

E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

June 2023



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501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

(from Linda Devine, Editor)

I was very pleased to be able to produce a large June e-newsletter, due in part to a lot of activity having been generated by May being Asian Pacific, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

As always, thanks to those who contributed material for this issue. I am also grateful to my husband Ed for his work on preparing the unusually large number of photos (over 100). In fact, over 200 photos were submitted. Unfortunately, space restrictions precluded my being able to publish all of them, but I extend my gratitude to all of the photographers for their enthusiasm in sending me so many to choose from.

I continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles or submit information if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership. And please feel free to send me any suggestions that you might have for the e-newsletter at: devinefive@comcast.net

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News from the Virginia Chapter

(from Maria Yang, Acting President)

Mother's Day commemoration

The commemoration of Mother's Day and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, held jointly by the Greater Washington DC Chapter of the World Chinese Business and Professional Women's Association and the Washington DC Taiwan Benevolent Association, was a resounding success, with a turnout of over 220 people. The members and friends of OCAW-VA were among those invited to

attend. The occasion was held on Sunday, May 7, 2023, in the auditorium of the TECRO Culture Center in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and featured a lively showcase of Asian Pacific cultural performances and gastronomic delights, including Taiwanese snacks, Japanese sushi, and Singaporean noodles for lunch.



The highlight of the celebration was the recognition of mothers in families with three or four living generations and the honoring of their exceptional contributions to their families and society. This was accomplished through a series of Mother's Day videos, floral presentations, and the gifting of silk scarves to elder mothers, all of which served to underscore the traditional virtue of gratitude to mothers.

The event was graced by the presence of prominent officials, including Maryland Delegate Lily Qi and Christina Poy, the Administrative Director of the Maryland Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and a lifetime member of OCAW-MD. Among other OCAW members present was Dianna Gorin, a lifetime member of OCAW-VA, who traveled from North Carolina to partake in the festivities.

In addition to celebrating mothers, the event championed the cause of equal rights and the integration of American and Asian cultures. This was achieved through the showcasing of the invaluable contributions of the Chinese-American and Taiwanese-American communities to the world, furthering the goal of AANHPI Heritage Month events.

All in all, the commemoration of Mother's Day and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was a joyous and meaningful event, which underscored the importance of family, culture, and community, and honored the most beloved and strongest pillars of every family, our mothers.



Christina Poy and Mining Chang, President of the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington, DC



Maria Yang, Dr. Sheueyann Cheng, and Dr. Minju Chang



Maria Yang, Christina Poy, and Pam Wong



Qingxiu Lee, Dianna Gorin, and Maria Yang





News from the New Orleans Chapter

(from Patricia Ellzey, President)

Annual Asian Heritage Festival

The Asian Pacific American Society's annual Asian Heritage Festival was held on Saturday, May 13, 2023 in the French Quarter in New Orleans. The OCAW New Orleans Chapter assists with the event every year, and this time President Pat Ellzey and Secretary Nellie Underwood represented the chapter's involvement.

There were over twenty music, dance, kung fu, and other performances that entertained audiences throughout the festival, and the local Chinese community performed fully half of these numbers.



At the APAS tent, OCAW New Orleans Chapter President Pat Ellzey, who also sits on the APAS Board of Directors, selling parasols that can be painted to the buyer's desire, cool water spray fans, colorful fans, and Chinese cone hats.



Nellie Underwood, OCAW New Orleans Chapter Secretary and also APAS Secretary; Cynthia Lee Sheng, Jefferson County Parish President; and Grace Chan, APAS President



A performance by our local Academy of Chinese Arts children



A final group photo at the finale of the festival, showing several APAS Board members along with the Chinese Lion Dance troupe who exhibited their talents to the delight of the audience and ended the festivities for the day

Upcoming Event

We will have a membership meeting in June to plan for an International Women's celebration lunch in July. For this July lunch, we will invite prospective members to help increase our membership and activities.

Outreach

Pat feels that the New Orleans Chapter needs to recruit new members to strengthen the chapter. With the goal of soliciting help with recruitment, she had a productive meeting with a bio scientist at the local U.S. Department of Agriculture research lab who is very influential in the Chinese immigrant community. This lady is also one of the leaders of the successful Chinese school in New Orleans.

This individual was happy to learn about OCAW and the New Orleans Chapter, and said that she will be sending out a news article via email to the local immigrant Chinese Association to help publicize the OCAW lunch in July. She herself plans to attend, and she will try to bring others.

News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(from Jen Tsao, President)

"Learning through Entertainment" Webinar

(from Joyce Hsu; Jen Tsao; and Anne Hu, Immediate Past President)

This informative presentation, hosted by the Silicon Valley Chapter, was given by Joyce Hsu via Zoom on Sunday, March 19, 2023. She shared her personal story about fighting breast cancer while she was involved in comic creation and pursued her passion of theater. In the face of adversity (chemotherapy multiple times), comics and short dramas help her continue to enjoy a wonderful life. This successful talk was presented in Mandarin and garnered up to 56 participants.















About Joyce Hsu:

Joyce is a graduate of the Department of Chemistry, National Taiwan University; did graduate studies and research at Caltech; and worked at the University of California Berkeley and Stanford in biochemical

research. After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996, she became a volunteer in cancer prevention and cancer care services. She was the President of the American Cancer Society's California Chinese Unit and is currently a consultant for the New Hope Chinese Cancer Care Foundation.

Although her undergraduate major was biochemistry, she also loves art and drama. She served on the boards of the San Jose Repertory Theatre and the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco.

 Joyce Hsu	 OCAW-SVC 美華婦女會矽谷分會	 Jen Tsao	Trudy Huo Trudy Huo	Stella Chen Stella Chen
 Yufan Lu	Theresa Han Theresa Han	Sheila Sheila	Dora Lee Dora Lee	 Chia-Huei Chen
mary lo mary lo	Dora Yang Dora Yang	daphne daphne	Maggie Maggie	 victor jiang
Aimei He Aimei He	Sharon Sun Sharon Sun	 Sheria Yeh	Joyce Joyce	Philip Chiu Philip Chiu
Cynthia Chang Cynthia Chang	 Cynthia Shen	Wendy'ipad Wendy'ipad	Monica H Monica H	song leung song leung

cshui cshui	Amy Baw Amy Baw	Cathy roberts Cathy roberts	Yang Yang	Sabrina Liu Sabrina Liu
Christina Shen Christina Shen	 Carol 雅露	Ming Ming	Helen Tsai Helen Tsai	 David G
Galaxy Note10 Galaxy Note10	Wen-Rang Chen Wen-Rang Chen	Peggy Peggy	ginger ginger	 Ming
carol carol	Yamei Yamei	Lily Yang Lily Yang	L S L S	Amy Lu Amy Lu
732019 732019	Christine Han Christine Han	AY AY	Dave Wu Dave Wu	 Meiching

From Joyce Hsu:

1996 was a turning point in my life. I wrote my first black humor stage play, and I was thinking about how to create the show. At that time, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Immediate surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and hair loss and other side effects followed. When I thought that my life might be over, two wishes inspired me. One was to participate in the work of preventing cancer if I survived, and the other was to do it regardless of whether anyone came to see my show or play.

For the next decade or so, the work – cancer prevention volunteering and stage production – took up most of my time. But they were like two parallel lines that never intersected until I thought about how to make cancer advocacy and education not boring. So I began to use comics and short plays to message to audiences. I published two comic books, *Xiao Guo Qi Jia* and *Special Laugh Medicine*, and also performed many short plays, such as *Sun-Zi Therapy*, *Exchanging Conditions*, etc. Please feel free to refer to my website for more information: <http://www.joycehsu.us>. “Entertaining education with fun” is really effective.

打扮這麼漂亮要去哪裡



*"Going somewhere special?"
"I'm visiting a new patient who doesn't
Want to get chemo. I want to show her how
great I look after my treatment."*

“打扮這麼漂亮要去哪裡？”
“要去探訪一位不願意做化療的心病友，讓她看看我做完了化療之後沒變成醜八怪。”

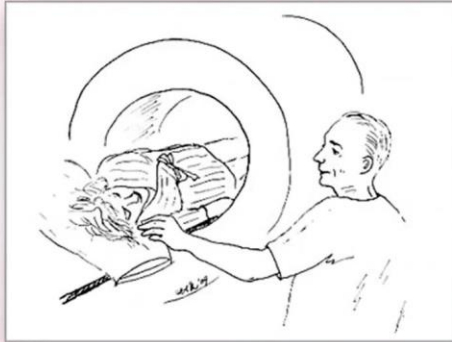
雪兒還是瑪丹娜



*"Who should I be tonight? Cher? Britney
Spears? Or, better yet, Maddona?"*

“今晚我當誰？雪兒？還是小甜甜？也許當瑪丹娜更好。”

放心吧



女：“我在裡面喊，你會聽得到嗎？”

技：“連妳打呼都聽得到，放心吧。”

Patient: "Can you hear me if I yell for Help?"

Technician: "Don't worry, I can even hear you snore."



Handsome guy, here are some sunglasses for you.



Monkey! Don't hurt this pretty lady.

Jen Tsao has provided a link to the webinar: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fly9IripAM&t=2778s

(Photos taken by Jen Tsao)

(Editor's Note: Jen wishes to thank Cathy Roberts, National Vice President for Membership and Virginia Chapter Treasurer, for joining the event from the East coast.)

Annual Spring Hike

(from Alice Chiou, activity organizer and Historian)

OCAW-SVC had its annual spring hike on Sunday morning, April 23, 2023, in Los Gatos, CA. Many members were out of town, so we had only a small group this year.



Jen Tsao, Alice Chiou, Cynthia Chang, and Elisa Chen

(Photo taken by Alex Chen)

We started from Los Gatos downtown and hiked for two hours. The weather was just perfect, and the scenery along the trail was really nice, too.



(Photos taken by Jen Tsao)

We saw children painting a display on the trail bridge...

(Photo taken by Jen Tsao)



(Photo taken by Alex Chen)

wall painting under the tunnel...



(Photo taken by Alex Chen)

and a creek with lots of water.



(Photo taken by Jen Tsao)



Elisa and Alex Chen

(Photo taken by Alice Chiou)

At the top of the hill, there was a beautiful view.



(Photo taken by Jen Tsao)



(Photo taken by Alex Chen)

After the hike, we had a nice lunch at the famous Steamer's Grillhouse restaurant. What a happy ending!



(Photo taken by Jen Tsao)



Alice Chiou, Jen Tsao, and Rose Cheng

(Photo taken by Alice Chiou)

Saratoga Blossom Festival

(from Cynthia Chang, Public Relationship)

OCAW-SVC participated again in the 2023 Blossom Festival in Saratoga, CA. This event took place on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Heritage Orchard and Saratoga Civic Center and was free and open to the public.



Activities included a wide range of music, entertainment, paintings, artists, artisans, Saratoga historical characters, and local organizations. Children's activity tables, a petting zoo, and more were present. OCAW-SVC's booth was the most popular with the arts/crafts and calligraphy activities we offered. This event started in 1900 and brought the entire community together, and it was produced by the Saratoga Historical Foundation and sponsored by the City of Saratoga.



A little history of the Blossom Festival: Santa Clara County was once known as the Valley of Hearts Delight with acres and acres of blossoming fruit trees. An average of 100,000,000 pounds of prunes alone were delivered annually, or one-third of the world's annual production. The Blossom Festival originated in Saratoga in 1900 after two years of drought to celebrate the beauty of the orchards and the good life provided. The festival was held each year until World War II. Each year the festival grew larger and larger with important dignitaries attending, including the Governor of California and the Vice President of the United States. The festival was brought back in 2013 with the mission to commemorate and preserve the memory of its historic celebration and of Saratoga's agricultural and community-focused life. Saratoga is fortunate to have a Heritage Orchard as a reminder of the past.

Cynthia Chang and Sophia Yang were the two OCAW-SVC members in charge of the chapter's participation. Sophia spent a lot of time designing the arts and crafts activities while Cynthia recruited volunteers to serve two-hour shifts at the booth. Jen Tsao, Carol Yuan, Phyllis Tung, Alice Chiou, Wendy Chang, Elisa Chen, Isabelle Guh, and Teresa Guh worked on the arts and crafts with children, while Yufan Lu, Woanyu Yu, and Trista Chen worked at the calligraphy table. We also had Saratoga High School teacher Mariam Fan and Chinese Club students Leyna Chen, Sada Gill, Kevin Yang, and Isabella Wang helping with the arts and

crafts activities. Big kudos to Isabelle Guh, her son Ryan Lin (President of the Chinese Club), and Mariam Fan for recruiting the student volunteers, not only for OCAW-SVC (4 students) but also for the entire festival event (23 students)! Isabelle also joined OCAW-SVC as a lifetime member!









The following were arts and crafts items that visitors made at SVC's booth:



Below are links to photos taken at the festival:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/83nzTBxXdDPQ53vd6>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5gqb4so3YTFGvLdV9>

Another item worth mentioning is that the festival flyer included a picture of SVC member Yufan Lu from our booth's calligraphy table at the 2022 festival.

OCAW-SVC has worked with the Saratoga Historical Foundation in the past on events to promote Chinese culture and heritage. We are glad we participated again this year at the Blossom Festival and really made an impression about our community involvement while promoting our organization.

National River Cleanup Day

(from Carol Yuan, SVC event coordinator and Secretary)



Join Us for National River Cleanup Day

Saturday May 20, 2023 from 9:00AM to noon

Location: Parkside Lane at Regnart Creek
10295 Parkside Lane, Cupertino, CA 95014

**Register today and be the solution to water pollution
in Santa Clara County!**

To register, please click the link below, choose Site
35 Regnart Creek, Cupertino, click on Reserve a spot
to start registration.

<https://cleanacreek.org/upcoming-events/>

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Yuan,
408-306-3178



The flyer was designed by SVC member Candice Huang.

Saturday, May 20 was National River Cleanup Day for 2023. Creek Connections Action Group, a consortium of public agencies and nonprofit organizations that share a goal of protecting Santa Clara County's waterways, organized the Creek Cleanup at various creeks and rivers within Santa Clara County on that day. Three members of the Silicon Valley Chapter participated in the event and were among about sixty volunteers to pick up garbage at Regnart Creek in Cupertino, CA.

Our chapter has participated in the event for several years. Whether a small or large turnout, it has always been a fun day catching up with friends while working in the community.



Amy Shiau, Carol Yuan, and Jen Tsao







Creek Connections Action Group announced the preliminary results after the event. There were 653 volunteers who collected 26,106 pounds of litter and cleaned 52.68 miles. A very productive day indeed, and we were pleased to be a part of it!

Guzheng Performance

(from Cynthia Chang, Public Relationship)

On Saturday, May 27, 2023, OCAW-SVC member and Membership Co-Chair Hong Tai presented a classical Guzheng performance. This was part of the Saratoga Library Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration activities.

Hong started music lessons by playing violin and piano at an early age, and fell in love with the **Guzheng**, a classical Chinese musical instrument, when she heard its beautiful, elegant, and deeply moving sound. She studied with Mrs. Wei Shan Liu, a world-class Guzheng performer and educator, for many years. Hong really resonates with her teacher's belief of sharing the heritage of Chinese culture with others by the performance of Guzheng.

Hong has been performing at community cultural events as well as senior retirement centers in the Bay Area.

As the MC, I shared with the audience some information about the Guzheng. The instrument is a plucked zither with 15 to 25 strings. The playing techniques include basic plucking actions on the right side and pressing actions on the left. It creates sounds that can evoke the sense of a cascading waterfall, thunder, horses, and even the scenic countryside.



Hong's performance included a variety of Chinese traditional pieces as well as modern Chinese and Western pieces:

Autumn Moon on the Serene Lake
Evening Song of the Fishing Boat
Amazing Grace
You Raise Me Up

Horse Racing
Rose, Rose, I Love You
The Moon Represents My Heart
Fragrant Blossom of the Night

The Dance Music of the Yao
Serenade of the Green Island
Auld Lang Syne
It's a Small World



Descriptions of some classical Chinese pieces

Autumn Moon on the Serene Lake

The melody is delightful and the tone is graceful, depicting the beautiful sceneries of the lake under the moonlight in southern China. This song is popular in particular among scholars for its poetic and artistic expressions of nature's beauty.

Evening Song of the Fishing Boat

This is a classical zither (or “zheng”) piece. The music describes the beautiful setting sun reflecting on the ocean, the fishermen are leisurely and content, and the fishing boats are drifting away with the waves... This piece of music is the most popular and influential piece of zither solo in China since the 1930s.

The Dance Music of the Yao

“Yao” is a national minority in southwestern China. The music vividly shows the festive scenes of the people singing and dancing while celebrating their traditional holidays. The joyful melodies express the life of the Yao people who are good at singing and dancing.

Horse Racing

This classic song describes the lively scene of Mongolian herdsmen celebrating the tribe’s grand occasion of horse racing. This music piece is appreciated by the audience for its bold and unrestrained momentum.

The performance was well received by a mixed races audience. Everyone seemed to enjoy the beautiful music and was very attentive throughout the one-hour session.



For the modern Chinese songs, people were invited to sing along, and it was a lot of fun.

The Sing-Along



Quite a few OCAW-SVC members attended this event to show our support for Hong and the celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month at the Saratoga Library.



OCAW-SVC members and Cynthia Chang's son and daughter-in-law



Hong Tai and her husband



(Photos taken by Michelle Huang)

Other activities

On Saturday, March 25, 2023, OCAW-SVC was a Supporting-Organizer for the talk, “History of the Chinese in the Salmon Canning Industry,” presented by Friends of Children with Special Needs.

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, OCAW-SVC was a Supporting-Organizer for the Alzheimer’s Association’s Annual Chinese Forum in Silicon Valley.

Upcoming Event

On Saturday, June 24, 2023, OCAW-SVC will host a Health Seminar given by Dr. Wendy Chuang, Chiropractor.

(Editor’s Note: Wendy was one of the speakers at OCAW’s 45th Anniversary Conference in October 2022, and her presentation was informative and enjoyable.)

News from the Hawaii Chapter

(Edwina Lee, President)

Comprehensive OCAW Hawaii Chapter News

(from Queenie Mow Chee, Secretary)

Second General Membership Meeting



(Photo taken by Queenie Chee)

On Sunday, May 21, 2023, the Hawaii Chapter held its second General Membership Meeting of the year at the Maple Garden restaurant in Honolulu. Sixteen members and 14 guests enjoyed a decadent nine-course Cantonese-style lunch – no dim sum! Of course, the highlight of the meeting was not the food, although it was a close second. Our own Wendie Liu delivered a heartfelt invocation.

We were happy to have an up-and-coming independent documentary film producer share with us some of her prize-winning productions and hear her story. Kimberlee Bassford was born and raised in Hawaii, and was the great-granddaughter of a prominent Honolulu Chinatown businessman and philanthropist in the early to mid-20th century, the late Mr. C.Q. Yee Hop.



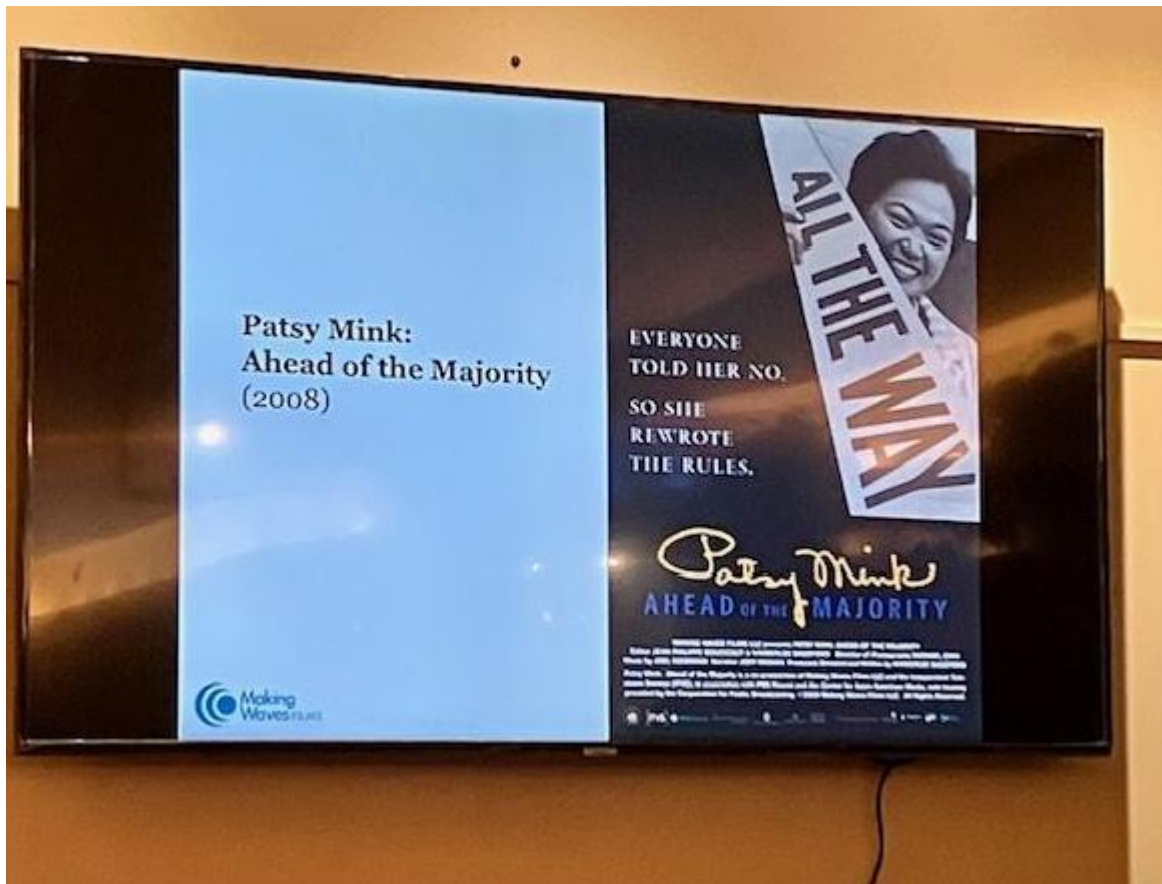
Guest speaker Kimberlee Bassford

(Photo taken by Sharlene Chun)

Kimberlee, or Kim, for short, is an alumnus of Punahou School, and received her Bachelor's Degree from Harvard and a Master's Degree in Journalism from the University of California-Berkeley. Married with two little children, she juggles her career and interests with a healthy family life. Her productions advocate gender equity and diversity in films and television, some of which have garnered film festival awards and were shown nationwide on *PBS* as early as 2009.

Her first clip that she shared with us featured the first Asian American woman of color to serve in the United States Congress in 1965, Hawaii Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink. Titled *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority*, it captured the feisty Japanese American gal from Maui in her finest hours. Fierce and determined to 'right the wrongs' and bring about fairness for women, Patsy forever changed the way females were treated for scholarships and programs in higher education and athletics with her co-authored passage of "Title IX" which prohibited sex discrimination in those fields in 1971. So many talented and gifted young women have benefited from this bill since then. Kim noted that for every minute shown on this release, an average of six

hours of footage was reviewed and edited. Every documentation requires hours and days of research; personal interviews; and gathering of photos, film clips, and articles. This production took a few years to produce.



(Photo taken by Queenie Chee)

Another clip Kim shared was a personal one, about her great-grandfather: *Lotus Root: A Great-Granddaughter's Journey* (2010). She emphasized that he tried many things and not all were successful. But he was persistent and a survivor, who knew the challenges of racial discrimination of the times. One of the saddest events was the torching of Honolulu's Chinatown in 1900 when there was an outbreak of the bubonic plague. The Chinese were blamed for this and singled out for shameful treatment, and it led to the huge loss of businesses, properties, and lives.

Kim's current project is on Iris Chang, author of *The Rape of Nanking*. Kim is seeking funding for the production, *Iris Chang: Power of One*. For more information and how you can support Kim's efforts, you can refer to:

<https://irischangfilm.wedid.it/>

Kimberlee Bassford, director/producer: makingwavesfilms@gmail.com



(Photo taken by Sharlene Chun)

Our Hawaii Chapter seems to be on a roll, helping our Chinese American female film producers. From Diane Mark, whose film *Picture Bride* won recognition at the Cannes Film Festival in 1994, to Robin Lung's *Finding Kukan*, tracing the only Academy Award-winning film produced by Li Ling Ai, to Crystal Kwok and her amazing *Blurring the Color Line* which is still being shown at various venues throughout the United States – these efforts reach a wide swath of our general population and help to promote the recognition of the disparity of Asian Americans.



President Edwina Lee

(Photo taken by Sharlene Chun)



Guest Lauren Chee and former President Dr. Sandy Young

(Photo taken by Queenie Chee)



Communications Chair Sharon Chun (*left, with mask*) and guests



Guest Debra Wong and
Member Wendie Liu

(Photos taken by Queenie Chee)



Nominations Chair Jerilyn Jeffryes with new member Leonora Loo and Jane Au



New members Kimberly Chun Hoi and Charlolina Cook

(Photos taken by Queenie Chee)



(Photos taken by Sharlene Chun)



New Members

Meanwhile, our little Chapter has an energetic Membership Chair who has already hit our 2023 goal of 35 members! In addition, Sharlene Yee Chun has seen to it that a younger generation is also brought on board, starting with her own daughter, Kimberly Chun Hoi. Sharlene has accepted the nomination to be our 2024 Hawaii Chapter President!

The eight new members aboard this year are:

1. Charlolina Cook (Char)
2. Debbie Cook
3. Laura Ho
4. Kimberly Chun Hoi
5. Jessica Lin
6. Leonora Loo
7. Susie Lew Wang
8. Kelly Yee

Laura, Jessica, and Kelly are three of this year's Narcissus Festival Queen and Court members. We hope they will become involved and active members also.

Upcoming Event

Another exciting event to draw possible new members: a Mahjong Workshop! On Sunday, June 25, 2023, Dr. Sandy Young is hosting a 'learn to play' mahjong party in her condo's party room. She has room enough for four tables, or 16 players.

She will be brewing a special Big Island organic ginger tea and honey for this occasion. Keep the mind sharp and the body refreshed and energized. Ahhh... but what naughty snacks will appear to balance all that???

Have a happy and healthy summer, everyone! And again, we welcome our new National President Maria Yang and are ever grateful to past President Christina Chang.

Warmest aloha!

From and About Our Members

Activities, Events, and Honors for Karina Hou

(from Karina Hou, Maryland Chapter President)

(Editor's Note: The OCAW Maryland Chapter is very proud of the fact that our President is among the most influential leaders in the Chinese Community in the Washington Metropolitan Area. The following are some of the events with which Karina has been involved, especially recently, and the honors and accolades that she has received as a result of her tireless work. Congratulations, Karina!)

May 27, 2022

Had the privilege of attending an awards gala at the Chinese American Museum DC, where we celebrated the remarkable achievements of Dr. Henry Lee. It was an evening filled with admiration for his contributions and a deep appreciation for our vibrant community.



Karina Hou (*seated, left*)

October 5, 2022

Interviewed Dr. Henry Lee and Mrs. Jiang at their home in New Haven, Connecticut, with the Chinese American Museum DC team. I was deeply inspired by their spiritual world and pure, focused minds.





January 21, 2023

Celebrated Lunar New Year at the Maryland State Assembly with Asian American communities. As an Asian American representative to receive the proclamation letter from the House of the Speaker, I'm gratified to see more AAPI elected officials.





March 8, 2023

Joined the Women's Conference jointly hosted by the Universal Peace Federation and the National Center for Women Entrepreneurs and Children Development Center (NCWE). Honored to be appointed as an Ambassador for Peace, hoping to contribute to world peace.



March 15, 2023

Attended a charity dinner co-hosted by the United Nations' International Women's Day 1000 Shades of Women Foundation and the Presidential Volunteer Service Awards. Honored to receive the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.



March 25, 2023

Received the Maryland Outstanding Women's Lifetime Achievement Award. It was an honor to be part of such an event celebrating Women's History Month and witness women's progress in Maryland.





April 22, 2023

Co-organized the first nationwide Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony co-hosted by the UNESCO Center for Peace International Forum and American UNESCO affiliates. Honored by the presence of Maryland government officials and appreciative of the sponsors' support.





April 27, 2023

Hosted the premiere of *See Me Once More, My Dear Kid*, a film based on the heroic actions of Peter Wang who lost his life in the tragic school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in 2018. The film was set to participate in the 2023 Cannes Film Festival.





East meets West: The tale of two Chinatowns in New Orleans

(from Pat Ellzey, New Orleans Chapter President)

On Monday, May 8, 2023, a news segment about the history of New Orleans Chinatown aired on *WDSU*, the NBC-TV affiliate in New Orleans. Local Chinese historian Winston Ho and OCAW New Orleans Chapter President Pat Ellzey were interviewed for this piece in celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The local broadcaster was Sula Kim.

This video can be seen in the following link to the online news article:

<https://wdsu.com/article/east-meets-west-the-tale-of-two-chinatowns-in-new-orleans-more-than-a-century-ago/43832615>

The following photo was part of the *WDSU* story:



Pat's grandparents, John Fong and Rosie Lin Su, and their children. John and Rosie were born in Colorado. Rosie's father, Chin Lin Su, was the Chinese supervisor for the Chinese who built the transcontinental railroad across the western U.S. John and Rosie had a store in the first Chinatown in the 1890s and early 1900s. Pat's mother is the little girl on the right, Shu Que Fong, who was born in New Orleans in 1906.

Cynthia Chang in the News

(from Cynthia Chang)

Editor's Note: Cynthia is a past President of the OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter, and is currently serving in the position of Public Relationship. She has been consistently active with OCAW-SVC throughout its many years.

She was featured in a *Rotary Club of Saratoga* article entitled "Spotlight on Cynthia Chang," which discusses her notable background, extensive community service, and many achievements over decades. The article also contains information about her husband and two sons, also very accomplished.

The following is the link to the article:

<https://saratogarotary.org/Stories/cynthia-chang>

This same article was also published in print form in the May 2023 issue of *Saratoga Spotlight*.

Congratulations, Cynthia!

**The White House Forum on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians,
and Pacific Islanders**

by Maria Yang

(Editor's Note: Maria is our new OCAW National President.)



I had the privilege of attending a prestigious White House Forum on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPI) to commemorate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. The event took place on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The George Washington University, situated in the heart of our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. This historic gathering brought together members of the AA and NHPI community, advocates, artists, and prominent leaders from the Biden-Harris Administration, including Vice President Kamala Harris and other distinguished members of President Biden's Cabinet. The auditorium was brimming with an enthusiastic audience hailing from diverse locations.

The forum offered attendees a varied range of breakout sessions and panels, providing ample opportunities for networking, engagement, and participation in meetings dedicated to enhancing understanding of advocacy, policy, and public service initiatives to support the AA and NHPI communities. Personally, I opted to join the morning breakout session and participate in a panel discussion entitled "Supporting the Mental Health Needs of the AA and NHPI Community." Through this engagement, I discovered the paramount importance of addressing mental health concerns, both within our organization and the broader community. I gleaned invaluable insights into this pressing issue, courtesy of the esteemed speakers who were invited to share their expertise and experiences.



Maria Yang

Supporting the Mental Health Needs of AA and NHPI Communities – Featuring remarks and discussions with:

- **Trina Dutta**, Senior Advisor to the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- **Mina Fedor**, Founder and Executive Director, AAPI Youth Rising
- **Sejal Hathi**, Senior Policy Advisor for Public Health, Domestic Policy Council, The White House
- **D.J. Ida**, Executive Director, National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
- **David Ko**, CEO and Board Member, Calm
- **Sahaj Kohli**, Founder, Brown Girl Therapy
- **Kevin Kreider**, Actor, CEO and Founder of ALLS Productions, and Sans Alcohol Free by Taejin Beverage
- **Richard Lui**, Anchor and Journalist, *MSNBC/NBC News*

A highlight of the forum was the captivating conversation delivered by Vice President Kamala Harris, who serves as an inspiring role model for OCAW and Asian American women, exemplifying success and breaking barriers within the community. One memorable point that she shared about her life experiences resonated deeply with me: in spite of the challenges that come with being a minority when you enter a room, hold your head high, let your shoulders relax, and believe that those around you are ready to collaborate with you.



A video of the event can be viewed at: [The 2023 White House Forum on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders - YouTube](#)

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI), established by President Joe Biden through Executive Order 14031, is charged with coordinating a whole-of-government agenda to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities.

Culture Corner

European Christmas Markets Cruise **Part I: Budapest, Hungary**

by Cathy Roberts

(Editor's Note: Cathy is National Vice President for Membership.)

Christmas market (*Christkindlesmarkt* or *Weihnachtsmarkt*) originated in Germany. It is a street market associated with the celebration of Christmas during the four weeks of Advent. While living in Germany during two U.S. State Department foreign service assignments in the late 1970s to the early 1990s, we visited various Christmas Markets in different cities and villages to enjoy delicious food and purchase local crafts. After having left Germany 30 years ago, we decided to take a river cruise to revisit our beloved Christmas markets.

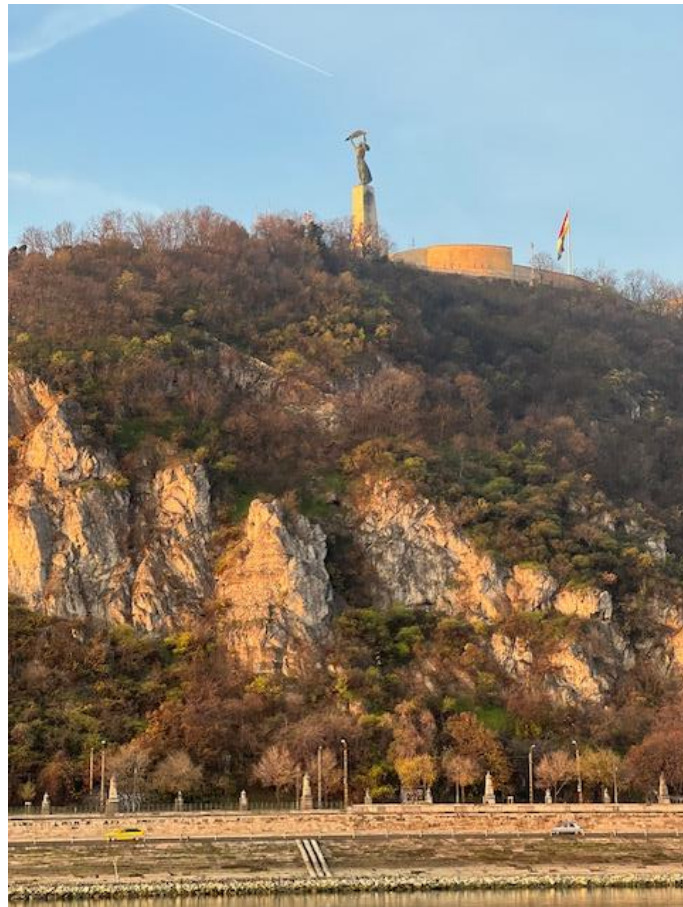
On Wednesday, November 30, 2023, we left home for Budapest. We wanted a day there before our cruise departed, to admire the beautiful architecture and to enjoy delicious food and decadent pastries. ☺

Budapest is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and is the economic and cultural center of Hungary. We visited the Christmas Market, The Hungarian Parliament Building, the historic Buda Castles, grand St. Stephen's Basilica, ancient churches, appealing architectural bridges, and breathtaking old buildings. The city is a perfect blend of ancient architecture and contemporary lifestyle.





Matthias Church





Budapest at night



The Hungarian Parliament Building



On Friday, December 2, our 15-day cruise departed from the city, and continued to Vienna, Melk, Passau, Regensburg, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Würzburg, Wertheim, Koblenz, and Cologne, ending at Kinderdijk, The Netherlands.



Our time in Budapest had been most enjoyable, and we looked forward to the days ahead.

The next installment (Part II) of my article will cover Vienna, Austria.

(Photos taken by Dick Roberts)