

# E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

April 2020



P. O. Box 3443, Oakton, VA 22124  
Telephone: 301-907-3898  
Email: [ocawwomen@aol.com](mailto:ocawwomen@aol.com)  
Website: [www.ocawwomen.org](http://www.ocawwomen.org)  
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

*(from Linda Devine, Editor)*

In these difficult times of the coronavirus / COVID-19, my thoughts are with all of you. Given that members of all OCAW chapters are now under shelter-in-place or stay-at-home orders issued by their respective governors and/or mayors which are aimed at stopping the spread of the virus, OCAW activities and events during this normally busy time of the year have been curtailed.

Nevertheless, members sent me reports of activities that took place before the drastic shutdowns, as well as other articles. Thank you to those individuals, and as always, my gratitude to my husband Ed for his work on preparing the photos.

I continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles or submit information for the publication if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership. My ongoing aim is to publish a wide variety of material.

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

## **Table of Contents**

	Page
Message from the President.....	1
News from the New Orleans Chapter.....	3
News from the Silicon Valley Chapter.....	3
News from the Hawaii Chapter.....	7
From and About Our Members.....	20
The Coronavirus / COVID-19.....	26
“Breaking Barriers – Chinese American Women Pioneers” Exhibit.....	29
The Shining Stars of Mun Lun.....	30

## **Message from the President**

*(from Christina Chang, National President)*

Dear OCAW Sisters, Families, and Friends:

Happy Birthday to our National Secretary, Susan Wong, who celebrated her 71st birthday with her husband and son in late March in Hawaii where they live together. They placed a candle on a delicious homemade strawberry shortcake. What a creative experience! We all need positive moments at this time.



OCAW National Secretary Susan Wong

I hope you all are well during this unprecedented crisis.

One of our sisters has tested positive for COVID-19. She is in care now.

Stay home if you can. Some of you may have already retired and others are still working. My children have been working from home for a few weeks now. Although we are not living under the same roof, we keep connected over the phone and/or through email to make sure everyone is okay.

Please enjoy more and stress less, eat and sleep well, and be safe as we follow the protocols of washing our hands and social distancing.

Take care!

Christina Chang

*(Editor's Note: Susan says that the one bright spot for her during this difficult time has been the opportunity to try out new recipes, because her family can't go out to eat anymore! She hopes that everyone will take care, and will find some positive experiences in their daily lives.)*

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

*(from Patricia Ellzey, President)*

*(Editor's Note: Pat asked that the following announcement be made.)*

In compliance with the CDC and our local and national governments' declarations, and particularly for the health of our members, the OCAW New Orleans Chapter is suspending all meetings and activities until further notice until it is declared that the public is not at risk due to the present danger of the Coronavirus 19.

We hope all of our OCAW 'sisters' will adhere to the announced precautionary guidelines and stay healthy.

*(Editor's Note: Pat had informed me that their **next New Orleans Chapter meeting** had been scheduled for Saturday, February 29, 2020, at the Imperial Garden Restaurant. But due to COVID-19, the meeting unfortunately had to be cancelled.)*

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

*(from Wendy Chang, President)*

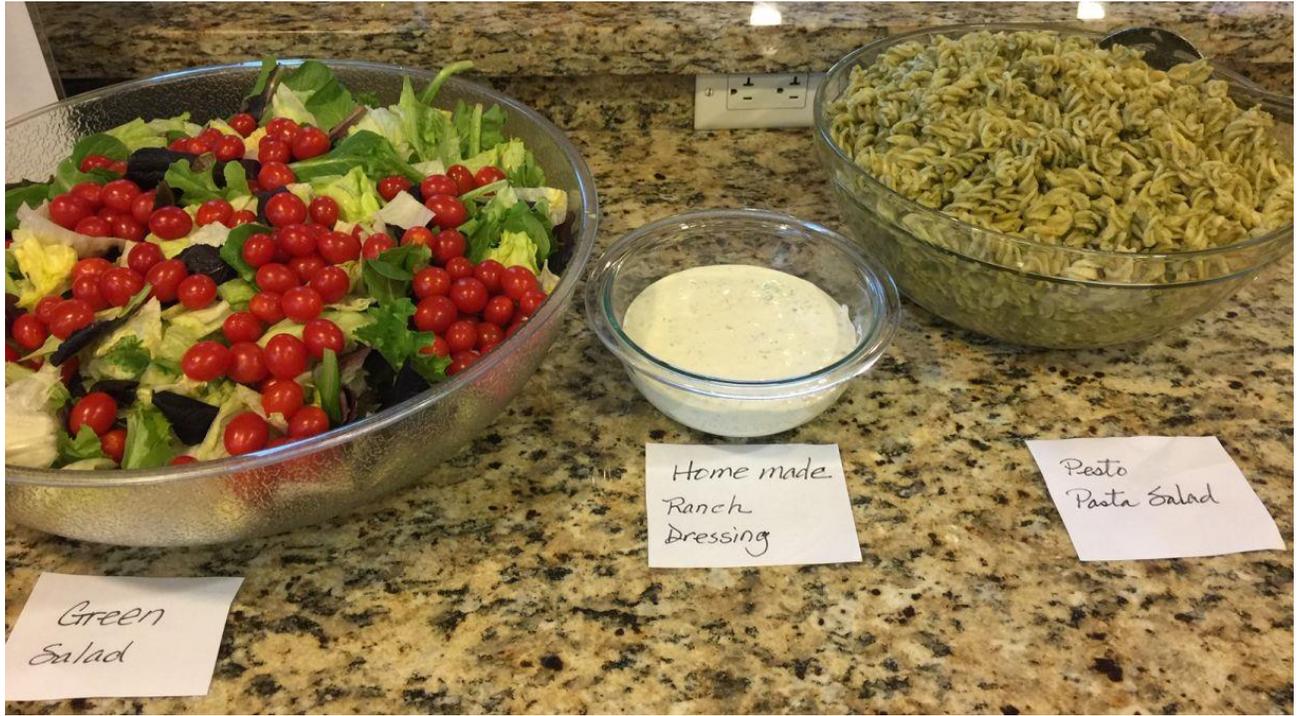
Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we canceled our annual **Members' Social** event which had been scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2020. Luckily, we were able to serve dinner at the JW House on February 21.

#### **JW House Dinner is Served**

On Friday, February 21, 2020, Wendy Chang, Wei-Jen Hsia, Esther Hsieh, Katherine Tseng, and Ai-chu Wang served dinner at the JW House. JW House is located on the campus of Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center. It welcomes families and individuals from area hospitals into their family for rest and self-care during the day or overnight while their loved one is in the hospital. "Dinner is Served" is a program where the JW House community provides home-cooked meals to their guests every night.

This was the first dinner that we signed up for to serve this year. As usual, we started cooking at around 3 p.m. This time, we made Chicken Parmesan, Pesto Pasta, Cheese Biscuits, Green Salad, and Cream Cheese Brownies. As usual, we had a great time cooking together and helping out with our community.







## **News from the Hawaii Chapter**

*(from Tina Au, President)*

### **Annual Christmas/Installation Luncheon**

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter had a very successful Christmas/Installation luncheon which was held on Sunday, December 1, 2019 in the Nuuanu Ballroom of the Oahu Country Club in Honolulu, Hawaii. We celebrated the holidays and installed our chapter officers for 2020. The event was chaired by Queenie Mow Chee, and there were over 100 guests in attendance.

Speaker of the House Emeritus, Calvin Say, installed the 2020 officers. Pamela Young, Emmy-award-winning reporter and producer of “Mixed Plate,” her acclaimed local prime time specials, was the emcee on this occasion.

#### **Hawaii Chapter 2020 Officers:**

President: Tina Wong Au  
Vice President: Lena Young  
Secretary: Charlene S.T. Chang  
Treasurer: Rena Young Ochse

#### **Committee Chairs:**

Communications/Newsletter: Rena Young Ochse  
Special Event: Queenie Mow Chee  
Website: Sharon Chun  
Public Relations/Business Development: Maria Laderta

The chapter is still seeking Chairs for the Finance and Nominating Committees.



Hawaii Chapter President Tina Au and Vice President Lena Young



Calvin Say, Speaker of the Hawaii House of Representatives, Emeritus, installed the 2020 Hawaii Chapter officers. Pamela Young, Emmy-award-winning reporter and producer of her acclaimed local prime time specials “Mixed Plate,” was the emcee for the event.



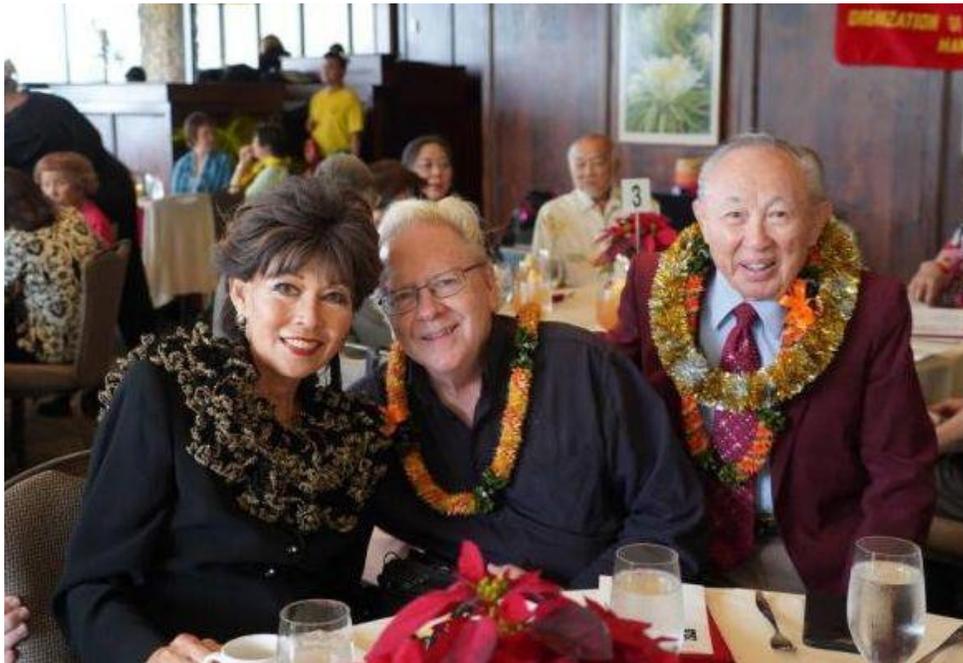
Hawaii Chapter 2020 officers: Rena Young Ochse, Treasurer; Lena Young, Vice President; Tina Au, President; Susan Chong Wong, Immediate Past President; Charlene Chang, Secretary; and Queenie Chee, Special Event Chair and Past President



Jocelyn Louie, Miss Hawaii Chinese Queen; Kelly and Calvin Lau; and Miss Hawaii Chinese Princess Tracy Wong, Miss Congeniality



Miss Hawaii Chinese Princess Tracy Wong, Miss Congeniality, with chapter members Lanny Washiya and Jane Pang



Tai Busk; John Berger, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*; and Dr. Lawrence K.W. Tseu



Queenie Chee, Event Chair and Hawaii Chapter Past President; Geoffrey Han, Deputy Director of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office; and Edwina Lee, 2020 President, Associated Chinese University Women



Judge Peter C.K. Fong; State Senator Donna Mercado Kim; Dr. Lei Ahu Isa, Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee and 2018 Hawaii Chapter President; Dr. Lawrence K.W. Tseu; and Loahn Nguyen



Hawaii Chapter members and Palolo Chinese Home Auxiliary members  
(standing) Barbara Heu, Janet Fujii, Lanny Washiya, Sharon Chun, Lei Galang, Gladys Lee,  
and Roberta Wong Leung  
(seated) Tracy Wong, Rena Young Ochse, and Elaine Lee



Lei Ahu Isa presented Rena Young Ochse with a Special Year of the Rat figurine and a lisee for her dedication to OCAW for over 25 years. And for doing the newsletter forever!



The luncheon also featured superb entertainment.

Eleven-year-old Virgil Tan played his ukulele and also performed a magic show for a delighted audience.



Dancers from the Hawaii Dong Fang Art Troupe showcased traditional folk dances of various regions of China.







The event was highly successful, and all had a very enjoyable time.

**Note:** Watch “OCAW Christmas Installation of Officers” on YouTube:  
[https://youtu.be/\\_P0ai5sJc5E](https://youtu.be/_P0ai5sJc5E)

*(Editor’s Note: Material for this report was contributed by Tina Au, Rena Young Ochse, and Queenie Chee.)*

*(Photos of the Hawaii Dong Fang Art Troupe were taken by its performers. All other photos in this article were courtesy of Ross Lee.)*

## **PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

**from Tina Au**

Kung Chee Fat Choy! First, I would like to wish a happy and prosperous 2020, the Year of the Rat, to all of our OCAW sisters.

OCAW Hawaii is looking forward to a productive year with General Membership Meetings planned for the following dates:

Sunday, March 22, 2020  
Sunday, June 14, 2020  
Sunday, August 16, 2020  
Sunday, October 18, 2020

Our first meeting will be held at King Restaurant & Bar from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Your Board of Directors will be meeting several times a year to plan dynamic, stimulating, and educational OCAW experiences!

We are continuing to be in the rebuilding stage as an organization, so we hope to encourage your participation in membership meetings by hosting interesting speakers and having fellowship.

With just the start of the coronavirus in 2020, it is now officially more deadly than SARS. Global supply chain disruptions, halted tourism, and heightened uncertainty from the coronavirus has rippled through world markets. Economists at UBS revised its forecast for GDP growth in the U.S. due to effects from the coronavirus.

“We see the net effect on the U.S. as being small, but the quarterly swings are likely to be measurable. For the U. S., we see the effect coming through three Channels: Tourism, exports, and a temporary disruption to manufacturing because of delayed imports,” economist Seth Carpenter wrote in a note February 7. “For Q1, we have trimmed our real GDP estimate by 0.2 pp to a 0.4% q/q annual rate. We assume that the effects in the U.S. from the coronavirus are mostly reversed over the course of Q2 and Q3.” I hope this won’t impact too much on Hawaii. In the past 2½ weeks, I received 3 cancellations from different societies of their spring banquet.

Please invite anyone you know: young, old, male or female, Chinese or not, to come to our first meeting on March 22, 2020 to find out about Hawaii Chapter’s history and achievements. Thank you and Xie Xie!

*(Editor’s Note: The scheduled March membership meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. See below.)*

### **Update for Hawaii regarding COVID-19 and March Meeting**

Tina announced that the chapter had to cancel their first quarterly meeting, because on March 22, 2020, Mayor Kirk Caldwell of the City and County of Honolulu issued a **STAY AT HOME / WORK FROM HOME ORDER** due to COVID-19 – Novel Coronavirus.

*(Editor's Note: Per information from Rena Young Ochse, Hawaii Chapter Past President Queenie Mow Chee had been scheduled to be the meeting's speaker, and her topic was going to be the Hawaii Chapter's history and achievements, with the hope that recalling past accomplishments would rekindle members' zest for service and aloha.*

*Also, a survey was planned to be distributed at the meeting in which members could indicate their interests, and what topics they might like to see featured in future meeting programs.)*

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

*(from Rena Young Ochse, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor)*

Sunday, June 14, 2020 – General Membership Meeting

Sunday, August 16, 2020 – General Membership Meeting

Sunday, October 18, 2020 – Meeting and Election of 2021 Officers

Sunday, December 6, 2020 – Christmas Event/Installation of Officers

### **Addendum to February 2020 OCAW E-Newsletter**

*(from Queenie Chee, Past President)*

*(Editor's Note: In the last issue of the OCAW E-Newsletter, Queenie wrote an article honoring longtime Hawaii Chapter member Phyllis Shea. The article also included historical information on the Hawaii Chapter.*

*Several of the photos published were taken at the 1999 OCAW National Conference hosted by the Hawaii Chapter, which also celebrated the Chapter's Tenth Anniversary. Queenie has now been able to identify all of the ladies in two of the photos, and she has requested that the individuals be named.)*

On page 17:



Donna Byler (Virginia Chapter President), Rena Young Ochse, Jeanie Jew, Blossom Tyau, Pauline Tsui (OCAW Founder), Sondra Seba (First Lady Hillary Clinton's Representative), and Dr. Margaret Lee (Hawaii Chapter's First President) at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on September 12, 1999

On page 18:



(Front row) Donna Byler, Yun Soong Jim (Hawaii Chapter President 1997-98), Rose Lee (1999), Jeanie Jew, Dr. Rosie Chang (1991), Theresa Chun (1996), and Frances Goo (1994)  
(Back row) Blossom Tyau, Pauline Tsui, Dr. Margaret Lee (1989), Christine Ling (1990), and Phyllis Shea (1993)  
at the Hawaii State Governor's Residence, Washington Place

## From and About Our Members

### Celebrating Mardi Gras

*(from Pat Ellzey, New Orleans Chapter President)*



Enjoying “Nyx,” the largest Mardi Gras Krewe Parade with almost 3400 women!  
Their signature ‘throw’ is a decorated purse.

*(Seated)* Pat Ellzey and husband Will Ellzey

*(Standing)* Frances Hom Lee (OCAW Legal Advisor who is from New Orleans and was visiting family), Deborah Hom Mengel (Frances’ sister), Sun Kim (past Chairperson of the local Asian Pacific American Society), and Mark Lee (Pat’s son)

Kelsie Mengel is the daughter of Deborah Mengel and is Frances’ niece. She was featured as a Princess in the most beautiful and largest (3000-plus men) parade. It is the most popular men’s parade organization in New Orleans.



Kelsie Mengel

The large feathered piece is somewhat heavy and is mounted on a strong shoulder harness that fits over her shoulders. During the parade it sometimes sits on a stand that she can stand in front of. But needless to say, when she walks around, her movements are very limited! When riding in the parade, in order to throw beads to the crowds, she had her Dad hand her the beads, because not surprisingly it is difficult for her to bend over or stoop.

At Pat's invitation, Kelsie will be serving as their 'Ms. China' for the local annual Asian Pacific American Society's Fund Raising Gala in the fall.

### Informal Lunch

*(from Donna Byler, Executive Director)*

*(Editor's Note: First of all, kudos to Donna! She lives a long drive away from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, but she is following through on her commitment to volunteer for the **Fairfax, Virginia, Respite Care Program**. Hopefully Donna will tell us more about her experiences with this program in the future.*

*As she was going to be in town for this service on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, she was able to gather a few OCAW Virginia Chapter members for a nice lunch. She had really missed seeing her 'sisters'!)*



*(From left, going clockwise) Amy Lee, Donna Byler, Veronica Li, Cathy Roberts, Maria Yang, Christina Chang, and Connie Wong at Sunflower Vegetarian Restaurant in Vienna, Virginia*

It was really nice getting together. Seven of us shared seven different dishes and two complimentary desserts.

We hope local members will be able to meet up again, and maybe gather regularly and in the evening when the weather gets better.

### **From Nellie Underwood, New Orleans Chapter member**

*(Editor's Note: Pat Ellzey wrote: "Upon learning about the activities of a member of our New Orleans Chapter, Nellie Yip Underwood, I asked her to write an article for the OCAW e-newsletter regarding her selfless charity work so that others may be inspired to share their skills, time, and efforts to make our local community better, while serving as an excellent representative for OCAW and for Chinese American women in general.")*

Since I retired from the Medical Field after working for 39 years, I decided to give back more to my community by **volunteering**. I had volunteered with Casa Jefferson some 12 years earlier as a Board Member and Officer.

After leaving Casa Jefferson in 2014, I joined a foundation started by New Orleans Saints punter Thomas Morstead, **What You Give Will Grow**, as one of the core volunteers. This foundation supports local causes and organizations with its focus on children's charities and cancer initiatives. Through WYGWG's efforts throughout the community, we hope to inspire others to join in the spirit of giving. I received the Frank Gansz, Sr. Award as Volunteer of the Year in 2017.

In 2011 Saints player Steve Gleason was diagnosed with ALS. With his faith, his goals were to learn to live and thrive with ALS, and work toward finding a solution to end this disease. He and his wife Michel formed **Team Gleason** to help him accomplish these goals, and more! Team Gleason is committed to finding and providing solutions for those living with ALS and other neuromuscular diseases. I became one of the many volunteers with their programs and fundraisers throughout the community. Steve's motto is 'No White Flags!' He was honored this past year and given the **Congressional Gold Medal of Honor** for his efforts and accomplishments.

I started volunteering for the **BTD Foundation**, a nonprofit corporation to raise mental health awareness through advocacy, education, and music in the Greater New Orleans area. This one is close to me since Brett Thomas Doussan, the younger brother of my dear friend Mike, committed suicide five years ago at the age of 26. Mike is a musician.

I also volunteer for two area elementary schools with their clubs: sewing and scrabble. I feel that volunteering is such a heartwarming, selfless act that we can ALL do as a way of giving back.

I am an active member of the **Chinese Presbyterian Church**, serving as an officer for the past 11 years and going into my 12th. I am a member of the **Touchdown Club of New Orleans** and **Metropolitan Republican Women**, serve as China Board Member of the **Asian Pacific American Society (APAS)**, and joined **OCAW** three years ago. **APAS** will hold its Annual Heritage Festival on Saturday, May 30, 2020, to be held at the Audubon Zoo from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This festival showcases the various Asian communities through education, dance, music, art, and food.

### **Bayou Lacadee**

*(from Betty Butz, former New Orleans Chapter President)*

*(Editor's Note: Betty has been continuing a project which she calls "Bayou Lacadee." She is assembling an album consisting of 10 poems which she is writing, accompanied by some illustrating photos which she has taken. Her first poems were published in the November 2019 and February 2020 OCAW E-Newsletters. Here below are two more.)*

### Mother's Day

Used to phone Mother under the full moon,  
To thank her for delivering me at night, when it was cool  
In the summer, near a limpid, languid lotus lagoon;  
And for bestowing in me a fire brighter than a silver spoon.

Listened dutifully to her tales of misplaced fortune  
And softly hummed along to all her tunes.  
Assured her that most folks were not buffoons.  
Then laughed with her as laments spun into cocoons.

Now that I am becoming a rarity by the moon,  
Mother is everywhere, reminding me to bloom  
And to stay afloat even in the gloom,  
Be it a deluge or a monstrous monsoon.



Good night, Mom

### Go Cards

The Cardinals build a nest in the heart of a hedge,  
Hidden from bats, owls, hawks overhead,  
Armadillo, feral cats, and nosy house pets.

While Mrs. Cardinal sits on her precious eggs,  
Mr. Cardinal, in a cloak dazzlingly red,  
Looks out for danger that might lie ahead.

A quizzical shadow on a window's edge  
Appears suspiciously like a threat, all set  
To intrude upon the territory that he protects.

Courageous Mr. Cardinal would not let  
Any creature get near his twiggy nest.  
At an imaginary enemy he pecks and pecks.

He charges at his reflection with all his zest,  
Until he falls down, into a wild flower bed.  
By instinct, his duty he does not neglect.



Heart of a Hedge

## The Coronavirus / COVID-19

### Website

*(from Chi-Hua Yang, Virginia and Maryland Chapter President)*

Chi-Hua has provided a link to the Virginia Department of Health's COVID-19 website. It contains information specifically about statistics for the state of Virginia, but it also provides useful information, including the signs and symptoms of the disease, as well as important tips for prevention.

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

### Sharing tips from a pathologist re: Coronavirus

*(from Faith Breen, former National President)*

Faith wanted to share this message with OCAW members. It was written by Dr. James Robb, a pathologist formerly with the University of California San Diego. It contains recommendations to help lessen the spread of COVID-19. Dr. Robb is a noted scientist, and this piece, which has been widely circulated on the internet, imparts very valuable information.

*(Editor's Note: A word of warning: Always **BE WARY** of postings on the internet, particularly with regard to COVID-19. Although Dr. Robb's piece is legitimate, there has been a lot of misinformation circulated. Snopes has debunked several posts, and you should always verify that indeed, the information contained in an article is legitimate before you heed its advice.)*

Faith has also suggested that because COVID-19 began in China, OCAW may want to consider donating funds to support local communities during this time.

### **From James Robb, M.D.**

Subject: What I am doing for the upcoming COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic

Dear Colleagues,

As some of you may recall, when I was a professor of pathology at the University of California San Diego, I was one of the first molecular virologists in the world to work on coronaviruses (the 1970s). I was the first to demonstrate the number of genes the virus contained. Since then, I have kept up with the coronavirus field and its multiple clinical transfers into the human population (e.g., SARS, MERS), from different animal sources.

The current projections for its expansion in the U.S. are only probable, due to continued insufficient worldwide data, but it is most likely to be widespread in the U.S. by mid to late March and April.

Here is what I have done and the precautions that I take and will take. These are the same precautions I currently use during our influenza seasons, except for the mask and gloves.

1) NO HANDSHAKING! Use a fist bump, slight bow, elbow bump, etc.

- 2) Use ONLY your knuckle to touch light switches, elevator buttons, etc. Lift the gasoline dispenser with a paper towel or use a disposable glove.
- 3) Open doors with your closed fist or hip; do not grasp the handle with your hand, unless there is no other way to open the door. Especially important on bathroom and post office/commercial doors.
- 4) Use disinfectant wipes at the stores when they are available, including wiping the handle and child seat in grocery carts.
- 5) Wash your hands with soap for 10-20 seconds and/or use a greater than 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer whenever you return home from ANY activity that involves locations where other people have been.
- 6) Keep a bottle of sanitizer available at each of your home's entrances. AND in your car for use after getting gas or touching other contaminated objects when you can't immediately wash your hands.
- 7) If possible, cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue and discard. Use your elbow only if you have to. The clothing on your elbow will contain infectious virus that can be passed on for up to a week or more!

What I have stocked in preparation for the pandemic spread to the U.S.:

- 1) Latex or nitrile latex disposable gloves for use when going shopping, using the gasoline pump, and all other outside activity when you come in contact with contaminated areas.

Note: This virus is spread in large droplets by coughing and sneezing. This means that the air will not infect you! BUT all the surfaces where these droplets land are infectious for about a week on average; everything that is associated with infected people will be contaminated and potentially infectious. The virus is on surfaces and you will not be infected unless your unprotected face is directly coughed or sneezed upon. This virus only has cell receptors for lung cells (it only infects your lungs). The only way for the virus to infect you is through your nose or mouth via your hands or an infected cough or sneeze onto or into your nose or mouth.

- 2) Stock up now with disposable surgical masks and use them to prevent you from touching your nose and/or mouth (we touch our nose/mouth 90X/day without knowing it!). This is the only way this virus can infect you; it is lung-specific. The mask will not prevent the virus in a direct sneeze from getting into your nose or mouth; it is only to keep you from touching your nose or mouth.
- 3) Stock up now with hand sanitizers and latex/nitrile gloves (get the appropriate sizes for your family). The hand sanitizers must be alcohol-based and greater than 60% alcohol to be effective.
- 4) Stock up now with zinc lozenges. These lozenges have been proven to be effective in blocking coronavirus (and most other viruses) from multiplying in your throat and nasopharynx. Use as directed several times each day when you begin to feel ANY "cold-like" symptoms beginning. It is best to lie down and let the lozenge dissolve in the back of your throat and nasopharynx. Cold-Eeze lozenges is one brand available, but there are other brands available.

I, as many others do, hope that this pandemic will be reasonably contained, BUT I personally do not think it will be. Humans have never seen this snake-associated virus before and have no internal defense against it. Tremendous worldwide efforts are being made to understand the molecular and clinical virology of this virus. Unbelievable molecular knowledge about the genomics, structure, and virulence of this virus has already been achieved. BUT, there will be NO drugs or vaccines available this year to protect us or limit the infection within us. Only symptomatic support is available.

I hope these personal thoughts will be helpful during this potentially catastrophic pandemic. You are welcome to share this email. Good luck to all of us!

### **New Orleans**

*(from Pat Ellzey, New Orleans Chapter President)*

The New Orleans area has been affected very badly by the COVID-19 virus as the TV news has reported. There have been cases of newborns and youths as well as older people's deaths and lots of suffering, as well as shortages of medical supplies to treat patients and protective gear for caregivers. Unfortunately, two of our OCAW sisters' 93-year-old mother contracted COVID-19 and passed away. At this time the family asks for prayers of comfort and peace.

The state has been locked down since early March so there is limited business and few people on the street. There is a backlog of funerals to be scheduled with a limit of 10 people at any one time spaced 6 feet apart at the funeral home.

The mayor has declared that the apex was passed on April 1 with a declining number of cases, so hopefully the viral disease will have run its course here and we might be able to return to normalcy in the near future.

### **Message from Camilla Ng to the New Orleans Chapter**

*(Editor's Note: Camilla is a former Maryland Chapter President, and she attended the New Orleans Chapter's 30th Anniversary Celebration in 2019. She was very moved by what is currently happening in this city and wanted to reach out.)*

Thinking of you, all of the New Orleans Chapter ladies; Pat Ellzey, President; and Betty Butz, Past President, whom I met a little over a year ago at the New Orleans Chapter's 30th Anniversary celebration. Remembering the great food, the sightseeing, and the history that I learned, in a delightful, carefree springtime.

I cherish most the hospitality, generosity, and friendship showered on us out-of-town visitors, most graciously by Pat. She went out of her way to escort us with private tours of local highlights, from local Chinese American heritage and the story of Harry Lee, to Hurricane Katrina landmarks, restaurant dining, and music. The good times, gourmet flavors, and rich experiences are still fresh in my mind.

My dried shrimps supply was made possible by Chapter Vice President Yuling Khorsandi, who made a special trip to shop south of the Mississippi on my behalf.

I just want to send my greetings to all of the New Orleans Chapter ladies I have met, and wish you all safe and good health in this trying time.

Camilla Ng

*(Editor's Note: Extensive coverage of the anniversary celebration appeared in the April 2019 OCAW E-Newsletter.)*

## **“Breaking Barriers – Chinese American Women Pioneers” Exhibit**

**by Camilla Ng**

*(Editor’s Note: Camilla is a former Maryland Chapter President. In the last OCAW e-newsletter (February 2020), she wrote an article on exhibits that she had toured at the new Chinese American Museum DC, including one on notable Chinese American women. Summaries of four of these exemplary individuals were published in the issue. Below are two more.*

*The information below is credited to the CAMDC.)*

“This exhibit celebrates the success of a number of Chinese American women who excelled in their careers and lives, who triumphed over hardship and overcame a myriad of obstacles... these women never let their status deter them from pursuing their passions... their lives representing stories of triumph and trailblazing.”

### **Hazel Ying Lee – First Female Chinese American Military Pilot (1912-1944)**

Hazel Ying Lee was born in Portland, Oregon. Raised in a household with seven other siblings, Lee dreamed about becoming a pilot from a young age, despite obstacles for female pilots at the time.

After graduating from high school, she found a job as an elevator operator in order to save money for flying lessons. At age 19, Lee joined the Portland Chinese Benevolent Society’s flying program and earned her pilot’s license. In 1933, after the Japanese military invaded Manchuria, Lee temporarily relocated to China in the hopes of flying planes in the Chinese military. Because she was a woman, the Chinese Air Force rejected her, and she returned to the U.S. Back in Portland, she met and married another Chinese pilot.

In 1942, Lee signed up for a six-month training program with the WASP, along with another famous Chinese American pilot Maggie Gee. The program was designed to teach women to fly non-combat missions abroad. After completing the program, Lee was assigned to the Air Transport Command’s 3rd Ferrying Squadron at Romulus Army Air Base in Michigan, where her main job was transporting cargo.

In 1944 Lee went to the Pursuit School in Brownsville, Texas, earning her qualifications to fly fighter aircraft. She became the first Chinese American female pilot in the U.S. military. During her military tenure, she was remembered for her bravery, humor, and highly skilled flying abilities. She passed away in late 1944 after being injured in a runway collision. During Lee’s lifetime, as a woman she never received the same military status and benefits, and it was not until 1977 that all the WASPs, including Lee, were granted veteran status. In 2010, Lee was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously.

### **Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu – Physicist, First Female President of the American Physical Society (1912-1997)**

Chien-Shiung Wu was born in Liuhe, Jiangsu, China. Throughout her childhood, her parents encouraged her to learn science and mathematics, and her fascination with these fields eventually led to a life-long commitment to science.

In 1936, Wu graduated from National Central University in Nanjing, China. She taught as a research assistant at Zhejiang University. She then began her PhD work in beta decay and the nuclear fission of uranium at the University of California Berkeley, graduating in 1940. There, she met her future husband, a fellow physicist.

Wu became an instructor at Smith College and later at Princeton University. In 1944, she joined the Manhattan Project at Columbia University's Substitute Alloy Materials Lab, where her research focused on radiation detection. Around this time, the B Reactor at the Hanford nuclear site in Benton County, Washington malfunctioned. Wu correctly discerned that xenon-135 caused the reactor's unexpected shutdown. She subsequently joined Columbia's faculty as an associate research professor.

In 1956, theoretical physicists, Tsung-Dao Lee and Chen Ning Yang, recruited Wu to design an experiment to determine whether the law of parity was still relevant during beta decay. Her experiment using cobalt-60 ultimately disproved the law. Lee and Yang won the Nobel Prize in Physics for this research, but Wu did not receive recognition for her contributions.

In 1958, Wu made significant advancements into the causes of sickle-cell anemia. She won many prestigious awards. She became Columbia University's first Michael I. Pupin Professor of Physics in 1973. Wu also became the first woman to be awarded an honorary doctorate from Princeton University and the first female president of the American Physical Society. After retiring from academia, she became an education advocate in China and Taiwan, supporting young girls' pursuit of science and mathematics.

### **The Shining Stars of Mun Lun**

**by Queenie Chee**

*(Editor's Note: Queenie is a former Hawaii Chapter President.)*

Hawaii has "bragging rights" for having the longest-in-existence, with the largest student population, Chinese language school in the United States.

Mun Lun School was founded in Honolulu, Hawaii, and opened its doors on February 4, 1911. That same year, Dr. Sun Yat Sen established the Republic of China. The school was closed in 1941 during World War II, and officially reopened in 1948. Mun Lun School is an after-school school. It holds weekday classes Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. There are Saturday classes as well.

At its peak in 1941, there were 1,348 students. Today, in year 2020, student enrollment stands at 267 (weekday and weekend classes combined), with twelve teachers, and counting the Principal who also teaches, a 'baker's dozen.' As of this writing, classes are being conducted online, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Mun Lun is composed of two words, meaning "illuminating and enlightening" and "human relationships." In 1914, the Ministry of Education in China sent a 12'x 4' plaque to the school to honor their efforts. The translation of what was written on this plaque: "A Bright Light Overseas."



The five Confucian Virtues are the hallmark of the school: Filial Piety, Diligence, Honesty, Patriotism, and Fellowship. These values are incorporated into the school's teachings in academics, art, music, dance, painting, and calligraphy. (For examples of students in action, please visit their website: [www.munlunschool.org](http://www.munlunschool.org))

Parents of these students saw the importance of their children learning the language and culture of their ancestors which could serve to add to their strength as good citizens of America. At the same time, to broaden their horizons globally. Hawaii Chinese parents were progressive for their times: when looking at early enrollment of female students in the early 20th century, daughters were being given an education as well as the sons. This, when back in China, a girl's birth was not even worthy to be registered.

The school taught in both Cantonese and Mandarin dialects. China's official language is Mandarin, and the most widely spoken language in the world, while the Hawaii Chinese population majority was from Southern China – Cantonese. Thus, children could learn to speak Cantonese and communicate with their older family members, and yet achieve that bridge to the world, with Mandarin.

There are many Mun Lun School graduates who went on to be important contributors to our society, not just in Hawaii, but in the United States and globally. I would like to recognize nine 'shining stars' of Mun Lun – females, of course, because this is for OCAW. Rest assured, there are many more who deserve recognition, but due to time and space limitations, I focus on the following women.

The first lady of note is the 4th Mun Lun School Principal in its history. After 75 years, for the first time, a female principal was chosen. **Mrs. Mary Lee Ching** was appointed in 1989, after having taught at that school from 1948 to 1971. For twenty years, she led Mun Lun and is well-loved. Upon her retirement, her replacement was once again, a male. But this time, it was a male with a PhD. The bar had been set higher.



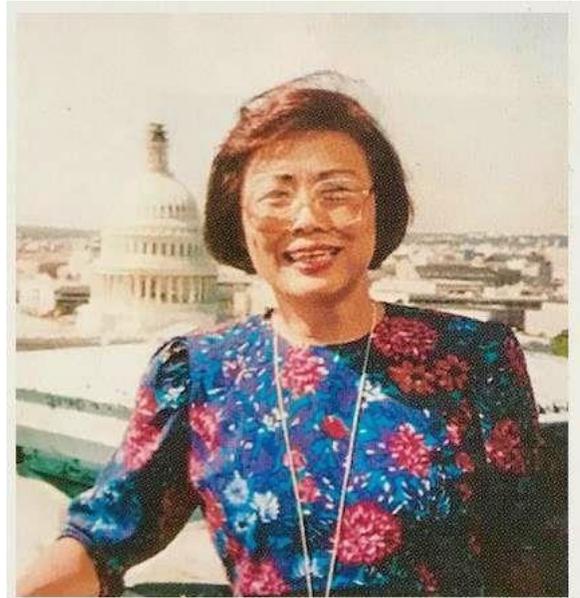
Mary Ching

You may recognize the next person or think her name familiar: **Lisa Lu**. She was a young Mandarin Language teacher at Mun Lun before Hollywood discovered her in the mid-1950s. Lisa had little roles in television sitcoms and a starring role in a James Stewart movie, but in Hong Kong, she starred in three movies that won her Golden Horse Awards. Finally, in recent years, she garnered an Academy Award nomination for her role as the matriarch in the movie “Crazy Rich Asians.” Ms. Lu, during her time at Mun Lun, inspired many students to learn to speak Mandarin.



*Teacher Lisa Lu, an actress, taught Mandarin at Mun Lun.*

Do any of you East Coast Chapter ladies know **Shirley Loo**? She was a Mun Lun graduate, Class of 1955. Shirley still resides in Washington, D.C. She is a former Library of Congress librarian in the Congressional Research Service, a specialist in information control and automated systems. She was a recipient of the Special Libraries Association Global Award, the Rose L. Vormelker Award, for her mentoring and teaching.



*Shirley Loo works in the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress.*

**Eileen Chong Leung**, Class of 1963, went on to the University of California at Davis, where she is a Contracts and Grants Manager. She translated brochures and forms from English to Chinese for the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, and edited and published an important documentation, *150 Years of Chinese Presence in California*.



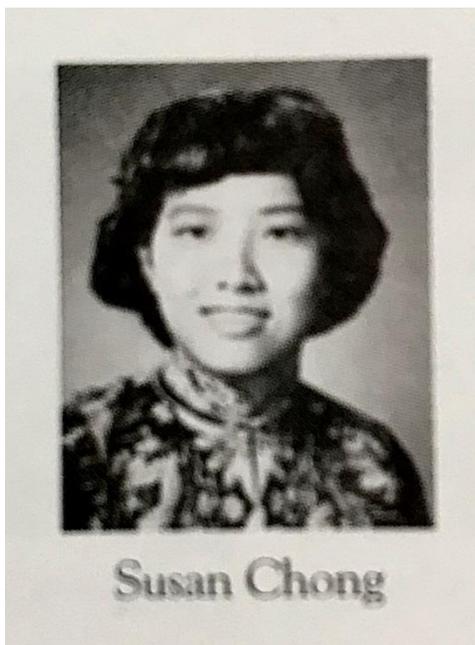
*Eileen Chong Leung published 150 Years of Chinese Presence in California.*

Meanwhile, back in Honolulu, we are proud to also recognize Class of 1940 **Eleanor Loui Yep** and her daughter, **Rosalind Yep Mau**, Class of 1961. They now both reside in Honolulu, with Auntie Eleanor now at age 99! She is one of the school's most active senior alumni, and still able to recite Chinese classic poetry from memory.

Rosalind was a professor at the National Institute of Education, Nan Yang Technological University in Singapore for a number of years before returning back to the Islands. As a young college student, she was also a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve (see photo), and taught at the University of Hawaii. She has published books and articles on assessment and educational leadership. Her accomplishments are too lengthy to list for this article, but I must mention that she currently serves as a Director on the Mun Lun School Board, Mo Hok Ke Lok Bo.



Rosalind Yep



Our current OCAW National Secretary, **Susan Chong Wong**, was from the Class of 1966. Her biography was previously published in the OCAW E-Newsletter, and she still is actively involved as an attorney in support of immigrants who need help, pro bono. She returned from New York with her law degree and hands-on experiences with the Chinese immigrant challenges there. In early years, she helped to manage her cardiologist husband's office, lobbied for the medical community at the State Legislature, served as trustee on several boards, and raised a handful of sons.

The two youngest “shining stars of Mun Lun” on my list are **Maisie Wong Davila**, Class of 1991, and Shao Yu Lin, Class of 2003. Both of these young women served in the U.S. Armed Services. Maisie is a Major in the United States Marine Corps and an attorney, practicing law in Florida. She received high recognition for administrative duties and contributions to the U.S. Southern Command, USMC and the Department of Defense.



*Maisie Wong Davila is a major in the Marine Corps Reserves.*

**Shao Yu Lin** is a Command Sergeant Major for the U.S. Army. While in the National Guard, she saw active duty in Operation Iraq Freedom. Mun Lun’s five Confucian virtues include Patriotism. These two young ladies have shown theirs.



*Shao Yu Lin holds her Command Sergeant Major Award.*

Today, Mun Lun School has a female Principal once more. Lily Shan has seen to hiring qualified teachers, many who are China college graduates, working on their postgraduate degrees. Graduates of Mun Lun, who pass the qualifying exam, earn AP credits that fulfill their college language requirements. Mun Lun does stress academics, but also the arts, music, and much more.

Recently, the students were able to attend a very special “Hawaii Spring Festival Gala Concert” that featured one of China’s Three Tenors, Warren Mok; internationally acclaimed violinist, SiQing Lu; and several other top classical musicians performing with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, led by famous China Conductor Long Yu. They came from a sold-out performance with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in New York. The children were treated to an international cultural enrichment evening at the historic Hawaii Theater with the rest of Honolulu’s community. Mun Lun School invited their benefactors to come to the school for a presentation of appreciation, and they exchanged songs and shared moments. I enclose one photo of the students with the sponsors and performers at the school from that day.



*(Editor’s Note: Queenie notes that the photo shows that there were many students already staying home due to the reports of the coronavirus in China. As each person entered the school, their temperature was taken.)*

The world is a challenging place, even during these times, when it seems we have taken a step backward in women’s rights, Chinese/Asian American Women’s rights. Mun Lun School has set an example, and they have Shining Stars to help guide our next generation. Best wishes to all!



Rosalind Yep Mau, Queenie Chee (author), and Eleanor Loui Yep at this year's Narcissus Festival Coronation Ball

*(Photo taken by Wilbert Chee)*

*Except where noted otherwise, material, photos, and historical facts were taken from Mun Lun School's 100th Anniversary Commemorative Book, Hawaii's Shining Star Mun Lun School, edited by Marietta Eng and Rosalind Yep Mau and published in 2011.*

*The writer of this article was a Chinese school graduate from a rival school, Sun Yat Sen School/Chung Shan School, which is now defunct.*