

E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

November 2021



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

(from Linda Devine, Editor)

This is the final e-newsletter for 2021. Thank you to those who submitted material for this issue, and also to those who sent articles and information throughout the year. I am also grateful to my husband Ed for his efforts in preparing all of the photos.

As always, I 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 goal continues to be publishing 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

Happy Thanksgiving, and may you have wonderful end-of-year holidays. See you next year!

Table of Contents

	Page
News from the Maryland Chapter.....	1
News from the Silicon Valley Chapter.....	2
News from the Hawaii Chapter.....	11
Culture Corner.....	13
From and About Our Members.....	14
Bruce Lee "Talk Story" Event.....	22
My Chrysanthemum Journey.....	25
Honoring Maryland State Senator Susan Lee.....	28

News from the Maryland Chapter

(from Karina Hou, President)

The Chinese American Museum DC

In the September issue of the *OCAW E-Newsletter*, Karina Hou reported on her visit to the Chinese American Museum DC (CAMDC). She also informed readers that the museum's Vice President, Jenny Liu, had

thoughtfully extended an invitation to OCAW members to take a special tour of it.

As a result, plans have been made for this event. It will take place on Friday, November 12, 2021, and attendees will have an opportunity to view the museum and the Chinese Opera exhibition. This will be followed by a reception generously offered to participants.

Because of proximity to the museum's location in downtown Washington, D.C., the invitation has been extended to members of the OCAW Maryland and Virginia Chapters. However, if there are any OCAW members in the New Orleans, Silicon Valley, and/or Hawaii Chapters who have plans to be in D.C. on the day of the tour, we would be very excited to have you join us! ☺

An article on the event will appear in the next issue of the *OCAW E-Newsletter*.

News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(from Anne Hu, President)

Erratum

(from Linda Devine)



I would like to extend my apologies to Alice Chiou, Historian and former President, and Annie Chang, Immediate Past Secretary. In the September *OCAW E-Newsletter*, in Alice's lovely article on SVC's Summer Hike, I misstated the location of the after-hike lunch.

It was held in Annie Chang's backyard, and the sentence should have read, "After hiking, the members gathered for an outdoor lunch in Annie Chang's beautiful backyard." Again, my apologies!

The Alzheimer's Association's Women and Brain Health Event

(from Anne Hu)

The OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter has been active in supporting activities of the Alzheimer's Association for many years. Peining Chang, Community Outreach Manager of the Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapter, is a friend of OCAW. Alzheimer's has widely affected our community, as many of our relatives and friends suffer from this disease.

The Alzheimer's Association presented a "Women and Brain Health" event on Saturday, September 25, 2021, via Zoom. We were one of the sponsors which co-hosted the event, and SVC member and former President Ai-chu Wang was one of the speakers. In addition to the informative and educational presentations and the sharing of the latest research, there was a live cooking class demo that was the highlight of the event. We learned about the type of food we can cook that is good for brain health.

We found that many attendees were not aware of the community outreach programs available in Mandarin prior to attending this event. Thus, it is helpful that we will continue to share information about Alzheimer's resources and reach more Chinese in the community. The community outreach program is available in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese aside from English.

A few hundred people attended the Zoom meeting. The Alzheimer's Association provides funding based on the number of people attending, and the Chinese division always has the highest attendance in the Asian community.

San Jose Apology to the Chinese Community

(from Anne Hu)

Justice Is Finally Served, A Century Later.

On Wednesday, September 29, 2021, City of San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, along with other elected officials, gathered in front of City Hall and made a formal apology for the city's role in acts of discrimination against the Chinese immigrant community, and marked the adoption of an historic City Council resolution.

There was discrimination and a deliberate arson fire set in San Jose Chinatown on May 4, 1887, where 1400 Chinese once lived. Chinese artifacts underground surfaced when the Fairmont Hotel was built in the 1980s. This was never mentioned when we were taking California history. All we knew was that the Irish and Chinese built the railroad. Careers and businesses for the Chinese were mostly owning laundries and stores or being part of the service industry in roles such as cooks or handymen.

Councilmember Raul Perez, whose district includes the former Heinlenville, was not aware of the horrific details of the city's past before this resolution. As the city tried to grapple with rising anti-Asian hate emerging along with the coronavirus, "one of the things we wanted to do was just pull the community together and find out what more we could do to be able to provide some support, and specifically to make statements as a city and as a local government here," Perez said. The current leadership sets the tone to soothe the pain we recently endured for hate crimes against Asians due to the coronavirus pandemic.



The Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP), the Chinese Historical Society of America, and the Chinese American Historical Museum at History Park San Jose, all contributed to the development of the resolution in partnership with the City of San Jose Office of Racial Equity. The OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter, as well as several of its individual members, have also contributed financially to the CHCP.

(Editor's Note: See Carol Yuan's article below.)

OCAW members were able to attend this historical event to witness justice finally served, over a century later. Hopefully we can learn from our history and find peace and harmony, as we are one race in our community – the human race.



Emily Lo, former Mayor of Saratoga
Cynthia Chang, Trustee of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Board
and former OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter President
Connie Young Yu, historian and speaker at the ceremony
Katherine Tseng, Trustee of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Board
Carol Yuan, Immediate Past President of the OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter
Phyllis Tung, Trustee of the Saratoga Union School District

For further information:

An article about the event:

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/Components/News/News/3389/4699>

A very detailed article that delves into the history of the arson fire, racism and harassment in the community, and rebuilding. It is illustrated with many historical photographs:

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/10/us/san-jose-chinatown-apology/index.html>

Silicon Valley Chapter Walk to End Alzheimer's

(from Carol Yuan, Immediate Past President)

This year's Walk to End Alzheimer's took place on Saturday, October 16, 2021. This is the 7th year that the Silicon Valley Chapter has participated in the Walk fundraiser. I was very happy to be the team captain again. Our team's name was "OCAW-SVC Friends and Families." We had four registered team members and over a dozen donors this year. As a team, we raised \$2,905 and reached our goal!

Instead of walking in the neighborhood with only our team members as we did last year due to the pandemic, we decided to join the other walkers in person this year. Cynthia Chang, Ai-chu Wang, Sophia Yang, and I went to Excite Ballpark in San Jose on the day of the event and walked the 3-mile route. The walk started at the ballpark, then proceeded across the street to Kelly History Park.



Silicon Valley Chapter team members and "Stand By You" team members at the start of the Walk.

The "Stand By You" team was captained by Peining Chang (*second from the right*), who is the Community Outreach Manager of the Alzheimer's Association Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapter.

Several live bands performed along the walk route to cheer walkers.



Cynthia Chang, Ai-chu Wang, and Carol Yuan

During our walk, we passed by Ng Shing Gung. It is located in Kelly History Park. It was built in 1888 in “Heinlerville” at Taylor and Cleveland Streets in San Jose, to serve as a cultural and religious center for the San Jose Chinese community. *Ng Shing Gung* means “Temple of Five Gods” and was named for the five divinities whose statues were housed within: Kwan Yin, Goddess of Mercy; Choi Sun, God of Wealth; Cheng Huan, the Canton City God; Kwan Gung, God of War and Justice; and Tien Ho, Queen of Heaven.

The original Ng Shing Gung was demolished in 1949. However, the altar, furnishings, and a portion of the facade were saved and formed the core of the exhibit completed by the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP) in 1991 at History Park.



Ai-chu Wang, Cynthia Chang, Carol Yuan, and Sophia Yang

The OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter supported and donated to the Ng Shing Gung rebuild project through the CHCP.

In addition, several OCAW-SVC members, Cynthia Chang, Chia-Huei Chen, Sabrina Cheng, Yura Shieu, and their families supported and donated to the project individually.

John & Nancy Wilson

ORG. CHI/AM WOMEN
SILICON VALLEY
美華婦女矽谷分會



Posters for the Walk at Excite Ballpark

News from the Hawaii Chapter

(from Roberta Wong Leung, President)

OCAW Hawaii President's Report Year 2021

The Year 2021 has literally zoomed by with our successful Zoom virtual events and wonderful guest speakers.

I am so pleased that we had such an active and interesting year. We had excellent international speakers with lots of accomplishments behind them.

Claire Chao started off our year with a big bang and most interesting Zoom talk on her award-winning book, *Remembering Shanghai*. Her memoir has won 28 awards from 17 international organizations. We had a large turnout of 47 people in attendance. We are pleased to have her as our member.

With the recent rise in anti-Asian hate crimes, Crystal Kwok gave an appropriate talk on "Blurring the Color Line" and the discrimination her family faced growing up in Georgia. We had 43 people attend her talk. We wish her the best on completion of her PhD project and the production of her documentary, and we donated \$1000 toward it. She has also joined OCAW.

Our longtime and loyal member, Queenie Mow Chee, gave the most interesting and informative presentation on the rich history of OCAW Hawaii. She shared historical photos of our members and events. She is a living history book and has been the foundation of our organization all these years. She is always so willing to help and serve.

On Sunday, November 28, we will have our General Membership Meeting and Election, and I want to thank our willing new officers for serving next year: President Edwina Lee, Vice President Susan Chong Wong, Secretary Queenie Mow Chee, and Treasurer Lisa Lau. We encourage all members to please volunteer to serve on a committee. We need your active help. Thank you to Nominations Chair Gretchen Jong and her committee of Jerilyn Jeffries and Vicky Ho. The incoming officers will share their goals for the upcoming year.

Mahalo for your support this past year. It has been my honor to serve as your 2021 President.

I want to express deepest appreciation to our hard-working and dedicated Board: Past Vice President Rena Ochse, Secretary Edwina Lee, Treasurer Gladys Lee, Finance and Event Chair Queenie Mow Chee, Bylaws/SOP/Membership Chair Susan Chong Wong, and Webmaster Sharon Chun.

Rena did so much for OCAW Hawaii and served as President three times. She produced the best newsletters for us and many other organizations, and she willingly volunteered on many committees. May she Rest in Peace. We have sent a condolence card and monetary lai see to her husband George.

The Board had their 5 board meetings this year. We had 4 General Membership Meetings via Zoom. Our Treasury is in good condition as we did not have any lunch meetings, only Zoom meetings. We welcomed 6 new members this year, many of international fame and accomplishments.

I was blessed to have such a wonderful team of officers that made the year a very successful one. Mahalo to our wonderful members and their support.

Dr. Roberta Wong Leung

(from Roberta Leung Wong and Queenie Mow Chee, Interim Newsletter Editor)

Nominations for 2022 OCAW Hawaii Chapter Officers

The 2021 Nominating Committee (Chair Gretchen Jong, Vicky Ho, and Jeri Jeffries) are pleased to announce the slate for the 2022 Officers of the Hawaii Chapter of OCAW. The nominees to be elected in November via email ballot are: Edwina Goo Lee, President; Susan Chong Wong, JD, Vice President; Queenie Mow Chee, Secretary; and Lisa Lau, Treasurer.

Edwina Goo Lee – Nominee for President

Edwina has served in 2021 as the OCAW Secretary. Her goal for OCAW is to retain membership and to recruit new members. She would also like to update the Bylaws to conform to 21st century technology.

Susan Chong Wong – Nominee for Vice President

Susan has been a familiar face around the OCAW Hawaii Chapter since 2010.

In 2018, she was elected Vice President and President-Elect, and served as President in 2019.

OCAW National elected her National Secretary in 2020.

In 2021, she was appointed Chair of the Hawaii Chapter's Bylaws and SOP Review Committee.

Queenie Mow Chee – Nominee for Secretary

Queenie became a member of OCAW in 1993.

The following year, she was elected Chapter Treasurer.

She has served as Chair of various committees over the years, and in 1999, was elected Vice President.

She served as President in 2000, and again in 2015.

Lisa Lau – Nominee for Treasurer

Lisa is a new member, and has generously agreed to be a Nominee for Treasurer. She is a Certified Government Financial Manager which is equivalent to a Certified Public Accountant designation in the private sector. Lisa has a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Accounting.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 28 – General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers

Sunday, December 19 – Christmas Lunch/Officer Installation

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICAN WOMEN HAWAII CHAPTER Officer Installation and Christmas Lunch Sunday, December 19, 2021

Complimentary Chinese Box Lunch

Zoom Installation at 1:00 p.m.

Meet your 2022 Officers and Chairs

Aloha to the Outgoing Board Members

Holiday Entertainment

The Hawaii Chapter had been really hoping to have its annual Christmas Lunch/Officer Installation in person this year. Preliminary plans had been made for the event at the Oahu Country Club in Honolulu.

However, the Board finally decided that unfortunately, there was just too much uncertainty with the COVID situation, and the chapter will go forward with a Zoom event instead.

Culture Corner

Anti-Asian Crime: The Killing of Vincent Chin

by Cathy Roberts

(Editor's Note: Cathy is National Vice President for Membership. She submitted this article for "Culture Corner," although it deals with Anti-Asian American Hate and Violence, articles of which we have featured in recent OCAW E-Newsletters. However, as it is the story of an incident that took place nearly 40 years ago, it is arguably relevant to the Culture section, in that this historical incident helped shape where we are today.)

While watching the CNN documentary "This is Life" by Lisa Ling, I learned of the killing of Vincent Chin. Since we were residing in Europe during that period and I was not aware of the story, I researched the incident and gathered the following information.

Vincent Chin was 27 years old when he was beaten to death with a baseball bat in Detroit, Michigan. On June 19, 1982, Chin, a Chinese American draftsman, was celebrating with friends at his bachelor party at a club in Metro Detroit, when he encountered two white autoworkers, Chrysler plant supervisor Ronald Ebens and his stepson, laid-off autoworker Michael Nitz. A brawl took place at the club. Insults apparently started with Ebens, and intoxication probably escalated the animosity among all the individuals.

After the parties left the club, the fight continued. Ebens and Nitz eventually chased Chin, and when they found him, Nitz held Chin while Ebens repeatedly struck him in the head with a baseball bat. According to witnesses, Ebens allegedly said to Chin, "It's because of you little m—f—s that we're out of work," which led to the fight. Chin was taken to Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He never regained consciousness and died of his injuries four days later.

In the 1980s, the U.S. auto industry faced growing troubles as the recession impacted jobs across the country, resulting in rising unemployment among autoworkers. Metro Detroit was a powder keg of racial animosity toward Asian Americans, specifically as the penetration of Japanese automotive imports in the U.S. hastened the decline of Detroit's big three automakers. Resentful workers laid the blame for recent layoffs on Japanese competition.

Ebens and Nitz had apparently assumed that Chin was of Japanese descent and were alleged to have used racial slurs as they attacked him. They blamed him for the success of Japan's auto industry, despite the fact that Chin was of Chinese descent.

Ebens and Nitz were charged with second-degree murder but bargained the charges down to manslaughter and pleaded guilty in 1983. They were ordered to pay \$3,000 and serve three years' probation,

with no jail time. While Ebens and Nitz never denied the brawl, they claimed the fight was not racially motivated and said they did not use racial epithets. Two civil rights trials and a civil suit followed. “These weren’t the kind of men you send to jail,” Judge Kaufman said in a letter responding to protests from American Citizens for Justice, a Detroit-based nonprofit civil rights organization that formed in the wake of Chin’s death.

The lenient sentence led to a vocal outcry from Asian Americans. The President of the Detroit Chinese Welfare Council said it amounted to a “\$3,000 license to kill” Chinese Americans.

In 2015, journalist and activist Helen Zia, executor of the Chin estate and co-founder of American Citizens for Justice, told *NBC News* that Ebens owes the Chin estate multiple millions of dollars. “People forget. It’s been a long time ago. A whole generation has passed. It’s ancient history to them,” Zia said. “The Vincent Chin case serves as a wakeup call to address anti-Asian bias and racial intolerance.”

Chin’s death brought Asian Americans together across ethnic lines to form multiethnic and multiracial alliances. The case has been viewed as a critical turning point for Asian American civil rights engagement and federal hate crime legislation.

From and About Our Members

Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony

(from Patricia Ellzey, New Orleans Chapter President)

On Sunday, September 5, 2021 in Houston, Texas, the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for the Chinese American Veterans of World War II in the Southern Region of the U.S. took place in recognition of their dedicated service during the war.

My three brothers and I attended this presentation to receive Congressional Gold Medals for three of our deceased uncles and my youngest brother’s deceased father-in-law. (The latter was the father of my late sister-in-law, Jeanette Hew, who was an OCAW sister who served as the New Orleans Chapter’s Secretary, and he was also the father of OCAW sister Nellie Underwood.)

My uncles Eugene Hew, Richard Hew, Bang Yim “Patrick” Hew, and Shu Yuen “Sam” Fong, were among those honored at the ceremony, as was Wallace Yip, Jeanette’s and Nellie’s father. (Richard’s medal was received by my cousin in Honolulu.)

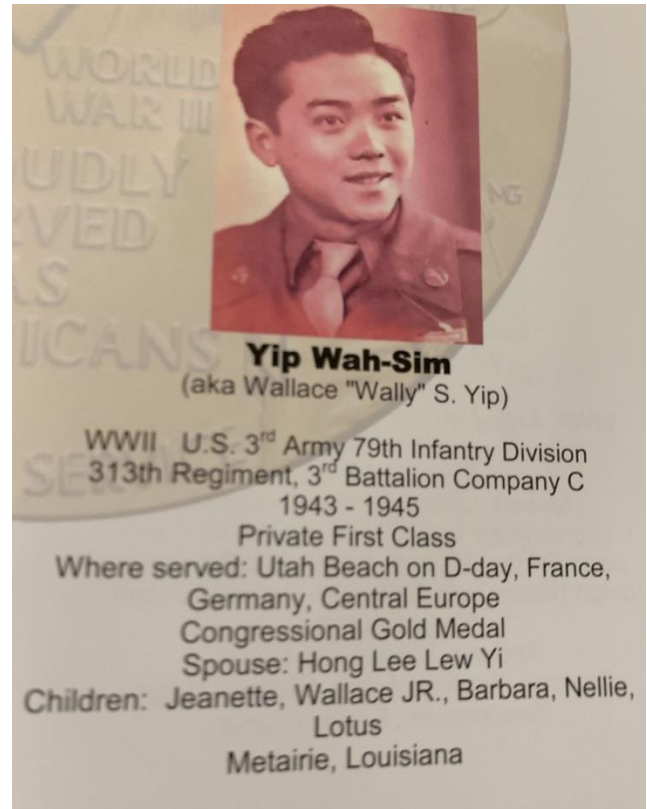
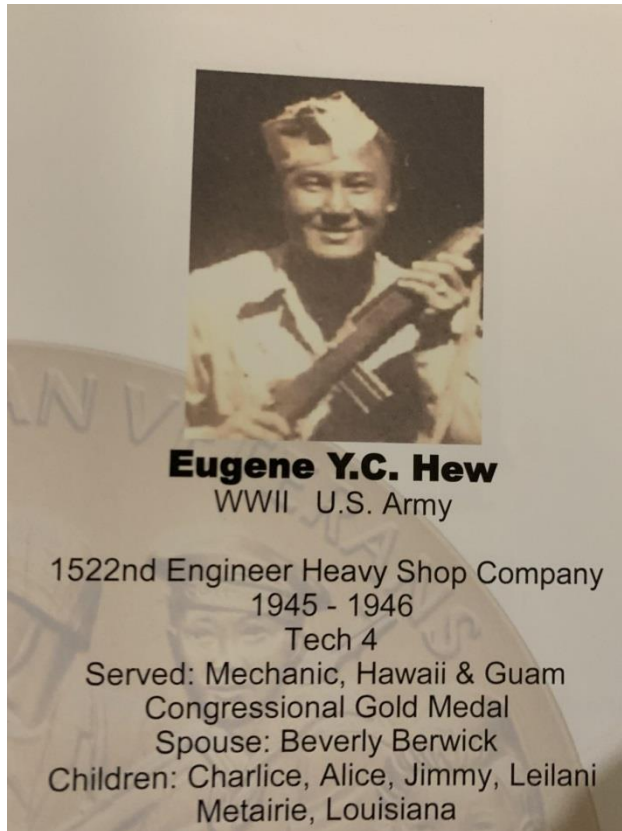
This was a momentous occasion, and I regret that these servicemen were not alive to receive these medals in person. However, at the Houston ceremony, there were four living veterans who were able to receive these medals themselves, and it was wonderful to see.



Ceremony Program Cover



A photo of one of Pat's uncles, Eugene Hew, along with his certificate and Congressional Gold Medal



Wallace Yip, father of OCAW sisters
Jeanette Hew and Nellie Underwood

Editor's Note: Pat's story above segues into Camilla Ng's following article which encourages the creation of more historical accounts of AAPI servicemen's valued military service.

Library of Congress – Veterans History Project

(from Camilla Ng, former Maryland Chapter President)

At the Chinese American Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Celebration which took place on Thursday, September 30, 2021, in Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia, I attended a talk given by a staff member of the Library of Congress, Andrew Huber. The topic was the Veterans History Project (VHP). Created by the United States Congress in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, VHP's purpose is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of America's wartime veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand their selfless service.

Currently there are 437 AAPI narratives in the collection of 110,000, or 0.4%. Huber pointed out that the narratives of the Chinese American veterans are critically underrepresented. Upon hearing this, I

felt compelled to help spread the word to the Chinese American community of this history preservation project, so that more Chinese American veterans' stories may be preserved.

Who – This project includes veterans who served in the United States military, in any capacity, from World War I through recent conflicts, regardless of branch or rank. As contributors to this national preservation effort, volunteers from around the country interview veterans and collect first-person narratives. Any individual or organization may participate, including a veteran's family members and friends, high school and university educators, authors, Scout troops, places of worship, etc. Loved ones of deceased veterans may submit their veteran's first-person narratives.

What – VHP accepts a veteran's personal narratives in the forms of original, unedited audio- and video-recorded interviews, photographs, letters, diaries, journals, military documents, two-dimensional artwork, maps, and unpublished memoirs. VHP also welcomes video and audio recordings of the impact of their loved one's service from Gold Star family members, defined as a parent, spouse, sibling, or child of a member of the Armed Forces who became missing in action or who died of injuries as a result of their wartime service.

When – Any day is a good day to share, record, or submit a veteran's story. No matter when a veteran shares his or her story, the legal copyright belongs to the veteran, making VHP a safe place to preserve these accounts.

Where – Conduct VHP interviews in any quiet, indoor location such as a home, office, or conference room.

Why – Researchers, scholars, and educators rely upon VHP collections as a primary source. These oral histories, photographs, manuscripts, and other original materials are a rich supplement to historical texts, and a valued cultural resource. Veterans' family members treasure the memories that are permanently preserved at the Library of Congress for future generations.

How – First, contact the veteran to conduct a pre-interview to gather details about their military service and determine which questions to ask during the recorded interview session. Next, go to www.loc.gov/vets and print one of the lists of suggested interview questions that best matches your veteran's service. Afterward, sit down with the veteran and conduct a video- or audio-recorded interview. You may also submit a collection of original photographs or documents that tell the veteran's story from his or her perspective, even if the veteran is deceased or unable to share an oral history. Remember to submit original materials only.

The Library of Congress provides a Field Kit with details on how to prepare, how to participate, how to submit collections, how to access collections, and how to obtain more information. For more information, call the toll-free message line at 1-888-371-5848 or email vohp@loc.gov. Visit VHP online at www.loc.gov/vets.

Encouraging New Generation Filmmakers

(from Karina Hou, Maryland Chapter President)

In Between Us (IBU) Film Festival 2021 Roundup – Amplify the Voice of New Generation Filmmakers

The first ever "In Between Us" Film Festival announced the 2021 award winners through a virtual ceremony on Sunday, September 19, 2021. This film festival, founded by three high school film lovers, focused on amplifying the voice of young filmmakers, especially high schoolers who are enthusiastic about filmmaking.

The “In Between Us” Film Festival is one of the only film festivals that highlight the work of young filmmakers. It started with a film, “In Between Us” (2021), made by the three high school film lovers, about Chinese high schoolers stepping out of their comfort zone, seeking a creative outlet during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. In order to make this film, the crew had to coordinate different groups from China and the United States, and not surprisingly, they experienced problems as beginners. Nevertheless, they overcame the difficulties of various time zones and languages.

Due to the special condition of the global pandemic, this year’s IBU Festival was held virtually, with online viewing and pre-recorded guest speeches. IBU founders hope that through this festival, more people will not only hear the voices of high school students during the pandemic, but also receive a message: setbacks and opportunities coexist. Difficulties often include opportunities.

For this year, the film festival announced 4 awards, including the awards for Most Potential, Best Documentary, Best Director, and Best Film.

For the **Most Potential Award**, the short film “3000 Yuan” directed by Jingze Zhang garnered the most attention. This film is about four teenagers who made 3000 yuan during 7 days in the summer, through promoting the ancient Chinese art of DianCha.



The process of DianCha originated in the Chinese Song Dynasty. It involves tea culture and ritual and the spiritual and philosophical experience which results. Although this well-respected ritual used to be a huge part of Chinese tea culture, fewer young people know about it. So through this movie, the team hopes to combine this ancient art with modern media, and bring the knowledge of traditional Chinese culture to the younger generations.

For the **Best Documentary Award**, “Tibet: Journey into the Inner Peace” (2021), directed by Ziyi Wang, became the judges’ favorite. In this film, instead of going to the famous attractions during Tibet’s most popular tourist season in July, the crew drove for nearly 50 hours in 10 days and visited the most mysterious places in the no-man’s land of this snow-covered plateau.



This documentary brings three different perspectives: nature, religion, and local traditional life. Through these perspectives, the film leads audiences to explore the unknown parts of Tibet. In order to capture the best natural scenery, the documentary crew lived on the plateau 5000 meters above sea level, where the temperature can be as low as below zero. They experienced a different cultural environment from mass tourism, living among locals wearing simple clothes.

The director claims that “with the development of tourism in Tibet, there are fewer and fewer herders living a traditional life. If this situation is not preserved through images, most people and our descendants probably will never see them again.”

The **Best Director Award** went to Daoji Yang, with his work “Gratuity” (2021). This is a story of a struggling Chinese restaurant where the proprietress and her chef husband are confronted by an ethical dilemma on the night of Thanksgiving. During the pandemic, a lot of small businesses are facing huge difficulties like this restaurant in the movie, and the film highlights the dilemma between ethical beliefs and basic survival as the characters hesitate over accepting money that doesn’t totally belong to them.



The film “Silence” (2021) directed by Chuhao Zhou won the **Best Film Award**. In the film, the protagonist George returned to school after recovering from COVID-19, only to feel fear, pity, and indifference from his friends and classmates from being a COVID victim. George couldn’t stand it and ran out of school, but then he woke up and realized that all of it was nothing but a dream. Now, though, he is about to return to school for real. What will he experience? This film discusses COVID-19 and the social relationships influenced by this pandemic.



At the beginning of the award ceremony, Karina Hou, artist and Co-Chairwoman of the Montgomery International Film Festival, offered the opening speech. This was followed by pre-recorded remarks from six guests, including U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, Maryland State Senator Susan Lee, U.S. Congressman David Trone, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, Montgomery International Film Festival CEO Tony Jia, and Hong Kong Phoenix TV journalist Bingru Wang. All of the guests expressed their warm congratulations on the success of the 2021 IBU Film Festival.

In addition, the keynote guest speaker, famous director, producer, and environmental activist William H Kleinert, shared 8 tips for young beginners of filmmaking:

1. Obtain all the experience you can.
2. Filmmakers must be able to communicate effectively and sell their ideas.
3. Align yourself with smart people, people who may know more about something than you do.
4. Plan your work...and work your plan, but also plan on the unexpected and always plan for safety.
5. Focus on your story.
6. Travel, and meet people from all over the world.
7. The technology of filmmaking will continue to change; be prepared to change with it.
8. Tenacity is the eighth and final point.

In addition, Greg Williams, voice-over actor and former co-host of the Emmy-Award-winning TV show “My Generation,” shared his insights for the new filmmaker generation. He told his own story from his career’s beginning to his recent achievements, and encouraged young artists to be prepared, overcome challenges, and chase their dreams.

The IBU team expresses its thanks to all of the individuals and organizations aiding them in their efforts, including Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan.

Although all the films received this year were from high school students in China and the United States, IBU encourages participation from all international students.

American Women Quarters Program

(from Roberta Wong Leung, Hawaii Chapter President)

(Editor's Note: Roberta thought the following news announcement might be of interest to OCAW members.)

Anna May Wong, known as the first Chinese American Hollywood star, will be one of five women who will grace the first edition of the U.S. Mint's "American Women Quarters Program."

The other four women will be astronaut Sally Ride; writer and civil rights activist Maya Angelou; Wilma Mankiller, the first woman to serve as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation; and Nina Otero-Warren, a suffragette who became the first Hispanic woman to run for Congress.

The U.S. Mint invited the public to submit names of women they view as American icons, and noted that the final choices all highlight legends who broke into fields that were, at the time, highly inaccessible to women or people of color. This program will continue until 2025, honoring five women with five quarters each year.

*(Editor's Note: Anna May Wong was also one of nine women featured in an exhibit at the Chinese American Museum DC in 2019, entitled "**Breaking Barriers – Chinese American Women Pioneers.**" Former Maryland Chapter President Camilla Ng wrote an article about this exhibit, including a brief biography of Ms. Wong. See the February 2020 issue of the OCAW E-Newsletter.)*

National Board Zoom Meeting

The candid, working photo below was provided by Hawaii Chapter President Roberta Wong Leung.

The OCAW National Board meets four times a year, on the third Sunday of January, April, July, and October, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time, to conduct OCAW business. This picture was taken at our recent October 17 meeting.



(Top row) Anne Hu, Silicon Valley Chapter President; Roberta Wong Leung, Hawaii Chapter President, Edwina Lee, 2022 Incoming Hawaii Chapter President; and Mimi Hom, National Vice President for Programs

(Middle row) Linda Devine, National Vice President for Communications; Susan Chong Wong, National Secretary; Cathy Roberts, National Vice President for Membership; and Sharon Chun, National Webmaster

(Bottom row) Christina Chang, National President; Pat Ellzey, New Orleans Chapter President; and Donna Byler, National Executive Director (via phone)

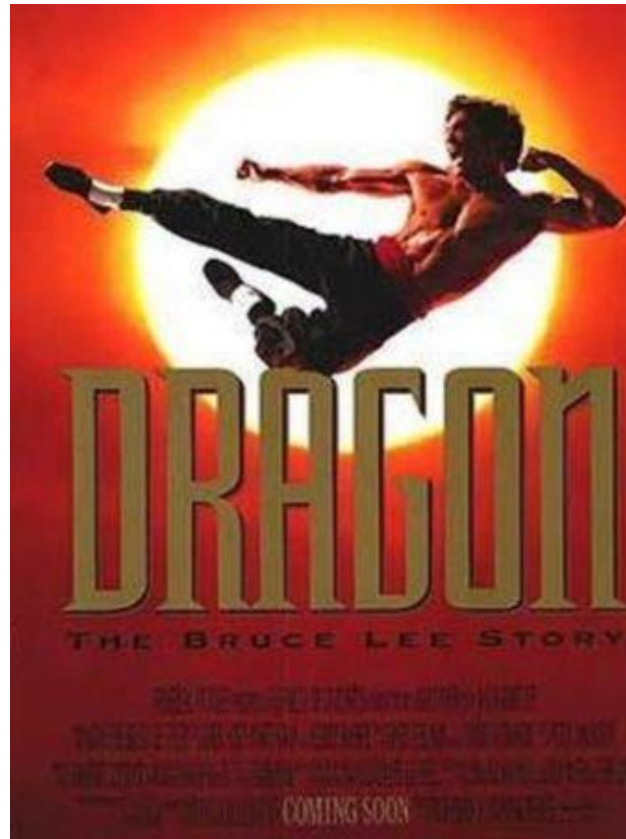
In the past, we conducted these meetings via conference call. However, when the pandemic brought about the profusion of Zoom meetings, the Silicon Valley Chapter graciously made their Zoom account available to National for its quarterly meetings. We appreciate SVC setting up these meetings for us!

Bruce Lee “Talk Story” Event

by Susan Young

(Editor’s Note: Susan is formerly Maryland Chapter Secretary.)

On Sunday, October 24, 2012, I attended a Zoom “Talk Story” event on “Bruce Lee, an icon and inspiration.” It was co-organized by the 1882 Foundation and other community groups. Talk Story events are community gatherings, organized by sponsors who believe in the power of ethnic stories remembered and shared.



Bruce Lee (1940-1973) was a Hong Kong American martial artist, actor, director, martial arts instructor, and philosopher. Two presenters, Rita Hadden and Harry Chow, discussed a lot of history and told stories about Lee. They talked about who he was, highlights of his life, Bruce Lee in D.C., and his influence on individuals and on Western culture. I thought it was very interesting.



(Top row) 1st picture – presenter Harry Chow. 3rd picture – presenter Rita Hadden.

Rita is a Chinese American residing in Washington, D.C. She currently teaches lifelong learners in “Understanding Asia” at American University. Harry Chow, the son of a Chinese laundryman, was born and raised in D.C. As a child, attending schools where he was the rare Asian, he was often bullied until he started learning martial arts. Harry met Bruce Lee several times and was inspired by him as a positive male role model.

Rita is related to Bruce Lee. Bruce’s mother (Grace Ho) and Rita’s grandmother were half-sisters and were two of the daughters of the 20th-century Hong Kong tycoon Ho Kom-tong. Ho Kom-tong was the great-grandfather of Rita and the grandfather of Bruce.

Rita recounted that Bruce and his grandfather had very similar experiences and character. They both came from poor backgrounds but were self-made. Ho Kom-tong (1866-1950) was a successful businessman and philanthropist. Among many of his philanthropic activities, he set up shelters to help women during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong during World War II.

Ho Kom-tong’s residence in Hong Kong, where Rita used to visit every summer when she was a child, is now the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum in Hong Kong.



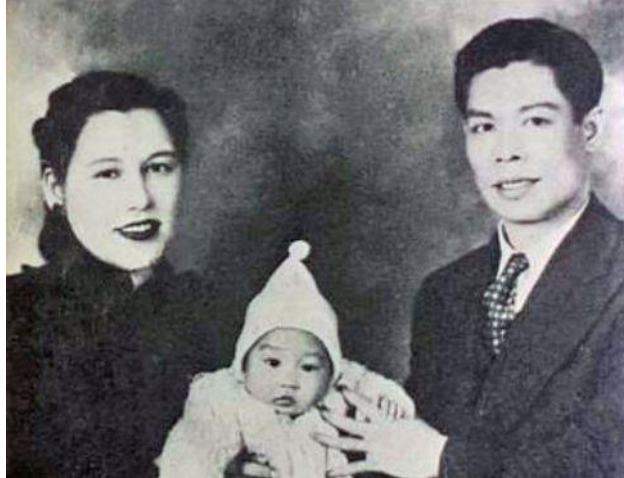
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum



Ho Kom-tong

(Photos courtesy of Wikipedia)

Bruce Lee’s father, Lee Hoi-chuen, was a Cantonese opera singer and film actor in Hong Kong. He and his wife were on a one-year U.S. tour with the Cantonese Opera Company in 1940 when their second son Bruce was born in San Francisco. They later returned to Hong Kong when Bruce was three months old.



Bruce Lee and his parents in 1940

(Photo courtesy of Wikipedia)

We also learned a lot about Bruce Lee's philosophical thoughts. My favorite one is "Use body, mind, and spirit in Kungfu." Instead of only using the body, using all three is very helpful for my practice in Taiji (Tai Chi).

My Chrysanthemum Journey

by Camilla Ng

(Editor's Note: Camilla is a former Maryland Chapter President.)

2021 is my fourth year growing chrysanthemums and my second year as Co-President of the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society in Northern Virginia. I became aware of a need for judges in the chapter. Accredited judges are necessary to host a judged show. Judges who have served for years either have retired or have moved on. I decided to take on the challenge of becoming a judge, to help the chapter but also for my personal growth as a grower.

The first fulfillment for the National Chrysanthemum Society (NCS) Accredited Chrysanthemum Judge qualification was to pass the written Candidate Judges Exam. This I achieved in May 2021, scoring 91. However, this was only the first hurdle. The Accredited Judge qualification criteria includes participation as a judge in three NCS Shows and earning five blue ribbon awards in three growing seasons. The Long Island Chrysanthemum Society (LICS) was the only chapter hosting a NCS Show on the East Coast this season. Long Island Chapter President John Capobianco graciously invited me to participate on the judging team for the show on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at Starkie Bros Garden Center in Farmingdale, New York. I also wanted to enter some of my best blooms in the competition.

From Alexandria, Virginia to central Long Island is a five-hour drive. How does one transport delicate blooms to arrive in a condition still fit for showing? Here, I would like to acknowledge Ed Mascali for his generous gift of time in coaching me on bloom preparation for travel and for lending me his Styrofoam containers and buckets.



Ready for the road trip

(Photo taken by Astrid Rapp)

I am also grateful to a good friend Astrid Rapp for driving her SUV to deliver blooms and grower to Long Island. It takes nerves of steel to navigate the traffic on the Belt Parkway. I breathed a sigh of relief when my feet touched the ground at Starkie Bros. Phew! Made it!

Most of the blooms arrived in good condition. I entered them in the competition with some trepidation as it was my first time entering blooms in a show beyond the Novice category. My entries would be judged with entries from advanced growers who have been growing for many years.

The Show result was a total surprise to me. I received six blue ribbon awards, one of which, Icicles (class 11), also received Best in Group, Best in Section, and Best in Show! Icicles, seemingly so delicate with its lacinated florets like ethereal icy snowflakes, not only survived the bumpy long ride but held up its beauty. I behold this cultivar with new appreciation.



Astrid Rapp and Camilla Ng

My chrysanthemum journey in fulfilling the accreditation will continue in the next two growing seasons. This sets a goal for me to continue to improve my horticultural cultivation practices.



An unfurling Woolman's Century bud, an Irregular Incurve, in front of Essex, a pot mum

(This and the following photos taken by grower Camilla Ng)



Crimson Tide, an Irregular Incurve chrysanthemum



Icicles – delicate florets with lacinated tips

(Editor's Note: Congratulations, Camilla! ☺)

Honoring Maryland State Senator Susan Lee

(from Linda Devine)

Karina Hou wears many hats, including OCAW Maryland Chapter President, President of the Chinese American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Washington, and Co-Chairwoman of the Montgomery International Film Festival. On Sunday, October 24, 2021, she and her husband, Richard Liu, joined several other prominent leaders of the Chinese American community of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, and hosted a reception in honor of Maryland State Senator and Majority Whip Susan Lee.

The event was held at Karina's and Richard's beautiful home in Maryland, and its extensive grounds provided an ideal setting for approximately 200 attendees, which included numerous Maryland state officials and legislators. The special guest was U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin.

An attorney, Senator Lee was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2002, after which she was elected State Senator in 2014. **She was the first Asian American elected to the Maryland State Senate, and the first Asian American woman and first Chinese American elected to the Maryland legislature.**

She has advocated for and has advanced important legislation for the citizens of her state, including women and AAPIs and other minority communities. Susan will be running for reelection in 2022.

Congressman Jamie Raskin represents Maryland's 8th Congressional District. A former constitutional law professor at American University in Washington, D.C., he served in the Maryland State Senate for ten years and was Majority Whip. He was an extremely popular legislator, advancing many important bills on such issues as repealing the death penalty and legalizing same-sex marriage. Although well known in Maryland, he is known nationally for his high-profile role as Lead Impeachment Manager in Donald Trump's second impeachment trial. He is also one of nine members of the January 6 House Select Committee appointed to investigate the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol earlier this year.



Maryland State Senator Susan Lee, U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin, and host Karina Hou

Guests enjoyed seeing each other again, or meeting for the first time. They were welcomed with drinks, and they were invited to tour Karina's home and view her superb art collection. Many commented on several exquisite pieces which especially impressed them.



(Photos taken by Linda Devine)

There then was a program held outside on the sunny, fall day.



Karina Hou welcoming the guests

The many officials in attendance were announced, and several speakers followed. The first speaker was John McCarthy, Maryland's State's Attorney, who informed the audience of several of Susan's important legislative accomplishments.

Congressman Raskin then echoed praise for Susan, and gave a truly inspiring speech about fighting for our democracy.



Congressman Raskin addressing the audience

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich followed, and other legislators made remarks as well, including Susan's fellow State Senator Brian Feldman.



Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich speaking



Susan then talked about the important work her team was doing, and her plans for future legislation. She concluded by warmly thanking all of the attendees for coming to the reception and for their strong support.





(Front row) Maryland State Senator Brian Feldman, Karina Hou, Congressman Raskin, Senator Lee, and County Executive Elrich

Attendees then adjourned inside and feasted on a wonderful buffet dinner that Karina provided. Multiple trays heaped with food stretched across a large area, and there was something to please every palate!

Although the reception began in mid-afternoon, it went past the official ending time and continued well into the night, as people were having such a wonderful time.

(Photos taken by Binno Chan, except where noted otherwise)