

E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

April 2015

(from Linda Devine, Editor)

As always, thank you to those who submitted material for this e-newsletter. Again I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my husband Ed for his work in preparing photos for the issue.

I continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles for the publication if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership. It does not have to be lengthy; even small items of information would be most welcome.

I am always open to suggestions or recommendations for any aspects of the e-newsletter. Please feel free to contact me at: devinefive@comcast.net. ***PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS.***

Nominations for OCAW National Officers and Members at Large

(from Donna Byler, Executive Director)

UPDATE: The deadline for nominations has been extended to **June 1, 2015**. Please consider nominating candidates you feel would make good leaders, or feel free to nominate yourself!

The following information appeared in the last (February) issue, and is presented again for your consideration.

* * * * *

Nominations are open for OCAW National Officers and Members at Large. These individuals, along with the Presidents of the five OCAW chapters and the Executive Director, constitute the National Board of Directors.

Officers are:

President
Vice President for Programs
Vice President for Finance
Vice President for Membership
Vice President for Communications and Public Relations
Secretary
Treasurer

Ideally, there should be at least one Member at Large per chapter.

Duties of Officers and Members at Large

The President presides over meetings and represents OCAW at community events and meetings.

Vice Presidents perform specific duties in accordance with their title, act in the absence of the President, and perform other duties as requested by the President.

The Secretary takes and keeps minutes of meetings and performs other duties as requested by the President.

The Treasurer handles the funds of the organization, collects dues, pays bills, etc., and performs other duties as requested by the President.

A Member at Large represents the general membership on issues of interest or concern, particularly those that arise outside of the standing committee structure.

Members at Large (MALs) conduct projects to further the goals of the organization or to develop services for the membership. MALs could serve as chair of any ad hoc committee formed to develop these projects.

MALs listen to the membership and communicate members' issues, needs, and interests to the Board of Directors. They:

- Identify potential opportunities and problems
- Work effectively toward common goals as team members
- Set objectives and develop action plans for selected and/or assigned projects

Traditionally, national officers have resided in the Washington, D.C. area. However, in today's times, with electronic communications an integral part of our everyday life, there is no longer any need for officers to be located in the same geographic area, be it Washington or any other location. **Thus, please do not feel any geographic constraints in nominating OCAW members who you think would make good members of the board.**

Please feel free to nominate yourself or any member in good standing, and send nominations for any or all of the above positions to:

ocawwomen@aol.com

donnabyler@aol.com

joannewang88@gmail.com

News from the Maryland Chapter

Mimi Hom's Surprise Birthday Party

(from Linda Devine)

On Sunday, March 8, 2015, OCAW-MD and OCAW-VA members participated in a surprise birthday party for Mimi Hom. Mimi is a longtime OCAW-MD member and Founder and Producer of Opera International. It was Mimi's 88th birthday, and the event took place at the lovely home of MD member Dorothy Hsiao in Bethesda, Maryland.

The idea for the party was conceived by Camilla Ng and Cathy Roberts, who wanted to celebrate Mimi's life and acknowledge all of the contributions she has made to OCAW and Opera International over many years. They enlisted the aid of Linda Devine, whose task was to get Mimi to the party for the surprise. Linda informed Mimi that Mimi's presence was requested at a small meeting of a few OCAW-MD leaders to discuss future chapter plans. Although Mimi was dubious that she could contribute ideas to the discussion,

she consented to come to the “meeting” nevertheless. In the meantime, Camilla and Cathy continued with plans, and MD officers Susan Young and Christina Poy coordinated administrative tasks.

When Mimi arrived at Dorothy’s home, she was greeted with a chorus of “Surprise!” by the assembled attendees. She was very touched by the thoughtfulness and caring of everyone.



Needless to say, because it was an OCAW event, there were a large number of delicious dishes that the participants had brought to share – tasty and varied entrees and side dishes, and an array of desserts.







Cathy had baked a fantastic chocolate cherry birthday cake, and she adorned it with lovely, colorful “Happy Birthday” letter candles.

Hong-Yee Chiu had nicely made the effort to obtain sheet music for the “Happy Birthday” song, and he adroitly played it on the piano as we all sang to Mimi.



It was indeed a lovely afternoon, with everyone enjoying the opportunity to catch up with one another. After a very cold and snowy winter, the weather that day was sunny and mild with the snow thawing on the sidewalks and streets, adding to the happy mood.

Enormous thanks to Dorothy Hsiao and Skip MacArthur for so graciously opening up their home to us for the special occasion. In addition, Dorothy prepared even *more* food on top of what was already contributed! Mimi and we especially appreciate Dorothy's thoughtfulness and efforts. And although all who came should have received a thank-you email from Mimi, she would like to once again express her heartfelt appreciation to everyone for taking the time to prepare wonderful dishes, attend the gathering, and create such a special day for her!



Back row: Hong-Yee Chiu, Hong-fa Chu, Christina Poy, Henriette Levy, Patricia Fenn, Faith Breen, and Dorothy Hsiao

Middle row: Novi Sulistio, Mimi Hom, Rose Li, Audrey Lee, and Maria Yang

Front row: Camilla Ng, Cathy Roberts, Pam Wong, Susan Young, and Linda Devine

Not pictured: Suzy Hung

(Photos taken by Dorothy Hsiao, Linda Devine, and Skip MacArthur)

News from the Virginia Chapter

Taiwan Benevolent Association Dinner Party

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

The OCAW Virginia Chapter was invited by the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington D.C. to participate in a dinner party to celebrate the Chinese Lantern Festival and the annual meeting of the organization on Friday, March 6, 2015.

The dinner party was held at the New Fortune Restaurant in Gaithersburg, Maryland. There were about 500 participants and VIP guests in attendance. The VIP guests were U.S. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland, Montgomery County (MD) Executive Ike Leggett, Maryland State Senator Susan Lee, and Montgomery County (MD) Council Members Nancy Floreen, Roger Berliner, and Craig Rice.

The guests from OCAW-VA were Maria Yang on behalf of OCAW-VA and OCAW-MD, Dr. Min-fu Tsan, Dr. Linda Tsan, and Dr. Gene Jack Wang.



Maria Yang, President of OCAW-VA and Acting President of OCAW-MD; Cindy Chin, President of the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington D.C.; and Hui-ching Chen, Council of TBA-DC



Dr. Min-fu Tsan, Dr. Linda Tsan, and Dr. Gene Jack Wang





Maria Yang (standing, far left), the officers of the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington D.C., and VIP guests

Taiji Seminar

(from Henriette Levy)

The OCAW Virginia Chapter cosponsored O-mei Wushu Kungfu Center's Taiji Seminar on Sunday, March 15, 2015 in Fairfax, Virginia. Nearly 70 people attended the seminar, including members, family, and friends of OCAW-VA and OCAW-MD. A good mixture of attendees is demonstrated in the accompanying photos which show individuals from different cultures with the same interest in enhancing their health, gathered to learn more about this Chinese traditional art.



Participants doing the basic Taiji movements

Guest speaker, Dr. C. P. Ong, is the author of Taijiquan: Cultivating Inner Strength. It is interesting to note that besides being an expert in Taiji, his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley was in mathematics. The main points addressed in Dr. Ong's speech in the seminar were "internal balance" and "inner strength." Taiji movements start with the mind and not the muscles. Internal balance is not the same as physical balance. It is a complete body balance, which is at the core of the bipedal mobility. Dr. Ong demonstrated how the internal balance and the inner strength come into play during a physical fight. The same method can also help athletes bring out their best performances.



Hold the ball on the left



Hold the ball on the right



Taiji straight sword demonstration

Taijiquan was derived from the Chinese traditional martial art. It is a safe exercise for people of all ages. In the seminar, students of O-mei Wushu Center's Taiji class performed Taijiquan, Taiji Sword, and the Eight Brocade.



Shifu Lu correcting the posture of a participant. (Skip MacArthur, Cathy Roberts, and Susan Young are among those pictured.)



Golden cock stands on one leg

The grand finale of the seminar was the Founder and Master Lu Xiaolin of O-mei Wushu Center teaching the basic Taiji movements. Everyone got on the floor to sample and become inspired by this wonderful exercise. Taiji is no longer just a Chinese specialty. It now belongs to the world.

(Editor's Note: The seminar was arranged through the diligent efforts of OCAW-VA member and OCAW-MD supporter Henriette Levy. Congratulations to Henriette on a highly successful event!)

(Photos taken by Camilla Ng)

News from the New Orleans Chapter

(from Betty Butz, President)

Welcoming the Year of the Ram

On Saturday, February 28, 2015, OCAW New Orleans Chapter members joined several local Chinese communities to welcome the Year of the Ram at Holy Trinity Cathedral near the University of New Orleans. The event was cosponsored by the New Orleans Chinese Association and scholars from UNO. In addition to delicious food that everyone enjoyed in the company of one another, performers from Shanghai regaled the audience with joyful sounds and colorful entertainment.

(The following photos were taken by Dr. Si Chung.)



Leda Fan, Li Seghers, Yvonne Louie, Mark Seghers, Nancy Chung, and Si Chung







The History of New Orleans' Chinatown: Opening Reception, Presentation, and Tour

On Saturday, March 7, 2015, A Studio in the Woods and Tulane University cosponsored an opening reception for an installation of Lunar Chinese New Year signs at 212 Loyola Street near the public library in downtown New Orleans. Artist Maria Moller and geographer Richard Campanella gave a presentation on memories of a Chinatown that existed at the site over 100 years ago. The place where a Presbyterian Church, a Chinese Mission, and Chinese retail stores were located has transformed over the years into a busy, high-density area with condominiums, apartments, parking garage, and sites slated for urban re-development.

Several members of our chapter attended the presentation and walked around the neighborhood for a flavor of urban revival after years of decay and neglect. It was an afternoon well spent on reflecting upon the lives of Chinese pioneers who came to settle in this city.

News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(from Sophia Yang, President)

Annual Members Holiday Social



The Silicon Valley Chapter's first event of the year was held on Sunday, January 11, 2015, in the Community Room of the Saratoga Library in Saratoga, California. Activities included Jewelry-Do It Yourself, Recipe Sharing, and Line Dance Teaching. A detailed article and photos of the event were published in the *February 2015 OCAW E-Newsletter*.

(Editor's Note: As a follow-up to the February report, I wanted to add to the record a lovely group photo of the event's smiling participants!)

Blossom Festival

On Saturday, March 21, 2015, OCAW-SVC was represented at the Blossom Festival hosted by the Saratoga Historical Foundation in the Saratoga Heritage Orchard and Civic Center in Saratoga, California.

The Blossom Festival originated to celebrate the end of three years of drought in 1900 with the anticipation of a good crop. The festival continued to grow and prosper until after World War II. It was a day of community, celebration, and gentle fun.



Music of the 40s, antique cars, vintage farm vehicles, gourmet food trucks, children's activities, poetry by poets laureate, artists, and craftspeople brought back memories of yesteryear.

OCAW had a booth to demonstrate Chinese arts projects. We taught children to do paper-cutting and also had Chinese knot-making.

The paper-cutting project was making the three-dimensional Chinese character “Spring” and lanterns on colorful papers.







We also taught people how to tie the Chinese “Double Coin” Knot with three layers of colorful strings. To the end, we glued a back bar pin on the finished knots, and made it a pin to wear.





Most of our officers volunteered to help in the event. Even though they were trained to make the knots just a week before the festival, they nicely helped the kids and taught the adults with patience.

It was truly an extraordinary day!! We all had fun and enjoyed the beautiful spring weather in the orchard. Our booth was very busy. Not only did the children love the paper-cutting and making the lanterns, but also the adults liked being challenged to make the knots.

Annual Spring Outing

We had our Annual Spring Outing at Lands End Trail, San Francisco, on Saturday, March 28, 2015. The trail is located at the northwestern corner of San Francisco.

We started from the Visitor Center where we could overlook the epic ruins of the Sutro Baths. There is a series of stunning views along this wild and rocky trail which opens out onto famous vistas: The Labyrinth, Mile Rock Beach, and Lands End Point.

We followed the Coastal Trail and took about an hour to reach Sea Cliff, a residential area near China Beach. Then we took the El Camino Del Mar Trail, alongside the Lincoln Park Golf Course, back to the trailhead. The entire trip was about 2.9 miles, and was quite an easy walk.

The following photos show some of the varied scenery we encountered.







We had lunch at the Park Chalet Garden Restaurant next to the Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden, which is famous for its windmill and tulips. Sitting on a picnic blanket, enjoying the hamburgers, sandwiches, wood-fired pizza, and salad, was a perfect ending for our hike.



Hillsides of cypress, wildflowers, and the great views of the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco Bay all made this outing such a great memory.

* * * * *

Please refer to this link to learn more about Lands End, and be sure to visit there, too. <http://www.inside-guide-to-san-francisco-tourism.com/lands-end-san-francisco.html>

(Editor's Note: Although Sophia has been extraordinarily busy with her job at this time of year, she found the time to take the lead to produce the two successful events above, doing the necessary research, coordinating plans, and executing the events with chapter officers and other members. Kudos to all for a job well done!)

News from the Hawaii Chapter

Thank you from Rena Young Ochse, Immediate Past President

I would like to thank chapter members and OCAW National for the support of my two-year term as President of the Hawaii Chapter. It was a rewarding experience for me as well as building our membership to what we have today.

My goal was to build and increase membership and recognize our unique group of ladies who have accomplished so much as an "American Chinese" woman. We did increase our membership by 19 new members and still counting. Congratulations to our President, Queenie Chee, who is carrying the theme of "The Progress of the Chinese American in the 21st Century."

We celebrated our 25th Anniversary of OCAW Hawaii Chapter and were able to honor three members who made a difference in the longevity of OCAW in Hawaii. Actually, this is my third term, as I was your President in 2002. May our chapter continue to obtain the high level of leadership and recognition in our Aloha state of Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Rena

Christmas/Installation Luncheon

(from Queenie Chee, President)

The Hawaii Chapter held its annual Christmas/Installation Luncheon on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at the Oahu Country Club in Honolulu.

Outgoing President Rena Young Ochse presented Incoming President Queenie Chee with a 'gavel' for her presidency which was a wooden mallet.



In turn, Queenie presented Rena with a plaque on which to hang *her* gavel. The plaque was engraved with the OCAW emblem, and each year of her service as President of the Hawaii Chapter was noted. Three years...and there was space for more!



(Photos taken by Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock)

February General Membership Luncheon Meeting

(from Rena Young Ochse, Communications Committee Co-Chair)

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter started the year with a theme – *Chinese American Women Pioneers*.

Our new President Queenie Chee was the main speaker for our first general meeting of the year. She gave the membership stories of some significant contributors to our freedom and the respect and privileges which we take so much for granted, yet enjoy very much. Here is her speech to our membership.

Talk by Queenie Chee

at

OCAW Hawaii Chapter
General Membership Luncheon Meeting
Sunday, February 22, 2015



As I am not an academically credentialed scholar in this field, I refer heavily upon the written words of those who are. Before I go any further, please allow me to recognize two people here with us today, who were the sources of some of the material from which I will speak.

First, our own OCAW member, the author and editor of many books and for at least two decades, please applaud May Lee Chung! I will be referring to several articles from the book, Pioneer Chinese Women of Hawaii, which she and our dear late Dorothy Luke compiled and edited.

Second, an author, a director-producer, and daughter of Dr. Shelley Mark and the late Janet Chong Mark – Diane Mark! How ironic that she comes as a guest, as she should have been our featured speaker. But, today, she is the critic and I am but the mouthpiece.

OK...when you were growing up, did you ever wish you were not of Chinese ancestry? Or look at Chinese boys as the last kind of boys you would want to go out with? Did you ever question why you felt this way? It had to do a lot with self-image! Meanwhile, there have been and still are a host of women, not just of Chinese ancestry but of different walks, who are working at trying to overcome negative self-image that some of us still have in different ways.

DID YOU KNOW?!?

OCAW got its first big ‘kick-start’ in 1980, in part from a Hawaii native, Congresswoman Patsy Mink. She was the first Asian American woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress. How many of you are familiar with Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972? It prohibits sex discrimination in federally-assisted programs. Mrs. Mink crafted this legislation and helped to get it passed.

OCAW was awarded sizable funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Women’s Educational Equity Act Program, funded under the Title IX Amendment. The grant was used to convene an educational advising committee of Chinese American women who helped to develop OCAW’s four training conferences held in four major cities across the U.S. (Houston, New York, Los Angeles, and in the state of Maryland). They had three training modules for professional, non-professional, and teenage Chinese American women. This led to

the establishment of four new OCAW Chapters, one in each of those cities.

But I am jumping ahead here. Let us go back to the beginning – the earlier days of the Chinese coming to America. It was not an easy time back then. Recorded U.S. history placed the first Chinese WOMEN in America in the year 1834. We are not talking about the Hawaiian kingdom here, but the United States back then.

Here, I will read excerpts from author Dr. Judy Yung's publication, Chinese Women of America – A Pictorial History.

Back in the 19th century, in America, attitudes and stereotypes were so negative for the Chinese, much more so for the Chinese women. It took so many women, in big and little ways, to make little and big strides toward respect and equality.

Many Chinese women of this period were given opportunities to learn and broaden their experiences and outlooks, thanks to American and British missionaries. Christians opened schools to Chinese girls, in China and America, teaching skills as well as English, the three "R's," and Christianity. They also established shelters for orphans and destitute women.

The first of five women I wish to recognize today is one who began as a prostitute and survived the harsh frontier life of the Wild West, to become a legendary figure in her all-white community in Idaho. **POLLY BEMIS**, who was born Lalu Nathoy.

The second of five women I bring to your attention, actually lived most of her life in the United States, and died in New York. **MADAME CHIANG KAI SHEK, SOONG MEI-LING**.

It was during World War II that Chinese American women entered the Federal Civil Service in droves, which also was a giant step toward mainstreaming and acceptance. We should continue to be aware of and strive to encourage our young Asian American women to enter Civil Service work and other government work.

The third of five women whom I have singled out to recognize for her contributions today has her daughter present among us. Her only daughter looks a lot like her – Diane Mark. Diane is a historian, a scholar, and an award-winning movie producer (remember "Picture Bride?"). **JANET JIN-AI CHONG**.

About now, the food is hitting the tummy and your eyelids are getting heavy. Or because I am not animated enough! Well, if you wish, close your eyes, and picture a young lady, just twenty years old, looking a lot like Diane, but dressed in a suit, with hat and gloves, as was the dress back in 1943 when one travelled, and listen to her story. Try to envision the scene as I read from Diane's own article about her mom's experience that led to the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in Canada.

Our fourth of the five women, I will merely mention her name, as we have heaped many honors upon her, and many of you are very familiar with her works. **AH QUON MacELRATH**...a feisty woman who fought for fairness for the middle-class laborer. She was fearless and focused on her mission, and race and gender never slowed her down.

Our last of the five women I want to have us remember, are for their work toward projecting a different image of the Chinese American woman to the general U.S. public. If you are alert, you will have caught me using a plural "their" instead of "her." That is because I fudged here. There are two more ladies, **PINKIE SUI PING CHUN CARUS** and **SOO YONG HUANG**, who both did remarkable things that helped to nurture the positive side of Chinese American women to the general population.

Pinkie Sui Ping Chun Carus, I cite for her role of Portia in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" in 1953. A Chinese woman playing such a 'heavy' role was heretofore unheard of! And she did such a great job; she and Ed Fernandez performed their roles in New York. In today's world, it seems like 'no big t'ing,' but back in 1953, it was earth-shaking to have a non-white woman in a lead role on a major stage in New York for Shakespeare's work. And be well received!

Soo Yong AhHee Huang was a school teacher but also made her mark as a respected Hollywood actress, and cast not in the stereotype roles of the 'dragon lady' or evil oriental. (Soo Yong was her stage name.) A Maui girl who made good, and went on to make movies with Clark Gable and a host of famous stars of yesteryear, she was able to keep her Hawaiian-style, her Chinese-style, and her sophisticated lady-style, all the while being gracious, witty, and fun. She had movie roles that went beyond just being 'oriental,' and even if they were not major parts, they were important because she 'broke out of the mold.'

If you wish to explore more about so many more fantastic Chinese American women who had the grit, the spunk, and the finesse to help to improve the world you are in now, get your hands on a copy of the ACUW published book, edited by May Lee Chung and Dorothy Luke, Pioneer Chinese Women of Hawaii. (Sorry, it's out of print.)

Today's young Chinese American women can literally reach for the stars.

Role models in the new era of Narcissus Queens and their participants show the finest young ladies who are not just gorgeous, talented, and kind, but are working as doctors, lawyers, and politicians, as well as in traditional roles of teachers, nurses, and homemakers.

Here among us today are two examples; allow me to introduce them to you:
Chi Jow, 2014 Narcissus Festival participant, an electrical engineer
Brittany Lee, 2014 Narcissus Queen, a sonographer



Karen Lee, mother of Brittany Lee; Brittany Lee, 2014 Narcissus Queen; and Chi Jow, 2014 Narcissus Festival participant

Many of this century's Narcissus Pageant participants are able to converse in Chinese as well as English, or are striving to learn more of the Chinese language and culture – something many of us wanted to lose once upon a time.

In conclusion, let us be thankful for the sacrifices our predecessors made, and how hard many of them worked to make sure that our generation and our future generations could mainstream and yet not lose their identity.

Know who you are and what you are, and be positive in whatever you perceive yourself to be.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

(from Rena Young Ochse)

General Membership Luncheon Meeting

Sunday, April 26, 2015
11:30 a.m.
Maple Garden Restaurant

“The Progress of the Chinese American in the 21st Century”

Featured will be:



Erica Wong, 2015 Narcissus Queen

Erica was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and is the daughter of Dr. Roger Wong and Mrs. Darlene Wong. She is a graduate of Punahou School and is now attending the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa where she is majoring in Civil Engineering. In her last two years of high school, Erica competed in multiple international ballet competitions, and had the honor of receiving the first-place prize at the American Ballet Competition held in Austin, Texas. Upon graduation from Punahou School, Erica then danced professionally with the Ballet Theatre of Maryland and Milwaukee Ballet. She is now employed at Hawaii State Ballet as a ballet teacher as she continues her studies at UH Mānoa. Her interests include all types of dance, traveling, acting, swimming, hiking, watching movies, and spending time with her family. Erica's goal is to work in civil engineering to ensure the building of safe, efficient, and effective infrastructure in Hawaii.



Susan Chong Wong

Ms. Wong is a local girl who attended Maryknoll School, graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in psychology, and eventually obtained a Juris Doctor degree from Brooklyn Law School in New York City. She has worked as a lobbyist at the Hawaii State Legislature and as an attorney for an immigrant rights organization based at Palama Settlement. Much of her work at Na Loio involved advocating for and representing abused women immigrants. Currently, she is retired from the practice of law and is the office manager of Pacific Cardiology, LLC, in which her husband Calvin Wong, M.D., is a partner/owner.

She has been active ever since college in Chinese and Asian-American community organizations. She currently serves on the board of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund based in New York City and on the board of Maryknoll School in Honolulu. She volunteers with the successor to Na Loio, the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center, a project of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. She has four children and one grandchild.



Lisa Wai Hah Wong

Lisa Wong was born in San Francisco, California, and is the daughter of Dr. Roger Wong and Mrs. Darlene Wong. She is a graduate of Iolani School, Wellesley College, and Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Lisa currently works as a dentist with her father at the Downtown office of Hawaii Dental Clinic. She is married with two young daughters. In her spare time Lisa enjoys cake decorating for her family and friends. Lisa was the 2009 Narcissus Queen, and Ellen DeGeneres invited her onto Ellen's national TV show to perform her speed painting which she did as her talent number for the contest.

Mardi Gras in May

Date: Saturday, May 30, 2015

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Pagoda Floating Restaurant, Honolulu, HI

Chair: Gladys Lee

Committee: Geraldine "Gigi" Ko, Isabella Rose Monzon, Rena Young Ochse, and advisor, Queenie Chee

Tickets are available at \$55 per person

Buffet luncheon, jugglers, special performance by our own members! And more...

News Articles

*(Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from an article that appeared in **China Daily USA**. The article was sent to us by Peter Ward of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service International Affairs office. Peter presented a program on China and Wildlife Conservation to the OCAW Maryland Chapter in March 2014. (See the article in the April 2014 OCAW E-Newsletter.)*

It is gratifying that China and the U.S., along with other countries, are actively taking steps to prevent elephants, rhinoceroses, and other endangered animals from becoming extinct, by attempting to reduce illegal ivory, rhino horn, and other wildlife trafficking.)

Putting one wildlife trafficker out of business is always good news

by Chris Davis

China Daily USA

April 1, 2015

On March 31, Federal agents with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service arrested Yiwei Zheng, 42, a philosophy professor at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. Zheng, a naturalized U.S. citizen who grew up in Shanghai, is being charged with smuggling elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn out of the U.S. and into China from 2006 to at least 2011, the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* reports. He allegedly violated the Endangered Species Act and international treaties that protect endangered species.

In addition to his teaching career, Zheng has been operating an on-line sales business called “Crouching Dragon Antiques” out of his home in St. Cloud since 2010. Its website offered wildlife specimen parts called “ox bone” for sale, which a federal search warrant suspected of being ivory. According to the indictment, Zheng smuggled the ivory and horn for sale by co-conspirators. He is also accused of participating in eBay auctions, mislabeling packages, and failing to declare the items at Border Control and U.S. Customs.

Elephant ivory and rhino horn have been regulated globally since 1976, with 173 countries signing on to a treaty – the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) – to protect endangered animals, fish, and plants.

Rhinos, which are native to Africa and Asia, are one of the most endangered species. Trade in their horns has been banned since CITES was enacted. Rhino horns are carved into elaborate items and are also prized for rumored medicinal properties in some traditional Asian pharmacologies.

According to *The New York Times*, illegal wildlife is one of the world's largest markets in contraband, to the tune of \$19 billion a year.

(Editor's Note: The complete article can be found at:
http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2015-04/01/content_19965615.htm.)

(Editor's Note: If you wish to read more information on ivory regulation, Peter has sent OCAW the following links:

<http://www.natlawreview.com/article/us-ivory-regulation-qa-craig-hoover-us-fish-wildlife-service>

<https://www.fws.gov/international/travel-and-trade/ivory-ban-questions-and-answers.html#2>

From and About Our Members

About Linda Y.N. Young, Hawaii Chapter Vice President

(from Rena Young Ochse)

Linda will be installed as the **State President of the Hawaii Business and Professional Women's Club** on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at their annual convention in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, along with other officers from Kailua-Kona and Maui. Congratulations, Linda!

About Tina Au, Hawaii Chapter member

(from Rena Young Ochse)

Tina Au was featured as the 2014 Top Wholesale Producer for her organization. She is the Assistant Vice President-Mortgage/Wholesale Account Executive for Territorial Savings Bank.

Tina is originally from Canton, China. She came to the U.S. at the age of 14 and spoke no English.



She went to school not understanding what was being said. Determined, she attended night school with her parents to learn English even though she was so young. Tina said, “It was an adult class and I sat through the class trying to learn English.”

She attended Central Intermediate and McKinley High School. She worked two jobs for 20 years without any days off or vacations. She wanted to make enough money to support her children to attend private school. In later years, they all attended college. She said, “I didn’t want them to have the experience that I had had.”

She is married and has three grown children. Her oldest daughter is Andrea, who graduated from MIT and is a Certified Financial Risk Manager and member of the CFA Institute in Boston. Renee Au Newport is a C.P.A. and has a B.S. and M.S. in Accounting. Her third child, Melissa Au, has a B.A. in Management, graduating at the top of her major and *Summa Cum Laude*. She also has an M.B.A. and received multiple awards from the International Business Honor Society, Beta Gamma Sigma.

Tina is very happy that she came to America and is fulfilling her dream. She is a remarkable woman who made her success through determination and hope. Reach for the Stars and never give up!!

Note from Rena: Tina is involved in so many other activities including participating with the Chinese Societies and the U.S.-China People’s Friendship Association, and she presently serves as President for the Hawaii Mainland Chinese Overseas Association. She also volunteers for Voter registration for the Chinese immigrants and for the Hawaii Theatre. In addition, she holds numerous licenses in Real Estate, Life Insurance, and Security, and is a Notary Public and Mortgage Banker/Mortgage Broker.

From Betty Butz, New Orleans Chapter President

(Editor’s Note: On the following page is a photo Betty took of her composition of an ikebana for a Mardi Gras flower show.

The event was held in February 2015 at Longue Vue House and Gardens in New Orleans. The backdrop was a golf course beyond the art gallery.

Betty creates ikebana arrangements in the style of the Sogetsu School.)



100 Books for 400 Children in Lao People's Democratic Republic

by Audrey Lee

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

Looking out across the animated faces of school children, I marveled at how little it takes to get smiles in Lao PDR. As a donor of a Book Bag from the Luang Prabang Public Library, I was in a small village north of Luang Prabang in the Hadpang School yard handing out my 100 donated books to the children. The Library's Deliver the Book Bag Program accepts donations to purchase books to fill the Book Bag. When the Bag is full with 100 books, the Library transports the Bag to a village school where the books are donated. Having spent countless hours in libraries as a child and still a frequent borrower at my local library, I was thrilled to participate in this worthwhile program and to see many girls benefiting.



Additionally, the Library contributes to the Children’s Library Boat, sponsored by Community Learning International. This is a “floating” library that brings books by boat to the 100+ rural communities along the Mekong River. When the Library Boat arrives, children can borrow one of the books and spend the day reading before the boat departs for the next village. In most of these villages, there are very few books, and students share textbooks.

As part of my school visit, I also participated in the Library’s lecture series on hygiene with posters explaining the importance of washing hands after using the toilet and brushing teeth. After we handed out toothpaste and toothbrushes, and notebooks and pens, the children were busy reading the books from the Bag while I was given a tour of the tiny (10x10) library that serves over 400 students in this middle school. Talking with the teachers and being able to deliver books to smiling children was a highlight of my visit to Lao PDR as well as a memorable event in my life. Now, what to do for an encore?



Shout Out: Two U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) learning centers, The Language Project and Community Learning International (CLI), provide learning resources worldwide. I met Carol Kresge, the American founder of The Language Project @MyLibrary, a boutique learning center for Lao students in Luang Prabang that provides internet, computers, and workshops on topics including digital photography/video and chess. I think it would be wonderful if OCAW sisters could establish a “Learning Center” somewhere.

Winter

by Betty Butz

Fifteen cold winters in the Midwest and upper Midwest did not sufficiently prepare me to spend the rest of my life there. At my age, I would feel rather helpless if I had to face sharp winds in the snow when the driveway was already slick and covered with ankle-deep slush and ice. To survive winter in Minnesota, it was important to remove the snow before more could accumulate because then it would be impossible to shovel. I knew what it meant to be shut in by mounds of snow deposited by city plows at 5 a.m. at the end of our driveway. One could scale the mounds and walk somewhere, or work up a sweat dumping it on the lawn already laden with snow. I lost control of my car a few times skidding, going sideways, sliding downhill backwards, being stuck in ice. The scary feeling was a price to pay as I learned to drive on icy roads. Fortunately, there was always plenty of space around me to tolerate my mishaps, so nothing really bad happened to anyone, me, or cars. My happiest moments in snow country were sledding downhill and making igloos with the kids so they could feel warm in the packed snow. The children could spend hours in the sun and snow, as they let their imaginations fly. It was such joy to see pink-cheeked children coming into the house after playing in the snow.

These days, I am especially grateful that my husband Brian had worked hard enough in a long career that allowed us to situate in south Louisiana in the twilight of our lives. We get to see our son on weekends and have family dinners at home. When it is cold enough, we build a fire in our garden to chat around it and to listen to sounds of nature in the night among evergreen shrubbery.

Even on the Gulf Coast, freezing temperatures are not uncommon, so in the depth of winter, we seek warmth closer to the equator. Several cruise ships homeport in New Orleans. They sail east to the Bahamas, south to Grand Cayman, west to Mexico, and further south to Belize. By alternating the routes, we find enough variety to keep us basking in the Caribbean sunshine and enjoying its fresh air for a week each winter. Logistics are simple enough since we live only half an hour away from the cruise terminal.

Brian and I chose to set sail on a Sunday after New Year's Day, with the anticipation that students would be back at school and we would be sailing with folks close to our ability. To our surprise, of the 3000-plus passengers, about 600 were minors. Some parents felt that it was a good opportunity to extend New Year celebrations to give their children some international exposure. We were delighted to see many beautiful, happy families traveling together. Food service in the cafeteria was plentiful, healthful and nutritious too, reminding us of our college days. The Carnival Dream resounded with the energy, optimism, and joy of youth. Winter seemed very far away indeed.

Several of the large Carnival ships such as the Dream sport a spa deck. I found it on the first evening and completely swooned over the facilities: a bubbly Jacuzzi wave pool, steam rooms, large warming rooms with hot stone loungers. Since I could spend hours there mending the aches and knots in my body, I thought a room on the spa deck would be really pleasant for the next cruise. In the spa, I chatted with a couple who emigrated from Hong Kong years ago who were treated to the cruise by a very considerate new son-in-law. We had a great time exchanging stories of our experiences as immigrants to the United States. Besides passengers from Louisiana, I met ones from Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Colorado, California, Texas, and Canada who flocked to the gulf to enjoy the weather. There were large family groups that celebrated gatherings on the ship as well.

Since all housekeeping chores were performed by courteous international staff, and cooking was done by skillful chefs from all over the world, passengers simply enjoyed themselves. The wait staff appeared to be content with the opportunity to serve us so they could practice speaking English with Americans. Waiters at

the restaurants even danced and sang for us every evening. I assumed their wages were reasonable. We took in as much entertainment as we had time for.

After two days and nights at sea, the Carnival Dream arrived in **JAMAICA** to lively tunes of funky Reggae music. In a previous cruise to the island nation several years ago, our ship had docked at Ocho Rios. Our tour group had strolled through a crafts market, paused at the Dunn Falls, and studied herbs at a botanical garden. On this trip, the ship docked at Montego Bay. We rode a bus through some swanky real estate and took an excursion to Martha Brae, a river so clean the water served as drinking water for people who lived there. Groves of giant bamboo and limestone formations filtered the water, leaving a milky white residue along the length of the river. I surmised that the scene must be quite romantic in the moonlight. Along the banks were women dressed in colorful costumes selling drinks and fresh fruit displayed in primitive sheds.

There appeared to be an endless supply of thick bamboo stalks that could be cut into 20' lengths and tied together to make flat-bottom rafts. A simple two-person seat attached toward the rear allowed passengers to sit in the open to enjoy unencumbered views. A river guide maneuvered our raft with practiced familiarity using a single pole. He also made decorative containers out of sculpted calabash gourds. In my travels, I have learned to refrain from touching any merchandise unless I was seriously interested in completing a purchase. So, when the guide placed a carved calabash in my hand to admire, I felt rather awkward as I was expected to buy it. Not wanting to feel compelled to keep something I did not ask for, I returned the calabash but gave the man a good tip for the pleasure of examining his handicraft. Gigantic bamboo and hanging branches provided shade as we leisurely meandered down the stream. Butterflies and birds fussed about; termite nests hugged the trees in the pristine rainforest environment. I was glad that the guides were able to make a living on the Martha Brae, as there seemed little available for the local people to be gainfully employed.

The next morning, we arrived at **GRAND CAYMAN**, an island formed after a volcano erupted there. Water surrounding the island is quite shallow, but drops precipitously not far away. Since there was no port to dock the ship, the Carnival Dream provided tender ferries to take us to shore for an unforgettable Caribbean island experience. Coral sandbars close to shore appeared pearly white, the water a pure sky blue, and waves sparkled under the sun like crystals dancing in a shimmering field. We joined a kayaking-snorkel excursion led by two guides. At an enchanting, public, unguarded, and empty beach, our group left shoes and towels and went away for two hours in kayaks, paddling to a platform anchored in clear, chest-high sea water. The guide reassured us that the new Cabela kayaks were unsinkable so we were quite safe. He led the kayak regatta to glide along the shore to examine mangroves and sea creatures. Then we set off to the open waters to a platform that looked really far away.

Rowing against the waves in a strong wind was strenuous exercise. Although Brian did most of the hard work, I was exhausted by the time we tethered the kayak and climbed onto the platform. Since I did not want to get any wetter than I already was, I sat on a mat, yoga style, to anchor in my mind a most spectacular image of blue-sky-water-pearly-sand-crystal-sparkles swaying in the middle of the sea. A great calmness in my heart enabled me to stretch the moment into infinity, void of thought. Some members of the group put on snorkeling gear to look at fish, coral, and sea grass; some swam. One stepped on a sharp piece of coral, resulting in a bleeding cut to his foot. He had come from New Jersey; a coral cut in warm sea water did not seem to bother him very much. In the rushing waves, one kayak turned upside down, but it stayed afloat as predicted. With the wind on our back on the return to shore, kayaking was a breeze indeed. Back at the empty beach, our belongings were exactly where we had left them on the powdery, white sand. Splashing waves left a delicious smack of saltiness on my lips for the rest of the day.

COZUMEL was our third and last port of call. Shortly after daybreak, Brian brought me a light breakfast in the cabin before we queued up to disembark. Then we took a long walk from the ship to a public ferry to go

to Playa del Carmen on the Yucatan Peninsula. The 45-minute crossing on choppy water seemed like a carnival ride forever. I closed my eyes and focused on my balance toward the middle of the ferry. A light breakfast had been a great idea as quite a few passengers became sick and sour from restlessness. We walked from the pier to a waiting bus several blocks away and met our Mayan guide there. He claimed to be a descendant of the great Mayans who were sculptors, architects, builders, mathematicians, astronomers. A social movement was on the way in the Yucatan to revive the appreciation of Mayan culture by teaching the language in schools. I commented to our guide that he looked like a prosperous Chinese merchant, to which he replied that his DNA was very close to Mongols.

After an hour's drive south on nicely paved highway, we came to a large parking lot outside the Tulum ruins. Our guide advised us to be wary of vendors at the crafts market, and we should avoid eye contact with peddlers unless we wished to buy something. He hung a large piece of cloth on the side of the bus and asked to take pictures of us so that he could imprint them on picture books for our purchase. After a long ride on the ferry and the bus, I just wanted to walk around rather than showing a dour face on a book. There were many shopkeepers hawking souvenirs. I resisted the temptation to buy a Mayan calendar, which had an ending date of December 12, 2012. As things turned out, the date merely reminded one of the passing of time rather than a definitive end of the world. From the parking lot to the entrance to the park was another half-mile walk. Along the way, there were small shops and food stands. Mayan pole dancers provided some colorful free entertainment. One by one, strong agile men climbed to the top of a very tall pole, attached themselves to the pole with ropes by the head, and flung themselves around like birds in midair.

Growing up in an apartment in Hong Kong, sometimes I dreamed of surreal places where people could live. One such image was a castle up on a hill facing the sea at sunrise. I finally came to this place and it was much more picturesque than I had ever imagined.

TULUM, pronounced "to loom," is a small town built on a bluff facing east, with astronomical observatories designed for viewing and calculating the exact times of sunrise. The Mayans worshipped the sun and built temples there to observe summer and winter solstices. Below the bluff was a magnificent, inviting beach of fluffy white sand, water the color of turquoise, and an unobstructed, expansive view of the sea. Tulum was built over 700 years ago at this site for strategic defense and trade.

On the warm, sunny day that we visited, Tulum was full of tourists. Our group entered the ghost town through a dark, narrow enclosed walkway of massive stonework into a clearing of ruins. Fallen walls, buildings, and foundations of Pre-Columbus Mayan architecture formed the backbones of the place. The remaining outlines were marked with rails, guarded by cat-sized iguanas that lived there. The ruins stood heroically, bleaching under a sunny, clear blue sky. Our guide took an obsidian mask out of his backpack and showed us how it looked like gold under the sun. When Spanish conquerors discovered that all that glittered in Tulum was not gold, they left.

With little water, little soil, and many extremely hot days, Tulum was not a hospitable place. However, the historic structures that remained were enchanting to look at. A trespasser climbed the unstable walls to get a better tan. Unfortunately, he attracted a great deal of attention and was escorted off the property by uniformed security. His companion threatened to sue. I wished we had had more than two hours to admire the temples and the beach. But we had to hurry back to the bus in the parking lot, hurry back to the ferry, hurry back to line up to get back on the ship. It was a magical day to remember.

Our tour guide had come from a place farther inland called Chichen Itza. Its ruins are considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The architecture may be grander in scope, but I am content with dreaming of beautiful Tulum. Exploring the fantastic place in the sun in the middle of winter was a wonderful way to celebrate our journey in life. Back on the Dream, Brian booked the next cruise on the spa deck to Key West and the Bahamas for next winter.