

E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

September 2014

(from Linda Devine)

I hope everyone had a nice summer break and is looking forward to fall. As always I am grateful to those who submitted articles and pictures for this e-newsletter. I also would like to once more acknowledge the efforts of my husband Ed, who continues to do the photo preparation work for the issues.

Suggestions or recommendations for any aspects of the e-newsletter are always welcome. Please feel free to contact me at: devinefive@att.net. I also encourage individuals to submit material to me which they think would be of interest to the readership.

Opera International

(from Muriel Hom, Producer-Director)

The Organization of Chinese American Women and Opera International would like to thank every one of you who supported the Operatic Vocal Gala Concert on Sunday, August 3, 2014, in the Terrace Theater of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. We received a very good response and numerous positive comments, and everyone seemed to enjoy the event.

We accomplished what we set out to do. Jessica Stecklein and Caroline Gibson have performed at the Terrace Theater before, so this gave Huanhuan Ma and our pianist Kai-Ching Chang an opportunity to perform at this prestigious venue and add this concert to their resume. We were also happy that Rolando Sanz and Alvy Powell were able to contribute their artistry to the occasion. Our gratitude also to Hai-bo Bai who was instrumental in directing and coaching all the artists, which made possible the success that was achieved.

We honored Amy Chuang Lee, a lifetime OCAW Maryland Chapter member and my best friend of 57 years, who contributed over \$15,000 to enable me to meet the budget. We are very grateful to her and wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to her. Her considerable donation enabled me to compensate all the participants generously – the performers for their beautiful artistry, and all the people behind the scenes who helped to make this concert a great success. Amy recently suffered a serious episode of bleeding in the brain, and we at OCAW all wish her a speedy recovery.

I would like once more to express my gratitude to all the contributors and supporters.

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Message from Grace Sams, OCAW Virginia Chapter member currently living in California. She said that she wishes she could have attended the concert:

Congratulations to Mimi and all OCAW members. A show in the Kennedy Center is a great achievement. I can imagine how much work Mimi had to put into it. Please give my best wishes and love to Mimi, Hai-bo Bai, and all friends in OCAW.

Message from Rena Young Ochse, OCAW Hawaii Chapter President:

Congratulations! I can just imagine what a memorable event this was. We wish we could have been there to see the show. Aloha!



Soprano Huanhuan Ma, with Kai-Ching Chang at the piano





Soprano Jessica Stecklein and Tenor Rolando Sanz



Huanhuan Ma and Rolando Sanz



Bass-Baritone Alvy Powell and Soprano Caroline Gibson





Jessica Stecklein, Producer-Director Muriel Hom, and Kai-Ching Chang



(Photos taken by Hong-fa Chu)

Follow-up Note from Mimi Hom:

On Saturday, September 13, 2014, Huanhuan Ma performed at the Arts Club in Washington, D.C. at its opening black-tie gala event, and she received a standing ovation. She had sung superbly at the Kennedy Center concert and had enthralled the audience there, but her performance at the Arts Club exhibited an even higher level of talent just one month later, which is in keeping with Opera International's mission to train and present young artists and provide opportunities for them to reach ever-increasing heights in their careers.

News from the Virginia and Maryland Chapters

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

Ch'i Lecture

A Lecture by H.H. Khadro Crystal Chu Rinpoche, "Ch'i Uplifting and Its Impact on the Healing of Body, Mind, and Spirit" (presented in Chinese), was held on Saturday, August 2, 2014, at the Johns Hopkins University Montgomery County Campus in Rockville, Maryland. It was co-sponsored by OCAW-VA

and the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington D.C. The event attracted a large audience from the Washington area Chinese community.

The lecture covered the following topics:

- the definition of Ch'i
- the various kinds of Ch'i in the human body
- how to uplift Ch'i in the human body
- the result of uplifting Ch'i

A central part of the lecture was devoted to the "theory of Ch'i" as established by H.H. Grandmaster Lin Yun. According to the "Theory of Ch'i," a person's ch'i is the force that moves his body, because ch'i is the real self and the vital force. When ch'i is no longer able to move the body, it will leave the body and go back to the universe, where it becomes a "Ling Particle." Then it will be allocated according to its Karma, positive and negative deeds, and merits and sent back to the six realms of cyclical existence to become the ch'i of a new life. The primordial nature of a person's ch'i does not change, although its type and condition may change.

The lecture lasted about two hours and was followed by a dinner gathering at the Mama Wok Restaurant in Rockville. Some people expressed interest in a future workshop to learn more about the theory and related subjects.

(Editor's Note: H.H. Khadro Crystal Chu Rinpoche came to the Washington, D.C. area in the Fall of 2012 and gave a lecture on "Enhancing Our Life through Ch'i and Fengshui Adjustments." The presentation was highly attended and was very helpful and successful. See the articles and photos in the November 2012 OCAW e-newsletter.)







Moon Festival Celebration and The Secret to Improve Relationships

(from Donna Byler, OCAW-VA Chapter member and OCAW National Executive Director)

The Secret to Improve Relationships was found in 'OCAW' at our first Talk Story Event.

Talking Story grew out of Virginia Chapter President Maria Yang's thought that since we have many successful and wise members, it would be good if each of them would share a little bit about her life and a little bit of wisdom. I thought it was an excellent idea. Little did I realize that she was asking me to be the first presenter.

I met Maria 15 years ago. She was my Chinese teacher then, and now she is the dedicated President of the Virginia Chapter. She has focused on teaching and preserving Chinese culture, as well as current issues of interest. In addition to providing information regarding the Chinese Zodiac and popular Chinese customs and traditions, she brought H.H. Khadro Crystal Chu Rinpoche to the Washington, D.C. area to lecture about Feng Shui, and she asked OCAW-VA member Dr. Linda Tsan and her husband Dr. Min-Fu Tsan to lecture on Longevity. Maria asked me to present a lecture at OCAW-VA's Moon Festival (Mid-Autumn Festival) Celebration. I agreed if it could be a kind of Talk Story where we exchanged information and a little bit of wisdom.

OCAW Membership

About me: I have been a member of OCAW since 1997. I joined for purely selfish reasons which were to meet some Chinese women and to learn something about Chinese culture. Being Chinese, but not speaking, reading, or writing Chinese, I knew something was missing. I was a fourth-generation ABC (American Born Chinese), the youngest of four children, and I was raised in Los Angeles, California, but not in Chinatown. None of our neighbors were Chinese, and there were only a few Chinese students in the schools I attended. In 1967 I literally married the boy down the street and moved about a dozen times before settling in Virginia.

I attended the first few OCAW meetings feeling a little uncomfortable. They were founding a new chapter, and could I be a part of it? Dues were \$30, \$30 a month, hmmm... \$360? No...only \$30 a year... a manageable donation, I thought. I expected to slip away after a few months and to just attend OCAW events. To my surprise I would become the Vice President, then President of the Virginia Chapter, and eventually Executive Director of OCAW National.

I have not been disappointed. OCAW has exceeded my expectations beyond my wildest dreams. Many of its members have become like sisters to me. The notion that OCAW was going to be dissolved a few years ago literally hurt my heart. Unless people stepped up to be part of its leadership, OCAW would be no more. Members in every chapter across the nation wanted OCAW to continue. Christina Chang agreed to be National President, and OCAW under her leadership is continuing.

The Idea for the Talk Story

Since Maria and I had chatted about Deborah Tannen, author and professor at Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.) whom Maria knew of well, I thought that maybe we could talk about her book, You're Wearing That?, a book about mother-daughter relationships. But since the talk was to be presented at the Moon Festival Celebration and men and children would be present, I thought it would be better to focus on relationships in general. Since Western marketeers often use "Ancient Chinese Secret" to market and give credibility to ideas, we settled on the "Secret to Improve Relationships" as the topic.

My father was born in Canton, China. He was a man of integrity and wisdom. I remember him saying "Silence is Golden," and often reminding me to be the bigger person when I fought with my older brothers and sister. How could I be the bigger person? I was the baby of four. It was not until 40 or 50 years later, after 25 years of marriage, two children, a graduate degree in social work earned from the University of Hawaii, and talking story with individuals, couples, parents, and families as a social worker, that I realized the wisdom in these words. I call it a not-so-ancient Chinese Secret now.

Announcing to my husband Tony and son Eric that I would be speaking at the celebration about the Secret to Improve Relationships, they both asked, "Do you know the secret?" I kidded back, asking if they wanted to share the same hospital room! Then quickly I added that we all know the secret; the key lies in practicing that secret that could be shared without uttering a single word. Huh? I pointed to a little carved monkey with its hands over its mouth, and Eric spontaneously started to guess what the monkey would represent.

The Moon Festival Celebration

The Moon Festival Celebration took place on Sunday, September 7, 2014 at the Arlington Central Library in Arlington, Virginia. It was a new location for us, and the library was very busy and parking scarce. The program started on Chinese time... Late. We had a full program. Maria began with an informative slide

presentation explaining the history and traditions of the Moon (Mid-Autumn) Festival, before my presentation. Line dancing teacher Lily Drake, who teaches in all the surrounding counties, was waiting, and a Chinese dinner feast awaited us that I didn't want to get cold.

The Presentation

We began focusing on the little carved monkey with its hands over its mouth. Members and guests responded enthusiastically and accepted the notions to:

1. Speak Less, Listen More. We have one mouth but two ears.
2. Slow down and think before we speak less.
3. Ask whether what we say will matter a year from now, ten years from now?
4. Consider the source, determine where this is coming from, which will increase our ability to understand, accept, appreciate, and forgive – and to NOT Sweat the Small Stuff.

To be clear: The little carved monkey was NOT saying NOT to say anything ever. If an issue is indeed something that will matter a year or ten years from now, it needs to be discussed, remembering that it's not so much what you say but how you say it, and expressing your thoughts and needs in a non-blameful voice, then asking for what you want and need. This is an art to be learned and practiced. What is sometimes helpful is a couple of sessions of talking story with a counselor. There, you will talk and the counselor will listen. The counselor doesn't know everything about your life and what you are going through, that's true. In helping you to find secrets, the counselor will ask you the right questions that will enable you to find the secrets you are searching for.

The Secret to Improve Relationships is found in O C A W. The little carved monkey can be used as a visual cue, a reminder. The following were responses of members and guests to sum up the Secret to Improve Relationships.

- O** Optimism and Openness to new thoughts and actions
- C** Caring, Compassionate, Courageous, and Choosing wisely after pausing and asking ourselves, 'How important is this? More important than the relationship?'
- A** Acceptance and Appreciation of each other as we are, and NOT making Perfect the Enemy of Good or not trying to change another
- W** Wisdom and Willingness to do what needs to be done, and graciously Listening More and Talking Less

I end with this affirmation: May we be open and optimistic. Interacting with care and compassion, appreciation and acceptance, with the willingness and wisdom to live in the moment. Listening more to appreciate what we have and to accept people without changing them. Having the Courage and Willingness to change the things we can, and the Wisdom to Talk Less and Listen More.

I also invite you to review the following informative books:

You're Wearing That? by Deborah Tannen

Do I Have to Give Up Me to Be Loved by You? by Jordan and Margaret Paul

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff...and it's all Small Stuff, by Richard Carlson

Relationship Rescue, by Dr. Phil McGraw

The Dance of Anger, by Harriet Lerner

Moon Festival (Mid-Autumn Festival) Celebration Features Donna Byler and “The Secret to Improve Relationships”

(from Eric Byler)

(Editor’s Note: Eric is an award-winning filmmaker and the son of Virginia Chapter member Donna Byler. We were glad that he was able to attend the Moon Festival Celebration, and we appreciate his sharing his perspective of the event.)

Line dancing and a potluck dinner capped off a well-attended meeting of the Organization of Chinese American Women (OCAW) to mark a Chinese tradition called the Mid-Autumn Festival. Held on Sunday, September 7, 2014 at the Arlington Central Library in Arlington, Virginia, the program opened with a slide show presentation by Maria Yang, Virginia Chapter President, about the historical and cultural meaning of the festival. Featured was a talk on how to nurture successful relationships by former president Donna Byler.

During the set-up time, organizers were able to recruit new members to OCAW from among the library’s regular patrons. They joined a group of 25 OCAW faithful, including nearly as many husbands as there were wives. Yang invited attendees to read aloud from her slide show. Its presentation and content seemed to please newcomers and veterans alike. “Teaching about the Chinese heritage that binds this organization has always been part of our mission,” Yang said. “This is something I’m proud to contribute.”

Soon after becoming OCAW’s newest president, Yang proposed the idea of featuring educational talks at meetings to allow OCAW members to share other types of knowledge. Byler had agreed it was a sound idea, not knowing that Yang would then immediately ask her to be the first of the presenters.

Byler’s talk was billed as “The Secret to Improve Relationships.” She opened her presentation by joking about the fact that both her husband Tony and her son Eric had expressed consternation at this. “Do you know the secret?” Tony had asked.

Byler opened her talk by explaining that she is a 4th-generation Chinese American born and raised in Los Angeles, and that she knew few Chinese people other than her many relatives – one reason why she has valued her membership in OCAW, where the majority of members are 1st-generation American.

Byler connected with her audience when she shared a childhood recollection of an admonition she had received from her mother. “ ‘Wherever you go, you do not go alone. You carry with you your father’s name,’ she had told me. I must never do anything to disgrace the family name. And since there weren’t many Chinese where we lived, I represented all the people in China as well! Quite a responsibility!”

When it came time to reveal the secret to improve relationships, Byler presented a figurine of a carved monkey covering its mouth. She explained that in all relationships it is better to listen more and talk less. “This is not really a secret. We all know this, but recognizing and practicing it is the real secret,” Byler said.

Byler then handed the program off to line dancing instructor Lily Drake who was an immediate hit, attracting nearly 100% participation. Only a few looked on from the sidelines, and they seemed to enjoy themselves nearly as much. The dance lesson was followed by a potluck dinner worthy of the Mid-Autumn Festival. After dinner, violinist Kevin Guo entertained us with beautiful music.

“I gained a lot out of both presentations,” said Wanda Eshleman, Virginia Chapter member, who added that she would like to see Byler offer regular classes. Dr. Linda Tsan stated that she thought Byler’s talk might be material for a book.

News from the New Orleans Chapter

(from Betty Butz, President)

Kitchenware to Teachers

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Confucius Institute at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, a bright new beginning came to our city this summer in the form of a group of Chinese language teachers who were selected by New Orleans educators in conjunction with Hebei University in China. The teachers are situated at local public schools in various communities, bringing Chinese culture and language instruction to students who are interested in the subject. The teachers are expected to stay for several years.

Several OCAW New Orleans Chapter members organized a welcome committee. As a gesture of goodwill, they collected four large baskets full of kitchenware, including dishes, cups, saucers, utensils, pots, and pans, and they delivered them to the Confucius Institute as welcome gifts to the teachers. It is our sincere wish that the teachers will flourish in the city as they work to nurture links in cultural understanding and bridge differences where desired.

Fall Gathering

On Saturday, September 13, 2014, a few of us gathered to chat over soup and salad at the English Turn Golf and Country Club on the West Bank, to plan for the New Orleans Chapter's 25th anniversary celebration to be held later this year.

We enjoyed a creamy bisque of corn and crab meat served in a Chinese-style bowl, with lumps of crab meat in every bite. It is seldom to find such generous helpings of fresh crab meat in soup, even in New Orleans. We also had salad with diced mango and papaya that reminded us of our tropical surroundings. The delicious food and pleasant setting helped us manage the hot and humid day with a smile.

Since ownership and management of English Turn was transferred from Minnesota investors to local residents earlier this year, the place has taken on a more suitable southern feel, with added tropical plantings and colors. Many more golf tournaments and parties are being planned. The chef is a repatriate after Hurricane Katrina sent him to San Francisco and Colorado where he honed his culinary skills. Everyone is delighted that he has returned to New Orleans, with new and improved methods in nouveau food preparation that charms us all.

News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(from Sophia Yang, President)

Annual Event

On Sunday, July 27, 2014, 30 people attended the Silicon Valley Chapter's Annual Officers Installation and Youth Achievement Award Presentation at the Hong Fu Restaurant in Cupertino, California.

We had a Chinese Banquet-style lunch first.



The meal was followed by our Officers Installation. Sophia Yang and Carol Yuan will be serving their second-year terms as President and Vice President respectively. Kimberly Cao, a senior at Saratoga High School, is this year's Youth Achievement Award recipient.



One of our chapter's original members, Ai-Chu Wang, shared her experiences in OCAW with us.



Our long-term model trainer, Georgina Burgess, shared her memories with OCAW as well. She has been with us for more than 20 years. She showed us tips on how to walk, stand, and sit elegantly and gracefully.



Nai Hsueh, Santa Clara County Water District Board Director, gave us Water Conservation Program updates since California is experiencing a serious drought and everyone has been called upon to reduce their water use by 20% in 2014. She introduced many rebate programs to encourage people to reduce water consumption in the areas of landscaping and laundry tasks, and in the use of high-efficiency toilets. She also brought some water buckets as prizes for a drawing. Our members who luckily won one were so excited and took a fun photo together.



In past years, we had a Fashion and Talent Show as the main theme of our Annual Event. However, it was getting more difficult to recruit youth models in recent years. This year, we decided to try a different approach to do the officers installation and present the scholarship. The addition of a banquet-style luncheon turned out to be really successful, as all the participants were very relaxed, truly enjoyed the food, and cherished the time being gathered together. We were very happy at this outcome.





Asian Americans for Community Involvement Tour

OCAW-SVC has actively promoted the Holiday Donation Drive organized by Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) for the past many years. AACI is Santa Clara County, California's largest community-based organization focused on the Asian community. Our Vice President, Carol Yuan, initiated contact with AACI to try to find out what other actions OCAW members could take to offer more help.

Carol, Alice Chiou, Sophia Yang, and Rose Cheng had a chance to join AACI's monthly group tour on Tuesday, August 12, 2014. The tour started with a briefing by AACI Director of Development Anne Im. Next we visited the Senior Wellness Center and Health Center (Mental and Primary Care). We then had a virtual tour of the Asian Women's Home, the shelter for domestic violence victims. Programs there include legal advocacy, a multilingual hotline, translation and interpretation services, a children's program, and community outreach. At the end of the tour, we received a folder with detailed information about AACI.

With in-depth understanding and the connection we brought back, OCAW-SVC members will definitely be able to become more involved and contribute additional efforts to help those less fortunate in the community. More community service projects/proposals will be discussed in future officers meetings.

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration at the Saratoga History Museum

The OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter and the Saratoga History Museum presented a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration on Sunday, September 7, 2014, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Saratoga History Museum in Saratoga, California. This free event included live musical entertainment, martial arts performances, mooncake tasting, Chinese calligraphy, storytelling, face painting, and arts and crafts.

More than 250 people participated in the event. Attendees also enjoyed viewing “Pioneering the Valley: The Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley.” This exhibit displays the history of the Chinese American community in the Santa Clara Valley from the 19th century to today, with highlights of community achievements. The exhibit runs through October 26, 2014.



The program started with The Easterners, a music group from Daly City, California. They combined Chinese and western musical instruments to perform many beautiful pieces.



Ping Li, the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of Saratoga, read legendary moon stories for children.



There were booths for mooncake tasting, face painting, as well as arts and crafts activities for children.





Mr. Zhongyang Lu demonstrated Chinese Calligraphy. He distributed his writings of people's names or wishes on red papers.

The highlight of the afternoon was the demonstration of martial arts by Shaolin Shaolin Martial Arts of Cupertino, California. One of the members, Richie Sun, a sophomore at Saratoga High School, has earned three first-place titles and the grand championship in the Tiger Claw Kung Fu Magazine tournament. In October, he will be competing in the Sixth World Wushu Championship in China.





This event successfully created a festive Chinese holiday atmosphere, and was definitely a nice occasion which benefited all in the community.



Note: The Mid-Autumn Festival received media coverage in the *San Jose Mercury News*, a major media outlet in the San Jose metropolitan area.

See the following link previewing the event:

http://www.mercurynews.com/saratoga/ci_26462895/mooncakes-and-much-more-celebrate-mid-autumn-festival

See the following link for additional photos. (*Editor's Note: Among the pictures, there are photos of Chinese Calligrapher Zhongyang Lu creating red papers for guests. There are also excellent action shots of the Shaolin Shaolin martial arts students demonstrating their skills.*)

<http://photos.mercurynews.com/2014/09/07/photos-mid-autumn-festival-in-saratoga/#1>

World Journal (major Chinese-language newspaper in the U.S., including the San Francisco Bay area) also published an article and photos:

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_sfnews_14/25709396/article-%E8%96%A9%E6%8B%89%E5%BA%A6%E5%8A%A0%E6%85%B6%E4%B8%AD%E7%A7%8B-%E9%82%80%E5%90%84%E6%97%8F%E8%A3%94%E5%90%8C%E6%A8%82?instance=sfbull_right

Upcoming Event

Next we will have our “Road to College” Seminar planned for the end of October.

News from the Hawaii Chapter

(from Rena Young Ochse, President)

OCAW Hawaii's 25th Anniversary Celebration

We had a great celebration of OCAW Hawaii Chapter's 25th Anniversary on Saturday, July 19, 2014, at the Oahu Country Club in Honolulu. Over 150 members and guests celebrated this auspicious occasion.



The Honorable Calvin Say, Speaker Emeritus of the Hawaii House of Representatives, presented OCAW President Rena Young Ochse with a Certificate of Recognition.



Rena presented three honorees a Distinguished Service Certificate. They were Rose Lee, Blossom Tyau, and Phyllis Shea. Each honoree was introduced by a speaker who talked about their experiences with their honoree and who paid tribute to their contributions to OCAW. Guest speakers were Ms. Carole Kai, noted entertainer, who introduced Rose Lee; Dr. Lawrence Tseu, philanthropist, who introduced Blossom Tyau; and Sandra Young, Ph.D., former Kamehameha School principal and teacher, who introduced Phyllis Shea. The honorees were showered with good wishes and lei.



Lisa Zakar (center), daughter of honoree Rose Lee, receiving a Distinguished Service Certificate on behalf of her mother.

President Rena Young Ochse (left) presented the certificate, assisted by Dr. Margaret Lee, first President of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter (right).



Honoree Blossom Tyau



Honoree Phyllis Shea

Past chapter presidents were also honored and were each presented a certificate of appreciation.



Past Presidents honored: Sharon Chun, Dr. Margaret Lee, Christine Ling, Phyllis Shea, Frances Goo, Rena Young Ochse, Yun Soong Jim, Queenie Mow Chee, Sandy Young, Ph.D., Kimberly Oliveira, and Ann Matsumoto

Our emcee was none other than Gigi Ko (Secretary), who did a wonderful job of keeping to our timeline as well as introducing our guests and special VIPs who attended the event. We must not forget our chairperson, Queenie Chee, who meticulously executed every detail to make this a successful luncheon. She was ably assisted by committee members Kimberly Oliveira, Gladys Lee, Christine Ling, Gigi Ko, Susan Lee, and Marilyn Wong, and advisor Rena Young Ochse.

In my speech I spoke of the many projects we have completed over the past 25 years. Amazingly, we did so much for a small group of ladies of OCAW. This is why I am a firm believer that this organization is so special, as they are giving of themselves in putting together projects to help with Asian-American women and other organizations that need help, both financially as well as with services.

The luncheon buffet was fabulous, and everyone enjoyed the entertainment by Cathy Foy-Mahi, noted entertainer and singer. She kept the audience enthralled with a tribute to our country, America, with songs like "God Bless America" and "The Star Spangled Banner," along with Hawaii's own, "Hawaii Pono'i."



Emcee Gigi Ko, Event Chairperson Queenie Chee, and friend Doreen Sue-Ako

The beautiful occasion could not have been a more wonderful way to celebrate our milestone 25th anniversary!

(Editor's Note: An article and photos of the celebration appeared in "Hawaii Chinese News" on August 20, 2014.)

Lecture on the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

On Tuesday, August 5, 2014, author Martin Gold presented a lecture on the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 in the Architecture Auditorium at the University of Hawaii. New Hawaii Chapter member Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock collaborated with Mr. Gold to organize this presentation. Mr. Gold wrote the acclaimed Forbidden Citizens, a book that traces the history of the Act. Besides writing this book, Martin was critical in shepherding U.S. Congressional resolutions of expressions of regret for passage of the Act, to unanimous approval in both Houses of Congress in 2011 and 2012.

Martin's presentation highlighted both the historical significance of the Exclusion Act and the political savvy it took to convince both Republicans and Democrats to sign off on what could easily have been impossible resolutions; this was one of only five times the U.S. Congress has apologized for its actions (the others were slavery; treatment of Native Americans; ILLEGAL TAKEOVER OF THE HAWAIIAN KINGDOM; and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II). It was an amazing achievement.

Several of our members attended the event and met Mr. Gold personally. I really enjoyed meeting him as he is so gracious and worked hard on this important issue. He mentioned to me that for him "it's a labor of love."



Members of OCAW with Martin Gold: Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Gladys Lee, Christine Ling, Rena Young Ochse, Martin Gold, Gigi Ko, Tina Au, and Dr. Margaret Lee



Epoch Times Article

As China's environmental problems have become ever more alarming, Hawaii Chapter member Hong Jiang has written an article on this important subject in *Epoch Times*. Her piece, entitled "China's Environmental Catastrophe," covers such topics as 'Airpocalypse,' Water 'Too Dangerous to Touch,' and polluted soil and food.

The article can be found at this link: <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/855848-chinas-environmental-catastrophe/>

Next Meeting

Our next General Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2014, at the Maple Garden Restaurant in Honolulu. The election of officers will also take place at this time.

From and About Our Members

From Grace Sams, Virginia Chapter member and former Chapter President

(Editor's Note: It was nice to hear from Grace, who is currently living in California.)

In 1995, my time with OCAW Virginia was a critical transitional period for me from a full-time career to full-time retirement. I learned a lot from all the wonderful members at the time by working on meaningful projects.

Following Pauline Tsui's and Mimi Hom's example, I try to keep active in community services here in Laguna Beach, Southern California. The latest was a Dancing Stars Around the World benefit show produced by me on July 26, 2014 which generated \$11,640.00 for Saddleback Memorial Foundation here.

My warmest regards to everyone in OCAW.

Always,

Grace Sams

(Editor's Note: OCAW would like to congratulate Grace on her successful show!)