

# E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

September 2015

*(from Linda Devine, Editor)*

I hope everyone enjoyed a nice summer break!

Thank you as always to those who submitted material for this issue, and to my husband Ed for his work in preparing the photos.

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. Even small items would be very welcome.

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

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*(Editor's Note: Thank you to Maryland Chapter member Audrey Lee for her suggestion to include a Table of Contents in the e-newsletter. Hopefully this will be especially useful when the issues are long.)*

## **OCAW National Officers**

*(from Donna Byler, Executive Director)*

Nominations were solicited for OCAW National Officers.

There being no other nominations, President Christina Chang; Vice Presidents Mimi Hom, Cathy Roberts, and Linda Devine; Secretary Dorothy Hsiao; and Treasurer Amber Yen have graciously agreed to continue to serve as officers of OCAW.

Their willingness to serve is appreciated!

## **Opera International**

*(from Muriel Hom, Producer-Director)*

Mimi Hom has enlisted the Hermon Presbyterian Church to combine with OCAW's Opera International to present a concert, "***Opera to Jazz***," with plans in motion to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. It will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at Hermon Presbyterian Church, 7801 Persimmon Tree Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20817. There will be a reception following.

The artists will be Soprano Jessica Stecklein and Jazz Singer Karla Chisholm. Jessica Stecklein, winner of the National Symphony Orchestra's Young Soloists' Competition, has performed with the Washington National Opera and Los Angeles Opera. Karla Chisholm, who began her jazz career at age 18 at Switzerland's Montreux Jazz Festival, performs at high-profile events such as President Obama's official 2013 Inaugural Ball and West Coast celebrity weddings.

A suggested minimum \$25 donation can be made by check payable to "Wounded Warrior Project" or to "Hermon Presbyterian Church." Come and enjoy an afternoon of wonderful music and fellowship!

## **News from the Maryland and Virginia Chapters**

### **Oatlands Plantation Field Trip**

*(from Camilla Ng, Maryland Chapter member)*

On Saturday, June 27, 2015, members of the OCAW-VA and OCAW-MD Chapters, Maria Yang, Cathy Roberts, and I, Camilla Ng, and my friend, a fellow garden enthusiast Kim Bosch von Drakenstein, visited Oatlands Plantation near Leesburg, Virginia. It was in the interest of gardens that drew us to Oatlands. But more than garden aesthetics, the takeaway of this field trip was the history of Virginia.

It was the first visit to Oatlands for each of us. Once we entered the gate, we were impressed by stately trees that lined the path to the mansion, as if leading us back in time. It had the feel of Tara from "Gone with the Wind." And so it was.

Oatlands is a National Historic Landmark that is operated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Oatlands property includes the mansion, 260 acres of farmland and terraced gardens, the Carriage House, a bachelor's cottage, farm buildings, and a greenhouse built in 1810, said to be the oldest standing greenhouse in the South.

The first building we visited was the Carriage House. This building was built in the early 1900s for horse-drawn carriages. Today it is a visitor center and museum gift shop. We took a guided tour of the mansion, then explored the grounds and the gardens on our own. We were impressed by the peacefulness of the place with the distant view of the Piedmont Mountains.

To end the field trip, we were treated to refreshments by Maria at a lovely picnic spot under an old Osage Orange tree. The trees, the old mansion, the gardens, the outbuildings – all seemed to want to tell their stories. So I shall share with the readers the history of Oatlands that I was inspired to research.



The Carriage House

Built by the Eustis family to house horse-drawn carriages, it is now the visitor center and museum gift shop.



Maria Yang and Cathy Roberts in front of the Mansion

The building of the mansion began in 1804. Originally constructed in the Federal style, it was renovated in the 1820s to reflect the Greek Revival style popular at the time.



### *The Carter Era, 1798-1897*

George Carter, a descendant of one of Virginia's first families, inherited 3,408 acres of farmland in Loudoun County from his father Robert Carter III, in 1798 when he was a young bachelor. The property started as a wheat farm which exported wheat to England. It branched out to include other grains, sheep raised for wool, a vineyard, and a mill complex near Goose Creek for grinding grains, milling timber, and pressing flax seeds to make oil cakes. Carter began calling the plantation "Oatlands" in 1801.

In 1804, he began the construction of his mansion, initially in the Federal style. The construction at Oatlands was halted during the period leading up to the War of 1812, as the trade embargo with England brought on financial difficulty. The construction resumed in the 1820s and Carter incorporated Greek Revival-style architecture into the mansion. He also built a 4.5-acre terraced and walled garden, and planted many English oaks, European larches, shrubs, fruits, and vegetables. Many of his majestic oaks still stand today.



Garden

Carter's plantation relied on the labor of enslaved African Americans. When he took over the property, he owned 17 slaves; in the 1840s, the number of slaves increased five times to 85. By the beginning of the Civil War, Oatlands had 128 slaves, the largest slave population in Loudoun County.

Carter died in 1846. His family continued to live in Oatlands. However, the Carter family's fortunes declined following the Civil War from the loss of slave labor. The plantation shrank as land was sold to pay debts. George Carter's son, George Carter Jr., and his wife, Katherine Powell Carter, operated Oatlands first as a girls' school and later as a summer boarding house.



In 1897 the Carters sold the mansion with 60 acres to Stilson Hutchins, founder of *The Washington Post* newspaper. Hutchins never lived on the property and sold it in 1903 to affluent Washingtonians William Corcoran Eustis and his wife Edith Morton Eustis.



#### The Bachelor's Cottage

Circa 1821, it was originally a one-room structure. In the 1880s, the second-generation Carters renovated it to accommodate boarders. The Eustis family used it as a guest house during the 20th century.



#### The Greenhouse

Constructed in 1810, it is said to be the oldest standing greenhouse in the South. It was improved by the Eustis family in the 1900s with the installation of a heating system and a hothouse iron framework. Japanese maple trees on the side also were planted by the family.





250-year-old English Oak  
One of the surviving trees planted by George Carter in the terraced gardens. There is also an oak grove planted by Carter which Edith Eustis referred to as the “great grove of oaks, the living glory of Oatlands.”



The Bowling Green  
At one end of the Bowling Green is the Tea House.  
At the other end is the Reflecting Pool.

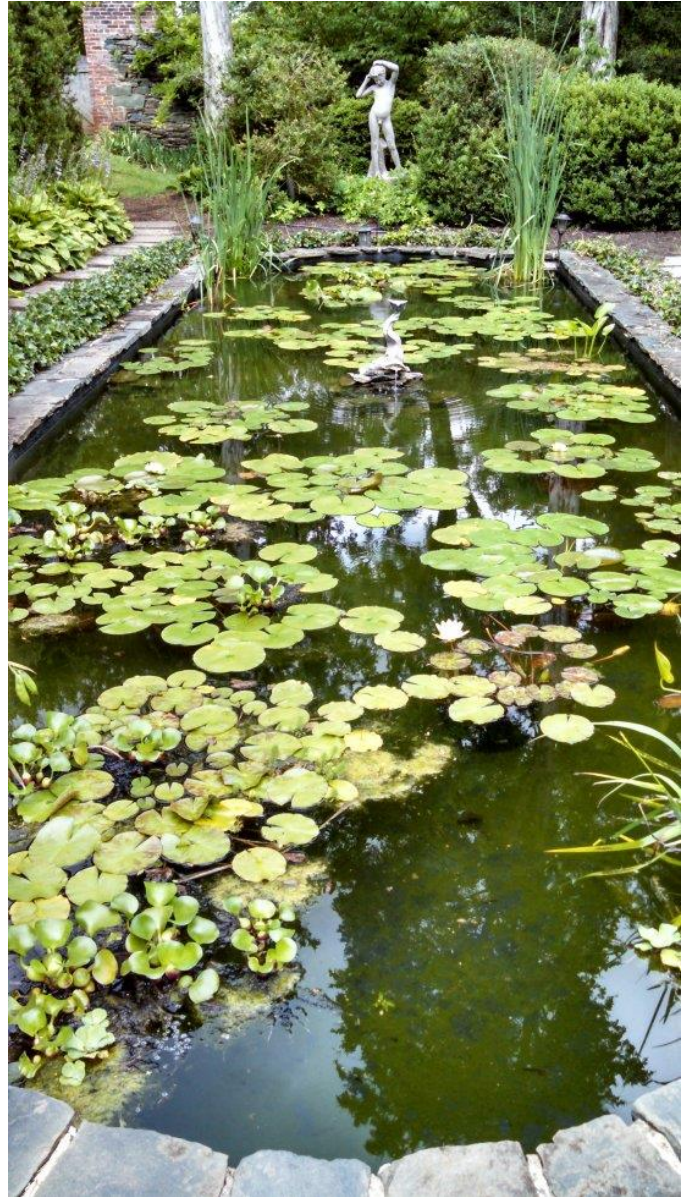
***The Eustis Era, 1903-1964***

William and Edith Eustis were conscientious preservationists and made very few architectural changes to the original structure. William was an avid equestrian and enjoyed fox hunting on the property. Edith was enchanted by the ruined and neglected gardens. She added many English architectural elements, statuary, boxwood parterres, ornamental shrubs, a rose garden, and a reflecting pool, and restored the gardens to their former splendor. She also planted Blue Atlas Cedars, Southern Magnolias, and Japanese Maples.





Blue Atlas Cedar  
One of the trees planted by Edith Eustis.



The Reflecting Pool  
Built by Edith Eustis.  
A statue of the Faun stands at the end.

After Mrs. Eustis passed away in 1964, her family donated the Oatlands property to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1965. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1971. The mission of Oatlands is to preserve the property for future generations, interpret the house and grounds to the public, and serve as an educational resource. The grounds also are available for special events and private functions.

### *Slavery at Oatlands*

Robert Carter III, the father of George Carter and the grandson of Robert “King” Carter, was one of the wealthiest men in Virginia. He was also known as Councilor Carter because of his service on the Governor’s council in Williamsburg. One of the large landholdings Robert Carter III inherited from his father was the 11,000-acre Goose Creek tract in Loudoun County, which he leased to tenant farmers who paid him an annual rent.

In addition to the Goose Creek tract, Councilor had numerous landholdings throughout Virginia, encompassing tens of thousands of acres, and he owned over 500 slaves. Over the course of his life, he came to view slavery as immoral. In 1791 he filed a Deed of Emancipation in Northumberland County, Virginia, for the gradual manumission of his slaves. The laws at that time permitted owners to free their slaves as long as certain conditions were met. Councilor’s “Deed of Gift,” as it is known, is believed to be the largest private emancipation in American history, and one that is not well known. However, none of Councilor Carter’s ten surviving children shared their father’s belief about the institution of slavery.

Information on Oatlands was based on research online.

<http://www.oatlands.org/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Carter\\_III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Carter_III)

[http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/carter\\_robert\\_1728-1804](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/carter_robert_1728-1804)

<http://www.balchfriends.org/Glimpse/URNOatlands.htm>



Maria Yang at the Tea House

A very nice spot to rest.





Kim Bosch von Drakenstein, Camilla Ng, and Cathy Roberts at the Tea House

*(Photo taken by Maria Yang)*

*(All other photos taken by Camilla Ng)*

### **Taiji Class**

*(from Susan Young, Maryland Chapter Secretary)*

Susan Young and a couple of other OCAW members have been studying Taiji at O-mei Wushu Kungfu Center in Fairfax, Virginia. OCAW also co-sponsored a Taiji Seminar in March 2015 (*Editor's Note: see April 2015 OCAW E-Newsletter*). The Center offers flexible Taiji class schedules. One class is held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Another class is at 7 p.m. on Friday. The class is taught by the Founder and Master Lu Xiaolin and other staff members of the Center.

Taiji is a slow and gentle form of Chinese martial arts, and internal form of exercise; unlike other martial arts, it avoids use of external strength. Master Lu is a very experienced and patient teacher. Participants have enjoyed the class and have already started to feel health benefits from learning Taiji movements. They highly recommend this class to anyone who is interested in enhancing his/her health and learning Chinese culture.

On Saturday, August 22, 2015, O-mei Wushu Kungfu Center hosted a Chinese martial arts show at W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax, Virginia. The delegation of China Wushu Youth Champions and students from O-mei Center held a Wushu Kungfu performance to show the public audience what "real" Chinese Kungfu is. Taiji and Taiji with sword were among the highlights of the event.



Breathtaking Wushu performance



Mesmerizing, graceful Taiji performance





Group Taiji performance

*(Photos provided by Dr. Qiang Lu of Capital City Info)*

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

#### **Highlights of Meeting Minutes**

*(from Maria Auzenne, Secretary)*

A meeting of the New Orleans Chapter of the Organization of Chinese American Women was held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 12 p.m. at Hoshun Restaurant, 1601 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130.

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Butz. Also in attendance were Leda Fan (Vice President), Maria Auzenne (Secretary), Mangjee Yeh (Treasurer), Guiqin Xiong, Yvonne Louie, and Nancy Chung.

Betty reviewed the mission statement of the Organization of Chinese American Women which is “[t]o advance and to advocate for the needs and concerns of Chinese and other Asian Pacific American women by helping to improve their educational, economic, social, and political opportunities, and by recognizing their excellence, leadership, and contributions to the quality of life.”

The chapter’s 2014 financial report has been submitted to the national office.

A Chinese Lunar New Year celebration at The Saratoga (apartment complex) at 212 Loyola Avenue took place on Saturday, March 7, 2015 and was successful. There was an installation of art in memory of the New Orleans Chinatown area that was once located in the neighborhood where The Saratoga now exists. There was a discussion of the art and architecture that once stood in the area and was the heart of an active Chinese community in New Orleans. Most of the buildings that were there no longer exist.

As the current Treasurer for the chapter could no longer continue in the position due to her personal schedule, Nancy Chung was elected unanimously to become the new Treasurer.

*Minutes prepared by Maria Auzenne*

### **August Meeting and Healthy Recipes**

*(from Betty Butz, President, and Leda Fan, Vice President)*

The New Orleans Chapter held a meeting on Saturday, August 15, 2015, at Hoshun Restaurant near downtown to discuss matters of interest to our group, to have lunch, and to talk about RECIPES FOR HEALTHY EATING.

Leda Fan, Vice President, spoke about her experience in using papayas in cooking when she was a new mother. See her recipe below.

### **PAPAYA MAMA**

Ingredients:

One almost-ripe medium papaya, with skin and seeds removed, cut into chunks, 2 - 3 cups  
Pork belly, cut into chunks, 1 cup  
Soy sauce, 1 - 2 tablespoons  
Cooking oil, 1 tablespoon

Method:

In a warm pan, add cooking oil and pork.  
Brown the pork, then cook on low heat for 5 - 10 minutes until tender.  
Add 1 tbsp. of soy sauce and simmer for 5 - 10 minutes.  
Add papaya chunks, stir and simmer for 5 minutes.  
Add more soy sauce to taste.

*(Editor's Note: Leda said that she obtained this recipe from her excellent Chinese medicine doctor, and she credits the stew for enabling her to provide breast milk for her daughter and son for an extended period of time.)*

### **Dance Gala**

*(from Betty Butz)*

On Friday, August 21, 2015, several OCAW members attended the annual Jefferson Parish Senior Citizen Dance Gala held at the Alario Center in Westwego, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans. The event, sponsored by People's Health, was free and open to the public. Beverages were free; hot dogs and hamburgers were available for \$1. Approximately 600 people attended.

Among the performers were chapter members Nancy Chung with the Silver Liners troupe, and Li Lee Chen with Formosa Grace who presented a Shandi dance. It was a happy day for all involved, especially for those who took part in line dancing on the open floor to various beats of music.





Silver Liners dance troupe. The first lady from the left is New Orleans Chapter member Nancy Chung.



Formosa Grace dancers. New Orleans Chapter members pictured are Yvonne Louie (*left*), Betty Butz (*right*), and dancer Li Lee Chen (*second from the right*).

*(Photos provided by Nancy Chung)*

### **Hurricane Katrina 10th Anniversary**

*(from Betty Butz)*

On the 10th anniversary of the devastating destruction brought to New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina, the city was again in the eye of the media. After overcoming countless daunting tasks of cleaning up and healing ourselves, most citizens are now able to enjoy the bounty of south Louisiana. Thanks to compassionate leadership of the OCAW National Board, members of the OCAW New Orleans Chapter succeeded in drawing strength from within ourselves and in sharing the generous spiritual support from sister chapters and past members. We are most grateful to have one another and to learn more about ourselves and how we fit in the greater social environment.

We are constantly reminded of the decay and rebirth of nature in our vicinity. A mature crape myrtle tree next to my garden fence disappeared after the storm. It sprouted feeble shoots over many seasons and has finally established its roots again. Like our city, the small tree will grow and prosper, shed its flowers and leaves, and re-emerge in its glory again. Please share the joy of nature's rewards by visiting google web on "New Orleans flowering trees."



Finally back to life after Hurricane Katrina, complete with flowers and seeds, Betty's tree is an example of the rebirth and renewal process in south Louisiana where vegetation tends to flourish, decay, rest, and return.

*(Photo taken by Betty Butz)*



## News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

*(from Carol Yuan, President)*

### Wellness Art Fair

On Saturday, July 11, 2015, the Silicon Valley Chapter participated in the Wellness Art Fair – Art Therapy Presentation, which was sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Chinese Committee of Santa Clara County’s Ethnic and Cultural Communities Advisory Committee, and Santa Clara Valley Behavioral Health Services. The location was the Training Conference Center @ Charcot in San Jose, California.

The event was held to celebrate the “Minority Group Mental Health Awareness Month of July.” There were talks on art therapy, as well as art stations for hands-on interactions, including Chinese Brush Paintings, Decorative Oil Paintings, Art Jewelry, and Crafts.

Our chapter presented a station on Chinese paper cutting and making Chinese knots. There were about 30-40 participants.



Demonstrating Chinese paper cutting



Alice Chiou showing how to make Chinese knots

### **Annual Officer Installation and Youth Scholarship Award Presentation Lunch**

On Sunday, July 19, 2015, our annual meeting was held at China Stix Restaurant in Santa Clara, California, with over 30 members and friends present at the event. The new 2015-2016 Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairs were installed at that time.

The members of the Board of Directors are Cynthia Chang, Alice Chiou, Anne Hu, Monica Hsiao, Tracy Lee, Yura Shieu, Ai-Chu Wang, Sophia Yang, and Carol Yuan.

Officers and Committee Chairs include:

President: Carol Yuan

Vice President: Lisa Tsai

Secretary: Candice Huang

Treasurer: Jen Tsao

Historian/Webmaster: Alice Chiou and Teresa Huang

Membership Committee: Hong Tai

Activities Committee: Rose Cheng, Monica Hsiao, Wen-Mei Tai, Sophia Yang, and Yura Shieu

Public Relations: Cynthia Chang and Nai Hsueh

Youth Scholarship Committee: Rose Cheng, Alice Chiou, and Monica Hsiao



(right) Inauguration – Sophia Yang, Yura Shieu, and Carol Yuan



(below) Officers and Committee Chairs



Our guest speaker for the Annual Installation was Emily Lo, a Saratoga City Councilwoman who is a member of OCAW-SVC and a former Mayor of Saratoga. She gave us an in-depth presentation on her experiences of serving as an elected official.



Emily Lo sharing her experiences of being an elected official





Audience listening to Emily Lo's presentation

This year's Youth Scholarship Award recipients were Jesse Chen from Lynbrook High School in Cupertino, California, and Ashton Wu from Leland High School in San Jose.

Both of them have demonstrated excellence, persistence, and passion in the areas of academic performance, leadership, extracurricular activities, and community service.



Youth Scholarship Award Recipients with Monica Hsiao and Carol Yuan

The lunch was a 10-course banquet. Everyone enjoyed the food and thanked Sophia Yang for organizing it.

Upcoming events in the fall were announced to members after lunch. Members also voted on the designs of our new T-shirt which we will wear in various activities to promote our organization.

\* \* \* \* \*

For your reference, the following two links are the news coverage by *World Journal* of the Officer Installation and Emily's speech, respectively. They are both in Chinese.

<http://www.worldjournal.com/3343354/article-%e8%a2%81%e6%ad%a3%e5%b9%b3%e6%8e%a5%e3%80%8c%e7%be%8e%e8%8f%af%e3%80%8d%ef%bc%9a%e6%93%b4%e5%a4%a7%e6%bc%94%e8%ac%9b%e5%85%a7%e5%ae%b9/?ref=舊金山>

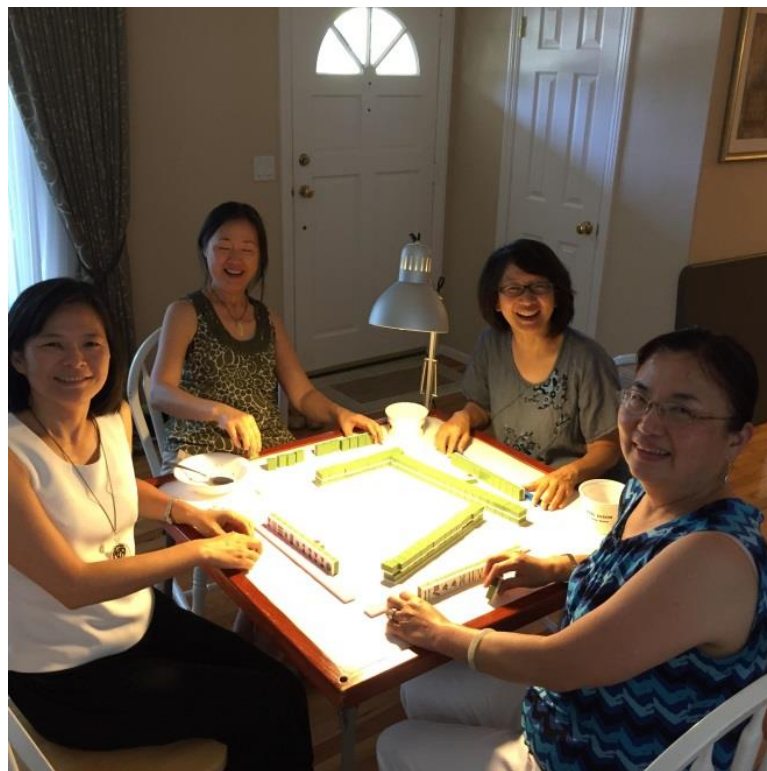
<http://www.worldjournal.com/3344958/article-%e6%9c%b1%e6%b7%91%e7%8e%b2-%e5%be%9e%e6%94%bf%e4%b8%8d%e7%95%8f%e6%8c%91%e6%88%b0/?ref=舊金山>



**Karaoke and Mahjong Fundraising Party for “Walk to End Alzheimer’s”**

For the first time, our chapter has formed a team to participate in “Walk to End Alzheimer’s,” organized by the Alzheimer’s Association. We held a fundraising party on Sunday, August 30, 2015 at our member Alice Chiou’s house. Close to 20 members and friends came to the party, and we raised \$165 that afternoon.







The event turned out to be a great member social opportunity. Everyone had a thrilling time, and we may do it again, just for fun. We also recruited a new member at the party!

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States. The Alzheimer's Association is the largest voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support, and research. The funds raised will go directly to the Alzheimer's Association in supporting their efforts.

Our team name is "OCAW-SVC Friends and Families." As the team captain, I'd like to ask for your consideration in supporting this endeavor. Below is our team link.

[http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2015/CA-NorthernCaliforniaandNorthernNevada?px=10446937&pg=personal&fr\\_id=7349](http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2015/CA-NorthernCaliforniaandNorthernNevada?px=10446937&pg=personal&fr_id=7349)

*(All photos provided by Sophia Yang)*

### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday, September 27, 2015 – Mid-Autumn Festival, co-sponsored with the Saratoga Historical Foundation

Saturday, October 10, 2015 – participate in "Walk to End Alzheimer's"

Sunday, October 25, 2015 – Seminar on Before End-of-Life Planning, with invited speakers from the Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care

### **OCAW-SVC Website**

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

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

*(from Queenie Chee, President)*

OCAW-Hawaii's membership is growing, and as of today, we are close to 50 members. Importantly, we must sustain the number, and have activities that encourage members to participate and stay members. With three Chinese women's organizations in Honolulu, OCAW must have unique purposes and remain relevant.

#### ***"Mardi Gras in May" fundraiser***

Our fundraiser, "Mardi Gras in May," was a success! and at our General Membership Meeting on Sunday, July 26, 2015, we were able to present a donation of \$1,000 to Lanakila Meals on Wheels. This program started from a lunch wagon on the edge of Honolulu's Chinatown in 1971, serving hot meals to seniors who lived in the area. It is an offshoot of Lanakila Pacific, founded by a Honolulu Chinese American woman, Violet Kam, in 1939. Back then, it was an outreach to provide services to those who suffered from tuberculosis, many who were from China, or who were Asian. Nutritious meals expanded to other programs, and now they celebrate 75 years of service, and they have helped over 150,000 people.

Over the years Lanakila Meals on Wheels expanded to home deliveries. As the numbers of seniors, especially women, increase, the needs are becoming greater. Homebound elders who do not have the means to have a hot meal are increasing. This program is an important one to our community.



President Queenie Chee presents \$1,000.00 to Marian Tsuji, President and CEO of Lanakila Meals on Wheels. Pictured here with Gladys Lee, chair of the Mardi Gras event held in May 2015.

We continue the theme this year of recognizing the contributions of the past generations of Chinese women who sacrificed to improve our present-day ways of life, noting the progress in various areas, and now look to what our future generations of Chinese American women can achieve. At our July meeting, we featured a freshman attending Carnegie Mellon University, Kelly Mok, who shared with us her experiences so far, and her aspirations.

We have also supported Robin Lung in her quest to obtain proper recognition of Li Ling-Ai for her role in the production of the Academy Award-winning film “Kukan.” Film footage of cities in China in the late 1930s is rare, and even the government of China did not know about this film, until Ms. Lung found and restored it, and presented it. Robin gave us an update on her progress.

Aloha,  
Queenie Chee

### **July General Membership Meeting**

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

Our General Membership Meeting was held on Sunday, July 26, 2015 at Maple Garden Restaurant in Honolulu. In keeping with our President’s theme, Queenie Chee asked Ms. Kelly Mok to speak on the future of the Chinese American.



Amazingly, Kelly can speak Chinese fluently as a Chinese American and has taken herself back to the cooking and culture of Chinese traditions. She attends college at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania and will be combining business and science as her academic focus.



Kelly Mok

Also speaking at the meeting was member Robin Lung, who is producing a documentary film, "Finding KUKAN." Robin was happy to announce that she is in the final phase and will be announcing her debut with this film on Li Ling-Ai.



Robin Lung

*(Editor's Note: See Gigi Ko's detailed article below.)*

## Robin Lung's "Finding KUKAN"

by Geraldine (Gigi) Ko

For the past six years, OCAW Hawaii Chapter member Robin Lung has been working on a documentary for PBS called "Finding KUKAN." This is about a Chinese woman from Hawaii, Li Ling-Ai, who along with cameraman Rey Scott, produced an Academy Award-winning epic about World War II China during the Japanese occupation, called "Kukan."

The theatrical release of *Kukan* in 1941 was timely. China was in the thick of its resistance to Japan, who had invaded Shanghai in 1937. In the U.S., affronts to Chinese were allowed by the status quo of the time, and adding to their tribulations was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that denied citizenship to Chinese, until its repeal in 1943.

*The New York Times* described the film as "awesome." It even caught the attention of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who viewed the film at a private screening at the White House.

Ever since Robin first informed our membership about her documentary in February 2013, we were privileged to have followed her work in progress, and have applauded her efforts which all agreed were laudable and relevant, because China's story had to be told.

That the Academy Award was handed to cameraman Rey Scott while Li Ling-Ai was simply credited as Technical Adviser did not escape Robin. Were Li Ling-Ai's achievements downgraded because she was Chinese and female? Robin had to find out.

How was Robin able to track down this film and its two illustrious producers, when for decades it was officially categorized as a lost film? Her investigative journey of finding Li Ling-Ai and then "Finding KUKAN," turned out to be a fascinating detective story, with Robin as the unstoppable sleuth.

It all started with Robin's hero-worship of Lily Wu, the brilliant leading lady in four vintage mystery novels, the first fictional Chinese-American heroine to appear in print.

After discovering that Lily Wu was based on a real person from Hawaii, Robin was relentless in trying to find this woman, and she discovered the real-life firebrand, Li Ling-Ai. This woman did not disappoint. Robin found in her the definitive in ideal Chinese-American womanhood. Thus, when other young women wanted to be Julia Roberts, Robin wanted to be Li Ling-Ai.

Her next task of finding Li Ling-Ai's lost film *Kukan* was a mission impossible, but as Robin's husband said, "If Robin gets an idea in her head, she is like a pit bull on the leg of a lamb." Her extensive research led her to two of cameraman Rey Scott's four sons. One of them had a copy of *Kukan*.

On July 26, 2015, at the OCAW-Hawaii membership meeting, Robin presented an update on *Kukan*. She reported that in April, after nine months of negotiations, she had succeeded in transferring a full copy of the film to the Chongqing Research Center for the War of Resistance. *Kukan* had never been screened before in China, and the film created shock waves around the country 74 years after it originally was screened in America.

Robin further stated that *Kukan* brings an important piece of lost history back to China through its historic color footage. The arrival of *Kukan* in China also brought more attention to Li Ling-Ai, as well as the efforts of many overseas Chinese who fought valiantly to support China during World War II.



As word about Robin's documentary, "Finding KUKAN," spread, financial support increased, including grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cooke Family Foundation, and the Beatrice Young Foundation, a local Chinese woman's foundation headed by President Douglas Ho.

"Finding KUKAN" is expected to air on a national PBS television broadcast in 2016. Robin's film will be viewed at film festivals, museums, and college campuses across the country. Please contact Robin if you know of a community organization or festival that would be interested in screening "Finding KUKAN." She can be reached at: Robin@nestedeggproductions.com.

### **Hawaii Chapter Members**

*(Editor's Note: Rena Young Ochse also has provided additional information about individual Hawaii Chapter members. Please see "From and About Our Members.")*

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

#### **The Passing of Henry Gorin**

*(Editor's Note: Henry was the husband of longtime Virginia and Maryland Chapter member Dianna Gorin. Henry and Dianna had moved to North Carolina in 2013 upon Henry's retirement, but they often drove back up to the Washington area and remained active with chapter events. Henry was very recently diagnosed with a brain tumor and brain cancer and sadly passed away. Our condolences go out to Dianna and Henry's family and friends.*

*Here below are writings of several OCAW members – tributes which reflect many warm feelings for the Gorins.)*

#### ***From Donna Byler, Executive Director***

We will miss Henry Gorin. We all knew Henry... He accompanied Dianna at many OCAW events and often provided transportation to some of the OCAW sisters. He was very generous, kind, and funny. Losing him is like losing a brother. Henry had a sense of humor and enjoyed the company of husbands Steve Chang, Dick Roberts, Francis Pan, Norman Wei, Chen Shan, Tony Byler, and Hank Giaio before Hank and Grace Sams moved to California.

Henry was from New Jersey and went to college in Philadelphia. He retired from a longtime career as an architect with the federal government just before he and Dianna moved down to Charlotte, North Carolina just two years ago. He had purchased his big dream home with a large basement where he could enjoy his model train layout. During that time, Henry would drive him and Dianna to Northern Virginia and Maryland to visit family and friends and to attend OCAW events. At times he was the only gentleman present and generously treated all the ladies to lunch and/or dinner.

A few months ago, Henry began having memory lapses. On July 8, doctors removed a tumor and discovered brain cancer called Glioblastoma. He passed away peacefully the morning of August 13.

Dianna has been amazingly strong through the difficult days. She never once complained about the hospital trips, the paperwork, or errands.

***From Cathy Roberts, National Vice President for Membership***

I was very sad to hear of Henry's passing, and I am sure that all of OCAW's Virginia and Maryland Chapter members join me in offering our condolences to Dianna. Dianna has been a longtime OCAW member and Henry always supported her participation.

In April, despite Henry's back problem, Dianna and Henry drove seven hours from their new home to attend my surprise retirement party. I was truly surprised and touched by their thoughtfulness. They came back again for Veronica Li's book launch in May. Although they moved away, they kept in touch and still participated in OCAW's activities.

Henry will truly be missed.

***From Christina Chang, National President***

Henry Gorin, the husband of our longtime Virginia and Maryland Chapter member Dianna Gorin, passed away. He always came to the chapters' various activities. We will miss him greatly.

**From other Virginia and Maryland Chapter members:**

***From Madeleine Chen***

My son Patrick lives in Charlotte. I visited him along with my other son David and my nephew during the Christmas holidays in 2013. The four of us and Henry and Dianna had a wonderful dinner in a Chinese restaurant on that Christmas Eve. We were invited to Dianna and Henry's place and enjoyed their warm hospitality. It was a fine memory which I shall cherish always.

***From Clara Tan***

Henry often had been very kind to give me rides to our OCAW functions in Maryland, and I had enjoyed his and Dianna's company in their car. I was also grateful to them both for checking on my house while I was away in Singapore at one time. At Veronica Li's recent book-signing function, I was chatting very happily with Henry.

I will always remember Henry's kindness and humor as well. I was fascinated by his hobby of toy train sets which I saw at his home in Virginia.

It is truly sad and regrettable that we will not be able to see Henry anymore. Yes, we shall miss Henry greatly; he was a true gentleman. He will always be in our hearts. Deep in my thoughts and sincere condolences!

***From Grace Sams***

Henry was an intelligent and funny man who used to crack hilarious jokes. My husband Hank always used to sit with him and laugh at his jokes at OCAW functions.

We are so sad to hear of this loss.



*From Susan Young*

I just met Henry this May during Veronica Li's book launch. He was such a sweet and wonderful person. He will be missed greatly.

*From Mimi Hom*

I was sorry to hear the news of Henry's passing. I wanted to express my sincere condolences to Dianna.

*From Linda Devine*

I was sad to learn of Henry's passing, and was surprised because we had just seen him in April at Cathy Roberts' surprise retirement party. My sincerest condolences go out to Dianna, and hopefully she knows she has the strong support of her OCAW sisters.

**Letter from Dianna Gorin**

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank our members from the Maryland and Virginia Chapters who sent emails and sympathy cards to me after Henry, my husband, passed away from Glioblastoma, a deadly brain cancer.

The hospital removed a tumor from his brain, then found out he had this cancer.

I think he is in a better place now instead of being confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak or communicate.

There are no words to express how much I appreciated everyone's condolences and support.

Thank you again,

Dianna Gorin

\* \* \* \* \*

On a brighter note...

**From Puanani Woo, former Hawaii Chapter member**

Puanani writes that she was very pleasantly surprised to see the following announcement of an informational community engagement event for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander employers and business leaders held in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, on The Big Island where she lives. The event took place on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. She was pleased to learn of this White House Initiative.

**“THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS  
HAWAII REGIONAL NETWORK**

**Overcoming Obstacles and Creating Opportunities for Sustainable Employment  
in our Island Communities**

Please join the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Hawaii Regional Network for an informational community engagement event for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander employers and business leaders that will focus on creating opportunities to build sustainable workforces. The event will focus on addressing common barriers to employment through break-out sessions that will focus on developing affordable and safe worker housing options; addressing safe and dependable transportation; promoting economic development and workforce employment opportunities; workforce training; understanding state and federal labor standards and equal employment opportunity requirements; and financial literacy and education.

The session will include opportunity for discussion and problem-solving with federal, state, and county officials from the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, State Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, Hawaii County Housing Department, Hawaii County Financial Literacy Program, and Hawaii County Department of Transportation.”

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OCAW member Jeanie Jew was credited with initiating efforts which led in 1979 to the passage of **Asia/Pacific American Heritage Week**. This evolved into the month of May being proclaimed as **Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month**. Details of these actions are described in [The History of the Organization of Chinese American Women](#). The name of this month has since been changed by Congress to **Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month**. Puanani is very proud to see the efforts of Asian Americans developing into recognition of these contributing members of Society.

For more information on the White House Initiative Regional Network, refer to this link:  
<http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/aapi/rn/>

### **About Roberta Wong Leung, Hawaii Chapter member**

*(from Rena Young Ochse)*



The Hawaii Chapter welcomes back Dr. Roberta Wong Leung who has returned to Hawaii after 12 years in China. Roberta, a member in 2003, has returned home to Honolulu with her husband, Aldrin Leung, who was the General Manager for the Salisbury Hotel (YMCA) in Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Roberta has more than 40 years of experience in the hospitality industry; her dual achievements have been in academia and in the industry. She has managed restaurants and hotels, and has held senior positions with a number of international hotel chains in the U.S., Hong Kong, and Australia, including the Inter-Continental, Regent International, Radisson, and Westin Hotels. After obtaining her M.B.A., she moved into academia, earning her D.B.A. and occupying positions in Singapore, Hawaii, Hong Kong, and China, rising to Professor and Dean for a School of Hotel and Tourism Management.

**About Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Hawaii Chapter member**

*(from Rena Young Ochse)*

As President of the Chinatown Business and Community Association, Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock has enhanced Honolulu's Chinatown with public toilets. They are located at 126 Pauahi Street and are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 7 days a week. Bathrooms are keyed, clean, and safe.

Chu Lan also is President of the Singapore Club of Hawaii, which celebrated its 50th anniversary. She is very active with the Chinatown community and with numerous other organizations. She is President of the U.S. China Peoples Friendship Association, Hawaii Chapter and a board member of the Hawaii Chinese Civic Association.

**About Blossom Y. Tyau and Sharon Pang, Hawaii Chapter members**

*(from Rena Young Ochse)*

The Hawaii Chinese Civic Association will be holding its annual fundraiser, "Mandarin Ball," on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at the Hawaii Prince Hotel in Honolulu. The Mandarin Award winner this year is **Blossom Y. Tyau**, OCAW Hawaii Chapter member and Parliamentarian.

The Chairperson for this event is **Sharon Pang**, OCAW Hawaii Chapter member.

The mission statement of HCCA is to perpetuate the Chinese culture, and its objectives and purposes are to encourage its members to exercise more fully their prerogatives of American citizenship; to foster civic progress in the communities where its members reside; and to cultivate, encourage, and promote education, charity, benevolence, fraternity, tolerance, and goodwill.

**About Hawaii Chapter members**

*(from Rena Young Ochse)*

Congratulations to the following Hawaii Chapter members who are taking positions in other organizations:

Linda Y.N. Young – President, Honolulu Business and Professional Women's Club  
Rena Young Ochse – Vice President, Honolulu Business and Professional Women's Club  
Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock – President, U.S. China Peoples Friendship Association, Hawaii Chapter  
Rena Young Ochse – Recording Secretary, U.S. China Peoples Friendship Association, Hawaii Chapter  
Gladys K. Lee – President, Palolo Chinese Home Auxiliary



**From Elizabeth Chung, Maryland Chapter member**

Dear OCAW members:

Greetings from Frederick, Maryland.

I would like to share with you information about our upcoming 8th Annual Frederick Community Health Fair at the Frederick Fairground (E-ventplex) on Saturday, October 24, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Last year, we served 1527 people with about 250 volunteers. This year we are expecting 1800 attendees.

I am asking for help in promoting this event particularly to uninsured or underinsured families. All services – including flu shots as well as glucose, cholesterol, bone density, and Hepatitis B/C screening, and much more – are free. But what sets us apart from other community health fairs is that we follow up with our clients as necessary until it is a “warm hands-off.” Our clients will receive access to care as needed, with or without insurance. **We have helped uninsured Chinese individuals with life-saving treatment for cancer.**

We also need interpreters in all languages. Interpreters will receive all free services as well.

This year, my agency, **Asian American Center of Frederick**, received funding for FREE doctor visits and mammograms for those who are underinsured or uninsured.

Please spread the word for us about the FREE Health Fair. This is not a funded program, so we appreciate sponsorships and donations as well.

Please feel free to contact me at: [echung@aacfmd.org](mailto:echung@aacfmd.org), if you have further questions, if you would like information about sponsorships and tax-deductible donations, and/or if you or your family or friends would like to pre-register.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Chung

**Chinese Lantern Festival (Part I)**

**by Linda Devine**

*(Editor's Note: This summer, as usual, my husband Ed and I attended the annual national caving convention, held this year in central Missouri. (For 35 years, I explored and mapped caves, including on two expeditions to the mountains of Jamaica, and I served as an officer and/or board member for several local, regional, and national caving organizations. My husband Ed continues to cave.) While there, we took advantage of being in the "Show-Me" State to enjoy several other wonderful sights, including the world-famous Gateway Arch (a stunning, architectural wonder), the Saint Louis Art Museum (an excellent compact version of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City), and the outstanding Missouri Botanical Garden.)*

On Friday, July 17, 2015, my husband Ed and I enjoyed a wonderfully fulfilling visit to the renowned Missouri Botanical Garden, located in St. Louis, Missouri. Founded in 1859 by Henry Shaw, it is the oldest botanical garden in continuous operation in the United States, and is one of the few gardens to achieve National Historic Landmark status. It also serves as a place for research, conservation, and learning.

Well laid out and comprising a comprehensive variety of trees, plants, and flowers exhibited in various areas – including an extensive English Woodland Garden; a picturesque Chinese Garden; an impeccably executed Japanese Garden; the unique, award-winning Climatron greenhouse with tropical plants and trees; and many

other gardens – the grounds were inspiring and occupied us for hours.

But that was only the half of it! The Garden featured a famous Chinese Lantern Festival which ran from May to August and was the delight of thousands of visitors every night. A longtime Missouri caver friend of mine *insisted* that Ed and I attend the show – presumably as an acknowledgment of my ancestral heritage? – and she obtained discount tickets for us through her Garden membership. We returned to the Garden that evening for a delightful second part of our visit.

The evening began with a show by the **LFC Chinese Acrobatic Performance Troupe**. The young performers were dazzling as they adroitly demonstrated their athletic ability, flexibility, and strength. The troupe wowed the crowds with their skills of balance, juggling, and acrobatic feats, such as twirling multiple dishes on top of bamboo poles while doing forward rolls. One strong performer lay on his back and used his feet to repeatedly toss another teammate high into the air and caught him in several different positions. We came back for a second show which featured a slightly varied program which was equally impressive.

Then, as darkness began to fall, the lights from large, colorful lantern displays were lit, and their brilliance was accentuated against the night sky. It was fun to follow the paths through the Garden to see all the magnificent exhibits.

The following are photos taken of a few of the displays. Because of space considerations in this issue, I will print other pictures and describe more about the Festival itself in the next e-newsletter.



Sun Yatsen Gate

The photo above shows one of 22 lantern displays that were part of the Festival. It was at the entrance to the Botanical Garden and announced the event.

As for the display itself, stone archways are an important type of architecture among Han Chinese traditional constructions. They were often built in ancient Chinese society to recognize meritorious service and other achievements, as well as excellence and high character traits. A stone arch can also function as part of a mausoleum, and in this case it represented the memorial archway to the mausoleum of Sun Yatsen. The mausoleum is located just east of Nanjing, which is St. Louis' Chinese sister city.



Double Ninth Festival

Held on the 9th day of the 9th lunar month, the Chongyang Festival is also called the Double Ninth Festival. The Festival celebrates chrysanthemums. China boasts diversified species of this flower, and people have loved them since ancient times, so enjoying the flowering chrysanthemum is a key activity of this festival. People will drink chrysanthemum tea or wine, and women may put chrysanthemums in their hair or hang them in windows or doors to ward off evil.

More recently, the Chongyang Festival has been designated as Seniors' Day and is set aside as a day to respect elders and for families to visit ancestral graves.





Chrysanthemum Pathway

There are about 37 species of chrysanthemum, with 22 species known from China. Of those, 13 species are endemic (known only from China).

Many literati from ancient China associated this flower with longevity.



Year of the Sheep

The Year of the Sheep heralds a year of promise and prosperity.

Dandelions and Pandas  
(close-up of some of the pandas)



Flower Fairies

In ancient Chinese legends, the Flower Fairy oversees all the flowers of the earth.



Phoenix Reborn



The classical phoenix of Greece and Rome embodied renewal. Some Chinese traditions claim that the Chinese phoenix, or fenghuang, appears in good times or at the beginning of a new era.

In this display, there was smoke which exuded from the phoenix's mouth, as can be seen in the upper photo.

*(Photos taken by Ed Devine)*

*(Editor's Note: Material in the display descriptions above was taken from the "Lantern Festival: Magic Reimagined" Guide.)*

## **SUP**

**by Camilla Ng**

*(Editor's Note: Camilla is a member of the OCAW Maryland Chapter.)*

***"Eh..., what's SUP, Doc?"***



*(Bugs Bunny from Warner Bros.' Looney Tunes)*

What's SUP? It is an abbreviation for "Stand Up Paddle Boarding." SUP is exciting and is the fastest growing water sport in the world. It promotes balance, core strength, and fitness. The first time I saw SUP was ten years ago when I was in Hilo, Hawaii. I was on the Big Island for a two-week-long field trip on the Geology of Hawaii. My hotel room overlooked Hilo Bay. While surveying the panoramic view from my hotel balcony one afternoon, I saw several people standing on surfboards paddling with long-staffed paddles, gliding on peaceful water into the sunset glow. I fell in love with SUP at first sight. However it was not until ten years later, last September, when SUP finally made its way to the Washington area, that I experienced the joy of "walking on water."

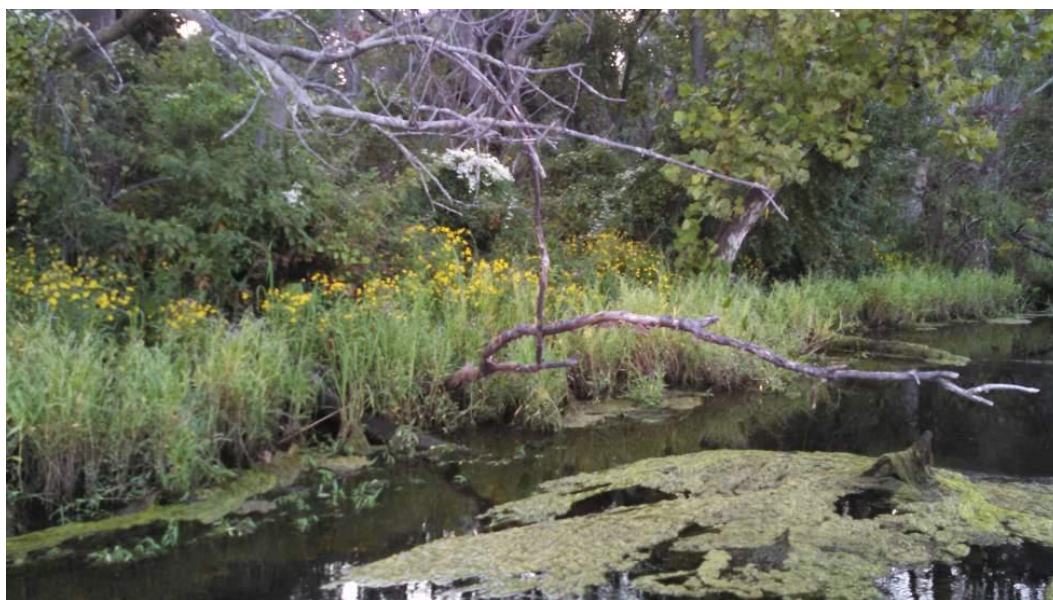
My first trial on a SUP board was at Pohick Bay Regional Park in Northern Virginia. The minute my feet touched the board, it was as if I were born on it or my feet sprouted webs. It is amazing how the body quickly processes and adapts to the new sensations of the water environment and balance. The body engages all the senses and muscles in the feet, the legs, and the core, and the next thing you know, you are in perfect balance, navigating, paddling, and enjoying the scenery. This adaptation to the SUP board takes just minutes for most people, much easier than riding a bicycle. SUP is a fun fitness activity that any age, shape, or body type can enjoy. It is a fun way to exercise outdoors that is low-impact but high in burning calories.

One popular place to SUP is on the Potomac River in Georgetown in Washington, D.C. Any day during the summer, you can see many people standup board paddling from Key Bridge south toward Roosevelt Island and Georgetown Harbor, or north toward the Three Sisters Islands. Paddling there gives you a very different appreciation of the beauty of Key Bridge and D.C.



Camilla Ng on the Potomac River at Key Bridge, which connects Georgetown in Washington, D.C., with Rosslyn, Virginia, in the background

Another of my favorite SUP places is Pohick Bay Regional Park in Northern Virginia, just 25 miles south of the nation's capital on the Gunston Cove, an inlet of the Potomac River. Located on Mason Neck Peninsula,



Pohick Bay in Northern Virginia

*(Photo by Camilla Ng)*



the bayside park is an ecologically fragile woodland and wetlands that shelters an abundance of wildlife, including the bald eagle. You can also expect to see bluebirds, ospreys, herons, deer, beavers, and rare sightings of river otters. Pohick Bay offers SUP morning, sunset, and blue moon nature tours.



Robert, Stella, Camilla, and Amy. This was Camilla's friends' first SUP at Pohick Bay.

*(Photo by David Garcia, Northern Virginia Regional Parks)*

This past July, I joined a group of nature-loving paddlers for the Blue Moon tour. We didn't start out until the blue moon was rising from the horizon and a shooting star streaked down to the horizon. As we paddled into the Gunston Cove marsh, the chorus of frogs got louder and louder. We saw ospreys at seasonal duck blinds and eagles in trees. All the paddlers were given headlamps to wear so the naturalist guide could spot-count us. The sky never got dark under the illumination of the full moon.

Halfway into the tour, we made a land break. The park staff had set up chairs around a campfire, complete with s'mores fixings for the paddlers. One of the park staff played the guitar softly. Then I realized, this is what I missed out on in my youth. We were new immigrants to this country when I was in my teens, and we did not have the luxury of being sent to camp that all the other kids talked about. However, it is never too late



to nurture the inner child. We enjoyed the American ritual of roasting a marshmallow on a long stick, then sandwiching it between two graham crackers and a piece of chocolate. Gooey, sweet, and crunchy, it was a delightful treat. We returned to our SUPs reluctantly as the moon rose higher, and paddled back to the cove where we started. A SUP nature tour – I cannot think of a better way to exercise, enjoy nature, and party at the same time!



Blue Moon tour

*(Photo by David Garcia)*

If you would like to try out SUP, the park naturalist at Pohick Bay offers free lessons throughout the summer. Pohick Bay is a great place to try out this new sport.



Best kept secret: David Garcia, naturalist for the Northern Virginia Regional Parks, offers \*FREE\* SUP lessons in the summer at Pohick Bay. He also leads SUP nature tours.