

E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

November 2015

(from Linda Devine, Editor)

As always, thank you to those who submitted material for this issue, the last one of 2015. Your strong support has made this our longest issue to date, at 47 pages. :) And kudos to my husband Ed for his steadfast work in preparing the photos.

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. Even a few sentences would be welcome!

Please feel free to send me any suggestions or recommendations that you might have for any aspects of the e-newsletter, and I will be happy to consider them and see if they work for our publication. My email address is: devinefive@comcast.net.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone an upcoming joyous holiday season – a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and best wishes for whatever other holiday you might celebrate! See you in 2016!

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Year-End Message from the President

Dear OCAW Sisters:

Another year comes to an end, but it is such a glory year for OCAW. We have a new Kohala Hawaii Chapter recently formed. Welcome to Kohala Hawaii President and officers, Veronica Lani Eugenio, Mary Ann Lim, and Faye Yates, and Advisor Puanani Woo. There are now two chapters on two different islands in Hawaii. Adding the Kohala Hawaii Chapter to our existing chapters in Hawaii (Oahu), Maryland, New Orleans, Silicon Valley, and Virginia, we now have six chapters.

As the Thanksgiving Holiday is approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the 2015 OCAW National Board. Thanks to Secretary Dorothy Hsiao; Treasurer Amber Yen; Vice President

for Programs Muriel Hom and Jennifer Xu; Vice President for Communications Linda Devine; Vice President for Membership Cathy Roberts; our chapter presidents – Hawaii President Queenie Chee; Kohala Hawaii President Veronica Lani Eugenio; Maryland and Virginia President Maria Yang; New Orleans President Betty Butz; and Silicon Valley President Carol Yuan/Sophia Yang; and all six chapters' officers for your dedicated work to benefit our communities as well as our members.

We are also fortunate to be able to count on our Counsel Jeanie Jew; Past President Faith Breen; Advisor Frances Hom; and Director Joanne Wang, for their suggestions and recommendations.

I am proud to be a part of OCAW to advance and to advocate for the needs and concerns of Chinese and other Asian Pacific American women, by helping to improve their educational, economic, social, and political opportunities, and by recognizing their excellence, leadership, and contributions to the quality of life.

Wishing you a happy holiday season and a new year filled with health, happiness, and great accomplishments.

Sincerely yours,

Christina Chang
OCAW National President

A National Conference is Brewing

(from Donna Byler, Executive Director)

The concept of an OCAW National Conference is brewing, and we are asking you to add your thoughts and ideas to the pot. Please share your ideas and desires as to place and time and what dates would make it impossible for you to attend.

An idea that is stirring is holding the conference in the National Capital Area where OCAW began nearly forty years ago, and the location offers opportunities to tour national museums and monuments, our houses of government, and the homes of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, and Obama, too.

The Summers in Washington are hot and humid, and the Winters can be cold and snowy. It's hottest in July and August and snows the most in January and February.

Our favorite times of the year are Spring and Fall. Seeing the cherry blossoms would be a treat, but determining when they will bloom each year is tricky, and they don't last very long. The Cherry Blossom Festival begins mid-March and ends mid-April. According to the Farmer's Almanac, peak fall foliage dates are the latter half of October.

A proposed theme of the conference could be to meet, greet, and share knowledge and wisdom gained in our individual chapters, such as about welcoming baby Chinese-style at one end and Compassionate Care at the other, and all Life Stages in between. We could also share information on good health habits as practiced in the Maryland and New Orleans Chapters, as well as practicing Fengshui and Ch'i as learned in the Virginia Chapter. Hula and Line Dancing, forcing narcissus bulbs, and bonsai training could round out the conference.

Please send your thoughts and ideas to: OCAWWOMEN@aol.com. We are looking forward to members meeting each other and putting names to faces!

Opera International

(from Muriel Hom, Producer-Director)

The Organization of Chinese American Women and The Hermon Presbyterian Church hosted “***Opera Collides With Jazz,***” a Benefit Concert for the Wounded Warrior Project. The event took place on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Hermon Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland. The 100 attendees, including many OCAW-VA and OCAW-MD members, constituted a full house.

Featured artists were Jessica Stecklein, Soprano, and Karla Chisholm, Jazz Vocalist. At the piano was Adelaide Edelson, and on guitar, Steve Hom. Ms. Stecklein performed operatic arias and art songs, and Ms. Chisholm sang jazz standards. Both singers have performed nationally and internationally and succeeded in



Jessica Stecklein, Soprano



Karla Chisholm, Jazz Vocalist, and
Steve Hom, Guitarist

giving a rousing performance which was much enjoyed by the audience. One gentleman remarked that it really made his day.

Benefactors for the concert were Mei-jong Hung, Henriette Levy, and Maria Yang, as well as Mimi Hom who chaired the event. Christina Wong Poy delivered greetings and words of appreciation on behalf of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and recognized Mimi's years of dedication and service. (*Editor's Note: See below.*)

After the performance, OCAW provided a luscious buffet catered from Hunan Taste, a carry-out restaurant in Rockville, Maryland. Church members contributed an array of delicious desserts. Rev. Maggie Hayward gave thanks to all the attendees who contributed graciously to the Wounded Warriors. Over \$2,000 was raised, and a fun evening was had by all.

Christina Wong Poy's Remarks

Having served with Mimi as a vice president on OCAW's National Board for several years, I've witnessed her deep dedication to developing the talent of young artists, promoting access to culture for people of all means, and generously supporting important causes in the community with her own money, time, and endless energy.

So it is my distinct pleasure as the Administrative Director of the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs to bring greetings and appreciation on behalf of Governor Larry Hogan to Mimi Hom, OCAW, the Hermon Presbyterian Church, and all of the performers for their time and efforts to support the Wounded Warrior Project.

With Walter Reed National Military Medical Center located right here in Bethesda and Veteran's Day this Wednesday, it's so important to assist those who have served in the military to preserve our freedom. Let's give Mimi an energetic round of applause, and please remember to support the Wounded Warrior Project with a generous donation!

(*Editor's Note: Christina is also current Treasurer of the OCAW Maryland Chapter.*)



Mimi Hom and Rev. Maggie Hayward

(Photos taken by Christina Wong Poy)

News from the Virginia and Maryland Chapters

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

Fengshui Lecture

On Saturday, September 19, 2015, a Fengshui lecture was held at Johns Hopkins University, Montgomery County Campus, in Rockville, Maryland. The lecture was organized by the OCAW Virginia Chapter, the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington DC, OCA-NOVA, and the Center for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (CAPEC) of George Mason University in Virginia. This was the third time since 2012 that OCAW had invited the speaker, Her Holiness Khadro Crystal Chu Rinpoche, to give a talk about the impact of Ch'i and Fengshui on our lives. She spoke in both English and Chinese to present the lecture to the audience without an interpreter.

She discussed the meaning of Ch'i and the definition of Fengshui, and she also explained why there are many schools of Fengshui theories. Crystal Chu stated that whether or not we have Fengshui knowledge, we are influenced by our surrounding environment every day. Fengshui knowledge deals with the close relationship between one's well-being and one's living and working environments. We study Fengshui knowledge to learn how to eliminate harmful impacts from the environment and to optimize our lives by enhancing the environment.



(Photo taken by Maria Yang)



(Photo taken by Maria Yang)



(from left) Maria Yang, President of OCAW-VA and Acting President of OCAW-MD; H.H. Khadro Crystal Chu Rinpoche; and Cindy Chin, President of the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Greater Washington DC

Black Sect Esoteric Buddhism Fengshui is a new Fengshui school with its unique theories and solutions that sets it apart from all other traditional schools of Fengshui. While it combines the essence of traditional Fengshui approaches, it focuses on the “visible factors” and “invisible factors” that are applicable and highly adaptable to modern architecture, modern living environments, and modern lifestyles.

Her Holiness Khadro Crystal Chu Rinpoche is the lineage holder and the spiritual leader of the Fifth Stage of Black Sect Esoteric Buddhism. She is a spiritual teacher, a meditation master, a writer, an international speaker, and an international Fengshui educator and consultant. She is also an adjunct professor at the School of Arts and Letters at San Diego State University in California. The subjects of Crystal Chu's teachings include Buddhist philosophy and practices; meditation; contemplation; spiritual growth; transcendental knowledge; healing methods of body, mind, and spirit; the theory of Ch'i; Yin-Yang philosophy; Fengshui; and Chinese folklore practices.

It was a very interesting and informative lecture, and the attendees felt that they learned a lot.



H.H. Khadro Crystal Chu Rinpoche, pictured with some of the attendees,
including OCAW-VA and OCAW-MD members

News from the New Orleans Chapter

(from Betty Butz, President)

Moon Festival

OCAW New Orleans Chapter members were invited to attend a lovely Chinese Moon Festival at Xavier University of Louisiana on Friday, September 25, 2015. The annual event, sponsored by the Confucius Institute at the university, was held in the University Center Ballroom and was free and open to the public.

Everyone shared the joy of a colorful autumn, embraced their sweet memories of beautiful China, and enjoyed live entertainment of music and dance. Refreshments and moon cakes were served. It was a memorable, happy evening.



Chapter members Yvonne Louie and Leda Fan, with "Wind from the Grassland"
Mongolian folk performers



Chapter members Yvonne Louie, Jing Hu, Tina Soong, and Leda Fan

(Photos taken by Dr. Si Chung)

Fall Meeting

The New Orleans Chapter held its fall meeting on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at China Rose Restaurant in Metairie. The following slate of officers for 2016 was approved:

President: Patricia Hew Ellzey (Pat Lee)

Vice President: Leda Fan

Secretary: Maria Auzenne

Treasurer: Nancy Chung

Installation is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at noon at the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, a suburb of New Orleans, to be followed by a potluck luncheon of healthy foods. Mangjee Yeh will be in charge of this event.

Also at our meeting, we talked about how to cook roots, in keeping with our healthy eating theme. Here is a recipe I call “Baked Cool Roots,” adapted from Mama Leah's Jewish Kitchen, page 196.

BAKED COOL ROOTS

Ingredients:

4 medium yellow onions
4 beet roots, similar size
1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
dash sea salt

Method:

Boil a large pot of water.
Boil onions for 10 minutes; drain and cool under running water.
Cut away top and bottom of onions; remove skin.

Repeat above steps for beets.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Score top and bottom of onions and beets with a sharp knife.
Place roots upright in an ovenproof casserole that has a tight-fitting lid.
Drizzle oil and sprinkle pepper on top.
Cover and bake for 45 - 60 minutes.
Add salt to taste.

More Thoughts on Healthy Foods

In my mother's kitchen was a constant array of dark brown, lidded jars, each one fitting nicely in two hands. These curious containers were filled with salted black beans, brown pureed soy beans, home-cooked lard, savory pickled radish, pickled sweet and sour bitter greens, dried mini anchovies, and dried little shrimp. I did not learn to appreciate these ingredients until my ripe old age.

As a youngster, I was attracted to brightly colored fruits in the wet market just a block away from where my family lived in Hong Kong. Within an easy walk, I could venture to discover a great variety of locally-grown fresh fruits, vegetables, live poultry, seafood caught in nearby seas, and meat butchered the same day. Pickled foods were definitely not for me.

With much encouragement from OCAW, I started paying attention to healthy foods, which led me to experiment with dried fruits. Here is a recipe I call “Spirited Berries.”

SPIRITED BERRIES

Materials:

lidded jar
bottle of gin
package of dried cranberries

Method:

Empty package of cranberries into jar.

Pour gin to cover all the berries.

Cover jar and wait several days.

Plumped cranberries are delicious by themselves, or with white meat, sweet potato, melon, or vanilla ice cream.

Besides cranberries, I have used raisins and dried cherries with excellent results.

* * * * *

The end of Chinese New Year was an usually busy time in my family during my growing years. Many tasks had to be accomplished during the two weeks marking the passage of another year: general housecleaning, expired food tossed out, old clothes given away, glass and metal and paper scraps sold to peddlers, new clothes made and new shoes bought for every family member, and food prepared to serve for several days during the holiday when everyone gathered at home.

About a week before the new year, my mother would carry a small sack of rice to the neighborhood miller for grinding into rice flour. She showed the girls in the family how to knead dough; make puffy pockets filled with crushed peanuts, sesame seeds, and sugar; then deep-fried – crunchy dough balls and pretty strips of sweet ribbons. A favorite new year food was LAWBUC GO, a steamed cake made from white radish and rice flour, with savory bits of mushroom, air-dried bacon, and dried shrimp. It was fun to watch a large white radish being turned into white fluffy little mounds of shreds. Much to my delight, this delicate treat is now available in dim sum restaurants year round.

I would like to suggest a version of radish pancakes that is more suitable for a modern kitchen.

RADISH PANCAKES

Ingredients:

1 large white daikon radish, about 2 pounds

juice of 1/4 lemon

1 small onion

1 egg

1/8 cup flour

1 teaspoon salt

dash of white pepper

cooking oil for frying

Method:

Peel radish and grate into shreds; wring out and discard juice.

Mix in lemon juice.

Peel and grate onion.

Beat egg slightly.

Add onion, beaten egg, flour, salt, and pepper to radish mixture.

Warm oil in frying pan.

Drop mixture by tablespoonful into hot frying pan; fry until brown on both sides.

Upcoming Event



In honor of founding member and incoming President Patricia Ellzey, the **Organization of Chinese American Women New Orleans Chapter** will be pleased to share with members and guests...

RECIPES REVEILLE

... a luncheon to celebrate the closing of 2015, a year in which OCAW members devoted their time to exploring recipes for healthy foods.

Date: Saturday, December 12, 2015

Time: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Place: Chinese Presbyterian Church, Kenner, Louisiana

RSVP to Pat Ellzey or Mangjee Yeh by Saturday, December 5, 1 p.m.

Participants are requested to bring a simple dish of their favorite healthy food to share.

OCAW will cover contributions for the first five respondents to Mrs. Ellzey.

Contributions of recipes would be appreciated. Selected ones will be submitted to the *OCAW E-Newsletter* for publication.

News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(from Carol Yuan, President)

Mid-Autumn Festival

Our chapter, with the help of the Saratoga Historical Foundation, presented the Mid-Autumn Festival for the second year on Sunday, September 27, 2015 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Saratoga History Museum in the City of Saratoga, California. This free event included a special exhibit on the building of the transcontinental railroad by the Chinese, and a lecture by a descendant of one of the Chinese railroad workers. There were about 30-40 attendees at the lecture, and a total of several hundred people came to the festival.

Lynn Lee, Curriculum Specialist (Social Science) of the Santa Ana Unified School District, gave a presentation at 1:30 p.m. about her great-grandfather's experience working on the railroad, as well as the great impact the railroad made on the U.S. both politically and economically. Her great-grandfather was one of the 10,000 Chinese workers who helped complete the railroad.



The exhibit, "The Chinese and The Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental," provided an historical overview of the Chinese railroad workers who were instrumental in building the U.S.' first Transcontinental Railroad. It was produced by the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum and the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project at Stanford University. Sponsored by Sereno Group Real Estate in Saratoga, the exhibit was on display for one month at the Saratoga History Museum.

The Mid-Autumn Festival opened to the beat of Chinese drums by the Tamkang University Drum Team around 2:30 p.m. The vigorous drum beats, with beautifully incorporated Chinese dance, Kung-Fu, and Tai-Chi by the drummers, grasped everyone's attention.





After the drum team performance, children from the Musical Key Choir sang for the audience. Their innocent voices and rhythm melted everyone's heart.



There was a demonstration of Chinese calligraphy by members of the Huafeng Chinese Calligraphy Association and Lanting Calligraphy Club.



Of special interest was a demonstration by Shuchen Buchko of sugar painting, an old Chinese art form, using sugar to form animal shapes.

The sugar painting artwork creations were given out as raffle drawing prizes. Adults and children all hoped to bring one home.





Raffle drawing

There was also story-telling to children by Kristin Hsu of Chinese folk tales that are related to the Mid-Autumn Festival. It took place in a 19th-century-setting classroom in the museum garden.



The arts and crafts station was crowded with kids who made paper lanterns, jade rabbit cutouts, and colorings.



A station of mooncakes and tea tasting was also popular for participants to stop by and chat at. And the Saratoga Library had a table at the event, promoting its services and programs.



Exhibitors and OCAW-SVC members

Annette Stransky, President of the Saratoga Historical Foundation, helped invite Lynn Lee and her mother Andrea Yee for the lecture. She also arranged for the loan of the traveling exhibit on the transcontinental railroad. We are so appreciative of having someone like Annette in our community, promoting Chinese history and culture. On October 18, seven OCAW-SVC members and friends attended a Saratoga Historical Foundation fundraising event at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga to show our support for the Foundation. Our presence was recognized at the event and on the event program. There was live music, great food and wine, a docent-led tour of the gardens, and a wide variety of silent auction items. Besides us having a great time, we also hope that these two events helped further strengthen the bond between the Chinese/Asian American community and mainstream society.

Lunch with OCAW National President Christina Chang

Christina visited the bay area in early October and we were so happy to have the opportunity to meet with our National President! We had a lunch gathering on Sunday, October 4, 2015 at Hong Fu Chinese restaurant in Cupertino, California.

We chatted about the history and experiences of OCAW and our past encounters. Christina gave us a heads-up about the good news of a new Hawaii chapter. We were so excited to know that we're growing! Christina also mentioned the "Life Stages-Life Sages" idea. We briefly discussed it and thought that maybe using media like "YouTube" could be a way to distribute it to all the chapters. We all noticed that the events that we or other organizations have hosted have not been able to attract as much attendance as before. We thought that the existence nowadays of more social, professional, or community organizations competing for people's time might be one of the reasons.

Christina brought us a couple of History of the Organization of Chinese American Women books and several Chinese Home Cooking books published in 1985. Most of us had not known about the cooking book. It was such a practical and helpful idea to preserve the tradition of Chinese cuisine. Also, it was so thoughtful of Christina to bring each of us a can of peanuts from Virginia. In turn, Sophia Yang presented Christina with one of the T-shirts that we ordered to mark our 30-year anniversary.



Christina Chang, Carol Yuan, and Sophia Yang



At lunch

Front row: Sophia Yang, Jenny Liu, Cynthia Chang, Christina Chang, Chia-Huei Chen,
and Katy Wang

Back row: Lisa Tsai, Ai-Chu Wang, Anne Hu, Sherry Hsu, Monica Hsiao, and Carol Yuan

Since two of our Silicon Valley Chapter past presidents, Samantha Cheng and Su Ching Wu, and one of our long-term members, Ching-Teh Cheng, are members of the Bo-Ai Choir, and the Choir happened to be performing that same afternoon, the three of them could not join us for lunch. After lunch, Christina and some of us went to see the performance and met with them.



At the choir performance

Ai-Chu Wang, Su Ching Wu, Christina Chang, Jenny Liu, Chia-Huei Chen,
and Samantha Cheng

We had such a pleasant time with Christina. We had never met and we just clicked. I guess that is the power of OCAW sisterhood!

(from Christina Chang, National President)

It was a great pleasure to meet Silicon Valley Chapter (SVC) officers and members during my October visit to the San Francisco Bay area. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the current president, Carol Yuan, and former presidents Sophia, Katy, Jenny, and Chia-Huei, and members who attended the luncheon.

I have learned so much about the SVC, members' positive attitudes, and their enthusiasm to be involved with the chapter's activities.

To my great surprise, the SVC created a beautiful OCAW T-Shirt. It is such a wonderful idea. It will give us big exposure wherever we go.

During the luncheon, members suggested a National conference in the Washington, D.C. area. The members outside of the D.C. Metropolitan area would have a chance to visit the national capital. Hopefully the wish will come true in the near future. (*Editor's Note: See "A National Conference is Brewing" on page 2.*)

Walk to End Alzheimer's

On Saturday, October 10, 2015, 13 SVC members and spouses joined the "Walk to End Alzheimer's," hosted by the Alzheimer's Association in San Jose, California. This is the first time we formed a team to participate in this event. There was a total of around 4,000 participants that morning. The event has raised over \$1 million, and we as a team have raised \$1,490!



Around 8 a.m., participants started checking in at the Arena Green in downtown San Jose. There were light snacks and a live band performing while people were gathering. Alzheimer's Association volunteers and workers went on stage to share their stories and experiences related to Alzheimer's. Some friends and families of Alzheimer's patients also shared their stories. There were individuals experiencing Alzheimer's in the audience. Later, volunteers led a few dances, and the whole crowd joined in enthusiastically.



The Walk started at 10 a.m. We completed the 3-mile route along with thousands of participants walking through Guadalupe River Park and the streets of downtown San Jose. There were volunteers cheering for us all the way. It sprinkled when the walk started, but then it cleared up and the sun shone when we finished walking around noontime. We all felt it was for a good cause and have decided to do it again next year!





The following is information from *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of The Alzheimer's Association*, Martha Clare Morris, Sc.D., Rush University. It was provided to us by our member Amy Shiao who is a nutritionist.

Eat This Way and Avoid Alzheimer's

People who tried the new scientist-designed MIND diet lowered their risk of Alzheimer's by 53%. Eat this many weekly servings of the following nine foods. And use olive oil for cooking and dressings, for its memory-protecting polyphenols.

Whole Grains: 21

Packed with fiber to fuel a productive brain. Aim for 3 servings a day.

Berries: 2

Thanks to their flavonols, they're the only fruit that can slow brain decline.

Beans: 3

Plenty of fiber, plus low-fat protein for growing brain cells.

Leafy Greens: 6

Full of antioxidants and carotenoids to protect gray matter.

Poultry: 2

Delivering dementia-preventing B vitamins and low-fat protein.

Nuts: 5

Rich in vitamin E, which has been shown to lower risk of Alzheimer's.

Other vegetables: 7

Packed with plant-based antioxidant power.

Fish: 1

Rich in brain-cell-fortifying omega-3 fatty acids.

Wine: 7

Alcohol reduces dementia risk. Stick to 1 glass a day.

KEEP THESE FOODS TO A MINIMUM:

Red meat: 4 times a week or less

Fast food, fried food, and cheese: less than once a week

Butter or margarine: fewer than 7 tablespoons a week

Pastries or sweets: less than 5 times a week

Fall Seminar – End-of-Life Planning

We invited the Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care (CACCC) to talk to us about End-of-Life planning on Sunday, October 25, 2015. We were so honored to have Sandy Chen Stokes, the founder and board chair of CACCC, and Dr. Alex Tsao, the leader of CACCC's Speaker's Bureau, as our speakers.

The only coalition in the nation devoted to end-of-life concerns in the Chinese community, CACCC is an active working coalition of over 1,300 individual members. Its vision is to form a community in which Chinese Americans are able to face the end of life with dignity, respect, and meaning. It was formed in December 2005 to address the lack of linguistically and culturally appropriate end-of-life information and training available to the Chinese community and those who serve it.

Sandy is a geriatric nurse specialist. She has focused much of her career and volunteer activities on end of life (EOL) care, elder care, and mental health issues in the Chinese American community.



Sandy Chen Stokes

That afternoon, in a relaxed and interactive setting, Sandy explained that the lack of open dialogue among families about how to face end-of-life issues may cause conflicts among patients, families, physicians, and caretakers, and hence hinder the proper care patients should receive. Due to cultural barriers, Chinese Americans comprise the group that has been utilizing hospice the least. She also introduced some tools, like Heart to Heart Cards and Heart to Heart Café, which are communication activities designed to make it easier for a family member, a caregiver, or a health care provider to understand what a loved one wants done when life is ending.

Alex led us through the California Advance Health Care Directive form thoroughly in a firm and easy-to-accept manner. Once notarized or signed by two witnesses, this form is a complete legal document on its own. The purpose of the form is to let us have a say about how we want to be treated if we become very sick. Alex emphasized that it is important to let family and friends know about the existence of this form and where to locate it.

There are three parts to the form. The first part is to choose a health care agent who can make medical decisions for us if we are too sick to make them ourselves. The second part is to let us choose the kind of health care we want. In this way, those who care for us will not have to guess what we want if we are too sick to tell them ourselves. The third part is to sign the form.



Dr. Alex Tsao



Both Sandy and Alex engaged us in their presentations. Everyone felt free and comfortable asking questions and sharing personal experiences. It was quite a mind-opening seminar for most of us. On December 5, 2015, CACCC will have a fundraising event, "Ten Years of Compassion." Several of us have purchased tickets to celebrate CACCC's 10-year anniversary. As a final note, Alex is the husband of our Treasurer, Jen Tsao!

For more information about CACCC and related topics, please visit the CACCC website at:
<http://www.caccc-usa.org/>.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 3, 2016 – Holiday Member Social

March/April 2016 – Spring Outing

Sunday, May 15, 2016 – Health Seminar

Sunday, August 7, 2016 – Annual Officer Installation and Youth Achievement Award Presentation (30th Anniversary celebration)

News from the Hawaii Chapter

General Membership Meeting

(from Queenie Chee, President)

The Hawaii Chapter held its quarterly General Membership Meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2015, at the Maple Garden Restaurant in Honolulu.

Zandra Yamamoto, our Nominations Chair, presented the slate of officers nominated for 2016. The members present ratified these new leaders:

President: Linda Young

Vice President: Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock

Secretary: Jerilyn Jeffryes

Treasurer: Rena Young Ochse

Gigi Ko introduced Dr. Cynthia Ning, our guest speaker, and Dr. Ning did not disappoint. Many of our members who were in attendance felt that she was our best speaker this year. She shared videos of her documentary on the people of Muslim faith in China, in Xinjiang in particular, and helped many of us to have a better understanding of this group of people in China... a surprisingly large number!

Introduction of Dr. Cynthia Ning

by Geraldine (Gigi) Ko

On October 25, at OCAW-Hawaii's general membership meeting, member Gigi Ko introduced guest speaker Dr. Cynthia Ning, a carrier of vast information about the science and art of teaching and learning the Mandarin language. Her 4 DVD-based textbooks, entitled Encounters: Chinese Language and Culture Books, all best sellers in their own right, delineate innovative lessons on how to enthuse, inspire, and facilitate learning – not just how to speak, but also how to listen to the Chinese language.

Some of the DVDs show episodes, shot in Beijing, that present Chinese culture to Chinese-language learners about daily life in China, and communications with Chinese residents from different walks of life. Also presented are possible interactions a foreigner living in a Chinese city might have: making friends, making appointments, ordering at a restaurant, exchanging money, going to a health clinic, getting a haircut. The four books were developed under the sponsorship of Yale University and the China International Publishing Group, the latter two produced with the support of multi-year grants from the U.S. Department of Education.

Since 1991, Dr. Ning has been Associate Director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Hawaii. Her job functions have included assisting with long-term fundraising for endowments in Chinese Studies, international links and study-abroad programs, projects such as "The Legacy: History of the Chinese in Hawaii" program, and grant-writing for endeavors such as the Alphabetically-based Computerized Chinese-English Dictionary.

She is currently the U.S. Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, that promotes Chinese language education in Hawaii and the mainland. Her research also includes Chinese Comic literature and Chinese film. Being an authority on Chinese culture, she gives a wide range of lectures to both academic and non-academic audiences.

In 1998, she was President of the U.S.-based International Chinese Language Teachers Association, and from 2000 to 2009, served as its Executive Director. She was also President of the Chinese Language Education Association of Hawaii, as well as the Hawaii Association of Language Teachers. Since 2008, she has been Director of the STARTALK Chinese Summer Teacher Training Workshop and Student Camp, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Dr. Ning's talk to our chapter with video about the Muslims living in China was very well received. After the meeting, there was a line of members wanting to talk to her. It was everyone's hope that Dr. Ning would again grace us with her presence and wealth of information.

Mandarin Ball

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

Several members of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter were involved with the Mandarin Ball, the well-known annual fundraising gala of the Hawaii Chinese Civic Association. The event was held on Saturday, November 7, 2015, at the Hawaii Prince Hotel in Honolulu. The event is traditionally supported by the Chinese community, and proceeds go toward scholarships.

Hawaii Chapter member and Parliamentarian Blossom Young Tyau was honored as the Mandarin Award winner and was recognized for her community service and her involvement with the Chinese organizations. Hawaii Chapter member Sharon L. Pang is the new President of the HCCA, and she was the Chairperson of the event.

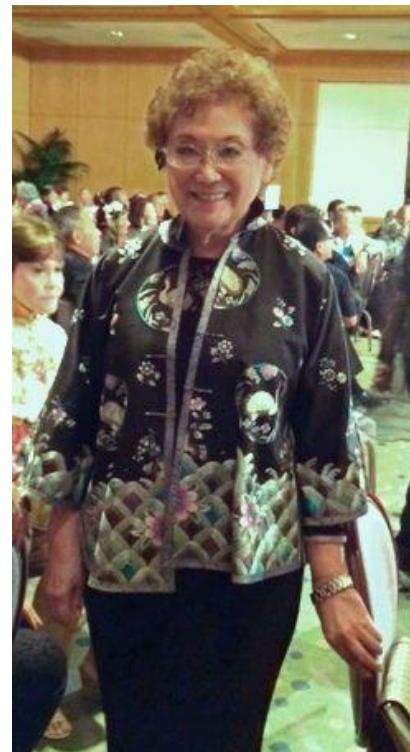


Blossom Y. Tyau and Sharon L. Pang

In attendance were many OCAW members, including Isabella Rose Monzon and Gigi Ko. The ball featured a Mandarin Jacket contest. Gigi's jacket won the Contemporary category. Other members modeled their Traditional Mandarin jackets.



Isabella Rose Monzon and Gigi Ko



Rena Young Ochse

Rena Young Ochse, immediate Past President, is pictured wearing her mother's jacket which dates back to the Qing Dynasty.

Upcoming Event

(from Queenie Chee and Rena Young Ochse)

Our final event of the year will be OCAW's annual Christmas Installation Brunch Buffet on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at the Oahu Country Club in Honolulu. It will be an occasion of holiday cheer, gratitude, and entertainment.

New officers Linda Young, Chu Lan Shubert-Kwock, Jerilyn Jeffryes, and Rena Young Ochse will be installed by The Honorable Calvin Say, Hawaii Speaker of the House Emeritus.

Invitees include the Presidents of the United Chinese Society, Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Women's Club, and Associated Chinese University Women, as well as the Head of TECO (Taipei Economic and Cultural Office).

News from the Kohala Hawaii Chapter

Exciting Announcement

(from Christina Chang, National President)

Dear OCAW Sisters:

I take great pride in announcing that OCAW now has a new chapter. It is called the Kohala Hawaii Chapter.

Its officers are Veronica Lani Eugenio, President; Mary Ann Lim, Vice President and Cultural Advisor; and Faye Yates, Secretary-Treasurer. Puanani Woo is its Advisor.

Congratulations to all, and welcome to OCAW!

Sincerely,

Christina Chang
National President

(from Lani Eugenio, President)

Aloha!

Thank you for your warm welcome. Puanani Woo has given us information and advice about OCAW and has suggested future projects.

We are excited and look forward to being a part of this organization.

Mahalo,

Lani Eugenio, President
also on behalf of Mary Ann and Faye

* * * *

(Editor's Note: The following are Lani's comments after her participation in her first National Board Quarterly Meeting Conference Call on Sunday, October 25, 2015, and Christina Chang's reply.)

Aloha National Board Members:

I'm so glad that I got to meet you on the conference call... to connect the voices to the printed names on my email. Again, thank you for your warm welcome and support for our newly-organized group. It's exciting to hear what other chapters are doing to perpetuate the Chinese culture and promote the accomplishments of the early Chinese immigrants whose seemingly lowly labors contributed to the backbone of American society.

We are honored to be associated with such an organization!

Thank you,
Lani and all of us in Kohala, Hawaii

Dear Lani and everyone from the Kohala Chapter:

It is an honor to hear new voices joining the OCAW family. We are looking forward to new ideas and your participation.

Welcome again, and we appreciate your being a part of the organization.

Sincerely,

Christina Chang
National President

* * * *

(from Puanani Woo, Advisor)

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Dear OCAW Sisters:

Being an octogenarian at 82, two lessons have served me well throughout my life.

Those lessons are (1) **change** is the only absolute, and (2) mindfully acknowledge **serendipity** and more will surface all the time at the right time.

Change. I call the first lesson to your attention in relation to the **2006 OCAW Amended Bylaws, ARTICLE II Organization and Purpose, Section 2.2.** OCAW has gone from an all Chinese American organization to one that now includes Asian Pacific Islanders.

That's quite a **change**, thanks to the efforts of *Jeanie Jew*, OCAW's Counsel and past OCAW national president.

See **APPENDIX 3, ASIAN/PACIFIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**, pages 135-146, in History of the Organization of Chinese American Women. It's about the development of A/P-AHM and Jeanie Jew's key role starting in 1977 with her discussions with then U.S. Congressman Frank Horton from New York.

See bottom of page 138, Horton, H.R. 5572, and I quote, "The celebration of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month has a very deep and personal meaning for Jeanie Jew and her family. ...Jeanie Jew, the creator of the idea for a heritage month, is the granddaughter of M.Y. Lee, the early pioneer." All of APPENDIX 3 is fascinating reading.

From Jeanie's work, today there is a "WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS."

As of 2006, two of OCAW's five **Purposes** include Asian Pacific Islanders.

- a. promote the equal participation of Chinese American women in all aspects of life in the United States through the advancement of equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for all Chinese Americans;
- b. establish a communication network to foster self-awareness and to raise general understanding of the special concerns and needs of Chinese American women;
- c. ***seek, build, and maintain healthy relationships of common interest with other women's groups, and Asian Pacific Islander American groups;***
- d. seek to integrate Chinese American women into mainstream activities and programs, both in the public and private sectors; and
- e. ***develop a Chinese American women's agenda for action in the context of problems common to all women and Asian Pacific Americans.***

Purposes c. and e. are the reasons I felt comfortable initiating the **OCAW Kohala Hawaii Chapter**. Saturday, October 10, 2015 is our Charter date. The six Charter members are:

President: Veronica Lani Eugenio – *Filipina, Hawaiian, Chinese*

Vice President and Cultural Advisor: Mary Ann Lim – *Hawaiian, Haole*

Secretary/Treasurer: Faye Yates – *Haole, Hawaiian, Chinese*

Advisor: Puanani Woo – *Chinese, Hawaiian*

Members: Lisa Kini – *Japanese*, and Kalei Kini – *Hawaiian, Chinese, Haole*

Our immediate project is to learn to bloom narcissus in time for Chinese New Year, Monday, February 8, 2016.

Our second project is long-term and it is to produce a book tentatively titled The Neula/Lim Family of North Kohala to be published by the University of Hawaii Press with a tentative launch date of October 2017. We plan to request OCAW National to be one of the co-sponsors of the book, and we hope a majority vote of the Board agrees to it.

I deeply respect the OCAW leaders in the past that led to the 2006 OCAW Board of Directors reaching out to the Pacific Basin population identified as Asian Pacific Islander American women's groups and including them in the Purposes of the 2006 OCAW Amended Bylaws. Page 100 of the OCAW history book notes the three attorneys who worked on these Bylaws.

Serendipity. Our **OCAW Kohala Hawaii Chapter** revealed a bonding with *Pauline W. Tsui*. The coincidence is that Pauline's father, Dr. John Y.T. Woo, the first of 16 children of Mrs. WOO Yee Biu, was born in 1887 in the 'no-running-water-bare-bones-pioneer-living-one-room-family-section' of rough-built wooden St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Makapala, Kohala, Hawaii, and *Veronica Lani Eugenio*, our chapter president, and her family resided on property they owned next to modernized St. Paul's Episcopal Church for many years. Lani said their children used to play on the lawn of St. Paul's Church.

Pauline's grandfather, The Rev. WOO Yee Biu, ministered to the single, male immigrant Chinese sugar plantation workers in the late 1800s and early 1900s at St. Paul's and raised part of his family in the church until a rough-built wooden home was constructed for them nearby. Today Makapala, Kohala, Hawaii is still very rural.

Sincerely yours,

Puanani Woo
Advisor, OCAW Kohala Hawaii Chapter

(Editor's Note: Puanani suggested that the Kohala Chapter officers write about themselves for the e-newsletter, so that OCAW members can obtain some insight into their backgrounds, experiences, and outlooks. Their biographies follow.)

Introducing Veronica (Lani) Eugenio, President



My father was from the Philippines; my mother's ancestry was Native Hawaiian, Caucasian, and Chinese; and I was one of seven children. My husband's ancestry is Native Hawaiian, Irish, English, and Japanese. We have four sons and two twin grandsons.

I have a degree in Biology, with work toward a Masters in Education/Professional Development, and I have a Certificate in Digital Media. While raising my family, I was self-employed, working with grants in Science, Education, and Community issues.

Childhood

My early childhood was spent in a house in Kuka'iau issued by the Hamakua Sugar Plantation. In our neighborhood, all of the Plantation houses for the workers were wooden and painted green with white trimming. The supervisors' houses were bigger and were painted cream or light green, usually with red roofs. The huge white, two-story home on the hill with a sprawling lawn was reserved for the Plantation manager.

Due to the Spanish-American War, my father was fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend an American school in the Philippines. He could understand some English and could read and write, although he did not reveal this to the plantation recruiters, as they preferred uneducated field hands. The Plantation Store needed someone who could communicate with the growing Filipino population and who could read and write the orders placed by the customers. My father was hired as the delivery boy, then managed the meat market. Eventually, he and two partners bought the Plantation Store.

When I was in the 4th grade, we moved up to the mountain to an area which was once a Chinese settlement. My father had not liked the constraints of Plantation life. Instead of being surrounded by cane fields and neighbors, we were now surrounded by forest and pasture. It was fun exploring the gulches and riding down a five-acre waterslide when the waterhole overflowed, but after my sisters and brothers left, it was cold and lonely. Our nearest neighbor was a mile away, we had no phone, and the TV reception was snowy. If we yelled, it would echo five times.

It wasn't until I attended a school for Native Hawaiians that I learned about my Hawaiian heritage. All we had learned of Hawaiians in public school was that the Hawaiians had "murdered" Captain Cook. It was an embarrassment to be Hawaiian. Although my grandmother lived two doors away from us and spoke the native language, we did not speak it, nor did we practice Hawaiian traditions. My grandfather had been pure Hawaiian, but he had passed away before my mother was born.

Awakening

We were part of the Hawaiian Renaissance in the 1970s, taking Castle & Cooke and Standard Oil to court over public access to our mountains and ocean. We began to take pride in who we were as natives of the land, and with that self-awareness came the search into our past, and into our multiethnic backgrounds.

I was in my 30s when I learned about my family history. My grandmother was in her 80s when she began to freely speak about her life. My aunt had bought a house for her, so she was no longer dependent on the Plantation and no longer afraid to tell her story. My grandmother was a descendant of Chief Kekuhaupi'o, the greatest warrior who had mentored King Kamehameha in warfare and morality. Her Scottish-English ancestors had landed in Massachusetts in 1628... blue bloods.

My grandmother spoke of how she and her grandparents were warned by their owl aumakua (animal guardian) one night during dinner. They headed for the mountain, and as her grandfather chose a spot to rest for the night, they saw torches moving toward their home. They wept as they watched their house go up in flames. "Why?" they cried.

The Plantation Store, administration buildings, the Plantation village, and the Sugar Mill were all located on her father's ahupu'a (land from the mountain to the ocean). My grandmother and her grandparents moved to another village, living in the bushes, homeless. When she returned as an adult, a big white house stood on the land where she had seen her childhood home go up in flames. It was the Plantation manager's house which she, as well as many other commoners, was not allowed to set foot in.

What do I know of my Chinese Heritage?

I don't know my genealogy, but I know Chinese history – China/Hawaii. When our family went to Beijing, on the way to the Great Wall of China, there was a section that reminded me of Hawaii. All of a sudden I was overcome by a strange feeling that I had never felt before and have never felt since. It was a sad longing for home, and I began to cry. I realized that those were the feelings of my Chinese ancestors in Hawaii, longing for their ancestral home. I felt that connection to my ancestors, that this was where part of my DNA came from. This was who I was.

Life-Changing Experience

I met a young man who asked me, "What is your impossible dream?", as I plunked that tune on a piano at a school for handicapped children. No one had asked me that question before, and as a 20-year-old working girl, I had never really thought about the future. "I...ahh..." I stammered. He sensed my struggle for thoughts, so he asked, "Is it to be happy?"

"I guess so," I frivolously answered. "Yeah." "And what is your impossible dream?" I asked him just to be civil, but mainly to hear him answer the question I could not. He too, hesitated, but took a deep breath, tilted his head, and haltingly replied, "To be able to walk without falling, to be able to run freely... and to be able to speak without having to stumble for words."

I didn't know what to say. I stared at him in awe. He was hunched in a wheelchair, he wore thick glasses, and his long, spindly arms dangled at his side. His speech was garbled, but understandable. My Impossible Dream "to be happy" seemed so shallow, as I could do all the things he could not. He told me the story of his life, how he was left in an institution for retarded and handicapped patients. He lay in a big crib all day long. Then when he got older, he was able to leave his crib. One day, he took apart a transistor radio and tried to put it back. The staff realized that he had the ability to comprehend concepts, and they had a tutor come in to teach him. By 22 years of age, he had graduated from college, was a counselor for handicapped adults, and could drive a car with special features. The next day, I signed up for Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and worked with Native Americans in Utah. I have volunteered for and have lived among a variety of physically and mentally challenged children and adults.

At 21, I traveled alone through England and Europe with money saved from work, then enrolled in college at age 23 with no idea of the cost of higher education. By several strokes of luck, my college expenses were covered. In one incident, I was talking to a random man at the airport about school. He told me that if I were serious about college, "Where there's a will, there's a way." He then handed me his business card and told me

to contact him when I applied. It turned out that he was the College Chancellor. I received a degree in Biology with a minor in Education.

Community Service

Our community is very special to us. Our motto is “Keep Kohala – Kohala.” We love the natural beauty of the land and the kindness of its people, so it is only natural for us to jump in and assist when help is needed and do what we can to “Keep Kohala – Kohala.” Last Christmas, there was a freak flood that destroyed a house in our area. Mary Ann Lim and I decided to have a garage sale to help the family, but when we told another friend about our plans, it turned into a music concert/food booth/auction fundraiser. My husband arranged a meeting with the County and State representatives and politicians to find out what had caused the flood, then we contacted agencies to assist the family.

We were also busy preparing for the 4-day Community Reunion during the 4th of July weekend where we put up a display and presentations on “The Pride of Kohala,” famous people born and raised in our community. At the Reunion we also ran a small Film Festival featuring films about Kohala and its people.

Presently, Faye, Mary Ann, and I are in a battle to keep marijuana dispensaries and production sites out of our community, as our State Legislators just passed a law that is a forerunner to legalizing recreational marijuana.

We look forward to being a part of OCAW and learning more about our Chinese heritage.

Aloha,
Lani Eugenio

Introducing Mary Ann Lim, Vice President and Cultural Advisor



Aloha to Chairpersons and fellow sisters of OCAW!

I send my highest regards and thank you for all your leadership, gracious personalities, and prestigious accomplishments.

I am honored to be a member of this new organization – The Kohala Chapter of OCAW. I am excited to be in this group. There will be much to learn and to accomplish. Much aloha to Puanani Woo. Mahalo (thank you) for letting me share my mo’olelo (story).

Mahalo owau me piha ke aloha,
Mary Ann Neula Lim

I was born in Hawi, North Kohala – Hawaii Island, Hawaii. My maternal grandparents were from Kohala. My father was pure Hawaiian, my mother was three-quarters Hawaiian and one-quarter English, and I had six siblings.

My late husband’s ancestry was Chinese, Hawaiian, and German. I have 6 children, 13 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

My “Hana Butta” Days (Carefree, runny-nosed childhood days)

I grew up in Niuli’i, a little village near Pololu Valley. This valley is famous for its beautiful view – ocean, valleys, and streams. We lived across the Niuli’i Sugar Mill where my dad worked.

I recall the mill, the smoke stack, and the train. The Plantation Mill whistle blew in the morning, at the lunch hour, and at 8 p.m. There were worker camps provided by the Sugar Plantation, divided by ethnic groups: Hawaiian, Chinese, Filipino, Portuguese, and Puerto Rican, and one called “N***a Camp.”

Our days were full of fun with the neighbors, full of aloha. We played baseball with a wooden paddle for a bat and a tennis ball. Girls played jacks and marbles with the boys. We played telephone with two empty Campbell Soup cans strung together through a tiny hole; bean bags; stilts; and Hide and Seek.

We played, we fought, we cried, we shared. And we all felt “rich,” with no thought of being poor. We grew up as family, loving each other to this day. Our parents have passed, yet we (neighborhood playmates) meet and reminisce about the days of our youth... a time we won’t see again. My life was simple, but full of love.

High School Days

I was taught the hula at the age of 5 and danced in the school May Day programs and for USO shows for the Military in Waimea through my senior year.

I was taught by Na Kumu Hula (several expert teachers of the hula). I graduated in hula (“uniki”) to be a “kumu” or teacher of hula. To become an authentic Kumu Hula is a strict and disciplined process which takes many years to accomplish. My daughters are “Na Kumu” and have won top honors at the famed Merrie Monarch Festival.

My Life has been a Blessed One

My late husband and I formed a musical group, and we are known as The Lim Family. As entertainers, we have won Grammy and Hoku Awards.

We presented a short DVD of the origin of The Lim Family to Whittier College and were the featured performers twice on the TV special, “Island Music, Island Hearts.”

(Editor’s Note: Mary Ann’s son, Elmer “Sonny” Lim, can be heard on the Grammy Award-winning anthology album, “Slack Key Guitar Volume 2,” as well as his solo debut album, “Slack Key Guitar: The Artistry of Sonny Lim,” which was a Grammy Award finalist.)

Many Wonderful Experiences and Chapters of our Lives

“Ke Akua” (God) has blessed us in many ways: talent, voices, chanting, music, research ability, and ability to teach and share our Hawaiian culture.

Introducing Faye Yates, Secretary-Treasurer

Aloha from beautiful Kohala on the Big Island of Hawaii where I was born. My father was from Colorado and my mother from Hawaii. I have six siblings. As one of my brothers and I were raised by my grandparents, the Hawaiian language was our first language.

My husband also was born and raised on the Island of Hawaii, and we have been married for 45 years. Wow! I can’t imagine where all the years have gone! We have 6 children, 20 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.



My father's family immigrated to America from Holland. My great-grandfather and his brother came from Hong Kong to work on the sugar plantations. They ended up in Kohala growing rice and taro and had a poi factory. My great-grandmother was part Hawaiian/Spanish, and her family was from the vaqueros who came to Hawaii to teach the Hawaiians how to be cowboys. I know very little about my Chinese heritage and really would love to learn more. I am proud to be Chinese, as I think Chinese people are very resourceful, resilient, smart, and hard-working.

I attended school in Kohala and Kona. After time spent in Honolulu, I moved back to the Big Island and attended Hawaii Community College in Hilo. I graduated with a degree in practical nursing. I was employed as an LPN with Hawaii Home Health service, Kona Community Hospital, and the Hale Hoaloha Intermediate Skilled Nursing facility on Oahu. I also worked in the visitor industry as a Guest Activities Assistant Director

with emphasis on Hawaiian history, language, and ethnobotany. In addition, I was employed in the Real Estate Industry with a large real estate company on Oahu for many years.

Life-changing and challenging was moving from the country to the “big” city, Honolulu; talk about culture shock! What a difference from the country and having to learn to speak “proper” English – that was quite difficult – since we were raised speaking “pidgin” English (a mixture of various ethnic phrases, cutting words short, and speaking fast, because of all the ethnic groups of people living together in our communities). Hawaiian was my first language, then we had to learn “proper” English – can you imagine?

Both my husband and I are now retired and are back living on the land where I was raised (Beautiful Kohala).

Some of my favorite things to do are sewing (making patchwork quilts), making flower hairpieces and leis, and gardening. My favorite hobbies are hula, golfing, and horseback riding. Hula has always been a passion for me, even though I have not always been able to do it as often as I'd like. Now that I'm retired, I have more time to pursue this most favorite pastime of mine ☺.

I am grateful for having been raised in the country, to have been raised by my Hawaiian grandparents, and for having a large family where everyone loves one another and shares and cares about each other.

From and About Our Members

OCAW Maryland Chapter Members Active in the Community

(from Christina Wong Poy)

Former OCAW-MD president, current treasurer, and lifetime member **Christina Wong Poy** received a special appointment by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan to serve as the Administrative Director for the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs and the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs.

OCAW-MD member **Elizabeth Chung** received a reappointment from Governor Hogan to serve another term as a Commissioner on the Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Administrative Director Poy and Commissioner Chung dutifully represent the needs and concerns of Maryland citizens with ancestral heritage in Asian and Pacific Rim countries (including OCAW's membership) with the Governor and the State of Maryland. This includes issues that affect the APA community in partnerships with State government in promoting their social, cultural, and business interests, with a particular focus on community and business development. Maryland is open for business!

OCAW-MD lifetime members **Rose Maria Li** and **Corinna Shen** are founding members of the Greater DC Chapter of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA), which is dedicated to the empowerment of Asian Pacific Islander Americans through education, active participation, and leadership in civic and public affairs. Here are some photos taken at the APAPA Greater DC Chapter Launch:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.961245127260294.1073741871.155418264509655&type=3>

Rose Li also serves on the Maryland Commission on Aging
(<http://www.aging.maryland.gov/CoAMembers.html>).

In addition, Corinna Shen is a newly appointed member of the Maryland Commission for Women.

Battling for Justice: Violence against Native American Women

by Audrey Lee

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

In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, I attended a presentation by the Washington Tulalip and the Arizona Pascua Yaqui Tribes reporting on their recently granted jurisdiction over Non-Native American defendants under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA).

In a nutshell, under VAWA, eight tribes were empowered to arrest 42 Non-Native Americans in Domestic and Dating Violence charges, resulting in 18 guilty pleas and 5 referrals for federal prosecution. This is a significant step forward because between 1978 and 2014, following the Supreme Court's decision in *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe* (1978), Native American tribes were prohibited from exercising criminal jurisdiction over Non-Native American defendants.

On the two-square-mile Pascua Yaqui reservation with approximately 5000 residents, 25% unemployment, and 43% single-mother households, Domestic and Dating Violence accounts for a significant number of cases. Under a 2014 VAWA pilot project, the Tribe reported 18 Domestic Violence cases involving Non-Native American defendants and obtained its first conviction of a 26-year-old Hispanic male. Under the same VAWA project, the Tulalip Tribe reported 11 cases with six found guilty and one scheduled for prosecution with the U.S. Attorney's office.

Both tribal panelists cited the challenges they currently face, including lack of jurisdiction over crimes against children and lack of financial resources. Tribal Leaders are now seeking to amend VAWA to include prosecutions for crimes related to the domestic violence, sexual assault, family violence, and victimization of children.

To me, this presentation was both heartening with its reported results and painful with the considerable bureaucratic obstacles remaining. I applaud their success and cheer their determination!

Chinese Lantern Festival (Part II)

by Linda Devine

In the *September OCAW E-Newsletter*, I began to write about the spectacular Chinese Lantern Festival at the famous Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri, which delighted thousands of visitors from May through August 2015, and my husband Ed and me on July 17. I presented photos and information about a few of the luminous displays, and I will provide more at this time.

The oldest botanical garden in continuous operation in the United States and a National Historic Landmark, **the Missouri Botanical Garden has a long history of botanical research and collaboration with China**, most recently through the Flora of China project, a recently completed significant undertaking spanning 25 years. This was an international collaborative project to publish a comprehensive catalog of all Chinese wild plants, with full descriptions of 31,500 species and illustrations of about 20,000 species. The work was supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation as well as the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the highest scientific body in China, and it involved four of the most important botanical centers in China, located in Beijing, Yunnan, Guangzhou, and Nanjing.

In addition, the Garden is actively researching the effects of climate change and plants of economic value in southwestern China and Tibet. The Garden also has close ties with many institutions throughout China, promoting the development of new botanical gardens, horticulture, and plant conservation.



Cherry Tree Arches

It is very uncommon to see an authentic Chinese lantern festival outside of Asia. However, the Garden staged its first festival in 2012, originally as a one-time event and celebration of the completion of Flora of China.

This second Festival, titled “Lantern Festival: Magic Reimagined,” featured all new sets, many of which depicted cities and their botanical gardens with which the Garden has a professional relationship. The 22 sets of illuminated Chinese lanterns, constructed of steel, wire, silk, recyclable plastic bottles, and other materials, each told a different story. Some had rotating colors, and a couple of them emitted mist. East definitely met West at this Festival, and the vibrant colors and vivid imagery of the displays left visitors in awe.



Porcelain Stupas Pagoda

This pagoda was built in the Qing dynasty (1644-1911 A.D.) on a mountaintop in southern China. Because of its color and shape, it is also called the Bamboo Shoot Tower and the White Pagoda. The building was designed with ornate details all around, so every view is extremely detailed.

This particular lantern set was built with more than 300,000 pieces, including plates, bowls, spoons, teacups, ladles, and wine cups.

Rotating colors lit up the set at different intervals.



Birdland



Napa Lake is the perfect winter habitat for many Asian waterbirds, and they flock to the area.



Peacock Vase

This lantern was made from medicine bottles and denoted the importance and prominence of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), which includes mixtures based on thousands of plant species.

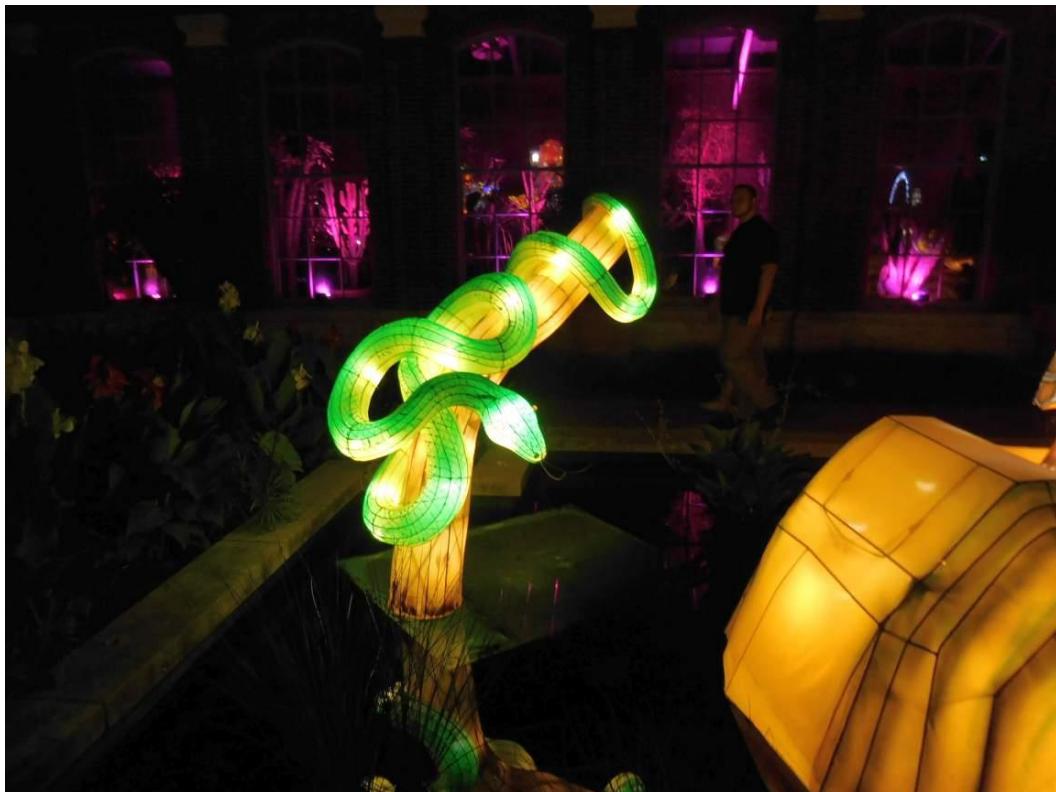
The peacock represents good luck, benevolence, elegance, and beauty. A picture of a vase (or bottle) can represent “peace” or “safety” because of the similar Chinese pronunciation of “vase” and “peace.”



Wetland Wonders

Wetlands – lakes, rivers, marshes, and coasts – are among the most heavily degraded of all ecological systems worldwide. China has 10 percent of the world's wetlands, making wetland conservation there crucial.

The set of “Wetland Wonders” was used to bring concern to the loss of wetlands in the world.







Soaring Dragon Horse

The foregoing three pictures are of “Soaring Dragon Horse,” which was the largest display and the centerpiece of the Festival. The longma, or dragon horse, is a fabled winged horse with dragon scales in Chinese mythology. It walks on water without sinking, and is the vital spirit of Heaven and Earth. It symbolizes abundance and prosperity. In this set, the dragon horse periodically exhaled mist.

(Photos taken by Ed Devine)

(Editor’s Note: Sources of information for this article were the “Lantern Festival: Magic Reimagined” Guide, the Farmington (Missouri) Press, and St. Louis Public Radio.)

(The conclusion of this article (Part III) will appear in the next issue.)