

# E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

November 2020



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501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

*(from Linda Devine, Editor)*

COVID-19 unfortunately has continued to interfere with normal activities and events by OCAW chapters. However, some members have found ways to be active safely, as you will note in this issue.

Thank you to those of you who submitted material for this e-newsletter. And I am grateful to my husband Ed, as always, for his work on preparing the photos.

I continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles or submit information for the e-newsletter 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)

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## **National Board Zoom Meeting**

*(from Susan Chong Wong, National Secretary)*

The National Board of OCAW, composed of national officers and chapter presidents, participates in a quarterly conference call meeting during each calendar year to conduct business, share information, and exchange ideas on a regular basis. At our most recent meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2020, the Board was able to meet and greet each other via Zoom for the very first time, thanks to arrangements made by Carol

Yuan, Silicon Valley Chapter President, who was in charge of conducting the meeting this month. We proved that the older generation has no trouble using technology to improve communication among members!

The main item on the agenda for this meeting was to review the OCAW National Bylaws, with specific sections assigned to each of the five chapters to propose possible revisions or corrections. After the Hawaii Chapter, Silicon Valley Chapter, New Orleans Chapter, Virginia Chapter, and Maryland Chapter reported, the result was no significant revisions recommended to the Board. In Section 2.2, however, the following change in language was accepted by the Board to clarify the meaning (text in parentheses added for clarity).

Section 2.2. Purpose (of the Organization).

...Specifically, the Corporation (OCAW) shall:

c. seek, build, and maintain healthy (*“healthy” deleted and replaced with “mutually beneficial”*) relationships of common interest with other women’s groups, and Asian Pacific Islander American groups;

If any member is interested in obtaining a copy of the National Bylaws, please contact your local chapter president.

### **News from the Maryland Chapter**

*(from Karina Hou, President)*

#### **COVID-19 Relief Efforts**

The Maryland Chapter was pleased to raise \$1320 for COVID-19 relief efforts (*see the September 2020 OCAW E-Newsletter*). Funds were donated to Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, to provide meals for healthcare workers, and to Project Shields of the University of Pennsylvania, where volunteers create face shields for frontline workers.

We would like to acknowledge the following members and their family members for their generous donations:

Susan Young, Linda Devine, Muriel Hom, Camilla Ng, Patricia Fenn, Pam Wong, Mei-Yuh Chen, Anny Lai, Jumei Zhang, Sharon Lai, Karina Hou, and Christina Poy.

#### **Asian-American Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Contest**

*(from Karina Hou and Anny Lai, Secretary)*

In July 2020, the International Leadership Foundation (ILF) initiated its annual Asian-American Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Contest in Washington, D.C. The contest aimed to explore and foster entrepreneurial talents of young Asian Americans, with its theme focused on creating solutions for the effects of the pandemic.

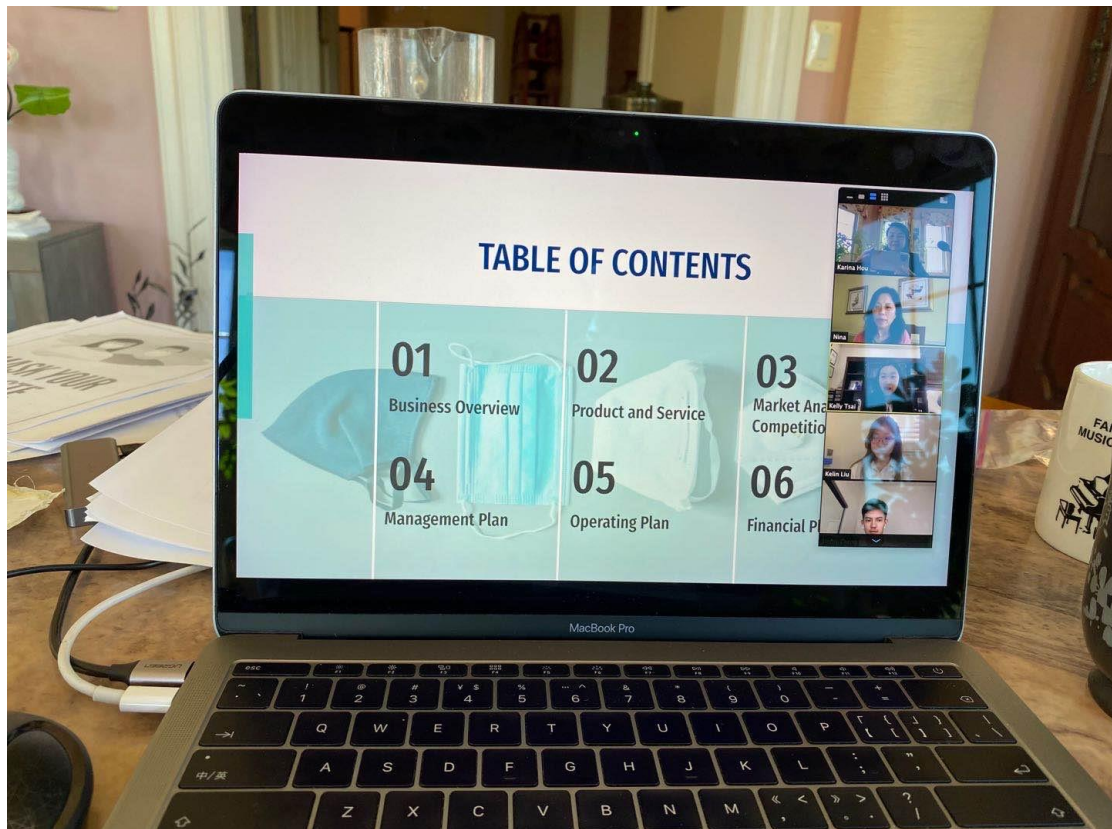
Karina Hou joined the Judging Committee for the contest. Her core mission for the community aligned well with the goals of the ILF for Asian American youths. She hopes that by taking part in this year’s contest, OCAW-MD can be a part of an event that supports the development of young leaders in the world of business, education, and policy.







The International Leadership Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes the civic awareness and economic effectiveness of the Asian American Pacific Islander community. The contest encouraged participants to focus on the ethical, fiscal, and mental health issues that come with the pandemic and how their innovations can change people's lives for the better.



Karina connected with fellow judges to discuss the business plans and presentations of the contestants, creating a platform that celebrated both young talents and the strength of community. The event was split into several segments: a first round for reviewing business proposals, another round for presentations, and an Online Awards Ceremony which was held on October 30. The contestants will receive one-to-one counseling by the Committee, and winning projects will be connected with business startup funds.



*(Photos taken by Binno Chan)*

### **Asian Community Day at Fair Hill**

*(from Karina Hou)*

On Saturday, October 10, 2020, the Asian community of Maryland showed its support in Elkton, MD, for the Maryland Horse Industry and its worthwhile cause of fostering care and awareness for Maryland horses. The Maryland Horse Industry opened the “Asian Community Day at Fair Hill” to focus its efforts on furthering its mission and welcome attendees to learn more about the positive impact of equestrian traditions.

Karina Hou, representing OCAW’s Maryland Chapter as its President, was invited by Maryland’s First Lady Yumi Hogan to attend the event. Karina had the opportunity to meet with industry officials and representatives, while also having the pleasure of observing the longtime traditions of the World-Class Equestrian Site. As OCAW’s Maryland Chapter President, Karina strives to promote experiences that lead to beneficial enrichment and growth for the Chinese and Asian American community. The event was a great chance to connect with, educate, and share thoughts with the community regarding the state’s equine industry.





Karina Hou





(Photos taken by Tony Jia)

## **News from the Virginia Chapter**

### **COVID-19 Relief Efforts**

*(Editor's Note: For the September OCAW E-Newsletter, Veronica Li wrote an article detailing the Virginia Chapter's efforts in fundraising for COVID-19 relief efforts. The chapter raised \$1825 which provided 210 meals over a period from June 3 to August 19, 2020, to healthcare workers at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, VA; INOVA Fair Oaks Hospital, Fairfax, VA; Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Alexandria, VA; and Annandale Healthcare Center, Annandale, VA.)*

*(from Cathy Roberts, Treasurer)*

On behalf of the OCAW Virginia Chapter, I would like to thank Veronica Li for her care and compassion in initiating fundraising to support COVID-19 frontline staff, and for her dedication in researching and identifying the appropriate recipients.

In addition, I want to thank the following members and their friends for their generous donations:

Christina Chang and her friend Kathy Tsai, Veronica Li and her friend Joanne Stefanick, Donna Byler, Henriette Levy, Noreen Hom, Florence Kwok, and Dick Roberts. An individual thank-you letter was sent to each one listed above.

Thanks again, Veronica!

Cathy Roberts

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

*(from Carol Yuan, President)*

### **2020 Youth Achievement Awards Ceremony and Officer Installation**

The Silicon Valley Chapter's annual event was held on Saturday, September 5, 2020, via Zoom.

Monica Hsiao of the Scholarship Committee introduced the 2020 OCAW-SVC scholarship award recipients, Isabelle Lee and Feranno Liu. Both Isabelle and Feranno were from Saratoga High School with strong academic achievements, participation in extracurricular activities, and volunteer community service.

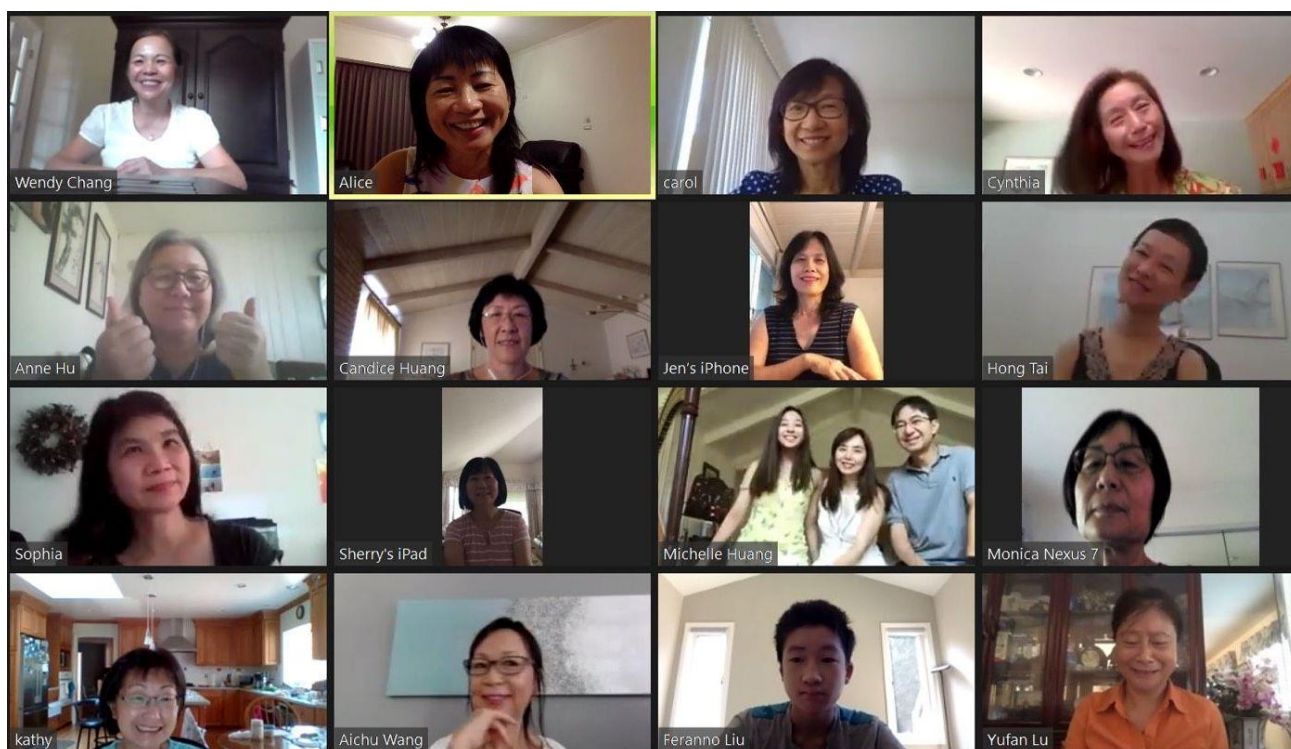
Isabelle thanked the chapter for the award and said that she would like to model the OCAW-SVC officers in serving the community in the future. We enjoyed a beautiful harp performance by Isabelle in the meeting.

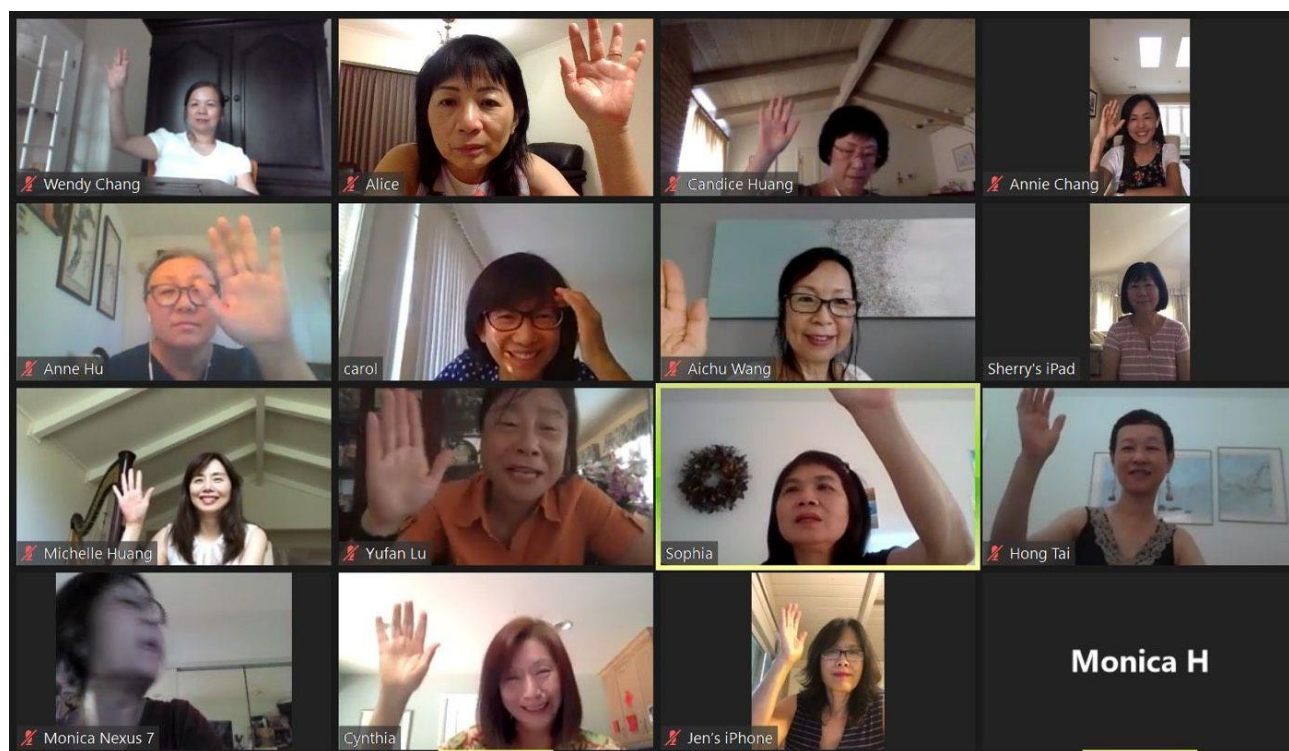




Feranno likes Origami and would like to pursue his interest in the future. He displayed several examples of his impressive origami artwork in the meeting.







The following are the **OCAW-SVC Officers for 2020-2021**:

President:	Carol Yuan
Vice President:	Michelle Huang
Treasurer:	Sophia Yang
Secretary:	Jen Tsao, Annie Chang
Membership:	Hong Tai
Historian/Web Master:	Alice Chiou
Public Relations:	Cynthia Chang
Hospitality:	Cynthia Ho, Wendy Chang
Photographer:	Michelle Huang, Yufan Lu
Event Committee:	Ai-chu Wang, Anne Hu, WenMei Tai, Alice Chiou, Lisa Lu
Scholarship:	Monica Hsiao, Sherry Hsu, WenMei Tai



### **2020 Women and Alzheimer's Webinar**

The “Desolation and Fullness: Women and Alzheimer’s Event” was held on Saturday, September 12, 2020. It was conducted via Zoom this year and was presented in Mandarin. This was the third year that the Silicon Valley Chapter had co-sponsored the event.

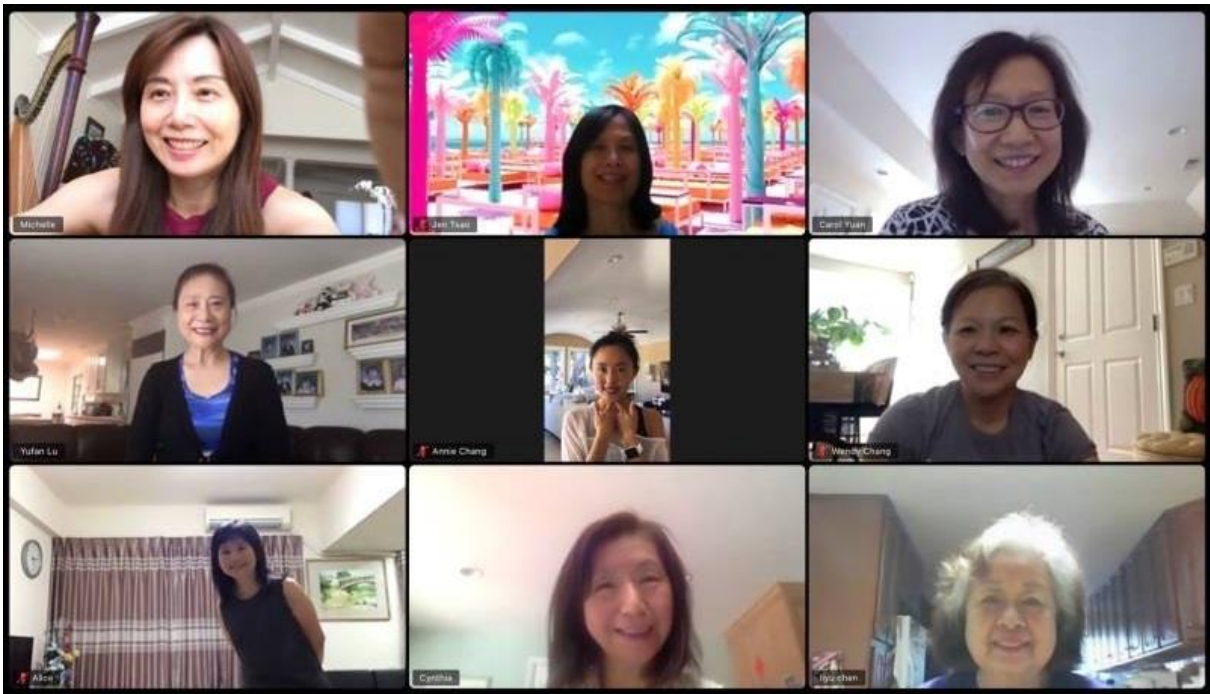
562 people registered, and there were 537 total users in the webinar. People registered from 86 cities in California, 20 different states, and 4 other countries in addition to the U.S.

### **Zumba Zoom**

The Silicon Valley Chapter had its first Zoom Zumba class on Sunday, October 4, 2020. A big thank-you to our facilitator Yufan Lu. She collected different Zumba YouTube videos, and we danced along with them. It was an hour of fun and sweat. ☺

Participants had so much fun that we decided to do it again on October 25!





2020 Walk to End Alzheimer's





On Saturday, October 17, 2020, the Silicon Valley Chapter participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Due to COVID, this year instead of a large in-person event gathering, small teams of friends and family got together to support and fundraise for the same goal: a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

We started our walk from Foothill Elementary School and walked to downtown Saratoga. There were 90 fun and festive scarecrows located up and down Big Basin Way in Saratoga. They were ready to meet and greet visitors. The Saratoga Village Scarecrow Project is fast becoming a beloved autumn tradition in the village.















### Recent Events

*Editor's Note:* Two events, **Inner Beauty Zoom Webinar** on November 1, and **Zumba Zoom** on November 8, were scheduled while this e-newsletter was in preparation. Reports on them will appear in the next issue.

We appreciate the Silicon Valley Chapter's invitation to all OCAW members in other chapters to participate in both of these activities!



### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday, November 15 – Holiday cooking

Sunday, December 6 – Photography

Sunday, December 13 – Zumba Zoom

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

*(from Tina Au, President)*

#### **Hawaii COVID-19 Update**

I would like to provide the latest update from Hawaii and cite some of the programs to help our residents.

On October 14, 2020, Governor David Ige announced that on October 15, Hawaii would welcome to the state the first tourists since March without them going through a 14-day quarantine.

On October 15, the Safe Travels Program officially launched. Governor Ige and several state leaders were at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport to welcome passengers and check out the verification process. Speaking at a news briefing, Governor Ige said, “Today is a big day for us because it signifies to the world that we are excited and ready to safely welcome visitors and returning residents to our beautiful island home...it’s also an important milestone in reviving our economy.” There were over 8,000 visitors on that day, better than had been expected.

On October 16, Oahu lifted further restrictions. Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell urged residents to continue limiting gatherings to no more than five people and to continue following COVID-19 precautions to ensure that the number of cases and positivity rate declined or stayed flat.

A new program launched to provide struggling Hawaii residents with \$500 prepaid debit cards to use at local eateries and restaurants across the state. Beginning October 16, thousands of qualified recipients automatically received the cards in the mail as part of the state’s new Hawaii Restaurant Card Program to help residents affected by the pandemic-related economic downturn, as well as to sustain restaurants that have suffered from the lockdown on activities.

Other programs are:

- Grab-and-go meals available for children 18 years and younger at 203 public schools across the state through December 18, 2020
- Rental payment assistance for renters who can’t pay their rent due to the pandemic-related economic downturn – up to \$2,000 a month for 6 months
- A new program that will use \$4.3 million in federal CARES Act funds to help Oahu’s disadvantaged families to be fed and its farmers to stay afloat financially. The new “Farm to Food” program provides funds for the island’s nonprofits to purchase and distribute locally grown meats and produce for an estimated 100,000 meals to families in need through the end of the year.

*(Editor's Note: The following is Tina's last message as President of the Hawaii Chapter, as her term concludes at the end of this year. She regrets that all of the activities that she had planned at the beginning of the year had to be cancelled, due to COVID-19.)*

### **Farewell Message from the 2020 President**

Dear fellow OCAW sisters:

My congratulations to the Hawaii Chapter's new officers, directors, and committee members. I wish them success in the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me the opportunity and honor of serving as the President of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter. 2020, the Year of the Rat, started with COVID-19, a global occurrence that has impacted Hawaii, the United States, and the world. It has been so encompassing – from personal living and world economies to sports and entertainment. COVID has touched everyone.

I am thankful for the support of my executive officers – Vice President Lena Young, Secretary Charlene Chang, and Treasurer Rena Young Ochse – as well as my committee members. When I asked you to help, all of you were so willing and accepted the assignment. I met with Lena Young in early January and together we planned the year's activities. Our goal was to make our meetings more interactive and fun. Unfortunately, COVID arrived and all of our activities were cancelled.

We had one board/committee meeting at Pho Tri Vietnamese Restaurant on June 28, 2020, and a Zoom meeting on September 16, 2020. During the Zoom meeting, the board decided to donate up to \$1,000 to Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a division of Catholic Charities Hawaii. The check was mailed on October 7. In June 2020, OCAW received a generous donation of 100 face masks from UCS (United Chinese Society), and they were shared with OCAW members who needed them.

As OCAW's President, I volunteered to help and donated money to purchase masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) which were delivered to various hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, senior centers, the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii government offices, and the homeless. Other projects on which I helped were CYD 2020 Virtual Event Experience for the children and youth, Hawaii Food Bank distribution, and Voter registration for Chinese citizens, just to name a few.

Regarding the latter project, I have been a volunteer for voter registration for over 20 years to help Chinese citizens and encourage them to come out to vote after they become a U.S. citizen. In this capacity, every two years we help translate ballots from English into Chinese, and we arrange candidate forums where we invite all of the candidates to speak and we do the interpretation. Most of the Chinese citizens will bring their ballots and listen to the candidates before they vote, and we are there to help them if they have any questions. This year we prepared translations of information from English into Chinese of two mayoral candidates. We mailed them to all Chinese voters since COVID prevented us from having a live candidates forum. Every Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., from June to November, we have a booth in Chinatown to help voters register and submit changes of address, and we help them with any other related tasks.

There is a program to tutor English to Chinese immigrants so that they can study for and take the test to become U.S. citizens. Originally my goal was to ask some of our OCAW members to volunteer to teach a couple of hours a week (we are always looking for tutors), but due to COVID, I didn't have a chance to bring it up at a meeting. It is a very good program; we have helped thousands of immigrants become citizens.

Perhaps OCAW could consider becoming involved with the voter registration program and/or the citizenship program. I encourage everyone to never stop working, even with COVID.

On behalf of the Board, I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe and healthy holiday season. May OCAW thrive and continue its mission in a healthy 2021. I hope we can meet again soon. In the meantime, keep smiling and stay safe!

Tina Au

*(from Rena Young Ochse, Treasurer)*

Hawaii is still in pandemic mode. We were not able to hold any meetings this year but had two Board meetings. The first meeting was at a Vietnamese restaurant where we could not have more than 10 people and social distancing was not mandatory.

At our second meeting, a Nomination Committee was formed. It consisted of Dr. Roberta Wong Leung, Chair; Mrs. Edwina Lee; and former President Dr. Lei Ahu Isa. The committee searched for candidates to run for office for 2021. Here are the results of the Election Committee tallied by Dr. Sandra J. Young and her committee members, Frances Goo and Susan Chong Wong.

### **Report of the 2021 OCAW Hawaii Chapter Election**

*by Sandy Young*

With the novel Coronavirus running rampant within the U.S. and the world, organizations such as OCAW have had to operate in unconventional and novel ways. This has been especially apparent in this year's election wherein we are not allowed to assemble in groups larger than five. Therefore, in early September, all 28 currently paid members were emailed the 2021 OCAW Election Ballot and asked to return the ballot by October 5, 2020.

Nonprofit organizations may vote electronically according to the Hawaii Revised Statutes 414D -111 if a quorum of at least 30 percent of the members participate in the vote. Actually, 50% of the chapter membership casted ballots within this timeframe. All of them voted for the slate of officers.

Therefore, CONGRATULATIONS are in order to the following 2021 officers:

President: Dr. Roberta Wong Leung  
Vice President: Mrs. Rena Young Ochse  
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Edwina Goo Lee  
Treasurer: Dr. Yeu-Tsu Margaret Lee

### **Results of the OCAW Hawaii Membership Survey – September 2020**

*(from Lena Young, Vice President)*

*(Rena's note: For the first General Membership Meeting that was originally scheduled for March 22, 2020, before COVID restrictions were put into place cancelling the meeting, there was a survey prepared for that meeting which was not distributed. So this summer the questionnaire was sent out. These are the results from Vice President Lena Young.)*



Total Members: 28  
Numbers participating in survey: 11  
Percentage of Membership Responding: 39%

**Reasons for being a member?** Ranked in order of preference:

Educational Programs  
Community Involvement  
Fellowship

**Preference for Meeting Day?** Ranked in order of preference:

Sunday  
Saturday

**Preference for Time of Day?** Ranked in order of preference:

Lunch  
Breakfast

**What Activities Interested in?** Ranked in order of preference:

Cultural Exchange  
Service/community projects  
Field trips  
Fundraising to support OCAW activities  
Other  
Fundraising to support community programs

**Interest in Involvement in Committees?** Number indicating preference:

Communications 2  
Website 2  
Program 1  
Membership 1

Note: There was a comment that participation would depend on the job description, the number of members, and how often the committee meets.

**Suggested Program Topics for Future Meetings**

Roundtable discussion by members on the future direction of the Hawaii Chapter  
Recognition of Asian American Female Achievers and Achievements  
Discussion of outreach to younger generations for awareness and involvement  
Identity theft  
Learn more about computers  
More community service and cultural involvement  
Networking or have members speak about themselves  
Joint meeting with another club, thereby increasing networking  
Learn more about Chinese culture and traditions

**Length of Membership of Respondents**

10 years or less: 3  
10 to less than 20 years: 2  
20 years or more: 6

Opinion from one member:

“This organization is an offshoot of OCA. OCAW has outlasted its usefulness and keeps funding National. There are other organizations, CWC and ACUW.”

*(from Rena Young Ochse)*

We hope next year will be a better one as the new officers are already preparing next year’s activities and future meetings. It has been a very stressful year for everyone, and Hawaii is suffering much with many closures of stores and restaurants, and many are afraid to even go to our Chinatown because there were incidents involving safety issues.

## **From and About Our Members**

### **About Pauline Tsui, OCAW Co-Founder**

*(from Virginia Cheung and the Chinese American Museum DC)*

The Chinese American Museum, a new museum about Chinese American history, culture, and topics, currently in development in Washington, D.C., announced a new program, the Pauline W. Tsui Women in Leadership Speaker Series, which began Tuesday, September 22, 2020. The series is sponsored by the Ruth H. Kuo and Rhoda How Memorial Foundation.

Held as a virtual webinar, the first in this series of speaker events was intended to highlight figures and voices of Chinese American women in business, arts, politics and diplomacy, and other disciplines. Its title was “Pivoting Pathways: Reinventing and Retooling for Successful Careers.”

It was moderated by Dottie Li, the Founder and President of Transpacific Communications. The panel included three prominent Chinese American women who discussed the unexpected turns in their careers and lives in which they have had to reinvent and retool along their personal and professional journeys:

Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch, the first Asian American U.S. Ambassador, appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1989, is Founder and President of the US-China Education Trust, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting US-China relations through education and exchange programs.

Syaru Shirley Lin became the youngest female managing director of Goldman Sachs, and is currently Compton Visiting Professor in World Politics at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia.

Ting Xu is Founder and Chairman of Evergreen Enterprises, one of the nation’s largest flag wholesalers, and is CEO and Co-Owner of Plow & Hearth.

### **Hurricane Zeta**

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

Hurricane Zeta was the record fifth-named storm to strike Louisiana in 2020. The eye of Zeta hovered over New Orleans on October 28. The photos below, taken by Betty, show damaged trees in her area.







*(Editor's Note: We wish our New Orleans sisters well.)*

### **Montgomery International Film Festival 2021**

*(from Karina Hou, Maryland Chapter President)*

*(Editor's Note: One of the many important hats that Karina wears, in addition to her being the President of the OCAW Maryland Chapter, is that she is the Co-Chairwoman of the Montgomery International Film Festival.)*

Karina is the Chairman of the upcoming 2021 Montgomery International Film Festival (MIFF). The festival aims to foster a community of free-thinking filmmakers and those who are pushing the boundaries of sound and vision on film. This event will also be a platform for distributors, filmmakers, media, and fans to celebrate the achievements and global awareness of independent filmmaking.

This year's festival will be held online, and the team at MIFF is working hard to organize this year's film competition entries. Results for the new film festival showings as well as more developments will be announced in December.





*(Photos taken by Gary Liu)*

### **Chrysanthemums: Joy and Hope**

**by Camilla Ng**

*(Editor's Note: Camilla is a former Maryland Chapter President. She says that she is progressively getting herself deeper into mum culture. As a grower, she has learned new techniques this year. With her house full of blooms, she feels good about this labor of love.)*

The unexpected stay-at-home lifestyle of 2020 allows me to indulge in growing 50 pots of various cultivars of exhibition chrysanthemums this year. The growing season began in April with 4- to 6-inch-tall rooted cuttings. Through spring and summer the chrysanthemums were fertilized weekly, were trained and staked, and evolved to maturity in the fall.

Now the chrysanthemums rule the garden in glorious display. From the buds breaking colors to the gradual unfurling to peak bloom, each moment elicits joy and pleasure for the grower/photographer.

These are some of my favorites this year, representing some of the 13 classes of chrysanthemum cultivars as grouped by the National Chrysanthemum Society. May each one of them bring you joy and hope for a better tomorrow.



Quan Yon Hung is from the Shanghai Conservatory, pink with purple on the inside of each floret. Conservatory (Irregular Incurve – Class 1)

Delano Red, a deep red Decorative with slightly incurving florets. (Decorative – Class 4)



St. Tropez, a French Incurve with deep crimson and bronze reverse color. (Intermediate Incurve – Class 5)





Kermit, a delightful sea green Pompon grown as sprays. (Pompon – Class 6)

Yodogimi, a dark red Semi-Double with gold-tipped florets. (Single/Semi-Double – Class 7)



Purple Light, an eye-catching purple pink color Anemone with a half dome raised center disk.  
(Anemone – Class 8)

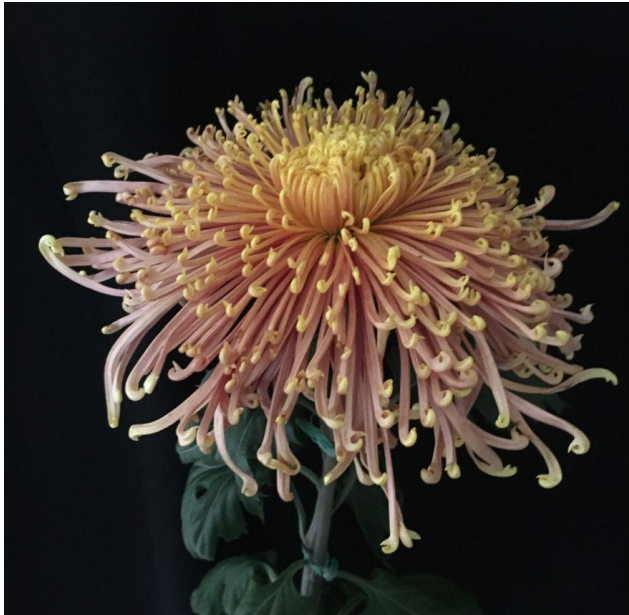


Fire Wheel, a Spoon with ivory tubular florets and crimson red tips, and an eye-catching yellow center.  
(Spoon – Class 9)

Judith Baker, a deep bronze Quill. (Quill – Class 10)







Senkyo Kenshin, a large bronze Spider with tubular florets that stand stiffly out from a very full center. (Spider – Class 11)



Icicles, the purest white Spider with slender tube florets with tip ends notched and open as though they had burst. (Spider – Class 11)



Lili Gallon, a large showy reflexing bloom with deep wine purple florets that curl to show stunning reverse color of silver. (Exotic – Class 13)





Mumosa Orange, a Garden Cushion Mum trained as a Chinese Penjing.

*(Photos taken by Camilla Ng)*