

# E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

September 2023



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*(from Linda Devine, Editor)*

I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer, as we look ahead to fall.

My thanks, as always, to those who contributed material for this issue. I also appreciate my husband Ed for his work on preparing the large number of photos.

I continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles or submit information if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership.

And please feel free to send me any suggestions that you might have for the e-newsletter at:  
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## **News from the Virginia Chapter**

*(from Barbara York, President)*

### **New Virginia Chapter Leadership**

The Virginia Chapter was very excited to announce that we had two new Co-Presidents: Barbara York and Lucy Xu. Unfortunately, Lucy will be returning to Sydney, Australia by the end of September. We will miss her. But there are always two sides to everything: Lucy plans to start up an OCAW Australian Chapter (Organization of Chinese **Australian** Women). We wish her all good luck and look forward to keeping in touch.

*(Editor's Note: Barbara retired at the end of 2017 after 36 years with NCTA – The Internet and Television*

*Association. NCTA represents the spectrum of the broadband and cable industry from service providers like Comcast and Cox, through television programmers like HBO, Discovery, CNN, and Disney. She was Senior Vice President of Industry Affairs. Previously she also served as Executive Director of the National Academy for Cable Programming.*

*For her work, she was inducted into the Cable Hall of Fame which includes men and women whose names are legendary in the world of cable television and programming. OCAW-VA is fortunate to have such an accomplished individual as its new President and appreciates her stepping up to volunteer for this position.)*

### **Evening at the Embassy of China**

Several members of the Virginia Chapter attended a cultural event at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, July 27, 2023. It was organized by Things to Do DC, an organization which arranges educational and cultural events to enrich one's experiences. The occasion was meant to highlight the many wonderful aspects of the country.

Planning called for an interesting evening. Young diplomats were scheduled to greet attendees and be on hand to answer questions about Chinese culture and visiting China. Embassy representatives would be available to discuss the significance of historic paintings, artwork, and artifacts on display in the beautiful building designed by the world-renowned Chinese American architect I.M. Pei. Planned was an authentic Chinese dinner prepared by the Embassy chef, as well as a Chinese tea ceremony.



Noreen Hom, Christina Chang, Pu-Chin Waide, Maria Yang, and ChiHua Yang



ChiHua Yang, Maria Yang, Karina Hou, Christina Chang, Noreen Hom, and Jane Pan

### **Planning Lunch**

In an effort to reboot post COVID: Several members of the chapter got together for lunch at the Mama Chang restaurant in Fairfax, Virginia on Saturday, August 12, 2023. Two items that have already resulted in action are:

**1) Aid for the victims of the Maui fire**

The Virginia Chapter agreed to synchronize with the OCAW Hawaii Chapter and send funds to Maui Strong (through the Hawaii Community Foundation). The collection has just started.

**2) Planning for the Mid-Autumn Festival Potluck Party**

Member Amy Lee kindly stepped up and secured the penthouse party room at her condo for this event. It is set for 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

There were a lot of other planning discussions at the lunch which included:

**1) A renewed effort to recruit young members to the chapter**

Lucy Xu successfully recruited Jessica Shen and Wendy Cai. We discussed how to start up a mentorship program.



- 2) **An offer to Ted Gong at the 1882 Foundation to see if they needed help with the Chinese American Women in History Conference** scheduled for October 5-7, 2023 at various venues in Washington, D.C. Former Virginia Chapter Presidents Christina Chang and Veronica Li gave presentations at the last conference. Here is a link to the conference: <https://1882foundation.org/cawh2023/>
- 3) **An agreement to reach out and have speakers at our Chapter meetings**  
Veronica Li has agreed to reprise her memoir writing workshop “From Memories to Memoir” in December.
- 4) **An agreement to explore other programs focused on community assistance and to work with other Chinese American organizations on their programs**



Carolyn Wong, Maria Yang, Wendy Cai, Jessica Shen, Lucy Xu, Barbara York, Amy Lee, Donna Byler, Alice Yee Way, Norman Way, Noreen Hom, and Cathy Roberts

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

*(from Patricia Ellzey, President)*

#### **Celebration of Women Luncheon**

The OCAW New Orleans Chapter held a special luncheon meeting to Celebrate Women and recruit new members on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at Young's Garden Chinese Restaurant in Kenner, LA. The event took place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nine members and ten guests attended.

I opened up the meeting with a description of OCAW and its mission, and our chapter and activities, including interacting with and supporting other local Chinese and Asian organizations and their activities.



I explained why we were seeking new members, and then why we were celebrating “Women,” which was supported by the national office. I discussed how all OCAW chapters were connected, and talked about our fun national conferences (Yuling had such a good time last fall that she’s ready to go back!). I also mentioned our fun and interesting newsletter, which attendees were looking forward to receiving and reading.

I then started the brief self introductions. I talked about who I was – where I was born and raised, and my family, education, career, hobbies, etc. It was a lot of information but summarized fairly succinctly, and then everyone followed suit with a similar introduction of herself. I termed it a “Getting to Know You” (from *The King and I*) time. All enjoyed listening to everyone’s short but interesting stories.

Subsequently, with the gracious assistance of the restaurant’s owner, Julia Leong, a very tasty 9-course meal was created and served. The menu included:



Steamed chicken with ginger sauce



Walnut Shrimp



Empress Chow Fun (crispy noodles with beef, pork, shrimp, and vegetables)



Pork and Chinese Eggplant





2 Steamed fish with ginger and green onions



Ma Po Dow Fu



Beef with Snow Peas



“Ants on a Tree” (fun see and ground pork)



Beef Chow Fun

As one can see from the photos, the dishes were very delicious. In the end, the steamed fish was left completely bare!! HA!!

We had two round tables of ten. I arranged the seating so that five members sat with five guests at each table for better fellowship. During our meal, the ladies enjoyed a lot of chatting and getting to know each other better.

A few of our talented guests were going to be performing a classical concert for the benefit of autistic children in a couple of weeks, so they sang some special selections a cappella to entertain us and publicize their fundraising event. The singers perform arias from operas in French, Latin, German, and Italian – and also in Mandarin.

Past President Dr. Lihua Zhang was later able to join the event after working with her patients, and she gave a Health Tips lecture along with her exercise demonstrations and question-and-answer session.

In the end, seven guests joined our chapter, three signing up for life memberships! We were pleased that we have not only new members, but also younger ones.





*(Standing)* Lin Yuan, Dr. Lihua Zhang, Wen Ju Shan, Linda Lin, Mangjee Yeh, Yong Yi, Lily Yong, Hsiaopo Cheng, Nicole Ting Zhang, Grace Chan, Dr. Lily Wu, and Ning Kong

*(Seated)* Mary Regottaz, Leann Kwan, President Patricia Ellzey, Secretary Nellie Underwood, Vice President Yuling Khorsandi, Treasurer Nancy Chung, and Tien Hua Ho

Our Celebration of Women luncheon meeting was very productive, successful, and enjoyable.

### **Fundraiser Performance**

On Saturday, August 19, 2023, some of our talented new members performed at an event to raise funds for autistic children. These new members just joined OCAW at our luncheon on August 5.

Several of our chapter members attended this benefit to support our new members.









### Asian Pacific American Society Award



*(Editor's Note: The OCAW New Orleans Chapter works collaboratively with the Asian Pacific American Society (APAS) on many events throughout the year.)*

APAS was chosen to receive the monthly charity award from the New Orleans Boomtown Casino.

In the photo, presenting and receiving the award check of \$2504.71 are:

Rashad Wilson, Boomtown Vice President of Marketing;  
Grace Chan, APAS Chair;  
Patricia Ellzey, China APAS Board Representative and OCAW New Orleans Chapter President;  
Antionious Rider, Boomtown Operations Manager; and  
Nellie Underwood, APAS Secretary and OCAW New Orleans Chapter Secretary



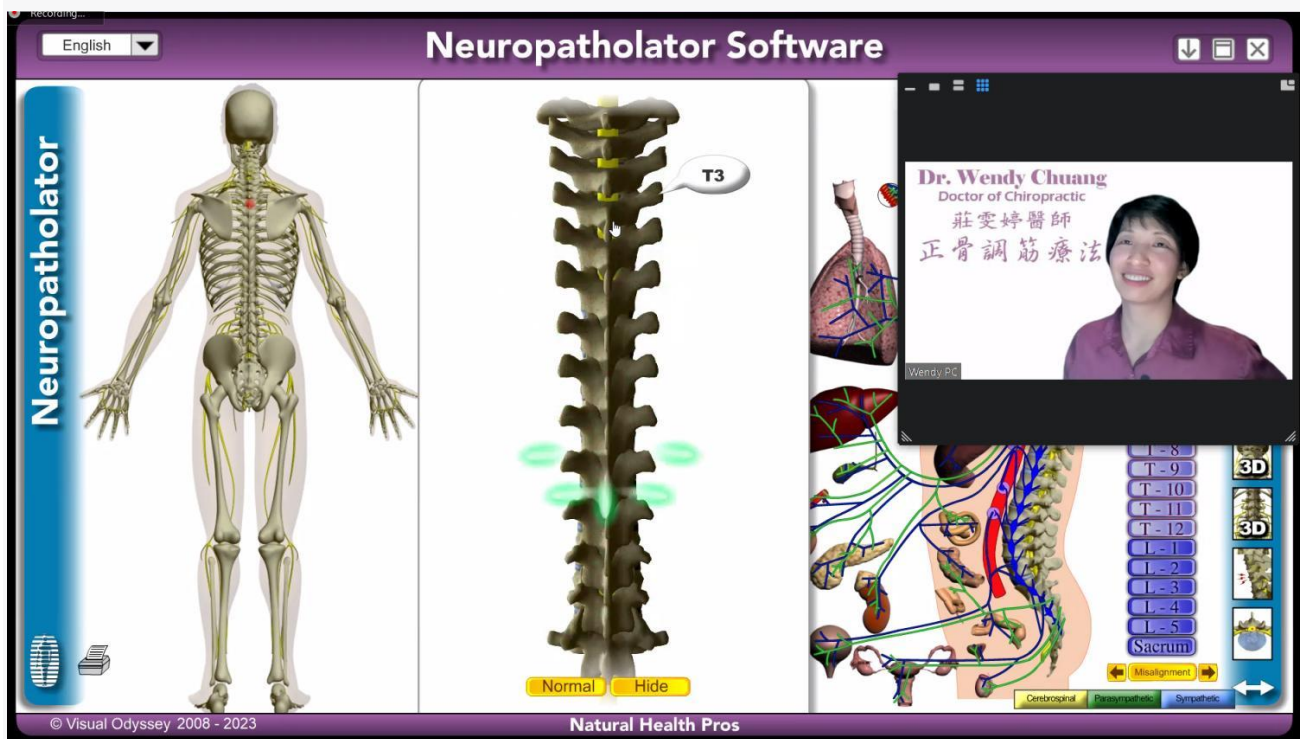
## News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(Jen Tsao, President)

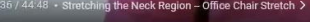
### Health Seminar: Conversation with Dr. Wendy Chuang

(from Jen Tsao)

OCAW-SVC held a very successful health seminar on Saturday, June 24, 2023. It was presented in Mandarin via Zoom. Dr. Wendy Chuang, Doctor of Chiropractic, provided valuable insights and answers to pre-submitted chiropractic questions from the audience. Her detailed explanations regarding the possible causes of pain in various areas such as the hands/thumbs, shoulders, and hip joints, along with health maintenance tips, were informative and beneficial to the attendees. During OCAW's 45th anniversary celebration and conference in Washington, D.C./Virginia last October, Dr. Chuang also held a brief Zoom webinar during which she had all attendees stand up to perform some helpful stretching exercises.



The SVC event was open not only to OCAW-SVC members but also to attendees from other OCAW chapters, and in addition it was open to the public. The seminar reached its maximum capacity of 100 participants on our Zoom account. The event was well received with the feedback being very positive, and many asked for a recording of this seminar. Thus we will upgrade our Zoom subscription to have a maximum of 300 participants in future webinars. It was a valuable opportunity for attendees to learn more about chiropractic care and health maintenance.



This was one of the most attended Zoom events we've ever held. Considering the positive response and participation in this seminar, we plan to roll out Part 2 with Dr. Chuang next year.

About Dr. Chuang:

Dr. Wendy Chuang received her B.S. in Neuroscience and Physiology from the University of California, San Diego, and then her Doctor of Chiropractic in 2000 from Palmer College of Chiropractic West. She was the founder of Natural Health Pros in Sunnyvale, CA, and served there from 2004 to 2014. She was a part-time faculty member at Palmer College of Chiropractic West for many years. Since 2020, she has been practicing in Santa Clara with Dr. Ashley Chen.

Fluent in both English and Mandarin, she has volunteered her services both locally and abroad with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Avon Breast Cancer Walk, International Medical Tzu Chi Medical Foundation, Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care, International Medical Relief, and many other service groups. Inspired by her father at a young age, she is active in sports and martial arts and is passionate about helping others improve their quality of life. She combines Eastern and Western methods in helping patients deal with physical pain. Her main goal has always been to increase the public's awareness of the natural balance of mind, body, and nutrients.



Dr. Chuang's father was a Chinese medicine practitioner who had a significant influence on her life.

*(Screenshots taken by Jen Tsao)*

This is the YouTube link to this seminar. <https://youtu.be/NOnVJW8Tdxw>

**SVC President and National President Meet**

*(from Jen Tsao)*

On the beautiful morning of Saturday, July 8, 2023, in San Francisco, I met OCAW National President Maria Yang while Maria was on a personal trip to California. I appreciated Maria sparing time to meet with me.



Maria, her husband Bill, my husband Alex, and I enjoyed the brunch in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. Maria and I chatted about how we became involved with OCAW, the activities in our local chapters, our backgrounds, our families, and our common interest in singing in a choir. We even discovered that we loved the wonton soup from the same restaurant in San Francisco's Chinatown! Bill and Alex also had a good conversation about their common interest in opera.

It was really a pleasure to meet Maria and Bill. I would like to thank Maria again for her hospitality in offering me the opportunity to meet with her.



OCAW National President Maria Yang and Silicon Valley Chapter President Jen Tsao

*(Photo taken by Alex Tsao)*

*(Editor's Note: Maria likewise said that it was wonderful and memorable to meet Jen and Alex in person.)*

### **SVC Officers and National President meet on Zoom**

*(from Jen Tsao)*

The Silicon Valley Chapter was happy to meet OCAW National President Maria Yang on Sunday, July 16, 2023 via the OCAW-SVC officers' Zoom meeting. This was the first time that the officers had met Maria. It was a great pleasure meeting her, and we had a wonderful time, sharing and getting to know each other.



*(Top row)* Maria Yang, Jen Tsao, and Carol Yuan  
*(Middle row)* Sherry Hsu, Anne Hu, and Alice Chiou  
*(Bottom row)* Monica Hsiao, Cynthia Chang, and Yufan Lu

*(Screenshot taken by Jen Tsao)*

*(Editor's Note: Maria said that she appreciated the opportunity to meet with the SVC officers and enjoyed their time together.)*

### **Annual Officer Installation and Scholarship Award Event**

*(Editor's Note: This comprehensive report was written by Cynthia Chang, Monica Hsiao, Ai-Chu Wang, Jen Tsao, and Carol Yuan)*

*(from Cynthia Chang)*

The Silicon Valley Chapter held its annual officer installation and scholarship award event on Sunday, August

13, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Florentine's Trattoria in Saratoga, CA. Among the 25 guests who attended the event were chapter officers, board members, and the scholarship recipient and his parents, as well as other members.

This event was coordinated by Alice Chiou and Cynthia Chang. Alice suggested the restaurant and came up with five delicious dishes for guests to choose from. Cynthia worked out the logistics and provided the restaurant with the headcount. We also had a cake in celebration of 37 years of OCAW-SVC's establishment. This was the first in-person indoor (at the restaurant) event since 2019, and everyone had a wonderful time with old and new friends as well as learning about accomplishments and activities of OCAW over the last 37 years.

### **Youth Achievement Award Presentation**

*(from Monica Hsiao)*



Monica Hsiao and Wen-Mei Tai presented the Youth Achievement Award to Ryan Lin. (Sherry Hsu is also a member of the scholarship award committee but could not attend.)

Monica reported that Ryan is a senior at Saratoga High School. He is not only excellent in academic performance, but is also involved in many community service activities. In his efforts to serve the community, he said he adheres to the principle of taking action to make localized impacts that encourage others to become involved.

Since 4th grade, Ryan has been involved with Operation Dawn (a drug rehabilitation center), completed over



60 projects, and founded a student group to bring awareness to the “Dangers of Substance Abuse.” As for future goals, he plans to study Computer Science in college, and to use programming skills to develop applications for early cancer screening and prevention of substance abuse.

President Jen Tsao presented Ryan with a certificate and a check for \$200.



Jen Tsao and Ryan Lin

Ryan gave a heartfelt speech, thanking OCAW-SVC, and said he felt it was an honor to receive this award. He stated that he had a great experience working with the chapter when he helped recruit volunteers for SVC's booth at the Saratoga Blossom Festival in April (*editor's note: see the June OCAW e-newsletter for an article on the Festival*), and believed that “community building affords an opportunity to work with and learn from others.”

Ryan expounded upon his substance abuse awareness efforts, saying:

“I have learned from recovering addicts, teachers and researchers, government officials, and my peers. I have benefited from multiple stories about addiction, gaining wisdom from the good and bad decisions that others have themselves learned from. I have made and seized the opportunity to reach out to members of various communities through multi-school programs and information campaigns to provide data, guidance, and advice so we can live happier and healthier lives.”

Ryan also worked to realize a more diverse and inclusive community, and initiated new events. One example was Saratoga's first Asian American and Pacific Islander art exhibition, which enabled the town “to acknowledge and celebrate the identities and contributions of everyone.”



He concluded by expressing his deep appreciation to OCAW-SVC, his loving parents, and his team members. He said that if there is a future opportunity, he looks forward to working with the chapter once again.





## 2023-2024 Officers Installation

(from Ai-Chu Wang)



As Chair of the Board, Ai-Chu Wang announced the board members' unanimous vote for the following 2023-2024 Officers slate. This was followed by the installation of the officers.

OCAW-SVC 2023-2024 Officers:

President – Jen Tsao  
Vice President – Yufan Lu  
Treasurer – Sophia Yang  
Secretary – Carol Yuan  
Membership – Anne Hu, Wen-Mei Tai  
Public Relationship – Cynthia Chan  
Scholarship Committee – Monica Hsiao, Sherry Hsu, Wen-Mei Tai  
Flyer – Candice Huang  
Photographer – Michelle Huang  
Hospitality – Cynthia Ho, Phyllis Tung, Wendy Chang  
Historian – Alice Chiou  
Activity – Ai-Chu Wang, Wendy Chang, Anne Hu



## President's Remarks

*(from Jen Tsao)*

After the 2023-2024 officers' installation, Jen Tsao expressed her thanks to the OCAW-SVC Board for giving her the opportunity to serve as the President of the chapter for one more year. Jen also thanked all the OCAW-SVC officers for their continued support. In the past year, OCAW-SVC held 5 online seminars and 4 members social events; participated in 4 community activities; and offered the youth scholarship. All of the activities and OCAW-SVC's participation were well received by our community.

Jen emphasized that the success of all of the events was truly due to the joint effort of all officers, starting from the flyer design, to members and other chapters' communication, public announcement of the event, preparation and delivery of the event content, etc. Planning for the 2023-2024 events is currently underway, including community service activities such as our chapter's annual support for the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Jen thanked the team again, and asked the attendees for their continuing support of OCAW-SVC.

## Report on OCAW history and a few long-term achievements

*(from Carol Yuan)*



Carol Yuan then presented a report on the history of OCAW and some long-term achievements. She informed the audience of the founding of the organization by Pauline Tsui and Julia Chang Bloch in 1977. She cited highlights of Pauline's life, including her Federal government work which advanced equal opportunity for career advancement for women. Pauline was considered a pioneer of Chinese women's rights

in the U.S. Carol continued by speaking about Julia Chang Bloch, including her serving on several corporate and nonprofit boards, and her appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Nepal by President George H.W. Bush.

Carol stated: “Pauline and Julia were enjoying the hard-won successes in their careers but found themselves missing a larger part of themselves – a community of Chinese American women who could draw mutual strength and support from each other. They had a vision of bringing together Chinese American women to support their causes, struggles, and successes. Ultimately, it would be a place that Asian American women could learn, advocate, and work together...” Pauline and Julia turned their vision into reality through the founding of OCAW with Pauline as its first president. OCAW was a pioneer as the first national Asian American women’s organization in the United States.

Among many other programs over the years, OCAW partnered with the Education and Science Society in Virginia to provide annual scholarships to middle school girls in rural China. This program helped hundreds of girls in ten of China’s provinces. OCAW also provided scholarships to young artists in music, working with Muriel “Mimi” Hom, OCAW Vice President for Programs. Through OCAW, Mimi’s work with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and her founding of Opera International produced multiple operas and concerts over decades.

Carol explained that “in the mid-1970s, a nationwide advocacy campaign was launched to obtain a Congressional Resolution to designate one week in May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week.” This concept originated from Jeanie F. Jew, both an OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) and an OCAW leader. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed into law and proclaimed a week in May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. In 1992, President George H.W. Bush expanded on this by designating the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

OCAW chapters were established nationwide. The Silicon Valley Chapter was established in 1986, and other chapters were founded as well. Currently still in existence are also the Hawaii, New Orleans, Virginia, and Maryland Chapters.

## **The History, Vision, and Accomplishments of OCAW-SVC**

*(from Cynthia Chang)*

Following Carol’s presentation, Cynthia Chang shared with the audience the history, vision, and accomplishments of OCAW-SVC over the past 37 years.

The chapter was founded in 1986 by Dorothy Lee who also served as its first president. Its goals are:

- a. To integrate Chinese American women into the mainstream of American society;
- b. To exchange cultural backgrounds to eliminate racial and cultural misunderstanding;
- c. To address a variety of issues and concerns facing Chinese American women today; and
- d. To help immigrants understand and adapt to American society while keeping their traditional culture.

Many of our members have served as elected officials and leaders of school and community organizations. We also have worked with other organizations to provide activities which benefit the community and which promote a better understanding of our culture/traditions. Some such activities include the National River Cleanup Day, Saratoga Blossom Festival, Relay for Life, Walk to End Alzheimer’s, Crime Prevention, and Road to College, as well as Lunar New Year and Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations. We also have had members’ socials, outings, hikes, and hands-on activities to learn and have fun together.





A few signature events:

- a. Candidates Forum on October 30, 1988. OCAW-SVC was the first Asian organization to host the Candidates Forum in the Bay Area. Quite a few candidates running for office at the Federal, state, and local levels participated in this event which attracted almost 200 people. Cynthia organized this very successful occasion and learned a lot about logistics from the local League of Women Voters chapter.
- b. Building Bridges (a celebration of cultural diversity) events in 2003 and 2004 with the Saratoga Rotary Club and West Valley College
- c. Fashion and talent shows for both youth and adult members
- d. Youth Scholarship Awards

### **OCAW 27th Anniversary National Conference Report**

*(from Ai-Chu Wang)*

Finally, Ai-Chu Wang, as Chair of the OCAW 27th Anniversary National Conference, reported the following:

OCAW's 27th Anniversary National Conference was held on August 7-8, 2004 at the Crowne Plaza San Jose hotel and was hosted by the OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter. The theme was "Empowering Women for the 21st Century."

We received proclamation letters from California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; Member of Congress Mike Honda; and Mayor of Saratoga Ann Waltonsmith.



On August 7, the program started with a general membership meeting during breakfast, followed by daytime and evening programs.

There were three sessions for the daytime program:

1. Leadership Workshop – “Empowering Women by Exploring Leadership Characteristics” – Speaker, Rosetta Lai, OCAW National President
2. Health Session – “Spinal Health and You” – Speaker, Dr. Wendy Chuang
3. Panel Discussion – “Empowering Women for the 21st Century” with four Panelists:
  - Cecilia Lee Chang, President, Justice for New Americans
  - Cynthia Chang, Trustee, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District
  - Josephine Hawkins, President, Asian Americans for Community Involvement
  - Lie-Szu Juang, Director, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company North America

“An Evening of Celebration” was the theme for the evening program. Hank Gioia and Grace Sams sang Broadway musical selections during dinner. Ai-Chu Wang, Conference Chair, welcomed the guests to the evening. Pei-Chun Liao introduced OCAW. Tracy Lee passed the OCAW-SVC torch to new president Anne Hu.

Saratoga Mayor Ann Waltonsmith read a letter of proclamation. Three OCAW awards were presented to Jeanie Jew and Robert Jew (Pillar Award), Cynthia Chang (Community Service Award), and Cecilia Lee Chang (Leadership Award). And Tina Wu and Aileen Kao presented OCAW Scholarships to Presidential Classroom Scholarship and Youth Achievement Award recipients.



The fashion show and talent show were very popular and successful. The fashion show included children, teens, and adults. There was Chinese dance, Chinese folk song, popular song, Chinese opera, a cappella singing, jazz dance, tap dance, and Broadway musical dance.

The evening program concluded with social time that included karaoke and a dance party.

On August 8, there was a warm farewell breakfast. We had a wonderful time getting together. There was a bus tour after breakfast to the famous Pebble Beach 17-Mile Drive in Carmel before friends from out of town headed home.

The 2004 National Conference was a precious experience and memorable event for OCAW-SVC. Hopefully, all the friends who attended the event felt the same way.

Ai-Chu's report concluded the presentations.



















*(Photos coordinated by Alice Chiou)*

### **SVC Donation to the Maui Strong Fund**

*(from Jen Tsao and Anne Hu)*

In light of the Maui wildfires destruction, OCAW-SVC is conducting a Maui Strong Fund drive. In addition to the chapter's contribution of \$250, individual members are sending donation checks.

In a letter to SVC sisters, Anne Hu, SVC Communications, wrote:

“In the wake of the recent and heart-wrenching fire that swept through Lahaina, Maui, leaving in its wake destruction that touched the lives and homes of many, those of us fortunate enough to have experienced the beauty of Maui can deeply empathize with the immense loss and suffering that the resilient local community is enduring.

In response to this tragedy... We are organizing a dedicated donation drive to support the Maui Strong Fund, a beacon of hope for those affected by this calamity...

Your generosity will undoubtedly go a long way in helping our fellow Hawaiians in their journey to rebuild their lives and homes. Together, we can channel the spirit of aloha and make a significant impact during these challenging times. Maui is strong, and together, we stand stronger.”

### **Upcoming Event**

*(from Jen Tsao)*

The Silicon Valley Chapter will be hosting an online talk on Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. PDT, via Zoom. The subject is “Changes in Chinese Literary Styles in the Past Dynasties.”

The talk will be in Mandarin. We welcome members from all chapters to join us.

The Zoom meeting ID is 886 3598 9283.

The passcode is 704144.

About the speaker, Kung Shih:

Born in Taiwan. After graduating from National Taiwan University, he came to study in the United States. He has been engaged in the high-tech industry in Silicon Valley, CA, for more than 30 years, and has served as an engineer and a senior executive. Since retirement, he has devoted himself to public welfare undertakings and has served as the executive director of the Shi Foundation in Silicon Valley. Mr. Shi is fond of reading, painting, calligraphy, and writing, and often shares his experience with friends in the community.

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

*(Edwina Lee, President)*

#### **Maui Strong, Maui No Ka Oi**

by Queenie M. Chee

*(Editor's Note: Queenie is Secretary and a former President.)*

*On Tuesday, August 8, 2023, a seasonal brushfire in upcountry Lahaina, Maui was pronounced “contained” at 10 a.m. by the Maui Fire Department. Several hundred miles south, Hurricane Dora was making its pass. Little did anyone expect Dora’s gusts of hurricane-force winds to whip up the dry brush in the area to ignite an inferno with heat that melted steel; within hours, devastation to an entire town.*

Hawaii has now felt its share of horrific tragedy with the experience of the destructive wildfires on the island of Maui. Much of our world today is experiencing radical weather with global warming fueling droughts or storms, more hurricanes and tornadoes, leading to wildfires and floods scouring Canada and the U.S., across Europe, down to South America, and all the way to Asia. So many lives lost, and survivors suffering and struggling.

For Maui, a small island community, to have lost at least 115 lives within hours and within a few square miles, with hundreds of people still unaccounted for and over 3,000 more displaced from the loss of their homes and businesses, it is horrific and depressing.

Lahaina was once the capital of the kingdom of Hawaii in the 18th and 19th centuries. Most of the historic buildings have been reduced to ashes. But there is an iconic 150-year-old Indian banyan tree that was badly burned in the middle of it all, miraculously showing signs of life. A glimmer of hope!

The resilience of the people who survive is awesome. So many individuals, from neighbors to strangers, are



reaching out in so many ways to help. It extends beyond government and social services. Even those who have literally lost everything except the clothes on their backs are stepping up to “kokua” (Hawaiian word for ‘selfless help’). It will be complex and take a long time to rebuild. But they are Maui Strong. *Maui No Ka Oi* is the old phrase they have used to describe themselves for over a century. It means “Maui is the best.”

It becomes more personal to OCAW when even our East Coast past Maryland Chapter President, Camilla Ng, was worried about a missing friend, who was part of the Lahaina historic Wo Hing Temple. The temple is no longer, having burned to the ground.

Fortunately, there is a list online of the Missing and Found persons for the Maui fires. Camilla’s friend, Dr. Busaba Yip-Douglas, was on that list and with a joyful update “FOUND.”

I am deeply moved to know that our Chapter sisters are showing their care and compassion for our people across the thousands of miles. Thank you for everything you contribute, whether prayers or dollars to those in great need here.

Like that huge, tough old Lahaina banyan tree on Front Street, may all find new beginnings and continue to rebuild, restore, and rejuvenate. *Maui No Ka Oi!*

### **Mahjong Workshop**

*(from Dr. Sandy Young, former President)*

On Sunday, June 25, 2023, Sandy Young hosted a membership drive at her condominium’s recreation room. Eleven registrants showed up to play. There was one table with just 3 players, and two tables with the usual 4 players. Everyone brought a snack or breakfast contribution, and participants had a nice array of finger foods and/or desserts to munch on throughout the session. As chair/host, Sandy provided ginger and honey iced tea, hot Jasmine tea, and party supplies for all.

Guests were interested in becoming OCAW members. Those who attended said they had a great time and asked that we do another session soon. 😊

### **Third General Membership Meeting**

*(from Queenie Chee)*

On Sunday, August 20, 2023, the Hawaii Chapter held its third general membership meeting of the year at the Harbor Village Cuisine, at the Koko Marina in Hawaii Kai.

In attendance were 40 members and their guests, 19 of which were members, along with guest speaker, Angela Chin, Esquire, from The Legal Clinic (TLC).

Wendie Liu presented a heartfelt invocation, reminding us to be grateful for what is given and to be aware of our blessings. Special prayers went out to our Maui neighbor island, where there were those who suffered a great loss of lives, homes, and businesses from the devastating wildfire that just took place on August 8th.



Vice President Susan Chong Wong introduced our guest speaker and presented her with a purple silk lei.





Our speaker, attorney Angela Chin, spoke about The Legal Clinic programs that assist immigrants with their applications for “green cards” and citizenship, as well as inform and access them to other social services. Many challenges face the newcomers into the U.S., who arrive with hope for a better life.

Spousal abuse was covered at length in Angela’s talk. Some immigrant brides brought over by U.S. husbands have been threatened by the use of a law that was passed in recent years. There was a two-year period in which the sponsor (the husband) could cancel the sponsorship, thus denying the path to citizenship. It could result in the deportation of the wife. Using this as a threat, physical, mental, and emotional abuse could be made. Most of these abused spouses felt trapped; whether because of language barriers, mistrust of people and the system, or protecting their children and family, they suffered in silence.

Angela felt that being able to speak in Mandarin helped. Her parents are immigrants from Taiwan. Our OCAW Hawaii Chapter has supported TLC in their work, as well as their predecessor, Na Loio no na Kanaka (The Lawyers of the People).

After the talk, lunch was the standard, but delicious, Chinese “soul food” – dim sum! With the addition of dishes like mushrooms and greens, roast duck, char siu, and a beef dish, with lots of tea, we were ready for the business portion of our meeting.





Some of the highlights of the meeting:

Nominations Chair Jerilyn Jeffryes announced the new slate of nominees for officers for 2024:

For President: Sharlene Yee Chun  
For Vice President: Susan Chong Wong  
For Secretary: Kimberly Chun Hoi  
For Treasurer: Serena Kyi-Yim

The members approved a donation of \$1000 toward the Hawaii Community Foundation Maui Strong Fund. We were over budget, but thanks to a donation received from OCAW National, we were able to approve the shortfall.

Our membership was increased with the introduction of two additional new members: Jeannie Lum and Cynthia Ching.



We ended with a game of four questions for the four tables. Gift card prizes were given for the correct answers. All correct answers served as a reminder to everyone that year 2024 is when we celebrate the founding of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter, 35 years ago!



*(Photos taken by Sharlene Chun)*

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

#### **Community Service Volunteering: Tina Au**

*Editor's Note:* OCAW's 45th Anniversary Celebration in October 2022 afforded those of us who attended the rich opportunity to meet one another in person and get to know a little bit about each other. Among other things that I learned, I was very impressed with the spirit of community volunteerism of Tina Au, a member of the Hawaii Chapter delegation who was Chapter President in 2020.

Tina spends most of her weekends volunteering in some capacity to help her community. I asked Tina if she would share some of her activities with the OCAW membership, and below is just a sampling that I selected of the wide variety of her involvement this past spring. Hopefully this will inspire all of us to focus on and value community service and, if we're not already involved, encourage us to make an effort to volunteer.

## February

Tina volunteered at the **52nd Annual Senior Citizens Valentine Dance** at the Neal Blaisdell Center Exhibition Hall. This fun event is sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu and the Department of Parks and Recreation and is free to seniors.

She also participated in the “**Support Chinatown**” event. Volunteers went door-to-door to businesses in Chinatown and showed their support by presenting them with a box of pastries/treats as a “gesture of thanks” for not giving up and for continuing to open their doors every day despite the many challenges they’ve been faced with in recent years. Volunteers gave out 150 boxes of treats.

## March

Tina helped the Hawaii Association of Mortgage Brokers and Professionals in this year’s first community service event at the Hawaii Food Bank. Joined with the Rotary Club, over 70 volunteers participated in the **Hawaii Food Bank’s Senior Food Box Program**, where 2,072 “healthier choice” food boxes were packed for later delivery to low-income seniors on Oahu and Kauai.

## April

Tina was among more than 200 volunteers from over 20 local organizations which partnered with American Savings Bank for its **Seeds of Service Community Clean-Up** to restore the Chinatown-Kalihi community at Aaia Park, College Walk, Sun Yat-sen Mall, and Kila Kalikimaka Mall. Those are areas that the bank is committed to reactivating as thriving community gathering places. Volunteers spread out across the surrounding areas to clean, paint, remove trash, and more. (Source of information: *Honolulu Star Advertiser*, May 2, 2023)



Tina Au (3rd from the right)



May

Tina helped with the National Association of Letter Carriers' **Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive**. The Food Drive is a charitable initiative conducted by the U.S. Postal Service, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, and National Association of Letter Carriers in the United States to make significant donations of food to organizations serving needy persons.



Also in May, Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center had a “Going Green Day.” Tina volunteered at the **Going Green E-Waste Recycling Event.**



Tina Au; Carol Fukunaga, Hawaii State Senator; and Suzanne Chun Oakland, former Hawaii State Senator. Fukunaga and Oakland are currently Program Directors for the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

Tina has continued her volunteering through to the present.

### **Maui Wildfires**

Currently Tina is working on fundraising to help the Maui community with restoration efforts. Right after the fires, she and other volunteers went to Chinatown and asked for donations, and they collected over \$13,000.

She also is flying out to Maui to distribute debit cards and care packages of goods to eligible families. She is working with the Red Cross and FEMA on this project. Of note, Tina and other volunteers are not just donating their time, but also their money; they pay all of their expenses for these trips.

Along with all other community volunteers, kudos to Tina for her conscientious, ongoing volunteering which significantly benefits society and its citizens! ☺

### **Mimi Hom Honored**

*(from Linda Devine)*

Muriel “Mimi” Hom was one of two notable individuals honored at an event at the Arts Club of Washington on Tuesday evening, June 13, 2023 in Washington, D.C. Mimi is 96 years old and was honored for being “Montgomery County, Maryland’s 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient for her Excellence in the



Arts and Humanities, has been the founder/producer of Opera International, and has been a noted concert pianist/coach serving the Washington area over the past sixty years.”

The Arts Club of Washington is a noted arts organization founded in 1916. Located in the heart of downtown D.C., the club supports visual, performing, and literary arts, and it organizes and sponsors many programs and events.

The recognitions were part of an Arts Club event which featured a wonderful array of performers. There were about a dozen poets of various nationalities who recited their works not only in English, but also in a variety of languages (Korean, Hebrew, Arabic, French, Chinese, and Spanish). Sprinkled among these recitations were musical performances by an accomplished guqin/zither player, a bassoonist, and a clarinetist. There were also two famous and popular pieces sung by tenor Michael Hongfa Chu – the aria *Nessun dorma* from the opera *Turandot*, followed by *O sole mio* – and Mimi provided the piano accompaniment for both.



Tenor Hongfa Chu, with piano accompanist Mimi Hom

As an honoree, Mimi was pleased to receive a unique gift: a ceramic plate with a picture of her emblazoned upon it.



The arts program was then followed by a well-done reception replete with wine and a variety of cold and hot dishes. It was a memorable evening enjoyed by all. Mimi's daughters and OCAW Maryland members Janet Biermann and Linda Devine were among the attendees.

*(Photos taken by Linda Devine)*

### **The Underground World**

**Foreword by Janet Biermann, MD Chapter member:** This publication serves to provide articles about the interests and accomplishments of the chapters collectively, and the achievements of the members individually. In that spirit, it seemed appropriate for Muriel Hom (National VP for Programs) and me (full disclosure – Linda's mother and sister, respectively) to encourage your newsletter editor and our fellow MD Chapter member to write an article about her interest in caving and recent recognition by the National Speleological Society. The Outstanding Service Award which she received is the highest honor the NSS bestows upon a member for extraordinary, lifetime service to its organization. Modesty would have forbidden Linda to submit this article, but mom and I thought you would enjoy reading about the life of a caver and sharing in her special recognition which brings pride to our family and honor to one of OCAW's own.

*(Editor's Note: I appreciated my mom's and Janet's encouragement to write this article, which I hope will provide some insight into the world of the underground.)*

*(from Linda Devine)*

The National Speleological Society (NSS) is the U.S.'s caving organization. Since caving is unusual, the NSS is not large (8000+ members, and it also includes international members), but it comprises cavers of all types: serious explorers, scientists (geologists, biologists, hydrologists, paleontologists, archaeologists, etc.), surveyors (who survey caves and create cave maps), historians, photographers, conservationists, casual sport cavers, and so on. I started caving in 1975 and joined the Society two years later.



Caving in general can be challenging but enjoyable, and one has the neat sense of exploring an alien space. If you are fortunate enough to discover a passage that no one has ever set foot into before, it can be a very surreal feeling, knowing that you are the first human being in history to see this place.

One caves largely in spacious environments, but there are those passages which are low and tight, and you sometimes find yourself exerting a lot of energy just cramming your body through a narrow space just to get to the other side. For me, it starts getting claustrophobic when I've been in such a tight space for a long period of time. When this happens, you just have to close your eyes, take deep breaths, and try to relax.



Linda and son Tommy at a younger age, viewing unusual cave geology

*(Photo taken by Ed Devine)*

The cave can be pretty clean as well, although there are the extremes, where you find yourself crawling through soupy mud, and in rare instances, you come out of the cave with mud not only on your clothes and skin, but also on your eyelashes and in your ears!

One might encounter cave life while caving. There are bats which some feel are scary, but they are harmless. In the past, we saw a cute cave rat upon occasion, and we still see orange salamanders here and there. I must confess that once I was taking a break in a passage and looked up at a cave ceiling which was about eight inches above my head, and I thought that the ceiling was black. But it took me another minute to realize that the "blackness" was a ceiling filled with cave spiders, whose bodies and legs were all intertwined in a mass! Not being a spider person, I moved on ahead!

And one occasionally finds bones of prehistoric animals in caves, and these are sometimes hundreds of thousands of years old.



Caving in Indiana

*(Photo taken by Ed Devine)*

A huge part of my life has involved caving – mainly fairly serious exploration as well as surveying / mapping. Although I’ve caved in several states, my areas of concentration were West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky (a cave that eventually connected to Mammoth Cave), and Jamaica.

Our survey teams mapped many miles of underground passages, and **there were multiple trips lasting 24 hours or more. The caving sometimes involved rappelling 200 feet down a rope. Or donning a wetsuit and negotiating water-filled passages where there was only 4 inches of airspace between the top of the water and the cave ceiling. Or camping overnight in the cave.**

**In Jamaica, we fought mosquitoes as we traipsed through tropical forest to find and map caves. At our camps, our native guides prepared meals for us “off the land,” like yams dug out of the ground, and we consumed all parts of a goat, including lungs and intestines, and dined on soup made with goat heads, feet, and eyeballs.**

Administratively, I served for years as an officer and board member in two local caving organizations



(variously Vice Chairman, Executive Committee member, and Social Chairman for one, and Chairman, Executive Director, Director, Membership Chairman, and Trustee for the other), and for decades as an officer and board member for two Mid-Atlantic cave conservation organizations which preserved caves (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director, and Membership Chairman for one, and Trustee for the other). For the NSS national organization, I hold the historical record for being elected a Member of the Board of Governors for eight terms over 27 years. I published multiple dozen articles in caving journals and the national publication; co-authored and co-edited a caving book; was interviewed for *The Washington Post* and a couple of magazines; and was featured in a two-part segment on our local ABC-TV station. For nearly 40 years, I have been the owner of a West Virginia cave with a 145-foot entrance drop.

Because of all of the above, I was totally surprised but pleased and honored to receive the NSS' 2023 William J. Stephenson Outstanding Service Award for my lifelong contributions to caving and speleology. It is the highest award given, and I was touched to learn that many cavers wrote nomination letters on my behalf. The award was presented to me on Friday, June 30, 2023 at the NSS national convention held this year in West Virginia. My husband Ed was invited to discuss my achievements and contributions to the 1000 guests in attendance at the Awards Banquet, and Amanda, Tommy, and Jeremy (my kids) wanted to come and were there to video the proceedings. It was a great honor for which I was very appreciative.



Award presented by Kristine Ebrey, President of the National Speleological Society

(Video capture by Tommy Devine)

**In Memoriam: Juliette Sheu Han Ling**

*(from Queenie Chee, Hawaii Chapter Secretary)*

Juliette Sheu Han Ling was a member of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter for 31 years. She passed away at the age of 94. Juliette shared her talents and time with so many. She never wanted to stand in the limelight, but just quietly helped.



Her sister, Christine Ling, was OCAW Hawaii Chapter President in 1990, when the Chapter was in its second year. Chris remained a faithful and active member until her passing at the age of 88.

**Culture Corner**

**European Christmas Markets Cruise**  
**Part II: Vienna, Austria**

**by Cathy Roberts**

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

We arrived in Vienna on the evening of Monday, December 5, 2023. Vienna is Europe's center of classical music and was home to some of the most cherished classical composers of the 18th and 19th centuries. The city fostered the careers of Haydn and Mozart, and the works of musicians Beethoven, Schubert, and Strauss are also tied to the city. The artist, Gustav Klimt, was born on the outskirts of Vienna.

After dinner, we took the subway to visit St. Stephen's Cathedral. It was a beautiful evening with the streetlights lit up, and we enjoyed walking around the area.

The next morning, we joined the Panoramic Vienna bus tour, passing the famous State Opera House and continuing to the city center. We walked around Hofburg, the Spanish Riding School, and St. Stephen's Cathedral before we took the bus back to the ship for lunch.





Hofburg Palace



Hofburg Palace, Emperor Franz I Monument



St. Stephen's Cathedral

...and inside the Cathedral



Archduke Charles Monument



St. Francis of Assisi Church



Plague Column (Holy Trinity Column)

In the afternoon, we rode the bus back to the Rathaus (City Hall) to visit the largest Vienna Christmas Market. Unfortunately, there were not many vendors, and most of the handmade crafts were from the PRC (China) and India. But before we returned to the ship, we drank hot chocolate and ate cookies as we did when we visited Christmas Markets many years ago.



Christmas Market at the Rathaus







*(Photos taken by Dick Roberts)*