly human-raised lions like the Blood Lions of South Africa. With the Asiatic lions wandering off the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary into the adjacent farms and orchards, the villagers are now used to seeing them. When a lion returned after the village lights were out, to dine on his kill which was lying just yards outside a villager's hut, there was no sounding of an alarm or weapons wielding from the villagers. Instead, the villagers all came out of their huts in quiet restraint to witness the glory of nature, cautious not to frighten the lion away from his kill. The villagers want the lions near their fields to keep the deer away, which would otherwise eat their crops.



This photo demonstrates the high degree of tolerance of the villagers to the lions. The men on the bike just stopped to watch the lion walk by them, just as we would watch deer in our neighborhood in the suburbs here. Again, these are not tame lions, just wandering wild lions of Gir.

(Source: India's Wandering Lions)

The film said that the people of Gujarat practice Jainism, an ancient Indian religion that prescribes the path of non-violence toward all living beings. The Gujarat Indian's beliefs, reverence and coexistence with wildlife, is a stark contrast to the exploitations of the South African canned hunting industry.



(Source: *India's Wandering Lions*)

“LanternAsia” at the Norfolk Botanical Garden
(Part I)

Photographs by Camilla Ng

Editor's Note: On Saturday, April 23, 2016, Camilla Ng visited “LanternAsia,” a large exhibit of Chinese lantern art, at the Norfolk Botanical Garden in Norfolk, Virginia. Linda and Ed Devine had visited such an exhibit in St. Louis, Missouri in July 2015, and Betty Butz and son Arthur had viewed a similar exhibit in New Orleans, Louisiana earlier this year. Photos from Missouri and New Orleans appeared in past issues of the *OCAW E-Newsletter*.

The following were excerpts about LanternAsia from the Norfolk Botanical Garden’s website:

“Walk through a mile of colossal Asian works of art.

Lantern Festivals are an ancient tradition that began more than 2,000 years ago in China.

Tianyu Culture Communication located in Zigong, China, designed and produced this extraordinary event. They have traveled to Beijing, Sydney, and Rotterdam.

Magical illuminating works of art [were] crafted by Sichuan Tianyu Culture Inc. from silk, steel, and other eco-friendly materials highlighting traditional Asian themes that include nature, wildlife, architecture, and ancient folklore. These structures – some as tall as four stories – replicate those found in China, Japan, India, Thailand, Korea, Burma, and Singapore.

During the day, guests will have the opportunity to see the detail and craftsmanship of these mystical works of art by Chinese artisans. By night, experience the art illuminated in enormous proportions.”

The following is a sampling of Camilla's photos.



Butterfly Corridor











More of Camilla's photos will be presented in the next issue of the e-newsletter.