

# E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

**April 2014**

*(from Linda Devine)*

I hope everyone is finally enjoying some nice spring weather, after many of our members suffered through a LONG, cold, and snowy winter!

My thanks as always to those who submitted material for this issue. I continue to encourage all OCAW members to contribute articles or information, lengthy or brief. I would also like to thank my husband Ed, who continues to do the photo preparation work for the issues.

Suggestions or recommendations for any aspects of the e-newsletter are always welcome. Please feel free to contact me at: [devinefive@att.net](mailto:devinefive@att.net).

## **Opera International**

*(from Muriel Hom, Producer-Director)*

Opera International will be presenting an **Operatic Vocal Gala Concert** on Sunday, August 3, 2014, at 2 p.m. at the Terrace Theater of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Huanhuan Ma, Soprano from Beijing, and Yingxi Zhang, Tenor, will be featured. Also performing will be Jessica Stecklein and Caroline Gibson, Sopranos, and Alvy Powell, Bass-Baritone. Kai-ching Chang will be coming from Taiwan and will be at the piano.

The repertoire will be arias from *Un ballo in maschera*, *Norma*, *Manon*, *Aida*, *La Boheme*, *La traviata*, and *A View from the Bridge*, concluding with selections from *Porgy and Bess*. The concert will be in keeping with our mission to train and present young talents and provide an opportunity for them to perform.

Tickets are \$35 and can be obtained through Mimi Hom and Opera International at 301/365-3479. Send a check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to: 6711 Loring Court, Bethesda, MD 20817. Confirm the number of tickets you are requesting. Once you have received your tickets, record the seat numbers, as the Kennedy Center will not issue lost tickets unless specific seat numbers are indicated. Please order your tickets now, as the best seats are being taken early.

Alternatively, tickets are also available at the Kennedy Center Box Office. Charge by phone at 202/467-4600, or via the website at: [kennedycenter.org](http://kennedycenter.org).

We look forward to seeing you on August 3!

## **News from the Maryland Chapter**

### **Dialogue with China: Wildlife Conservation**

*(from Camilla Ng, Past President)*

The OCAW Maryland Chapter and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) co-sponsored “Dialogue with China: Wildlife Conservation” on Saturday, March 29, 2014. Peter Ward, International Affairs Specialist in the Russia-East Asia Branch of USFWS’s Division of International Conservation, presented an informative and thought-provoking slide show. This educational program was held in the Rock Creek Nature Center auditorium in Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. In attendance were staff members of the U.S. National Park Service and the USFWS, OCAW-Maryland chapter members, and the public. This program was a follow-up on the National Park Service program also co-sponsored by the Maryland Chapter in September 2013, which showcased the collaboration and cooperation between the U.S. and China regarding China’s national parks (*see the article in the November 2013 OCAW e-newsletter*).



*(Photo taken by Joseph Green, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)*

### **What is the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service?**

The USFWS employs 9000 full-time employees nationwide. It oversees more than 551 National Wildlife Refuges and 70 National Fish Hatcheries. It enforces Federal wildlife laws to protect endangered species and migratory birds, and it promotes wetland conservation and restoration.

### **How does the USFWS cooperate with China?**

The USFWS cooperates with China in conservation with a multilateral approach through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and permits, and with a bilateral approach through exchange programs, conservation grants, and law enforcement in wildlife trafficking. A Nature Conservation Protocol was formalized between the PRC State Forestry Administration and the U.S. Department of the



*(Photo taken by Joseph Green, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)*

Interior in 1986. Representatives from both countries meet once every three years with the last meeting being in 2011. However, such cooperation began as far back as 1980, with such participants as Steven Kohl, USFWS's Branch Chief of Russia-East Asia of the Division of International Conservation. *(Editor's Note: Mr. Kohl was present at our program.)*

The USFWS has hosted a number of programs dealing with such matters as law enforcement of wildlife trafficking, held at JFK Airport in New York City (2008); wetland conservation in Oregon's Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (2011); and fisheries management in Maine (2011) and in Georgia (2013). From 1995 through 2013, there were 242 Chinese conservation specialists who visited U.S. venues, and 158 conservation specialists from the U.S. who visited sites in China.

### **Endangered Animals in China**

China has established Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve in the southernmost tip of Yunnan Province as a reserve for the Asian elephant. Asian elephants are quickly dwindling in numbers due to habitat loss and conflicts with humans. In this reserve are other critically vulnerable or endangered species such as the civet, white-cheeked gibbon, clouded leopard, slow loris, and Assam macaque. Other gibbons that are equally dwindling in population include the Hoolock, Cao Vit, Western Black Crested, and Hainan gibbons.

The fate of tigers in the wild is sadly dismal. The South China tiger has become extinct. The Indochinese tiger has not been seen in the wild since 2007, even though it has not been declared extinct officially. Of the Amur or Siberian tigers, there may be only a few hundred left. 31 of the 57 endangered waterfowl species listed for Asia are found in China. The red-crowned crane, the symbol of longevity and immortality so important in Chinese culture, has become the rarest crane.

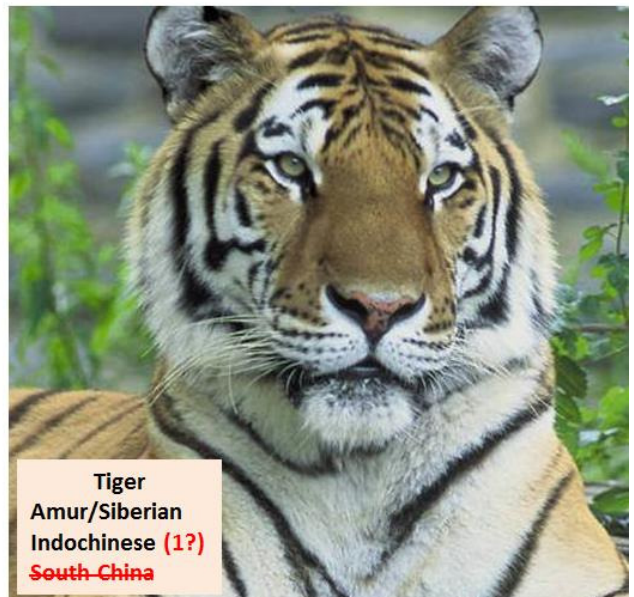




Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve, Yunnan Province



Gibbon  
Hoolock  
Cao Vit  
Western Black Crested  
Hainan



Tiger  
Amur/Siberian  
Indochinese (1?)  
South China



31 of the 57 endangered waterfowl species listed for Asia are found in China

*(Photos above and below courtesy of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)*

### **U.S. Conservation Funds for China**

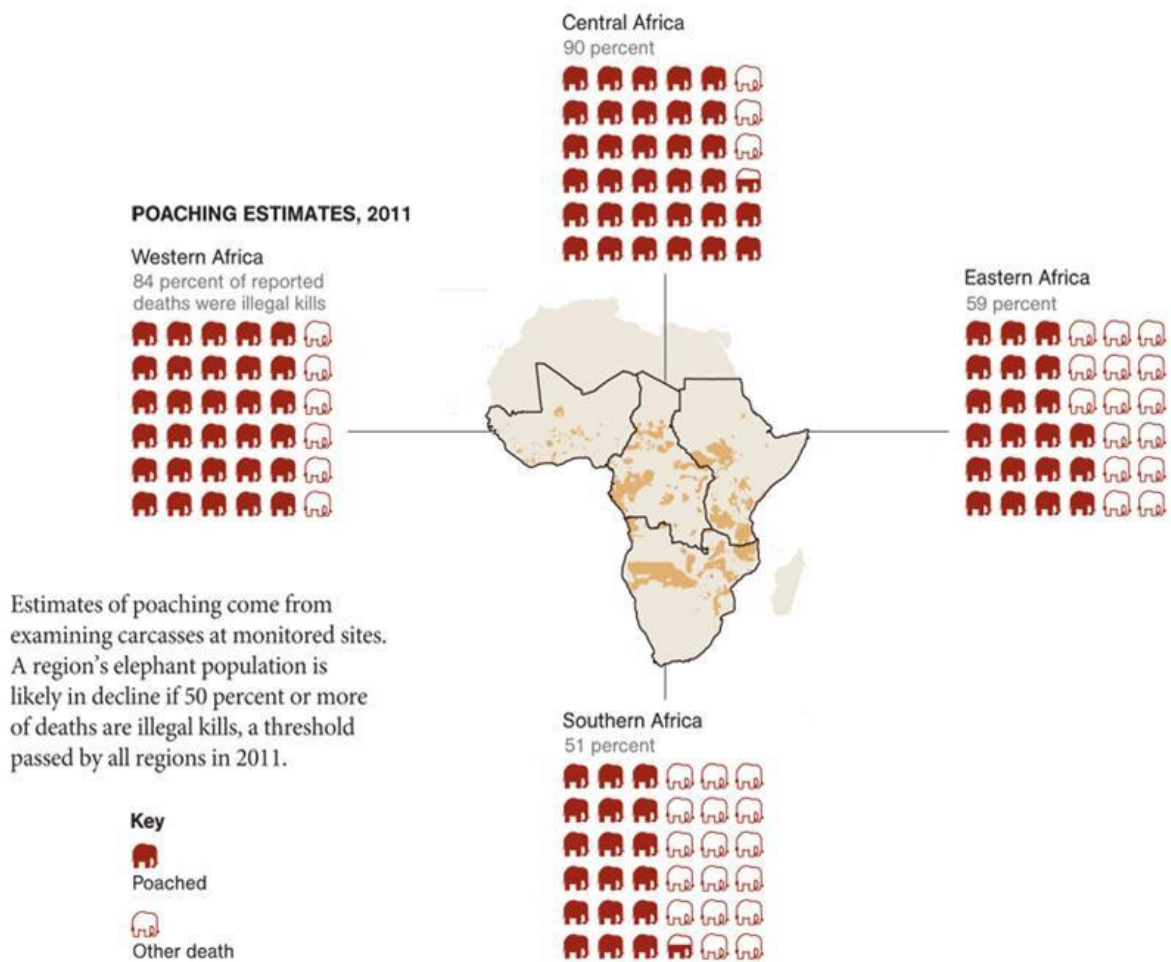
Between 1999 and 2013, the USFWS provided a total of \$2,154,692 to China for conservation efforts. Conservation Funds were created by the U.S. Congress for the preservation of the tiger, rhino, gibbon, Asian elephant, and sea turtle. Conservation funds were created also for the Siberian crane, Chinese giant salamander, and Chinese crested tern, all critically endangered animals.

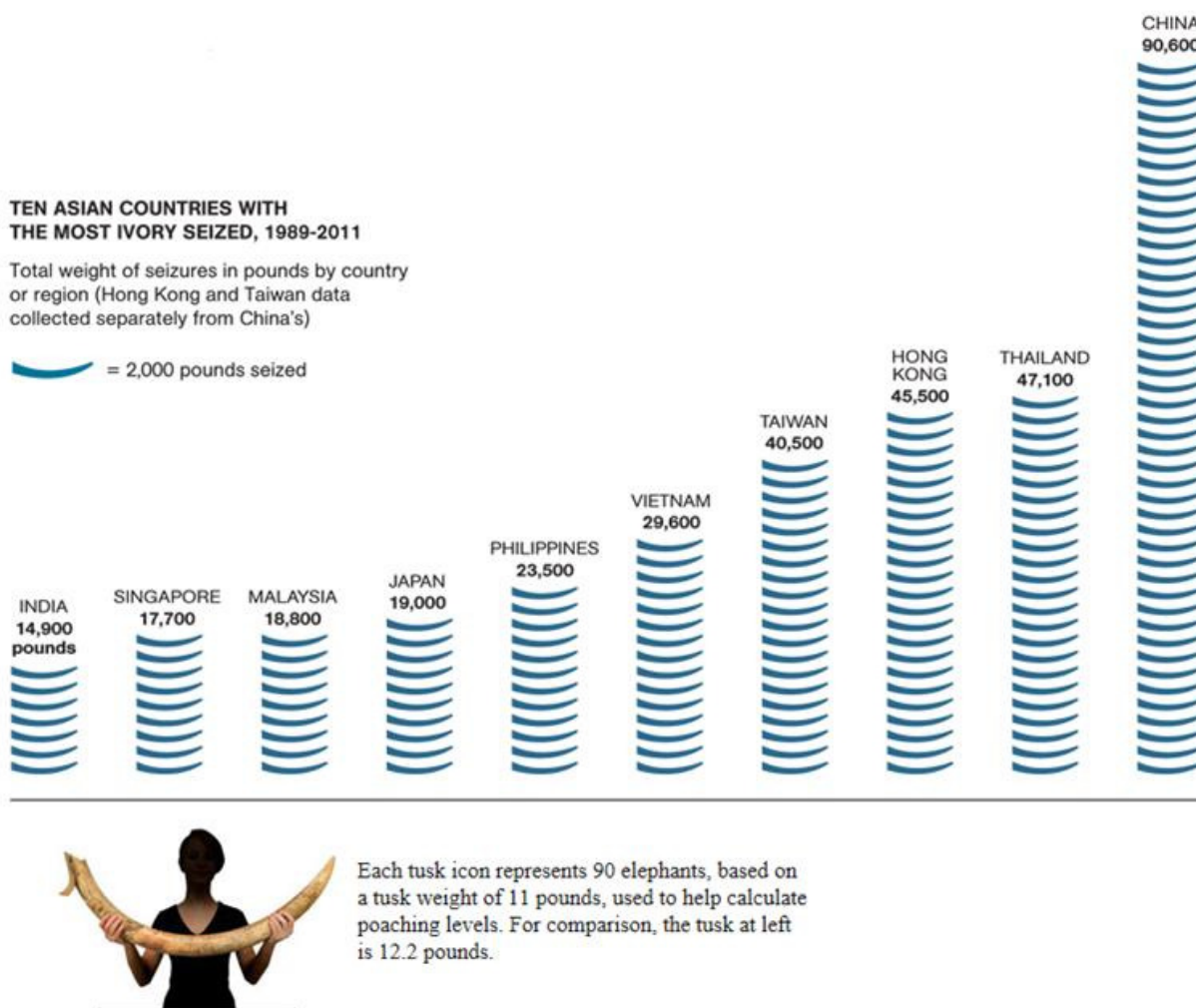
### **Plight of the African Elephant**

In Tanzania, there were 38,000 African elephants in 2009. The population of elephants is now down to 13,080 in 2014. According to Dr. Kerri-Ann Jones of the U.S. Department of State, “In 2003 alone an estimated 30,000 African elephants were killed for their ivory, more than 80 animals per day.”

Elephants are being killed for their ivory, with the biggest markets in China and surprisingly, in the U.S. (illegal trade). **Ivory represents the loss of progeny of the animal. Ivory causes the tragic deaths of rangers at the hands of syndicated poachers. Ivory represents dead elephants.**







*(The two charts courtesy of National Geographic)*

### **Ivory crush in Denver, Colorado**

On November 14, 2013, the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement crushed 6 tons of ivory seized over the last 25 years by its special agents and wildlife inspectors in connection with violations of U.S. wildlife laws and treaties. This crush was partly in response to illegal wildlife trade being elevated to a national security concern, as some of the proceeds have been going to terrorist groups. It also represented part of a wider crackdown by the Obama Administration on the illegal ivory trade. U.S. authorities are determined to kill the \$10 billion illicit trade linked to international crime and terrorism.

Over 35,000 elephants were killed in 2013 for the illegal ivory trade. Elephant poaching is at its highest level in decades and continues to rise. These animals are being slaughtered across Africa to meet an insatiable global demand for ivory. Scores of the park rangers who work to protect them have also been killed.

The ivory crush is sending a message to ivory traffickers and their customers that the United States will not tolerate this illegal trade. The U.S. is standing with nations that have already destroyed their illegal ivory, and we are showing our commitment to working with partners around the world to stop this trafficking and save elephants.





Ivory tusks and carved objects that were crushed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the direction of President Obama. The crush took place on November 14, 2013, at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Commerce City, Colorado, in an effort to stymie the illegal taking of wildlife.

*(Photo courtesy of Joe Amon, The Denver Post)*

To watch the video of the **U.S. Ivory Crush**, click on this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6u9UPgFkdA>

On January 6, 2014, just two months after the USFWS crushed 6 tons of seized ivory (which was the entire stockpile of seized ivory in the U.S), officials in Guangzhou, China, crushed 6.1 tons of seized ivory in a bid to raise awareness. Although this was just a portion of the massive stockpile of China's confiscated ivory, it is an important first step by the country. According to *The Guardian*, 45 tonnes of ivory were confiscated in China between 2009 and 2013 alone. *(Editor's Note: A 'tonne' is a metric measure equivalent to 1,000 kilograms or 2,205 pounds.)*

For further reading, click here:

[http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci\\_24518193/u-s-government-crushing-ivory-save-elephants-and](http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci_24518193/u-s-government-crushing-ivory-save-elephants-and)



### **Can the demand for wildlife products be reduced?**

Example: shark fin

Since shark fin dishes were excluded from China's state banquets, China's demand for the fins has dropped by 50%.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/in-china-victory-for-wildlife-conservation-as-citizens-persuaded-to-give-up-shark-fin-soup/2013/10/19/e8181326-3646-11e3-89db-8002ba99b894\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/in-china-victory-for-wildlife-conservation-as-citizens-persuaded-to-give-up-shark-fin-soup/2013/10/19/e8181326-3646-11e3-89db-8002ba99b894_story.html)

### **Conclusion**

It is predicted by wildlife conservationists that at the current rate of destruction of wildlife, many of the animals in the endangered category will be gone from the wild in the next ten years or less. The remaining minute pockets of these animals kept in zoos or in preserves tend to develop health issues due to the limited gene pool. It is indeed the twilight for many of these animals. But perhaps through education and awareness, we may hope to slow the course of extinction of endangered wildlife.



*(Photo taken by Camilla Ng)*

Additional links from Peter Ward:

**Video: Ivory being crushed** 14 seconds  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cc\\_Q\\_aSVugc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cc_Q_aSVugc)

**Video: Announcement of the U.S. Ivory Crush**  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0ZET\\_7OS4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0ZET_7OS4)

**More information on the U.S. Ivory Crush**  
<http://www.fws.gov/le/elephant-ivory-crush.html>



*(Photo taken by Susan Young)*



### **News from the Virginia Chapter**

*(from Maria Yang, President)*

On behalf of the Virginia Chapter of OCAW, Chapter President Maria Yang, Chapter Vice President Chi-hua Yang, and their husbands were invited by the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington D.C. to attend a dinner party held on Saturday, February 15, 2014, to celebrate the Chinese Lantern Festival and the inauguration of the Association's new 34th President.

The Lantern Festival is a festival celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the lunar calendar, marking the last day of the Lunar New Year celebration. According to Taoist tradition, the fifteenth day of the first lunar month, Shangyuan, corresponds to the "Official of Heaven," who enjoys bright and joyful objects, so there should be thousands of colorful lanterns hung out for people to appreciate. At this time, people will try to solve riddles, eat glutinous rice balls named after the festival, Yuanxiao (also known as Tangyuan), and enjoy a family reunion. In Hong Kong, it is commercialized as the Chinese equivalent of Valentine's Day. It is not to be confused with the Mid-autumn Festival, which is sometimes also known as the "Lantern Festival" in locations such as Singapore and Malaysia.



OCAW has served the community since 1977, before the normalization of US-China relations. The mission of the organization is to advance and to advocate for the needs and concerns of Chinese and other Asian Pacific American women by helping to improve their educational, economic, social, and political opportunities, and by recognizing their excellence, leadership, and contributions to the quality of life.

The Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington D.C. is one of the largest organizations in the Washington metropolitan Chinese community. OCAW-Virginia and OCAW-Maryland were invited to join in their activities and to co-sponsor any cultural and educational activities in the future.





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

*(from Betty Butz, President)*

#### **Spring Meeting**

The New Orleans Chapter of OCAW will hold its spring meeting on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Soho Restaurant on Veterans Boulevard in Metairie, Louisiana, starting at 11 a.m. The cost of the lunch will be about \$15.

A discussion on the “Image of Chinese American Women” will follow the meeting. Members will be encouraged to reflect upon their projected image in their efforts to integrate into mainstream society.

### **News from the Silicon Valley Chapter**

*(from Sophia Yang, President)*

#### **Saratoga Lunar New Year Celebration**

On Sunday, February 9, 2014, OCAW-SVC sponsored a “Celebrating the Lunar New Year” extravaganza in Saratoga, California.

Mayor Emily Lo helped organize this community-based event along with Cynthia Chang and Katherine Tseng, both members of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Board of Trustees. The three of them and all subcommittee chairs are longtime members of OCAW-SVC.

The festival attracted over 400 people from nearby communities. There were booths with food, health









activities, games, arts and crafts, Chinese Calligraphy, and Chinese cultural exhibitions; and performances of Chinese Drum, Taichi/Sword, Chinese Dance, and Gu Zheng. All of the activities, exhibitions, and performances were very much enjoyed by the attendees and audience.















The Chinese Costume Show presented by city-elected officials was the highlight of the event. Cynthia Chang was the Mistress of Ceremonies, and she organized a “History of China through its Clothing” show. Adding information about Chinese history to the clothing display was the idea of teacher/calligrapher Sandy Chow. We borrowed the clothing from the Culture Center (Taiwan) and recruited city council members and school board members to be in the performance. Participants were Emily Lo, Mayor of Saratoga; Nai Hsueh, Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Member; Lily Mei, Fremont Unified School District Board Member;



Manny Cappello, Saratoga City Council Member; Chuck Page, Saratoga City Council Member; Howard Miller, Vice Mayor of Saratoga; Katherine Tseng, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Board Member; and Cynthia Chang, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Board Member. (Please note that all female models were members of OCAW-SVC.) The show was very well received.







The script for

**The History of China through its Clothing**

by Cynthia Chang and Lisa Liu

The culture of China is ancient with more than 5,000 years of written history. Each dynasty left its distinctive traits on the brilliant culture and history of the country.

Many of these traits are apparent in the design and color of the attire of ancient China. The clothing reflects Chinese tradition and is an integral part of the history and culture of each dynasty. The apparel is in its own right a work of art.

1) The first costume comes from the Zhou Dynasty.

The Zhou Dynasty was established more than 3,000 years ago in 1046 BC. During this dynasty, the origins of Chinese philosophy developed. This era produced the Chinese philosophers who made the greatest impact on Chinese culture – Confucius and Laozi, the founder of Taoism. It was at this time that a ritual system referred to as Confucianism was established. It was an understanding of manners and rites stemming from a proposed social hierarchy and ethics. This ideology was encoded in the Book of Rites and became the heart of the Chinese imperial ideology.

## 2) Costume of Wang Zhaojun

The next costume comes from the Han Dynasty. Wang Zhaojun was born of a prominent family during the Han Dynasty around 50 BC. She was one of the legendary Four Beauties of ancient China. Not only was she a dazzling beauty but she had a keen mind and was a master pipa (Chinese lute) player and accomplished artist. As a concubine of the emperor at that time, she volunteered to be sent to the frontier lands as a tribute to the Xiongnu. Through her bravery the Xiongnu established friendly relations with the Han Dynasty.

## 3) Costume of Yang Guifei

The Tang Dynasty was the most thriving, prosperous, and glorious period of ancient Chinese culture and art. It was largely a period of progress and stability and is considered to be the greatest age for Chinese poetry. It produced two of China's most famous poets, Li Bai and Du Fu. The style of women's clothing during this period was the most resplendent in China's history. This is the costume of Yang Guifei of the Tang Dynasty. She was born in 719 AD and is another one of the Four Beauties of ancient China. She was the beloved consort of Emperor Xuanzong.

## 4) Costume of a High-Ranking Officer of the Song Dynasty

The development of many technical advances and innovations characterize the Song Dynasty. The distribution and access to literature and knowledge was boosted by the 11th century invention of movable type printing. Pre-modern technology, science, philosophy, mathematics, engineering, and other intellectual pursuits thrived over the course of the Song. It was the first government in world history to nationally issue banknotes or true paper money, and the first Chinese government to establish a permanent standing navy.

## 5) Genghis Khan of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368 AD)

The Yuan Dynasty was established by Kublai Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan, leader of the Mongol Empire. The Yuan is considered to be both a successor to the Mongol Empire and an imperial Chinese dynasty. Although the dynasty was established by Kublai Khan, he placed his grandfather Genghis Khan on the imperial records as the official founder of the dynasty. A rich cultural diversity developed during the Yuan Dynasty. The Mongols' extensive West Asian and European contacts facilitated cultural exchange. The first recorded travels by Europeans to China date from this time. The most famous European visitor was the Venetian Marco Polo, whose account of his trip to China astounded the people of Europe.

## 6) Ming and Qing Dynasties

The Ming and Qing Dynasties saw a period of greater opening of China to the West. The Ming Dynasty saw a flourishing of the arts and literature. The famous novel, Journey to the West, about the adventures of the Monkey was published during the Ming Dynasty in the 16th century. The Ming gave way to the Qing Dynasty in 1644 AD. The Qing or Manchu Dynasty was a multicultural empire that lasted almost three centuries. It formed the territorial base for the modern Chinese nation and was the last of the imperial dynasties.

The first Chinese national government was established on January 1, 1912, in Nanjing, with Sun Yat-sen as the provisional president. It centered on the Three Principles of the People (Sān Mǐn Zhǔyì), which called for the establishment of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. It is worthy to note that women were given the right to vote during this period. You can also see how the lines of Chinese fashion moved from looser and fuller shapes to more tight-fitting forms that revealed a women's figure.

These costumes reflect the distinctive features of the different dynasties of Chinese history. The apparel of



each dynasty vividly reflects and represents the culture and art of that time. It is quite evident that Chinese attire illustrates how bright, rich, and varied Chinese culture and history has been since its beginning.

*(Editor's Note: Cynthia reported that she went to the Saratoga City Council meeting after the event, and during the public comment session she personally thanked the members for their participation in the show. She also used the screen to show the photos taken. As the council meeting is video-recorded and broadcasted through its local TV channel, more residents were able to see the pictures, even though they did not come to the event.)*

### **1 Billion Rising for Justice**

OCAW-SVC sponsored a community event, "1 Billion Rising for Justice," on Saturday, February 15, 2014, at the Saratoga Farmers' Market in Saratoga, California. This was a Flash Mob event which took place in numerous venues around the world. Its purpose was dancing and rising for justice for all the women throughout the world who have suffered from an act of violence.

Several OCAW-SVC members participated in this event locally. We would like to echo this meaningful occasion and raise awareness of violence against women around the world.

This is the video link on Youtube for the Saratoga event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zh8gpoMsMIw>.

### **Upcoming Event**

We will have our annual Spring Walk and Lunch Social on Sunday, April 27, 2014. We will take a 4.6-mile walk on the Los Gatos Creek Trail in the morning. Nai Hsueh, a Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Member and SVC member, will lead this walk and talk about the role of Los Gatos Creek. It should be an easy walk on a pleasant spring day.

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

*(from Rena Young Ochse, President)*

### **Letter of Appreciation from the Canaan Community Gospel Center**

*(Editor's Note: The following is the text of a letter to OCAW-Hawaii from Reverend Godwin Lai of the Canaan Community Gospel Center in Honolulu. In October 2013, OCAW-Hawaii hosted "A Touch of Aloha" Hawaiian Luncheon benefit for the Center.)*

December 20, 2013

Dear Ms. Rena Young Ochse:

Christmas Greetings!

Christmas is a season for sharing and caring. We are here to express our gratitude and thanksgiving to OCAW for her caring and remembrance of Canaan Community Gospel Center and its work in the China Town Community. We feel blessed to receive the \$1,000 check from OCAW in supporting our mission.

On the day of the Christmas OCAW Officers Installation luncheon at the Oahu Country Club, while receiving the \$1,000 check, I felt immensely the hard work and the selfless endeavor from all the OCAW women in helping the Chinese immigrants and other nonprofit organizations. Your work is beyond measure. Praise God for those wonderful women.

We will use that fund in our Children's homework program to buy snacks and school supplies for the immigrant children from grade 1 to grade 9. We will inform the children that there is a group of American Chinese women caring for them.

God bless!

Reverend Godwin Lai

### **OCAW-Hawaii's Guest Speaker Revealed How Mental Illness Impacted Her Family**

*(from Sybil Kyi, Vice President)*

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) indicates that one in four adults, approximately 61.5 million Americans, experiences mental illness in a given year. One in seventeen, about 13.6 million, lives with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder.

At our most recent General Membership Meeting on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at Hee Hing Restaurant, our guest speaker, Sharon L. Hicks of Honolulu, addressed the latter in her award-winning memoir: How Do You Grab a Naked Lady? Her mother was a beautiful and talented woman who often engaged in situations that often seemed humorous in appearance and yet sad in their abnormality. Her mother was committed to asylums numerous times, given shock therapy, and arrested over thirty-three times, mainly for parading around town naked. Sharon desperately tried to escape her mother's craziness and searched for the American Dream of a white picket fence home and a squeaky-clean husband. Instead, she had two failed marriages and many, many men. She came up empty. She began to question her dream and eventually discovered the answer in a most unlikely source, her mother.

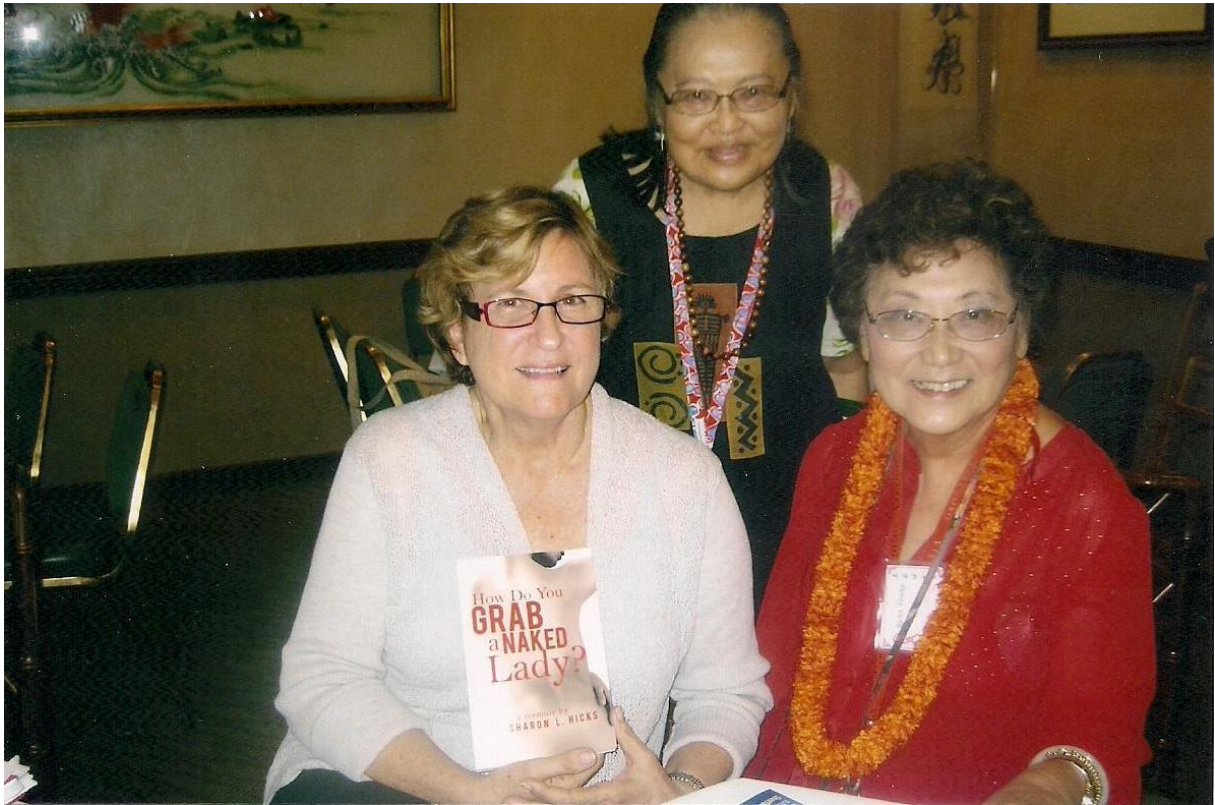
Ms. Hicks is also the daughter of a well-respected community and business leader, Harold Hicks. His company, Hicks Construction, *a.k.a.* Hicks Homes, built over 20,000 homes in Hawaii, spanning 50 years. In 2006, he was inducted posthumously into the Hawaii Building Industry Hall of Fame for being the most influential contractor during his time.

Her memoir received five stars, excellent book reviews, and movie options. It also won the 2012 nonfiction award at the Southern California Writers Conference. She is speaking to many community organizations, opening the conversations and helping to erase the stigma of mental illness that not only affects the patient but also affects the family and the community. Her presentation to OCAW-Hawaii was candid and revealing in its honesty.

Sharon L. Hicks is a kamaaiaan (longtime) resident of East Honolulu. She graduated from Roosevelt High School and California State University, Long Beach, where she majored in philosophy and minored in music. This is her first book inspired by her mother.



How Do You Grab a Naked Lady? is available in hard or soft cover and e-books from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com). Her website is: [www.sharonlhicks.com](http://www.sharonlhicks.com), and her email address is: [sharon@sharonlhicks.com](mailto:sharon@sharonlhicks.com).



### **Upcoming General Membership Meeting**

*(from Sybil Kyi)*

Vice President Sybil Kyi has been looking for locations for our General Membership meetings. We normally have them at Hee Hing Chinese Restaurant, but the restaurant is closing for renovations beginning April 15, 2014, and it is unknown when we will be able to use this venue in the future.

Meanwhile, we will be holding a meeting on Sunday, April 27 at the Maple Garden Restaurant in Honolulu. The Speaker for that meeting will be our own **Christine Ling**, who will be speaking on the very timely topic of "*The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882*" and the current immigration reform debate in the U.S. Congress. Chris wants everyone to know what is happening and could happen in this immigration reform legislation, and we will also learn what happened to Chinese immigrants in the U.S. in past history.

Chris served 33 years in State government service as Chief Health Educator in the Department of Health and was a Professor at the University of Hawaii's School of Public Health. She received her baccalaureate degree in education at the University of Hawaii and her Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Michigan. Her interests are watching Korean soap operas, doing tai chi, advocating health and wellness programs, painting in pastels, and enjoying time at Ewa beach.

Christine describes herself as an OCAW Charter member, a public health educator, and a community organizer and activist. She was the 1990 President of our Hawaii Chapter of OCAW and was a First Recipient of the “Outstanding OCAW Member Award” (with Yun Soong Jim) at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Hawaii’s OCAW Chapter in 2009 held at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

### **Upcoming 25th Anniversary Luncheon**

*(from Queenie Mow Chee)*

*(Editor’s Note: Per Rena, the Hawaii Chapter has been busy preparing for its 25th Anniversary Luncheon. Queenie is the Chairperson of the event.)*

In 1989, with the encouragement of Pauline Tsui and Mrs. Hiram Fong, an intrepid group of civic-minded Chinese American women of Honolulu took up the challenge and formed the Hawaii Chapter of OCAW. The first president was Dr. Margaret Lee.

Since then, there have been a multitude of good works and outstanding women who became members and served the Hawaii Chapter proudly and well. Some of the activities have included raising funds to purchase a new van for the Hawaii Bone Marrow Donor Registry, instructing Chinese immigrants on passing their U.S. Citizenship exams, organizing a forum to acquaint our youth with the State Legislative process, as well as hosting an OCAW National Convention in Hawaii.

This legacy inspires us to continue to carry out the purpose and goals of the organization.

To celebrate our 25th year, a special luncheon will be held on Saturday, July 19, 2014, at the beautiful Oahu Country Club in Honolulu. Three outstanding members will be recognized and honored at this event. One of the honorees is our late past President Rose Lee, who established the Bone Marrow Registry in Hawaii, and served during our tenth anniversary of OCAW-Hawaii. That year, our convention was honored to have Hillary Clinton’s representative from Washington, D.C. as a keynote speaker on women’s rights and the progress of minority women in America.

We welcome all members and Chapters to visit the islands and join us at our celebration. Tickets to the Luncheon and Silent Auction Fundraiser for charities and welfare may be purchased beginning in May. Aloha!

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

#### **About Christina Chang, National President**

Warmest congratulations to Christina Chang on her retirement on February 27, 2014, after a long and dedicated career in the Federal government!

She and her husband Steve immediately departed for a two-month trip to Taiwan and China. Christina reports that it has been wonderful to relax and enjoy their trip! They will return in early May.



The following photos were taken in Hualian, Taiwan.



**From Betty Butz, New Orleans Chapter President**

**The Cayenne Palette**

When I visited the Big Island of Hawaii several years ago, I was enchanted by the surreal landscape created by the interplay of fire and water, of destruction brought by volcano eruption and the simultaneous growth of matter rising from the ocean. Molten lava flowing in slow motion with budding coconut plants shimmering in the sun was a fantastic scene. Against the endless crashing waves of the Pacific Ocean, the landscape produced images that one would never forget. Cooled lava rings formed swirls of shallow, pristine landforms that resembled enormous black palettes ready to hold an artist's imagination. The visit was a transforming experience as I became more appreciative of the lava land itself, the wonderfully fertile and unblemished soil, and the vegetation that eventually covers the ground in a place where change is obviously constant. At a roadside stand, I bought some amazing, foot-long anthurium flowers to carry with me on the rest of my journey.

As a member of Ikebana International, I have the honor of exhibiting in the Asian Gallery at the New Orleans Museum of Art each spring in a fundraising event called "Art in Bloom." This year, the exhibit was held





Thursday, March 20 through Sunday, March 23. The gallery is located in a tranquil corner on the top floor of the museum. On the first and second floors, professional florists fill large open areas with lavish displays of colorful, fragrant floral artwork to dazzle the senses; and garden clubs compete for ribbons of recognition in smaller galleries with their designs that complement paintings on the wall. There are also bonsai and children's exhibits.

The theme for Art in Bloom in 2014 was "The Perfect Palette." It inspired me to think of the palette-like anthurium flowers in tropical colors that would bring life to a canvas. The volcano deity of Pele also came to mind and provided creative energy. My design would contain palette shapes, and elements suggesting passion and eruption. Since the subtitle of the theme was "Celebrating the Flavors of New Orleans," I chose the color of a spice and called my ikebana piece, "The Cayenne Palette." A scroll hanging behind the arrangement adds interest to the composition.

The Cayenne Palette is made up of the following materials:

Container: Ceramic vase

Lines: Dried, colored branches, Psittacorum (mini heliconia), Africa iris

Foliage: Aspidistras, Philodendron "Black Cardinal"

Flowers: Anthurium, obake "Sunrise"

Filler: Nandina

## **Charlotte, North Carolina**

**by Dianna Gorin**

*(Editor's Note: Dianna, a longtime member of the Maryland and Virginia Chapters, moved with her husband Henry to Charlotte, North Carolina last fall.)*

After Henry and I decided to move to Charlotte, North Carolina, many friends asked me: where is Charlotte, and what is Charlotte all about?

Charlotte is in the Piedmont region of North Carolina and is the state's most populated and fastest-growing city. In fact, it is the largest city in both North and South Carolina. Charlotte is located inside Mecklenburg County, and the southwest corner of Charlotte is on the border of South Carolina.

Charlotte is the second largest banking center in the United States after New York City. Today, Bank of America and the East Coast operations of Wells Fargo have their headquarters here. The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond came to Charlotte in 1927, encouraging the area's banks to grow.

There are many Protestant churches. Most of them have Korean and English signs. South Charlotte is the hub for the Jewish community, with two synagogues.

Of the Asian population, the largest numbers are Indian, followed by Filipino, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Thai, and Malayan. Others are Japanese and Singaporean.

Since I have lived in Charlotte for almost six months now, I have made many observations of different things that I didn't see in Northern Virginia and Maryland.

I live in South Charlotte. There are a lot of shopping centers here. Most of them have Harris Teeter grocery stores (Kroger bought Harris Teeter recently but will let Harris Teeter keep its name). Home Depot and Lowe's are in close proximity to one another. These shopping centers are of benefit to all of the residents.

Many homeowners use long pine needles to put around their trees and shrubs instead of mulch. Home Depot and Lowe's don't sell them, so at first I wondered where these long pine needles came from. But then, during late January, February, and early March, I found that many vendors from South Carolina sold them door-to-door. Within the development where I live, there are many big and tall trees on both sides of the road, and residents, when they are driving, have to use high beams to see the road when they are going out or coming home after dark, even though all the houses have porch lights on.

One of the largest Harris Teeter grocery stores close to my home carries some Asian vegetables, including Chinese parsleys and bitter squashes, even though two of the largest Asian grocery stores don't carry these two items.

The weather is very nice in Charlotte. It does snow, but not often. Many people in Charlotte are from New England, New Jersey, and the Midwest where the weather is cold. In February it did snow around 5 inches, but compared with the Washington, D.C. area it was nothing. Many friends jokingly said that I moved to Charlotte to escape the cold and bad weather.

North Carolina is one of the states that require that all new residents pass a test called "Driving Knowledge." There are 25 questions on the test. If five questions or fewer are answered in error, the driver passes. But if six questions or more are incorrect, then the driver has to repeat the test until he passes. However, regardless of these requirements, there are still many bad drivers on the road. A number of people have complained about the bad driving behavior they witness.

Many people are very nice. Some have asked me if I like Charlotte, and I've told them, "Yes!" But then I've added, "People are nice, but on the highway or on the road it is a different story," and they've all laughed. Henry and I moved here for retirement just like many of the people who moved from other states. Recently, Charlotte was rated one of the best retirement cities in the U.S. in which to live.

## **At Sea**

**by Betty Butz**

New Orleans, February 2014

My mother delivered me under a full moon in the middle of summer in a delta city in south China. She often told me that I would encounter many helpful people in my life because energies from the moon and the summer heat accompanied my journey into this world. Since she was a midwife and I was her eighth child, I can venture to guess that she did some calculations to ensure that at least one of her children would be born under the right cosmic lineup. Two elder siblings also had mid-summer birthdays, but I was the only one born under a full moon.

A lily pond graced the garden at the house where I was born. It inspired my father to name me after the lotus plant, one that blossoms in summer. The script for lotus consists of a flower on top and a wagon under it, riding a watercraft. I have followed the predictions of my parents and have traveled on many boats, meeting many helpful people along the way. When I was little, I was taken along on rafts to traverse waterways in the



Pearl River Delta. In Hong Kong, ferries provided me with easy transport across Victoria Harbor. On my first trip to Japan, a large ship in the President line took several days to get me to Yokohama. In my university days, I began to fly, mostly in the summer, between Hong Kong and Japan and the United States and Singapore, places where I lived.

In these days of intense airport scrutiny, flying is no longer the most relaxed way to travel. Cruising is more desirable. New Orleans was once a busy cruise port until big bad storms made docking difficult. Fortunately, in the last few years, the city has rebounded sufficiently that cruise ships have returned. There are three cruise lines that depart and return every week during cruise season. Destinations are mostly in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. My latest ride was on a Carnival ship from New Orleans to Honduras, Belize, and Mexico. On this trip, I rode a chairlift to the beach, paddled a kayak in a dense rain forest, and took part in an America's Cup sailboat race and won.

I booked my cabin a year ago. On a previous cruise, I had checked out the deck plan on each floor and had discovered that the best views belong to rear corner cabins with wrap-around balconies. The views continually broaden one's vista and the privacy is fantastic. My travel agent visited my room before check-in and left a present, which made my sea days even sweeter.

We left New Orleans on a Sunday. After two days at sea, the Carnival Sunshine docked at Isla Roatan, a narrow island off the coast of Honduras. Passengers were able to walk away from the ship onto the island. My husband and I rode loops on a power chairlift above a tropical paradise of lush jade green foliage and brightly hued flowers. All plants flourished under the musical blessings of birds nearby and plentiful moisture and sun. The chairlifts carried us over glistening shallow water. Under bright sunshine, meandering iridescent blue ribbons appeared close to shore. On closer examination, the ribbons were actually comical-looking needlefish threading their way through sparkling reflections of the water. At a park not far away, dolphins plied the water, providing entertainment to all visitors near and far. At the beach, plastic foam body floaters let us frolic in the cool water of the sea while basking under a warm sun.

The next day, we arrived in Mahogany Bay in Belize. The water was too shallow for the ship to dock, so we rode ferries, called 'tenders,' to shore. Belize was known as British Honduras from 1862 to 1973. The country's most valuable and plentiful natural resource was mahogany trees, which were harvested in abundance to make furniture for wealthy estates overseas. The most important source of revenue today is tourism.

A group of us boarded a luxury tour bus and traveled on bumpy roads to a nature park. Some of the group went horseback riding, some swam in a pool, some visited butterflies in a butterfly house. My husband and I went on a kayaking adventure. The kayak sported openings on both sides to allow water to pass in and out of the seat while I paddled in cool, brackish water for almost an hour. Two guides accompanied us as we navigated through shallow and narrow waterways under a lush green canopy of palmetto, vines, verdant trees, and tropical vegetation. In the branches that hung above us, the most improbable juxtaposition of termite nests and clusters of orchid foliage appeared. To enjoy the orchid flowers, one would need to return in the summer. Bats flew away like birds from tree trunks as we got close to them. Iguanas measured their pace in order to stay away. An exotic bloom caught my attention. Foot-long flowers of the provision tree were in season and could be seen floating on water, caught in branches, and proudly displayed on treetops. Their large, brown, bulbous fruit hung high. Colorful shimmering butterflies flitted by. The swamp was serene and pristine.

Only four people from our ship took the kayaking excursion, but I was reassured by the guides that the next group would consist of 36 Germans. I needed to buy a pair of shorts at the gift shop. Choices were rather limited. The best option was a sarong that came in only one size, one color, and one style.

The third and last port of call was Cozumel, Mexico. Never in my life had I dreamed of being a member of a sailboat racing crew. Thirty people were ferried to two 12-meter America's Cup racing sailboats. We were divided evenly and assigned tasks while onboard. The 12-meter is a sleek boat with tall elegant sails built to race. Captain Ian, who sailed from his home country of Australia to the West Indies, made sure that the race took place. We raced a total distance of five miles in balmy weather in just the right amount of wind. The experience was exhilarating, offering an incentive for me to live longer and cruise more.

Returning to New Orleans is usually as exciting as leaving it for the cruise. The city is especially charming when the ship cruises up the Mississippi River, passing oil rigs lit up like gold jewelry in the distance. But this trip ended in dense fog created by cold water from the north. While we were at sea, the Midwest and the east coast were gripped in ice and snow. Atlanta suffered snow-related disasters. In New Orleans, schools and bridges were closed for two days as a deep freeze descended all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

Many fellow passengers had to fly home or drive many miles through snow and sleet and ice. It was a chilly note after cruising for a week in the sun. Visibility in the morning hours was extremely limited. My son came in his car, took us across the Mississippi River on the Crescent City Connection bridge, and got us home in the fog to count our blessings and to dream of the next ride.