

E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

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(from Linda Devine, Editor)

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break! As always, thank you to those who submitted material for the e-newsletter, and to my husband Ed for his photo preparation work. I also continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles for the publication if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership.

Please feel free to send me any suggestions or recommendations that you might have for any aspects of the e-newsletter. My email address is: devinefive@comcast.net.

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News from the Maryland Chapter

New Maryland Chapter President

The Maryland Chapter welcomes **Ping Zhu**, a new lifetime member, as the new President of the Maryland Chapter. She was nominated for this position by Christina Wong Poy based on her involvement in the Asian Pacific American community (i.e., Chinese American Chamber of Commerce Greater Washington) and her willingness to organize new activities and programs for OCAW. Ping says that she looks forward to working with everyone, and she hopes to continue to make the Maryland Chapter great!

The Chapter again wishes to thank **Maria Yang** for serving as Acting President of the chapter in the interim.

A heartfelt thank-you to **Susan Young**, who has served as Maryland Chapter Secretary for the past five years, and who is now stepping down. Susan's excellent work in this position is much appreciated, and as a permanent chapter president was absent for an extended time, Susan had to take on much more responsibility and serve as a liaison with OCAW National in addition to her other tasks.

Christina Wong Poy has been our steadfast Treasurer for many years, and we are grateful to her for being willing to continue in that role.

We welcome other chapter members to step up and serve on the Maryland Board. We would appreciate your service!

Tyrus Film Screening

(Editor's Note: Kitty Hsu Dana is a lifetime Maryland Chapter member whose comprehensive article below captures the life of artist Tyrus Wong and the documentary film about him which was screened in the Washington, D.C. area in June 2017. Many OCAW Maryland Chapter members were in attendance at the event.

AARP was a major sponsor of the film. Before the screening, Daphne Kwok, Vice President of Multicultural Leadership for Asian American and Pacific Islander Audiences at AARP, hosted a lovely reception on behalf of AARP in honor of Tyrus writer/director/producer Pamela Tom. It was held at the Hollywood East Café in Wheaton, Maryland. Attendees appreciated the delicious and generous dinner.



Daphne Kwok welcoming guests at AARP's reception held prior to the screening

(Photo taken by Camilla Ng)

Sean Lee and Maryland Chapter Past President Camilla Ng were among those whose hard work resulted in the successful evening. Camilla had attended the Tyrus Wong exhibition, “Water to Paint – Paint to Sky,” at the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco, CA, on its opening night, August 15, 2013. She was touched and inspired by Tyrus and his work. The Maryland Chapter’s end-of-year dinner in 2013 raised funds at that time and donated them to the film’s production. See the February 2014 OCAW E-Newsletter for Camilla’s photos of Tyrus’ work taken at the Disney Museum.)

Tyrus Wong: The Film, A Life, His Legacy, Our History

by Kitty Hsu Dana

A 16-year labor of love and reverence by its filmmaker, *Tyrus* came to the Washington region as summer commenced. I attended the June 21st screening with a gaggle of friends, to see the documentary and to hear from director Pamela Tom. A large and enthusiastic crowd greeted the film at the beautiful AFI Silver Theatre in Silver Spring, Maryland, that evening.



(Photo taken by Bruce Guthrie ©)

The Film, A Life

Tyrus is the story of an extraordinary man’s artistic passion, ceaseless inspiration, and prolific creation over a century of life. It is also a love story about his life with his wife Ruth and their three daughters, who he hailed as “my proudest achievements.” One of the most celebrated Chinese American artists of the 20th century, Tyrus Wong was a painter, motion picture illustrator, muralist, ceramicist, and maker (and flyer!) of amazing kites.

The film also told the history of what it was like to be Chinese American across his century of life. As a nine-year-old stranded alone at Angel Island outside San Francisco, he endured difficult interrogations that sought to keep Chinese immigrants out as part of the Chinese Exclusion Act. After being reunited with his father, Tyrus was first taught art with calligraphy by him, using just water on newspapers. Due to a teacher who noticed his talent, some scholarship, money scraped together by his father, and working as a janitor during off hours, Tyrus was able to attend the Otis College of Art and Design for five years.

From the mid-thirties throughout the late sixties, Tyrus painted murals for the Works Progress Administration, became the inspirational artist on Disney's animated classic *Bambi*, and illustrated hundreds of live action films for Warner Bros. He and other Asian American artists were part of the "California Orientalists," a movement that shaped California modern art, but which dissolved with World War II and the internment of Japanese Americans. Later in his career Tyrus painted elegant art on ceramics, designed Hallmark cards for a living, and made breathtaking kites. He was well into his 90s and 100s before he was fully recognized with retrospectives at the inaugural exhibition of the Chinese-American Museum (CAM) in Los Angeles, the Walt Disney Family Museum (WDFM) in San Francisco, and the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) in New York City.

Tyrus Wong passed away in December 2016 – at the age of 106. He created art with joy well into his last years.

His Legacy, Our History

During his time with Hollywood Studios, Tyrus played a defining role in the look and style of many movies. He created the haunting look for *Bambi*, inspired by landscape paintings of the Song Dynasty. He had a major influence on other movie classics, including *Rebel Without a Cause*, *The Wild Bunch*, *Harper*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, and *The Sands of Iwo Jima*. Much more than the set, Tyrus inspired the design of the entire movie – its atmosphere, and even the music and special effects.

Yet he endured racial slurs from co-workers, and did not receive the deserved level of recognition at the time. After working for Disney through a bitter strike, he was one of the first to be fired after the strike ended. And Tyrus and his wife were repeatedly discriminated against when they tried to buy a house in southern California.

In today's backlash and racial polarization, *Tyrus* is a reminder that over the long trajectory of the last 100 years in this country, so much has not changed even as a great deal has. To learn is to know, to remember, to celebrate, as well as to confront issues Chinese Americans faced a hundred years back, and many that we must reckon with today.

Accolades for the Film

Following the June 21st screening, the audience engaged in an animated Q&A with writer, director, and producer Pamela Tom and producer Gwen Wynne. They exuded evident love of their protagonist and respect for his work. The film in the making for 16 years, Pam was driven to tell the story about the person, the artist, and the places over a long trajectory of time.



Q&A after the screening with Pamela Tom, Writer/Director/Producer; Todd Hitchcock, Programming Director, AFI Silver Theatre; and Gwen Wynne, Producer

(Photo taken by Bruce Guthrie ©)

I saw the film with many artists. They were uniformly amazed at what a great artist Tyrus was, and how prolific he was in so many different media. We saw beautiful shots of Tyrus' work, some of which (e.g., the landscapes, the colorful dragon kites) took our breath away. It was fun to see footage of many old films, to recognize the influence of his illustrations on the movies – and Tyrus' enduring impact. We would have missed *Tyrus* if OCAW hadn't brought it to our attention.

And so it's fitting to conclude with comments from Camilla Ng, Maryland Chapter Past President, who was instrumental in bringing the film to the D.C. area:

When I went to see the Tyrus exhibit four years ago at the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco and had a chance to meet Tyrus there, I was so impressed that I wanted to share his work with the D.C. area Chinese Americans. It was of great satisfaction to see the appreciation of Tyrus and of the film expressed by the audience last night. Tyrus Wong's name is now known, not just locally in Los Angeles. We need to showcase inspiration in our community and be proud of one of our own, whatever chance we have. Pam did a beautiful job.

Endnote: *Tyrus* premiered on PBS's Emmy award-winning series, *American Masters*, on Friday, September 8. To learn more: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/tyrus-about-the-film/8917/>

The film became available for streaming on September 9, and will be available for the following 30 days: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/>

Tell friends and family. Organize a film screening and discussion. Prepare to enjoy, be moved, and be inspired!



Gwen Wynne, Producer; Pamela Tom, Writer/Director/Producer; Veronica Segovia, Senior Advisor, Multicultural Leadership, AARP; Jeannette Kwok; and Daphne Kwok, Vice President of Multicultural Leadership for Asian American and Pacific Islander Audiences, AARP

(Photo taken by Bruce Guthrie ©)

Editor's Note: OCAW would like to thank Natasha Padilla for the following additional information:

Streaming:

pbs.org/americanmasters and PBS OTT apps

Photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cxpj2qoj1e6k0zi/AACVKdyUCf6vvjFE8b113weSa?dl=0>

News from the Virginia Chapter

(from Chi-Hua Yang, President)

Annual Picnic

The OCAW Virginia Chapter held a picnic on Sunday, June 25, 2017, at Nottoway Park in Vienna, Virginia. The weather was perfect – beautiful and sunny. Approximately 30 people were in attendance, including chapter members and their families. Picnic organizers were Chi-Hua Yang, Alice Yee Way, and Cathy Roberts.

This was also a gathering to inaugurate new Virginia Chapter officers.

Agenda:

1. A happy gathering to enjoy summer fun and food

Maria Yang made a new OCAW banner (in blue) which was very nice and professional.



(Photo taken by Chi-Hua Yang)

2. Mingling with old and new members

We got two new members to register at this event, and we are happy that they have joined us.



(Photo taken by Chi-Hua Yang)

3. Recognition of prior OCAW-VA officers

We thanked Maria Yang for her dedication and service for the last three years as President of the Virginia Chapter. She did tremendous work to hold annual events.

4. Announcement of new OCAW-VA officers for 2017/2018:

President: Chi-Hua Yang
Vice President: Alice Yee Way
Secretary: Noreen Hom
Treasurer: Cathy Roberts

Inauguration of new OCAW-VA officers by National President Christina Chang





Maria Yang, Immediate Past President; Cathy Roberts, Treasurer; Alice Yee Way, Vice President; Chi-Hua Yang, President; and Christina Chang, National President

(Above Inauguration photos taken by James Wong)

5. Discussion of 2017/2018 OCAW-VA goals and objectives with members

New members from health services introduced Medicare application assistance and long-term care insurance.

Chi-Hua Yang and Glen Schwartz provided grill meat, and James Wong and Glen set up the grill and cooked hamburgers, hot dogs, and Korean BBQ chicken. Several members provided home-style cooking, such as Christina Chang's cold sesame noodles. Jane Pan brought her famous red bean soup and salad, and her sister-in-law made delicious chive buns. Veronica Li and Maria Yang brought fruit, and Cathy and Dick Roberts provided chef salad. Alice Yee Way provided a lot of the other food, and we appreciated others' culinary contributions as well.

Activities were line dancing and a Taiji Demonstration by Camilla Ng.



Taiji Demonstration by Camilla Ng

(Photo taken by Chi-Hua Yang)

Everyone had a great time, and Chi-Hua would like to thank all of those who participated and brought delicious food.

News from the New Orleans Chapter

The Silver Liners

(from Mayling Hew)

Our dance group, the “Silver Liners,” performed at the Jefferson Parish Senior Citizens Dance Gala on Friday, August 18, 2017, at the John Alario Event Center. This is an annual event organized by the Jefferson Parish Department of Citizen Affairs for Senior Citizens.

OCAW New Orleans Chapter members Li Lee Chen, Nancy Chung, and Mayling Hew danced and were led by Laura Mohajerin. Other chapter members Betty Butz and Yvonne Louie attended the event. The Silver Liners perform every Tuesday at different senior living centers, nursing homes, and healthcare centers, hoping to bring a little sunshine and joy to the elderly.





(The following information is from Patricia Hew Ellzey, President)

Relationship with the Asian Pacific American Society

The New Orleans Chapter works closely with the local Asian Community network known as the Asian Pacific American Society (APAS) throughout the year. This fall APAS will sponsor the First Annual Mid-Autumn Festival across the Mississippi River on the West Bank where many Asian Americans live who may not regularly attend events on the more populous East Bank. This will be a great service to those on this side of the river.

On Saturday, November 11, 2017, the Annual Fundraising Gala will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel where the Annual Frank Hara Outstanding Community Leaders will be recognized and honored. President Pat Ellzey received this award for our Chinese community last year (*see photo below*). Also, the Annual Ms. APAS Fundraising Contest will be held. A Representative from each Asian Ethnic group will select a lady who will help along with her ethnic group to raise funds. The rep who raises the most funds is declared the winner and will represent APAS during all of its activities for the next year. In addition, to generate more interest and entertainment and to attract younger Asian Americans as well, a new dance competition will be held. There will be cash prizes given to the winners in the various categories.



The Annual Christmas Children's Party will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Lafreniere Park in Metairie, LA. This is a time for all the Asian American children and their friends to come and enjoy an outing with lots of games and costumes of Asian origins, which helps educate these children about Asian culture. This is a free event with refreshments.

Relationship with the Chinese Presbyterian Church

The New Orleans Chapter also works closely with the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, LA, and their activities, such as the "Silver Liners" dance group mentioned above. Along with OCAW member Jeanette Hew, chapter member Mayling Hew coordinates the Senior Panda Club meetings every first and third

Thursdays of the month where movies are shown, easy exercises are encouraged, games are played, occasional field trips are sponsored, and lunch is provided. On Thursday, November 2, 2017, a field trip is being organized either to a plantation or to a swamp tour.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings

OCAW meetings are being planned for September and November. The dates will be announced soon. Guest speakers are being contacted on various topics such as Asian flower arranging, local Chinese American history, recognizing Chinese American military veterans, etc. In November, the guest speaker will be Cuilan Lee, a professional cosmetologist who teaches at a local beauty school. She will speak and give a demonstration on Skin Care.

Hurricane Harvey

At our September meeting chaired by Vice President Lihua Zhang, our chapter will discuss the possibility of working with Houston friends to identify Chinese individuals and families in the Houston area in need of financial assistance from the destruction of Hurricane Harvey, and raising funds to aid them.

Perhaps OCAW National and other OCAW Chapters would like to consider this worthy idea as well. Please contact President Pat Ellzey to follow up on this potential project.

News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(from Sophia Yang, President)

Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center Open House

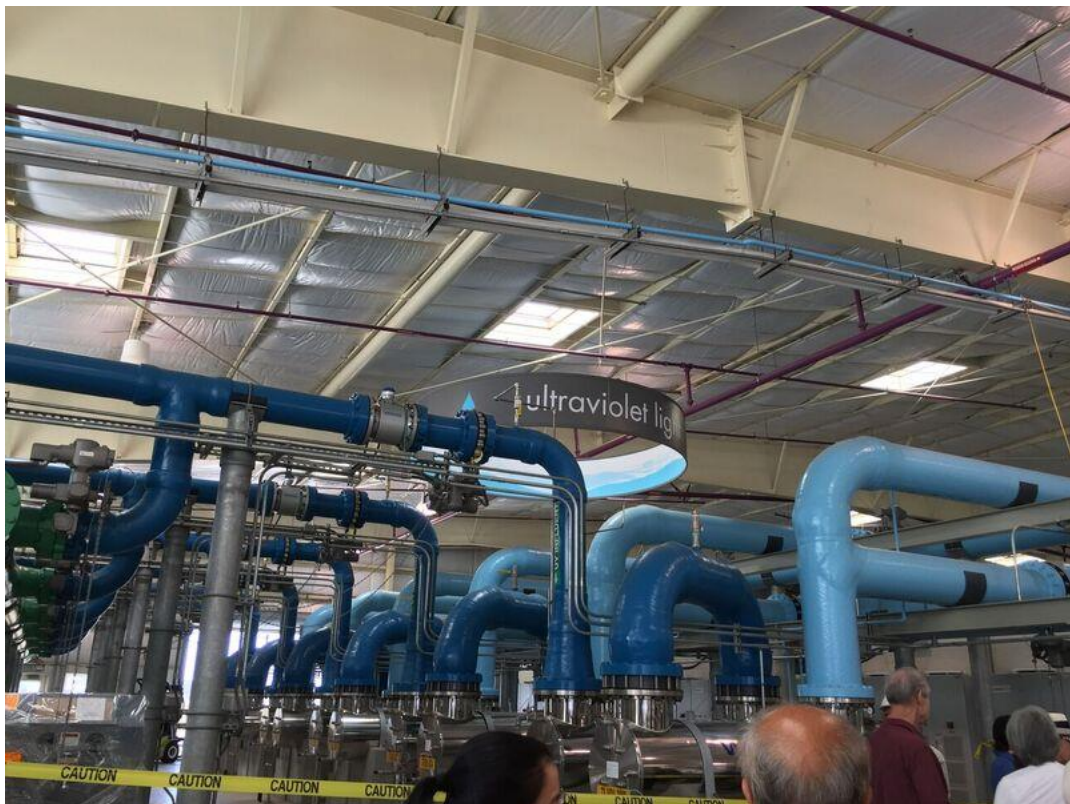
On Saturday, July 15, 2017, the Santa Clara Valley Water District hosted the first Asian-American Community Day/Open House at the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center in San Jose, California. Our SVC officer, Nai Hsueh, serves as a Director on the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board, and she brought this event to our attention and invited our members to visit the Water Purification Center. The center is located at 4190 Zanker Road in San Jose and is the largest advanced water purification plant in Northern California.

From the tour, we learned that this center was built in 2013, and uses the high-tech purification processes of Microfiltration, Reverse Osmosis, and Ultraviolet Light to produce highly purified water. Water produced at the center is up to 8 million gallons a day and is expected to match California primary drinking water standards.

Currently, purified water from this center will be blended with existing recycled water so that it can be used for more irrigation and industrial applications, and will be potentially expanding Silicon Valley's future drinking water supplies.

At the end of the tour, everyone was encouraged to sample a 6-ounce glass of treated water, and patrons walked away with a better understanding of the water's treatment and purification processes.







Annual Officers Installation and Youth Achievement Awards Presentation

On Sunday, July 30, 2017, we held a members' luncheon at Hong Fu Chinese Restaurant in Cupertino, California.

Afterward, we had the 2017-2018 officers installation and youth achievement awards presentation. Sophia Yang came back to serve as Chapter President this year. Three new members joined to be officers. Wenmei Tai and Wendy Chang are the Vice Presidents, and Annie Chang is our new Secretary. We welcome the new faces. We are very excited to have them bring in new energy to our group.

This year's five youth achievement award recipients were: Angela Lee, Kory Yang, Carolyn Chen, Jocelyn Chen, and Aileen Zhang.



Carol Yuan, Youth Achievement Award recipients, and Sophia Yang

Outgoing President Carol Yuan gave a presentation to introduce the history of OCAW, and our connection with OCAW National.

Sophia presented a slide show of SVC's trip to Washington, D.C. this past spring for OCAW's 40th Anniversary Celebration: National Conference and Reunion. This was a good opportunity to show members from other Chapters.

It was a wonderful event that all enjoyed.



Carol Yuan, outgoing SVC President, and Sophia Yang, incoming President



Alzheimer's Association Workshop

On Sunday, August 20, 2017, we hosted a workshop sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapter, Chinese Branch. The topic was "10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease."

Ms. Peining Chang introduced the list of warning signs for Alzheimer's:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work, or at leisure
4. Confusion with time or place
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
8. Decreased or poor judgement
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities
10. Changes in mood and personality





She also concluded that early diagnosis gives the patient a chance to seek treatment and plan for his/her future.

This event was held at the Berryessa Branch Library, located in the northern part of Silicon Valley. The turnout was quite good. We successfully reached out to the community a little farther away from the region where we have usually been active. This extended outreach is one of our current goals.

Upcoming Events

We will be active once again with the Mid-Autumn Festival at the Saratoga History Museum on Sunday, October 1, 2017.

We plan to support the annual “Walk to End Alzheimer’s in San Jose” on Saturday, October 14, 2017. The team has been formed.

Prior to the Walk, we will have a fundraiser for our team, which will be a party in which we will sing Karaoke and play Mahjong. This event provides the opportunity for those who cannot join in the Walk to show support for our team and the worthy cause. It also creates another chance for us to hang out with each other and enjoy some food!

News from the Hawaii Chapter

General Membership Meeting

(from Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, President, and Rena Young Ochse, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor)

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter held a General Membership Meeting at the Maple Garden Restaurant in Honolulu on Sunday, July 16, 2017.

Our speaker was Suzanne Chun Oakland, Program Coordinator for the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center. She talked about the Center which provides education, health promotion, recreation, social services, and cultural activities for seniors, 60 and older. It is a program of Catholic Charities Hawai’i and is funded by the State through the Department of Health/Executive Office on Aging (EOA) through contracts with EOA and the City and County of Honolulu/Elderly Affairs Division. Suzanne served in the Hawaii State Legislature for 26 years, and continues to be active with numerous boards, task forces, working groups, and community service organizations.



At our meeting, we also heard from Robin Lung, award-winning filmmaker of “Finding Kukan”; Taylour Chang, Director of the Honolulu Museum of Art; and Vera Zambonelli, Executive Director of Hawaii Women in Filmmaking. They talked about the challenges of women making films and how important it is for women to support their efforts.

Filmmaking Scholarships and “Finding Kukan”

(from Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock)

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter will be awarding filmmaking scholarships to women in Hawaii. We will be sponsoring the screening of “Finding Kukan” in March 2018 in conjunction with Women in Filmmaking Month at the Doris Duke Theatre at the Honolulu Museum of Art (HMA). The HMA will announce this in its newsletter to thousands of its members. This will be wonderful publicity for OCAW-Hawaii and what OCAW does – women helping women across the land in all facets of life.

Upcoming Events

(from Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock and Rena Young Ochse)

Our next General Membership Meeting will be on Sunday, October 22, 2017, which will have the election of new officers for 2018.

Our Christmas Installation and Holiday Party will be on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at the Oahu Country Club.

In Memory: Yun Soong Jim

(from Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock)

Mrs. Yun Soong Jim passed away on July 27, 2017, at age 97. She was an outstanding science teacher at McKinley High School. She was married to Dr. Vernon Jim for 73 years. They had 4 daughters, 8 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

They were both very active in local affairs and involved in many organizations’ affairs, like the Associated Chinese University Women (ACUW) and the OCAW Hawaii Chapter. Regarding the latter, Mrs. Jim served as OCAW Hawaii Chapter President from 1997 to 1998.

She was the only woman to win the United Chinese Society’s Chinese Model Citizen of the Year award, and she also won the Chinese Model Mother of the Year Award. She was Science Teacher of the Year and Teacher of the Year as well.

We will miss her sweet smile and gentleness. She was an admired woman with remarkable accomplishments and a great role model.



News from the Kohala Hawaii Chapter

August 31, 2017

Dear OCAW Sisters:

Please enjoy this photo of a curtain I made from the banner Maria Yang prepared for our *intended* Kohala Hawaii OCAW Chapter that was displayed at OCAW's 40th Anniversary celebration this past April 1, 2017 at Tysons Silverline Center in McLean, Virginia.

The curtain hangs in my dedicated sewing room in my home because I've decided to give myself the pleasure of getting back to designing and sewing again, and therefore I'll be able to see that banner hanging proudly and looking beautiful every day for hours at a time. I love the message – 'when drinking water, remember the Source' – and especially to see it written in Chinese. It's a wise generic idea respected by many cultures, each in its own tongue.



(Photo taken by Marcy Davis)

In the 1980s I designed and sewed all of the dresses for my two daughters when they attended elementary grades. When they got to the 7th grade they decided they also wanted store-bought clothes like their friends, and so be it. During my 41 years of full-time employment in Hawaii's private and public school systems, I sewed all of my dresses for work. Then, I designed, sewed, and loved to wear *chemise*- and *tent-style* dresses. Today those names fall under '*loosely fitted outfits*.' Hawaii's *Hawaiian muumuus* are perfect dress-ups for me. Even when I was thin and shapely I never cared for dresses that showed my figure.

In closing, I want to inform all of you that I have chosen to withdraw as the Advisor for our *intended* Kohala Hawaii OCAW Chapter effective May/June 2017, and therefore that chapter is a done deal for me. I lovingly communicated my decision to the 5 remaining members and let them know that any one of them, anyone, can start an OCAW Chapter by following the procedures to do so.

I am a stickler for being administratively correct and I take responsibility for all shortfalls. I say '*intended*,' because since I initiated the Chapter in mid-October 2015 and worked to develop it with the wonderful initial 6 ladies, we had the following difficulties:

- 1) We did not fulfill **Section 10.4 Membership Dues, OCAW AMENDED BYLAWS, ARTICLE X, Chapters.**
- 2) I did not complete a **CHARTER FOR KOHALA HAWAII CHAPTER** and therefore referring to **ARTICLE X. FINANCE, Section 3**, I did not independently register for a tax-exempt number for our Chapter.

Sincerely yours,
Puanani Woo

From and About Our Members

International Women's Day article

(from Lily Lee Chen, former OCAW National President)

Lily was pleased and honored to be one of eight women featured in an article that appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* this past spring. It was titled, "On International Women's Day, here are 8 L.A. women you should know," and it was written by Jessica Roy on March 8, 2017. Lily was the only Asian American woman to be selected.



Lily Lee Chen pictured with Astronaut Sally K. Ride, who in 1983 became the first American woman in space and the first to orbit the Earth

The following is the portion of the article about Lily:

“Lily Lee Chen: Mayor of Monterey Park

In 1981, Lily Lee Chen ran for City Council in Monterey Park – and lost by 28 votes. The next year, she ran again, walking door to door every night for three months. She won. The next year, she became the mayor of Monterey Park. The first female Chinese American mayor in the United States, she went on to serve with the Democratic National Committee.”

(Editor’s Note: OCAW congratulates Lily for being selected for this article.)

About Camilla Ng, Maryland Chapter member and Past President

(from Cathy Roberts and Linda Devine)

Warmest congratulations to Camilla Ng who retired on July 3, 2017, from a long 40-year career in the Federal Government. Having attained a degree in geology, Camilla worked for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as an Energy Industry Analyst. She performed energy infrastructure analysis and national and regional infrastructure assessments.

For her extensive service, she was honored along with other longtime employees at a special ceremony hosted by the Chairman of FERC, who presented Camilla with a commemorative plaque for her dedication and many accomplishments.

(Editor’s Note: OCAW wishes Camilla well in retirement as she continues to pursue her many interests and activities.)

American Opera Idol 2017

(from Pat Ellzey, New Orleans Chapter President)

On Thursday, July 20, 2017, Pat Ellzey attended the annual American Opera Idol competition in Hartford, Connecticut, where ten inspiring, talented opera singers were chosen from a large group of applicants from around the U.S. These Finalists were introduced and each competed by singing an aria. Five Super Finalists were then selected by a panel of well-qualified and credentialed judges after the contestants performed.

Among the five Super Finalists chosen, a very talented Chinese soprano, Yulan Piao, won the honor of 3rd place. She is from northern China and is studying in New York City. Impressed by Yulan’s performance, Pat had spoken to Yulan to give her support and encouragement before her final performance, and later to congratulate her after she received her award.



Yulan Piao (second from left)

(Photo taken by Pat Ellzey)

2017 Hakka Conference

(from Pat Ellzey)

On Sunday, August 6, 2017, Pat Ellzey attended the 2017 Hakka Conference in Chinatown, New York. There were about 100 attendees who came from several places in the U.S. and Jamaica for the weekend event. Pat attended the Sunday workshop regarding the Hakka homes which were built like forts and were called Tulous.





The famous one is in southwest Fujian Province where UNESCO has deemed it an historic site. They were constructed between the 15th and 20th centuries over 120 km. There are 46 multi-storied earthen houses which housed up to 800 people each and were built for defense purposes.

The other Sunday workshop Pat attended was on finding Chinese Roots, especially for overseas Chinese who want to research family history and explore stories of ancestors without needing to speak or read Chinese. There is a DIY Research Tool for the Chinese Diaspora known as My China Roots' Online Roots Quest Experience and a group known as Friends of Roots, a California-based group which connects overseas Chinese with their Guangdong Province villages.

A promotional graphic for a workshop. At the top, there is a group photo of people. Below the photo is a red banner with the text "MY CHINA ROOTS" and the Chinese characters "中華家脈". The main text in the center reads "Tracing your Hakka Roots: The Online Roots Quest Experience". Below this, the name "Clotilde Mei Ling Yap" is listed, along with her email address "clotildeyap@mychinaroots.com" and website "www.mychinaroots.com". At the bottom, there are several smaller photos showing people in various settings, including a group of people sitting together and a group of people standing outdoors.

(Above photos taken by Pat Ellzey)



Robert Hew, Co-Presenter of the Chinese Roots presentation, and Pat Ellzey

2017 Total Solar Eclipse

(from Linda Devine)

Linda's family joined the millions of others in this country who viewed the Total Solar Eclipse on Monday, August 21, 2017. This was the first one that had spanned the United States from West coast to East coast since 1918. Her family had planned a three-day camping trip, and Linda, her husband Ed, her daughter Amanda, and her son Tommy drove the 1200-plus-mile round trip from Maryland to the western part of South Carolina to view it. It was the closest place from their home that was in the Path of Totality. As they drove south down I-95 and I-85, they saw many other vehicles with MD and other northeastern license plates, many of which they were certain also contained eager eclipse watchers.

Linda had other friends who also made the eclipse trek, some to South Carolina as well, and some to St. Louis, Missouri. During the Devines' camping trip, they were joined at various times by one of Amanda's friends who drove up from Atlanta, GA; another of Amanda's friends who flew in from San Antonio, TX; and one of Linda's nephews and a friend who drove down from Rockville, MD.

As it neared 2:37 p.m., it was strange to see the sky start to turn an eerie color, making the beach sand appear more yellow than white, and go from feeling hot to cool as the temperature dropped. Then with special eclipse glasses, it was exciting to look up at the sun and watch as it became more and more of a sliver. Finally, the sun completely disappeared, and then one took off one's glasses to behold the incredible sight of a black moon surrounded by an intensely bright white corona. Darkness prevailed, and all of the katydids, crickets, and other night insects, thinking that it was nighttime, started chirping loudly, filling the air with raucous sounds. Where we were, the crowds cheered and applauded! After about 2-1/2 minutes of totality, everything slowly started to return to normal, but we couldn't get over our enthusiasm for what we had just witnessed.



Amanda, Tommy, and Linda Devine

(Photos taken by Ed Devine)

It was reported that after the eclipse occurred, googlemaps showed all of the roads in the Path of Totality as being completely red! And yes, there were nightmare stories of the highways and roads being jammed with vehicles for the rest of the day, but undoubtedly most eclipse watchers thought it was well worth it.

Donna Byler, OCAW Executive Director, wrote that they had an 88% eclipse. They used the recommended cardboard pinhole approach and saw the sun become a sliver. She said that it was pretty neat!

In these current times when the U.S. is so fractured politically, it was nice to have one day when all citizens could be united in watching this fantastic astronomical phenomenon. So mark your calendars for April 8, 2024, when the next total solar eclipse will occur in the U.S. The Path of Totality will span from Mexico northeastward to Maine. Whereas this time most people got to view the total eclipse for about two-and-a-half minutes, the 2024 eclipse is estimated to extend for about four minutes. If in 2024 you have the opportunity to be in the Path of Totality, and hopefully you are fortunate that it is not a cloudy day, it truly is an awe-inspiring sight to behold. No matter how technically excellent modern photographs are, they don't do the experience justice, so we highly recommend seeing it in person!

(Editor's Note: If other OCAW members have eclipse stories to share, we'd love to hear them!)

The New Orleans Chapter's Gift of Flavor

(from Camilla Ng)

(Editor's Note: At OCAW's 40th Anniversary National Conference this past spring, the New Orleans Chapter thoughtfully distributed little packages of dried shrimp, representing a taste of New Orleans, to attendees. Camilla felt blessed and inspired and created a new dish. Below is her simple easy recipe.)

Tofu with Dried Shrimp

Ingredients:

12 dried shrimps, soaked for 10 min.
1 tablespoon cooking oil
1 teaspoon of XO Sauce (or Sa Char Sauce)
1 19 oz. package of soft tofu, sliced into cubes
2 scallions, minced
Rice

Directions:

Mince soaked dried shrimps, then wrap in cheese cloth and pound with flat side of mallet or back of Chinese cleaver.

In wok, heat 1 tablespoon of cooking oil and fry pounded dried shrimps until aromatic and starting to crisp.

Add XO or Sa Char Sauce to frying dried shrimps; mix.

Add cubed tofu to wok, mix well with sauce, then let flavor cook into tofu a few minutes.

Liquid from tofu will blend with sauce; let this cook dry.

No need to add any soy or salt, as the XO or Sa Char Sauce is already flavorful.

Sprinkle in minced scallions, then turn off flame.

Serve over rice.

I just want to share this dried shrimp-inspired quick and easy dish with everyone, and thank the New Orleans Chapter for their gift of quality fresh dried shrimp.

Perhaps others have their favorite dried shrimp recipes to share.

The Maryland Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (Part II)

by Christina Wong Poy

(Editor's Note: Christina is Treasurer of the OCAW Maryland Chapter. Professionally, she is the Administrative Director of the Maryland Governor's Asian Pacific American and South Asian American Commissions, which are housed in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. In the last issue of the OCAW e-newsletter, Christina described GOCI's work, including her involvement in May with many Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrations and activities. Below are highlights of more events that she attended, and/or for which she provided remarks, and/or at which she presented the Governor's Proclamation designating May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Other OCAW members participated in some of these events as well.)

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Special Exhibition "Paving the Way: Chinese American Stories" and Reception at the Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC) Art Gallery May 20, 2017

This featured Janelle Wong as keynote speaker with a calligraphy and gu zheng performance which followed. Administrative Director Christina Poy presented the Governor's Proclamation for May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Committee of 100 (C100) Annual Conference Town Hall

May 20, 2017

The National Press Club

Ben Wu, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), was one of the conference co-chairs and a presenter in the "On Public Service and Bridge-Building: A Dialogue with C100 Members" session.

OCAW Virginia Chapter Immediate Past President Maria Yang attended along with Christina Poy.

Lion of Wisdom Meditation Center Opening Ceremony

May 21, 2017

The Washington, D.C. Buddhist Vihara, the first Theravada Buddhist temple in the United States, opened its main meditation center and temple in the Washington Metropolitan Area. The center will focus on the presentation of Buddhist thought, practice, and culture. It is an educational as well as a religious organization. It will be staffed by resident monks who will be available to discuss the various aspects of Buddhism, teach meditation, provide retreats, and offer informal courses.

Washington Cathay Future Center First Anniversary

May 21, 2017

The Washington Cathay Future Center (WCFC) is an internationally recognized educational enrichment center that offers after-school, evening, and weekend programs and summer camps to elementary and middle school students. Its aim is to cultivate students' artistic expression, intellectual development, and leadership potential.

Administrative Director Christina Poy presented the Governor's Proclamation for May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

NBC4's AAPI Heritage Month Celebration and Working 4 the Community Awards

May 23, 2017

Korean Cultural Center

Among those honored by NBC4 with Working 4 the Community Awards was **OCAW-MD lifetime member Elizabeth Chung** who is a Commissioner on the Maryland Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. She received the award for establishing the Asian American Center of Frederick (MD). AACF provides programs to assist lower-income, minority, or immigrant groups reach their full potential through access to health insurance enrollment, interpreter/translation services, ESL and Citizenship classes, mentoring, housing, education, employment, and business development services.

Administrative Director Christina Poy presented the Governor's Proclamation for May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.



Administrative Director Christina Poy, honoree APA Commissioner Elizabeth Chung, and
APA Commissioner Mie Mie Strickler

(Editor's Note: OCAW congratulates Elizabeth Chung!)

U.S. Department of Transportation's APAHM Ceremony
May 25, 2017

The U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) is proud to recognize the many outstanding accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans in the Federal government.

Along with Administrative Director Christina Poy, **OCAW National President Christina Chang** and **OCAW Virginia Chapter Immediate Past President Maria Yang** attended the ceremony and reception.



OCAW National President Christina Chang and Christina Poy



OCAW members Maria Yang (*left*), Christina Poy (*4th from left*), and Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch (*5th from right*)



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao in center

HMART Grand Opening in Frederick, MD

May 26, 2017

The International Asian Supermarket chain opened a new location in Frederick, MD. The Grand Opening featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by Korean Traditional dance and Chinese Lion dance.

Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan and **APA Commissioner and OCAW-MD member Elizabeth Chung** made remarks.



First Lady of Maryland Yumi Hogan with Christina Poy



Preparing to Care

by Daphne Kwok

(Editor's Note: Daphne is Vice President of Multicultural Leadership for Asian American and Pacific Islander Audiences at AARP. She was a featured speaker at OCAW's 40th Anniversary National Conference this past spring, and her topic was "Be Bold...Prepare to Care.")

Are you taking care of a family member or friend who has a chronic illness or disease?

Are you managing medications or talking to doctors and nurses on behalf of someone?

Are you helping someone to bathe or dress?

Are you driving a loved one to the doctor or to the grocery store?

Are you taking care of household chores or meals, or paying bills for someone?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, you are a caregiver. Yet, most Asian Americans' and Pacific Islanders' (AAPI) automatic responses are:

- I am not a caregiver. A caregiver is paid and I am not being paid.
- I am caring for my loved one because that's what one does: Honor and respect for elders.
- It's just something that's expected.
- It's my responsibility.
- It's my obligation to my family/parents/grandparents.
- Filial piety is an important Asian cultural value.

One of the major misconceptions that AAPIs have about caregiving is that caregivers are paid. And since they aren't paid, they don't call themselves caregivers.

But why am I explaining who a caregiver is if AAPIs don't associate with being a "caregiver" as defined by Western/American culture? Because I want to help AAPI caregivers see themselves as caregivers and to connect them to information and available resources. Also, I want them to see the importance of caring for themselves as they care for others.

If caregivers don't take care of themselves, they can't effectively take care of their loved ones. It's just as important to make a plan to care for yourself as it is to make a plan to care for others. One can't be selfless when it comes to caregiving – which is and can be exhausting – mentally, physically, and emotionally. Here are resources for caregivers to manage stress and care for themselves: <http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/care-for-yourself/>

In the Asian culture, the responsibility of our parents falls to the oldest son. Then responsibility gets transferred to the daughter-in-law. Or the daughter is expected to care for the parents.

So who are caregivers? The answer might surprise you!

- 20% of Americans are family caregivers for a relative or friend over age 50 (Caregiving in the U.S., The National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP 2009)

- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are almost twice as likely – 42% – to care for their elders than the general population (Caregiving Among AAPIs Age 50+ Executive Summary, AARP Report, November 2014)
- 25% of millennials are caregivers (Caregiving in the U.S., The National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP August 2015)
- 40% of men are caregivers (Breaking Stereotypes: Spotlight on Male Family Caregivers, AARP Report, April 2017)

We interviewed 15 AAPIs of all ages and ethnicities about their caregiving experiences. The learning they shared to help others is powerful! Their stories expressed a range of needs and emotions that they experienced, which informs us of what we can expect in our own lives. The stories describe challenges for caregiving, including: Support, Awareness, Strength, Self-Reliance, and acceptance and willingness of Letting Go.

Three of the stories to share briefly:

- Clara Chiu was in her early 30s when she cared for and lost both of her parents. From her experience, she learned about “self-reliance.”
- Jennifer Betit Yen captured the oral history of her grandmother and learned about the non-physical elder abuse she was suffering. Jennifer turned those oral histories into a drama to address, raise awareness of, and start discussions about non-physical elder abuse through her film, “The Opposite of a Fairy Tale.”
- Isabelle Leighton shared the guilt of caring for and supporting her mother cross-country and not being able to financially bring her mother to live with her in New York City.

From these short windows into the lives of 15 AAPI caregivers, we gain tremendous insights about our cultural upbringing in caring for our elders mixed with being Asian American and Pacific Islander.

I hope that you will be interested in reading all 15 of them! Go to: <http://blog.aarp.org/2016/11/01/aapi-stories-for-november-caregiving-month/>

After reading the pieces, I hope you will think about the role that you’re already serving or the role you’ll serve as a caregiver. You will most likely take care of someone in your family or friendship circle. When you do, don’t hesitate to describe yourself as what you are: a caregiver! And please remember to take care of yourself!

For more information and resources, please go to: www.aarp.org/caregiving