

# E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

November 2025



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501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

*(from Linda Devine, Editor)*

As always, I would like to thank everyone who contributed material for this e-newsletter. This is one of our longest ones to date, with nearly 100 photos, and kudos to all for making this such an informative issue. I also especially appreciate my husband Ed for preparing the large number of pictures.

I continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles or submit information if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership.

Please also feel free to send me any suggestions that you might have for the e-newsletter at:  
[devinefive@comcast.net](mailto:devinefive@comcast.net)

This is the fifth and final issue for 2025. At this time, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and wonderful upcoming winter holidays! Take care, and see you in 2026! ☺

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## Opera International's Charitable Giving

*(from Linda Devine)*

Opera International has been continuing to disburse its remaining funds to charities and worthy nonprofit organizations. We recently made a donation to the Alzheimer's Association to support our OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter's 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's Team and were pleased to receive a nice thank-you letter.

**Thank you from the Alzheimer's Association**



Dear friends of OCAW and Opera International,

Thank you for making a donation for Walk to End Alzheimer's! Your gift makes an incredible difference in the fight to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia. It helps the Alzheimer's Association advance groundbreaking research and provide critical care and support to all those affected by the disease. From the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900) to vital support groups to investment in the best and brightest dementia scientists, your gift will make a meaningful impact.

Thanks again for your generosity. It means so much to so many.

\* \* \* \* \*

Plans are currently underway for contributions to benefit the communities of OCAW's DC metro area chapters in the very near future. Information is planned to be published in the next issue of the e-newsletter.

**Muriel Hom Music Grants**

Grants of \$500 continue to be available, and it is hoped that talented instrumentalists and vocalists who could benefit from some additional funds to further their studies and activities, will apply.

**Two more Muriel Hom Music Grants have been awarded.** In September, a young vocalist from Maryland was the recipient. In October, an accomplished musician from New Orleans in both piano and voice with a Master's degree and Ph.D. received a grant. Both essays were exceptionally well-written, and the candidates were very deserving. Opera International was happy to assist them financially with their studies and musical pursuits.

**Thank you from Dr. Jing Gao, grant recipient**

Dear Ms. Yang and Members of the Organization of Chinese American Women,

I am deeply honored and grateful to receive the Muriel Hom Music Grant. Thank you for your generous support and for recognizing my journey in music and church ministry. Your encouragement means so much to me, and I am truly inspired by the legacy of Mimi Hom and her dedication to empowering others through the arts.

This grant will help me continue developing my musicianship and sharing music in ways that serve both my community and my faith. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for believing in my work and for supporting my path forward.

With sincere gratitude,

Jing Gao  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
October 2025

*(Editor's Note: It was very thoughtful of Dr. Gao to write of her gratitude in receiving a grant. OCAW and Opera International appreciate her kind gesture!)*

\* \* \* \* \*

The grant application form has been sent to each chapter president. ***If any OCAW member knows of an individual who is serious about pursuing their music studies and might be able to use some financial assistance, please either contact your chapter president, or send an email to me: devinefive@comcast.net, and we will be more than happy to email you an application which you can then forward to your musician.***

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

*(from Maria Yang, Acting President)*

#### **New Maryland Chapter President**

##### **September 29, 2025 letter from Maria Yang**

Dear OCAW Maryland Members,

I am delighted to share some wonderful news. During Mimi's memorial service yesterday, I felt blessed with a sense of guidance – and with it came clarity for our chapter's future leadership.

I am pleased to announce that **Patricia Fenn** has graciously agreed to serve as the next **President of the Maryland Chapter**. Patricia is a lifetime member and previously served as our Vice President. She also comes highly recommended by Christina Poy.

With her dedication, compassion, and longstanding commitment to our mission, I am confident that Patricia will lead our chapter into a vibrant chapter, helping us continue to uphold the purpose of the Organization of Chinese American Women.

As a reminder, our mission is to affirm our identity as Chinese American women; to advance and advocate for the needs and concerns of Chinese American and other Asian Pacific American women; to improve educational, economic, social, and political opportunities; and to recognize the excellence, leadership, and contributions of women in our communities.

Let us warmly welcome Patricia into this role and continue our work – together – with renewed energy and unity.

2025 officers of OCAW Maryland: President – Patricia Fenn; Vice President – Kitty Hsu Dana; Secretary – Anny Lai; and Advisor – Christina Poy.

Best Regards,

Maria Yang, Acting President of OCAW Maryland and National President of OCAW

*(Editor's Note: Maria plans to continue work on two future activities that she had started organizing, and then turn the reins over to Pat, who is now preparing to assume the President's duties.)*

### **Upcoming events**

#### **Health and Wellness Zoom Talk**

We hope to invite **Dr. Cui Wei** to give an informative presentation on anti-aging strategies. Topics will include personal care tips such as hair care, cancer and stroke screenings, wrinkle treatments, and more. It will be a great opportunity to learn practical ways to stay healthy and vibrant!

#### **Celebration of Rose Li's Achievements**

We are incredibly proud of **Rose Li**, a lifetime member of our chapter. *(Editor's Note: See information about Rose's awards in "From and About Our Members" in the September OCAW e-newsletter.)* To celebrate Rose's tremendous accomplishments, we are planning a gala luncheon on November 14, 2025.

### **News from the Virginia Chapter**

*(from Barbara York, President)*

### **Mid-Autumn Festival Potluck Dinner**

The Virginia Chapter had a very successful Mid-Autumn Festival Potluck Dinner on Sunday, October 5, 2025. It was held on the 23rd floor Penthouse Party Room of Amy Lee's condo building in Alexandria, Virginia. Attendees totaled 41 and included members and their families and friends ranging in age from 99 years to 3 years old. The highlight of the evening was a near perfect moon in an absolutely clear sky.

Competing strongly against the moon was a feast that included: Pork braised with Bamboo; Chicken Curry; Seafood Medley; Yellow Rice with Vegetables; a pair of beautifully Steamed Fish; Beef with Red Peppers; Diced Chicken with Vegetables; Chinese-style Chicken Biryani; a magnificent Jai (Chinese all vegetable special dish for New Year); Buddha Jumping Over the Wall (with abalone, scallops, shrimp, and vegetables); Chinese Salad; Baked Sable Fish; Korean Corn Cheese; Sweet Rice with Pork Ribs, Chestnuts, and Mushrooms; Sesame Noodles; Chinese Roast Pork; Steamed Chinese Sausage; Baked Brussel Sprouts; Crisp Lotus Roots; Boiled Peanuts; Fruit Salad; Tapioca and Taro Pudding; Moon Cakes galore; and some lovely French Bordeaux.



Moon viewed from the deck of the party room



*(Photos taken by Chris Hom)*



Chefs

*(Photos taken by Amy Lee)*



The scrumptious spread



Frank all the way from Philly

*(Photos taken by Amy Lee)*



The gallant photographers



*(Photo taken by Chris Hom)*

### **Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society Exhibit**

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, OCAW-VA members and friends attended the annual exhibit of the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society, organized by Camilla Ng, former President of the Society and longtime member of the OCAW Maryland and Virginia Chapters.

This display of beautiful flowers, held at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church, Virginia, is a special once-a-year treat. It was enjoyed by Barbara York, Amy Lee, Cathy and Dick Roberts, and Amy's neighbors Shu and Lois.







*(All photos above taken by Amy Lee)*



Amy Lee, Barbara York, and Cathy Roberts

*(Photo taken by Dick Roberts)*

### **Chrysanthemums in Bloom: From Falls Church to Chengdu and Taipei**

*(from Maria Yang)*

As the crisp air of autumn sweeps in, chrysanthemums begin to bloom – bright and full, yet graceful and calm. Known as the “flowers of autumn,” they carry with them the spirit of endurance and the quiet beauty of change. On Saturday, October 25, 2025, I attended the 50th **Chrysanthemum Show in Falls Church, Virginia**, presented by the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. Our longtime OCAW member and former President of OCAW Maryland, Camilla Ng, serves on the Society’s Board. Once again, the show brought the magic to life, connecting not just local flower lovers, but also traditions that stretch across oceans – to **Chengdu, China**, and **Taipei, Taiwan**.

#### **Autumn Splendor in Falls Church**

At the Falls Church Chrysanthemum Show, the exhibition room was filled with bursts of color – sunny yellows, royal purples, soft pinks, and pure whites. Each bloom seemed to tell its own story. Visitors wandered among the displays, admiring arrangements shaped like waterfalls, lanterns, and even dragons made entirely of petals. What made the event even more special was its cultural spirit. Alongside the flowers, conversations flowed effortlessly, bridging generations and cultures. For many, it felt like more than a flower show; it was a joyful gathering that celebrated beauty, friendship, heritage, and memory.

I met some people who are from China and Taiwan. One of them was born in Chengdu, China. She recalled that schoolchildren there had a field trip to People’s Park to attend the Chrysanthemum show every year. We shared the experiences of attending the Chrysanthemum Shows in Taipei and Chengdu and treasured the memories.



*(Photo taken by Maria Yang)*



*(Photo taken by Maria Yang)*

### Chengdu: A City That Blossoms Year-Round

Thousands of miles away, in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, chrysanthemums also take center stage each autumn. Known as the “City of Flowers,” Chengdu has been nurturing chrysanthemums for over a thousand years. During the annual **Chrysanthemum Festival**, local parks transform into vibrant seas of blooms.



People's Park, Chengdu

Chengdu's residents have a deep affection for the chrysanthemum. In Chinese culture, it symbolizes integrity and perseverance – blooming brightly even as the weather cools. Chinese poets like Tao Yuanming once wrote of retreating to the countryside to admire chrysanthemums, finding peace in their simple strength. That same sentiment still lingers in Chengdu today, where visitors can stroll through parks filled with the scent of flowers and the echoes of history.

### Taipei: Where Tradition Meets Art

In Taipei, Taiwan's lively and modern capital, the chrysanthemum continues to inspire both artists and gardeners. Every fall, the Taipei Chrysanthemum Exhibition at the Shilin Official Residence transforms the grounds into a dreamlike landscape. Thousands of chrysanthemums, carefully cultivated and artistically arranged, fill the gardens with color and fragrance.

The show reflects Taipei's creative spirit; traditional flower art mingles with contemporary design. Visitors might find chrysanthemums arranged as intricate sculptures, or displayed in peaceful Zen-style gardens. For many families, attending the exhibition is an annual tradition, a moment to slow down and appreciate nature's quiet beauty amid the city's energy.



The old mansion of Chiang Kai-shek, Shilin, Taipei

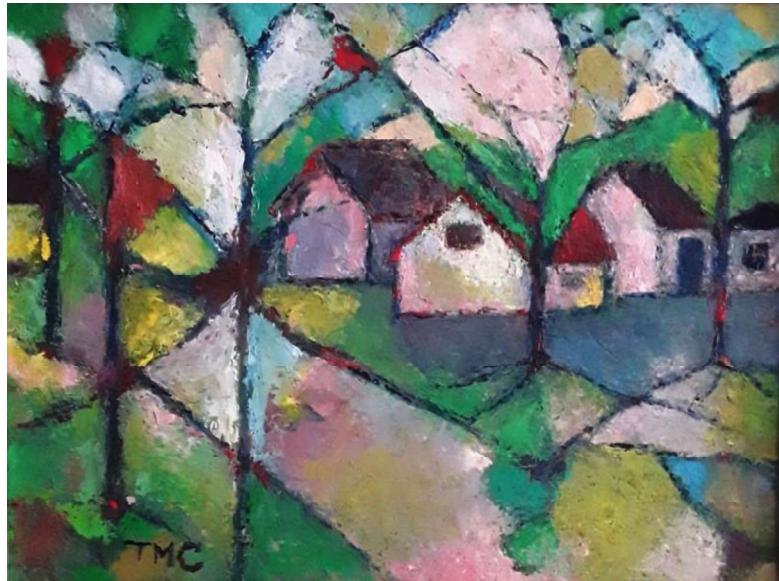
### **A Shared Language of Flowers**

Though **Falls Church, Chengdu, and Taipei** are separated by distance, they are connected through the timeless charm of the chrysanthemum. The flower speaks a universal language – one of resilience, elegance, and gratitude for life's changing seasons.

Standing before a chrysanthemum in full bloom, it's easy to feel a sense of calm and wonder. No matter where it grows – on Virginia soil, in a Chengdu park, or in a Taipei garden, it reminds us of what we share: love for beauty, a respect for nature, and a celebration of life's quiet moments.

### **Upcoming event**

Saturday, November 8, 2025 – Tour of an exhibit, called “In Touch With Nature,” of 32 paintings by Tsuying Madeleine Chen, former OCAW-VA member, at the Green Spring Gardens Historic House in Alexandria, Virginia. Weather permitting, we will tour the gardens as well. Below is just one sample of her artwork.



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

*(Yong Yi, President)*

### **Bridging Cultures Through Art: A Celebration of Chinese and American Heritage at the National Presbyterian Assembly Dinner**

*(from Lily Wu, Vice President)*

*(Editor's Note: A National Presbyterian Church conference was held at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown New Orleans. Conferees had the option of attending this performing arts celebration as an opening dinner reception, and many took advantage and enjoyed the evening.)*

On the evening of Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, Louisiana, the National Presbyterian Assembly was graced with a vibrant display of cross-cultural artistry during a dinner program that brought together the Feiyang Dance Team and the New Orleans Skylark Performance Troupe, both of which include many members of the OCAW New Orleans Chapter. Held in the spirit of unity and mutual appreciation, the evening's performances highlighted the richness of Chinese cultural traditions while celebrating shared spiritual values through music and movement.

### **A Lively Opening: *Who Wouldn't Praise My Hometown***

The program began with a jubilant dance entitled *Who Wouldn't Praise My Hometown*, presented by the Feiyang Dance Team. Choreographed and directed by Linda Lin and Lin Yuan, the piece drew from the traditional Jiaozhou Yangko folk dance style. Known for its colorful costumes, rhythmic flair, and joyful energy, Jiaozhou Yangko is a festive expression of community life in northern China. The dancers skillfully conveyed pride in one's roots and the joy found in everyday moments, offering a heartfelt invitation to the audience to share in this sense of belonging.



Yong Yi, Jianli Yao, Lin Yuan, Wendy Wu, and Wenyi Shang

### **Musical Serenity: *Moonlight in the Lotus Pond***

This was followed by a Xiao solo, *Moonlight in the Lotus Pond*, performed with grace and sensitivity by Cuilan Li. The Xiao – a vertical bamboo flute traditionally used in classical Chinese music – lent a soft, meditative voice to the tranquil imagery of moonlight shimmering across a lotus pond. Li's performance evoked a quiet evening scene, filled with the gentle stir of nature, and drew listeners into a contemplative space.



### Elegance and Imagery: *Ink and Cloud Hats*

The Skylark Performance Troupe then presented *Ink and Cloud Hats*, a choreographed qipao showcase directed by Lily Yang. The piece was inspired by the mist-shrouded landscape of Chongqing, known as China's mountain city. The performers, adorned in traditional qipao dresses and bamboo hats, moved as if drifting through time and water. Their choreography referenced ancient poetic imagery and the romantic spirit of wandering heroes, metaphorically gliding "like a light boat passing through ten thousand mountains."



Ruiyi Jiang, Wendy Lai, Nicole Landry, Weiyi Shan, and Jinxiu Lin

### **Youthful Talent: *The Ripples in the Milky Way***

A standout moment of the evening was a Guzheng solo by Mason Wu, a 9th grade student at Hynes Academy of Advanced Study School, who performed *The Ripples in the Milky Way*. This modern composition was inspired by the myth of the Qixi Festival – the annual reunion of star-crossed lovers on the Magpie Bridge. Combining Hunan folk elements with flowing, lyrical phrasing, Wu’s performance painted a vivid soundscape in four movements: the lovers’ meeting, the flowing waters beneath, a joyful celebration, and a gentle return to the beginning theme. His poise and expressive touch on the Guzheng captured the imagination of the audience.



### **A Shared Benediction: *This Is My Father’s World***

Concluding the evening was a choral performance of *This Is My Father’s World*, sung in Chinese by the Skylark Women’s Choir, under the direction of Lily Yang. This beloved hymn, penned by Presbyterian pastor Maltbie Davenport Babcock, served as a poignant reminder of the spiritual foundation that unites the assembly. The audience was invited to join in singing the third verse in English, reinforcing the evening’s theme of shared faith and collective celebration.



Wendy Lai, Weiyi Shan, Yong Yi, Jinxiu Lin, and Lily Wu

### **A Night to Remember**

This event was more than a performance; it was a heartfelt exchange between cultures, generations, and traditions. By blending classical Chinese artistry with the enduring messages of Christian hymns and American fellowship, the evening served as a testament to the beauty that emerges when communities come together in mutual respect and joy.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Feiyang Dance Team and the Skylark Performance Troupe for enriching the Assembly with their artistry and spirit. May such evenings of unity and celebration continue to light the path toward deeper understanding and global fellowship.

*(Photos taken by Allen Wu)*

## News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

*(Yufan Lu, President)*

### Annual Officers' Installation and Scholarship Award event

*(from Cynthia Chang, Public Relationship)*

OCAW-SVC held its annual officers' installation and scholarship award event on Sunday, August 10, 2025 at Florentine Trattoria (14510 Big Basin Way #11, Saratoga, CA 95070) from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We had a wonderful program with the installation of officers, awarding of scholarship, two wonderful presentations by our own members, as well as delicious food and cake.

- **Carol Yuan** (presentation in **Mandarin**)

Carol completed the Master Gardener program through UCCE – the University of California Cooperative Extension. She shared her insights and love for gardening.

- **Anne Hu** (presentation in **English**)

Anne has been a dedicated Toastmasters member for 30 years and has taught Youth Leadership sessions to children of OCAW-SVC members. Her talk, "**Making a Great and Impactful Presentation**," provided valuable tips to elevate your speaking and presentation skills.

### **1. President's speech by Yufan Lu**

I am glad to be continuously serving as the President of OCAW-SVC this year. We together had a wonderful active year during the time of 2024-2025. A Walk to End Alzheimer's brought members to care about the community welfare. Members' social and luncheons were precious chances to get to know each other and to promote a healthy lifestyle. Nationwide Cleaning River activities will bring us to pay attention to our living environment. We also hosted or co-hosted several local community activities such as the Calligraphy Booth in Hakone Garden, a Lecture on Engraving Stone Seals in local libraries, and on healthy topics through the internet.

We awarded and will continue to provide the youth scholarship to students for their academic achievement and devotion to the community.

In the coming year, we will continue to provide opportunities to participate in our gatherings, contribute to community outreach, and most importantly, build lasting friendships within this remarkable organization.

As we move forward, I am committed to upholding the legacy of OCAW-SVC's mission and values. My immediate goal is to foster deeper connections among our members and enhance the services we provide to our community.

I am excited about the journey in the new year and invite new members to join our vibrant team as we continue to grow and make a meaningful impact.

Thank you for your trust and support.



Vice President Isabelle Guh and President Yufan Lu

## 2. List of 2025/2026 Officers and Directors

President – Yufan Lu

Vice President – Isabelle Guh

Treasurer – Sophia Yang

Secretary – Carol Yuan

Membership – Hong W. Tai

Communication – Anne Hu

Public Relationship – Cynthia Chang

Scholarship Committee – Monica Hsiao, Sherry Hsu

Flyer Design – Candice Huang

Hospitality – Wendy Chang

Historian – Helen Chiang

Activities – Annie Ying, Wendy Chang, Maggie Tsai

Board of Directors:

Aichu Wang, Cynthia Chang, Sophia Yang, Carol Yuan, Wendy Chang, Monica Hsiao, Anne Hu

## 3. Awarding of scholarship (*written by Monica Hsiao*)

The recipient of OCAW-SVC's 2025 Youth Achievement Award is Michelle Xie, a senior from Prospect High School. She is outstanding not only in academic achievement, but also in community involvement, and has two passions in robotics and music. Michelle became interested in robotics when she was in middle school, joined the robotics team in high school, and was elected as vice president for the

upcoming robotics season. She has been playing violin and piano since elementary school, and has won awards in various music competitions. Michelle participated in several volunteer jobs such as music tutor and summer camp youth teacher, and she also raised money for a nonprofit music organization. She is well qualified for the YAA award, and we wish her success in the future.



Cynthia Chang, Yufan Lu, and Monica Hsiao

Michelle was not feeling well so could not attend the event, but she sent the following letter which was read by Cynthia Chang.

Hello, everyone! My name is Michelle Xie, the recipient of the OCAW Youth Achievement Award.

First of all, I want to thank Pin Laoshi for telling me about this opportunity. Without your encouragement and guidance, I would not have had the chance to learn about or even apply for this award. Thank you for all your support!

Second, I'm truly honored to receive the OCAW-SVC *Youth Achievement Award*. This award means a lot to me, and celebrates the values of leadership, service, and community that I hope to carry with me into the future.

My journey began with robotics. After seeing a robot perform basketball tricks at my middle school, I became very interested in robotics and electrical engineering. Since joining my high school's robotics team,

I've served as electrical lead, secretary, and now vice president. I've helped our team win the Engineering Innovation Award, place as finalists at the Idaho Regional, and qualify for the World Championships two years in a row.

But to me, the most rewarding part of robotics is not the awards. Rather, it's the people I make an impact on. I've taught weekly electrical training, run Arduino and FIRST Lego League camps, and organized *Noche de Ciencias*, which brought Hispanic engineers to inspire local students and give them hands-on STEM experience. I was also invited as a speaker for the WiSTEM "Be the Change" Forum for the Society of Women Engineers (San Diego Chapter) to advocate for diversity and gender inclusivity within engineering. Through these events, I've learned that innovation is richest when it comes from a diversity of voices.

Outside robotics, I also enjoy playing music. I play violin and piano, and had the opportunity to perform with the California Youth Symphony and Stanford Summer Symphony, and play in international competitions with my string quartet. However, I also hope to use my talents to give back to my community. I organize concerts at senior homes, raise funds for young musicians, and co-founded the Prospect Music Education Club (PMEC) to make music learning more accessible.

Throughout my experience, both robotics and music helped me learn that we should always make use of our abilities to help out the people around us.

Thank you to OCAW-SVC for recognizing young leaders and showing how heritage, excellence, and service can come together. And thank you to my mentors, teammates, teachers, friends, and my family for supporting me. Thank you, everyone!

#### **4. Carol's presentation (written by Carol Yuan)**



Carol gave a brief introduction of the national Master Gardener program and the UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County program where she received her training and certificate. The UC Master Gardeners Program of Santa Clara County is a volunteer organization sponsored by the [University of California Cooperative Extension](#). The mission is *to extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to county residents*. Their services include Help Desk, Monthly email letter, Demonstration gardens, School gardens support, and Events and Classes.

Her presentation also lightly touched on the content of the 18-week-long course, her final project, and the volunteer opportunities available once one is certified as a UC Master Gardener of Santa Clara County.

##### **5. Anne's presentation** (*written by Anne Hu*)



This presentation, titled "Make a Great & Impactful Presentation" by Anne Hu, focuses on guiding presenters to deliver powerful, memorable talks by emphasizing effective pre-event preparation, mastering audio setup, understanding the audience, and creating compelling visuals. It stresses organizing content around three main points and employing strong openings, engaging stories, and confident body language to make a lasting impression in the first seven seconds.



## Make a Great & Impactful Presentation

Anne Hu

August 10, 2025

Anne's PowerPoint featured slides titled:

The Power of Great Presentations  
Foundation: Pre-Event Preparation  
Master Your Audio Setup  
Know Your Audience  
Create Compelling Visual Content  
Structure That Sticks  
Start Strong  
Finish Stronger  
Pro Tips for Excellence  
Three Pillars of Presentation Excellence  
Your Challenge Today



They provided practical tips, including maintaining succinct slides, using high-quality graphics, ensuring clear audio, and finishing with a strong call to action – reinforcing that every presentation is an opportunity to inspire and drive action by respecting the audience's intelligence and time.



Silicon Valley Chapter Board



*(Photos taken by Alice Chiou and Sophia Yang)*

**Silicon Valley Walk to End Alzheimer's**

*(from Carol Yuan, Secretary, and Walk Team captain)*



This is the 11th year that the OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter has participated in the “Silicon Valley Walk to End Alzheimer’s” to raise awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer’s disease. The goal of the Silicon Valley Walk is to raise \$2.4M this year. Nearly \$2M has been raised so far. The event is organized by the Alzheimer’s Association. The Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support, and research. Its mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

I’ve been very happy to be the team captain for the 11th year. Our team name is OCAW-SVC Friends and Families. We have 19 team members and donors this year and raised \$3,760 so far. Fundraising will continue until the end of this year. We welcome any donations to support the fight to end the disease. Our team link is: <http://act.alz.org/goto/ocaw-siliconvalleychapter>

In supporting and recognizing SVC’s decade-long efforts in fighting to end Alzheimer’s disease, OCAW headquarters and Opera International, along with a recognition letter, generously donated \$1,000 to our team this year! We are deeply grateful for the recognition. Their support truly inspires us to keep going.

This year’s walk was on Saturday, October 11, and again it was at Lake Cunningham Park in San Jose, CA. Nearly 2400 walkers took part walking either a one-mile or three-mile route around the park. Our Treasurer and former president Sophia Yang invited her sister Sunny Yang, her friend Debbie Lu, and Debbie’s husband Mr. Cai to join the walk. Our President Yufan Lu, as well as Communication Chair and former president Anne Hu also participated in the Walk. Immediate past president Jen Tsao, who could not join in the walk because she has been recovering from surgery, came with her husband Alex Tsao and son Bohr-Young Tsao to cheer us at the Walk Start point.

It was a beautiful autumn day, and everyone had a great time for a good cause in the park. Afterward, Yufan, Anne, Sophia, Sunny, and I treated ourselves to a good feast at nearby Olive Garden. It was the perfect ending to a meaningful outing.



Anne Hu, Sophia Yang, Sunny Yang, Yufan Lu, and Carol Yuan



In the gathering field, before the Walk start  
Yufan Lu, Carol Yuan, Bohr-Young Tsao, Jen Tsao, Sophia Yang, Debbie Lu,  
Mr. Cai, and Anne Hu



At the start of the Walk



Passed midpoint  
Sophia Yang, Yufan Lu, Sunny Yang, Carol Yuan, Debbie Lu, and Mr. Cai



Sunny Yang, being the youngest in our group, was our dedicated team sign carrier! Thank you, Sunny!



Close to the end. We were still high!



After the Walk, in the Promise flowers garden



The meaning of each color of the Promise Garden Flowers



A good feast with great friends! Bonus of the day!  
Anne Hu, Sophia Yang, Yufan Lu, Carol Yuan, and Sunny Yang

#### Some facts and numbers about Alzheimer's and dementia

- In 2025, more than 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and nearly 12 million provide their unpaid care. The cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated to total \$384 billion in 2025.
- In 2025 in California, there are 12% of adults over 65 with Alzheimer's and 1.396 million caregivers, 18.6% of caregivers with depression, and 61% of caregivers with chronic health conditions.
- Based on population-level evidence, the following six health conditions and behaviors increase risk for cognitive decline and may also increase risk of dementia.

Midlife Hypertension (45-64 years old)

Physical Inactivity

Midlife Obesity (45-64 years old)

Diabetes

Smoking

Poor Sleep

(Data are from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS))

We hope to help enhance awareness and care of Alzheimer's and support for all affected. Please Join and Donate to our Walk to End Alzheimer's.

***Editor's Note:*** More news from Immediate Past President Jen Tsao about participation in two Walks to End Alzheimer's will be published in the next e-newsletter.

## **New Member Social**

*(from Anne Hu, Communication Chair)*

The OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter hosted a delightful New Member Social on Saturday, November 1, 2025, a sunny fall afternoon, in Carol Yuan's beautiful backyard. Thoughtfully organized by Sophia Yang, with charming fall décor and refreshments, and complemented by Anne Hu's curated tea selections, the gathering from 2 to 4 p.m. was filled with warmth, laughter, and meaningful connections.

A total of thirteen members attended, including eight long-time members – Aichu Wang, Cynthia Chang, Anne Hu, Sophia Yang, Alice Chiou, Carol Yuan, Jen Tsao, and Yufan Lu – along with five newer members: Isabelle Guh, Helen Chiang, Ling-Ling Sun, Jean Yu, and Annie Ying.

The event began with introductions, giving each member an opportunity to share their reasons for joining OCAW and their favorite chapter moments. Carol presented a meaningful audio recording on OCAW's founding history, tracing the organization's beginnings to the 1970s in Washington, D.C. Aichu, one of the chapter's earliest members since its establishment in 1986, reflected on her inspiring experience organizing a past OCAW national conference.

Members also exchanged ideas for future programs, including a potential May 2026 lecture series co-hosted by Jean Yu of the Chinese Health Initiative and Annie Ying, who serves on the board of the Friends of Saratoga Libraries. In addition, Yufan Lu and Anne Hu are planning to organize a series of cultural activities in the coming year, such as Chinese tea ceremonies, calligraphy workshops, and other cultural appreciation events to deepen members' engagement with Chinese heritage and traditions.

The afternoon concluded with a generous spread of homemade treats and fruits – Helen's almond-flour carrot cake, Yufan's rice cake, Jen's green bean soup, Carol's red bean soup, and Sophia's autumn-leaf-shaped chips and dip from Trader Joe's – enjoyed alongside friendly conversation and renewed camaraderie.



It was a joyful and enriching afternoon celebrating both OCAW's proud legacy and the growing bonds within the Silicon Valley Chapter. Beyond the laughter and shared stories, the social helped welcome new members into a supportive, mission-driven sisterhood of like-minded women dedicated to community outreach, personal growth, and meaningful contributions to the society we live in.



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

*(from Sharlene Chun, President)*

#### **Third General Membership Meeting**

On Sunday, August 24, 2025, 25 OCAW Hawaii members and guests met at the Palolo Chinese Home's Great Hall for a Buffet lunch and Tai Chi demonstration which included audience participation. The facilities they provided were outstanding.

Master Kevin and wife Mei Wang demonstrated how we could improve our health and balance. It was a program of invigorating slow motion exercises that helped our aging bodies to improve circulation and learn balance techniques and ease our body of aches and pains. He demonstrated Tai Chi in the fast and vigorous moves if we needed to protect ourselves.

Master Kevin teaches Tai Chi at Magic Island, Ala Moana Beach Park on Fridays and Saturdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Tai Chi is not only for the old but also the young. We had twin 5-year-old boys participating.

The delicious buffet lunch was enjoyed by all.









## The Nature of Flow

- Tai Chi isn't just exercise — it's like dancing with nature.
- Each move is **slow, smooth, and graceful**, like you're moving through water... or floating on a cloud.
- It helps us **pause the chaos** of everyday life and **come back to the moment** — right here, right now.
- Tai Chi teaches us to **slow down**, breathe, and reconnect with what it feels like to simply *BE* — relaxed, calm, and connected.
- It's not just about flexibility or strength — it's about **balance**, in our bodies, and our busy minds.
- When we practice Tai Chi we're not just moving — **we're syncing with nature's rhythm** and letting our stress melt away."





*(Photos taken by Sharlene Chun)*

About the **meeting's venue**:

#### **A Glimpse into Hawaii's Chinese History through the Palolo Chinese Home**

*(from Queenie Chee, Finance Chair)*

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter held its August 2025 General Membership Meeting at a senior care facility, the Palolo Chinese Home (PCH). While it may sound surprising, it made perfect sense to go there. The Hawaii Chapter has several strong and loyal connections to PCH, originally established in 1896 for elderly Chinese men of Hawaii.

In the mid-19th century, many Chinese men were contracted to work on the sugar plantations of Hawaii. They came mostly from the Guangdong Province of China, when Hawaii was still a kingdom. Many of these contract laborers stayed to make the Hawaiian Islands their home, seeking better economic opportunities and freedom from the Ching Dynasty. But some finished their contracts and found themselves destitute. The situation became even more critical when the United States made Hawaii a Territory in 1898, as the Chinese Exclusion Act affected the ability to bring family from China.

There was an increase in the aging Chinese male population with no family support and some with limited or no means of income. (Think: no retirement benefits, and Social Security did not start until the 1930s.) Meanwhile, a group of 326 local Chinese community leaders were moved by their tradition of filial piety, and

they donated funds and had converted an old Chinese hospital in Palolo Valley on the island of Oahu into a home for these men. It was first called the “Palolo Home” or “Palolo Chinese Old Men Home.” Gradually, that communal home became ‘assisted-living’ and then a ‘care home.’

In 1918, a Portuguese “paniolo” (cowboy) who fell off his horse and sustained long-term injuries, became the first non-Chinese resident to be admitted there. In 1972, Mrs. Hiram Fong, the late Hawaii U.S. Senator’s wife, led the drive to build a structure to house women on the property. Palolo Home opened its doors to elders without racial or gender discrimination. The present name, Palolo Chinese Home, was officially chosen to recognize its beginnings.

One of OCAW Hawaii Chapter’s staunch members, Carolyn Yap Ballou, served as the first female Palolo Chinese Home Administrator for 17 years. Carolyn passed away after a battle with cancer in 2019.



Several of our OCAW ladies have served or still are serving on the PCH Board; some of you may have met or remember Phyllis Shea, Gladys Lee, or Frances Goo. Frances is currently a PCH Corporate Director and continues to be an active OCAW member.

Today, OCAW Hawaii Chapter past president, and new OCAW National Secretary, Edwina Lee, has a daughter-in-law who works on staff at the Palolo Chinese Home. Thus the idea of holding a meeting and luncheon at the Home popped up. The Home has a lovely social hall that has started to cater events. This is a good source of additional revenue to support PCH in their care of the aging, not only on location, but with outreach services to the community!

For further information, check out the PCH website: <https://palolohome.org>

### **Celebrating Double Ten**

The National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan), “Double Ten,” was celebrated over a multi-day period, and it was a joyous time.

On Saturday, October 4, 2025, a **Lantern Parade** down Chinatown started at 6 p.m., and ended at the Chinese Cultural Plaza with food booths and vendors.



Hawaii Chapter President Sharlene Chun

On Sunday, October 5, a **Dr. Sun Yat-sen mini-parade** around the Chinese Cultural Plaza began at 9:30 a.m., ending at Dr. Sun Yat-sen's statue on which leis were draped, given by 39 Chinese Societies that participated in the parade.



Hawaii State Representative Jenna Takenouchi and Hawaii State Representative Cory Chun  
(Cory is the son of OCAW Hawaii Chapter President Sharlene Chun.)



Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke; Jerry Chang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu (TECOH); and Mei Kamaka, 2026 Miss Chinatown Hawaii Queen



Lion and Dragon dances with fireworks to bless the event



Leading the Double Ten Parade were the Lt. Governor, TECOH Director General, Hawaii State Senator Karl Rhoads, and 2026 Miss Chinatown Hawaii Queen.



The Parade ended at Dr. Sun Yat-sen's statue.



Honoring Dr. Sun Yat-sen with a multitude of leis draped on his statue

On Monday, October 6, there was a **TECOH (Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu) Double Ten celebration** (with appetizer buffet) in the Hibiscus Ballroom of the Ala Moana Hotel. Society Presidents and Hawaii State officials were among those in attendance.





State Rep. Cory Chun, 2026 Miss Chinatown Hawaii Queen Mei Kamaka, Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke, OCAW Hawaii Chapter President Sharlene Chun, and State Rep. Jenna Takenouchi

Director General Jerry Chang and his wife Jennifer with OCAW National Webmaster and OCAW Hawaii member Sharon Chun





The beautiful Miss Chinatown Court with Director General Jerry Chang and wife Jennifer  
(Photos taken by Sharlene Chun)

### Revisiting Shriners Children Hawaii

OCAW Hawaii members revisited Shriners Children Hawaii (Shriners Hospitals for Children – Honolulu) on Friday, October 24, 2025. In 2024, the chapter donated \$1,000 to the hospital in commemoration of its 100th year anniversary in Hawaii. A brick representing OCAW Hawaii's contribution is laid in the driveway.





OCAW Hawaii members Jerilyn Jeffryes, Emily Ko, Roberta Wong Leung, Sharlene Chun, and Wendie Liu

### **Honoring the Memory of Muriel “Mimi” Lee Hom**

*(from Queenie Chee)*

On Sunday, August 24, 2025, OCAW Hawaii Chapter Members present at the General Membership Meeting held at the Palolo Chinese Home, unanimously approved a donation of \$500 to the Mun Lun School for their music and dance programs to honor the memory of our late OCAW longtime member, Muriel “Mimi” Lee Hom.

Mun Lun School in Honolulu, Hawaii, is the oldest, largest, and continuous daily Chinese language school in the United States, founded in 1911. The curriculum encompasses both Chinese reading and writing with Chinese culture in the arts and traditions. From the very beginning, girls were included in their student body, which was uncommon in the early 20th century. Focusing on the basic Confucian virtues of Filial Piety, Diligence, Honesty, Patriotism, and Fellowship, the school imparts these virtues on their students who transition these to be good American citizens, as well as upstanding individuals.

We recognize Mimi’s lifelong devotion to promoting great music and opera and how she raised substantial funds to support and encourage these endeavors among the Chinese American community over the many years. With her family’s encouragement to pass it forward, our Chapter has done just that on our modest level.

Hawaii Chapter President Sharlene Chun has chosen to present the donation at the annual Mun Lun School Alumni Banquet which will be held after this newsletter has been published. We will be sure to have a photo of the occasion to share with the OCAW Chapters in the next issue.

Sending our warmest aloha and mahalo nui to Mimi Hom and her family from the Hawaii Chapter sisters.

***Editor’s Note:*** The family of Mimi Hom warmly thanks the Hawaii Chapter for its generous donation in her memory. She would be very appreciative of this contribution to a cause near and dear to her heart, and we are grateful to the chapter for this meaningful tribute.

We look forward to further news about this presentation in the next e-newsletter.

### **Upcoming event**

*(from Sharlene Chun)*

On Sunday, November 15, 2025, the OCAW Hawaii Chapter will have a luncheon at Assagio’s Italian restaurant in Kahala to hold its **elections for officers for 2026**.

## **The Republic of China's 114th Anniversary Celebration, and History**

**by Maria Yang**

*(Editor's Note: Maria is OCAW National President.)*

My husband Bill and I were honored to be invited by the Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in the United States to attend the celebration of the Republic of China's 114th anniversary at Twin Oaks, Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

The hosts of the celebration were Ambassador Alexander Yui and Madam Yui. The event was attended by many distinguished guests, including several U.S. Congressmen and former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who joined in honoring the Republic of China's National Day, known as the Double Tenth Day, celebrated on October 10.





Ambassador Alexander Yui and Madam Yui;  
Nancy Pelosi, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

The Republic of China (ROC) was established in 1912 following the fall of the Qing Dynasty, marking the end of over two thousand years of imperial rule. After years of internal conflict and civil war between the Nationalists and Communists, the ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949 when the People's Republic of China (PRC) was founded on the mainland. Under Chiang Kai-shek, Taiwan remained under one-party rule until the late 1980s, when political reforms ushered in democracy and direct presidential elections.

Today, the ROC continues to govern Taiwan as a vibrant and democratic society, even though most countries officially recognize the PRC as the government of China. The ROC governed mainland China from 1912 to 1949 (37 years) and has remained in Taiwan since 1949, while the PRC has ruled mainland China for 76 years.



The PRC Government has never governed Taiwan. The Japanese government colonized Taiwan for 50 years (1895-1945), and the ROC government has ruled Taiwan from 1945 to the present (80 years).

This year marks the 114th anniversary of the Republic of China – a milestone proudly celebrated by the people of Taiwan.



Stella Choi, Artistic Director and Dance Instructor of the Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe; Amy Choi, Assistant Director and Dance Instructor of the FCDT; Maria Yang, National President of OCAW; a member of the Children's Chorus from Taiwan; and Chin-siu Lee Choi, Founder and Director of the FCDT and a lifetime member of OCAW-VA

Here is a short history of the Republic of China (ROC) after 1912:

- **1912** – The Republic of China (ROC) was founded after the fall of the Qing Dynasty. Sun Yat-sen became the provisional president, marking the end of over two thousand years of imperial rule.
- **1912–1927** – China entered a period of **political fragmentation and warlordism**. The central government was weak, and regional military leaders held power in various parts of the country.
- **1927–1949** – The **Chinese Civil War** began between the **Nationalists (Kuomintang, KMT)** led by Chiang Kai-shek and the **Communists (CPC)** led by Mao Zedong. During this period, the ROC also fought the **Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945)**, part of World War II.
- **1945** – After Japan's defeat, Taiwan was returned to Chinese administration under the ROC.
- **1949** – The Communists won the civil war and established the **People's Republic of China (PRC)** on the mainland. The ROC government **retreated to Taiwan**, keeping control of Taiwan, Penghu, Jinmen, and Matsu islands.
- **1950s–1970s** – Under Chiang Kai-shek, the ROC maintained martial law and claimed to be the legitimate government of all China. The ROC held China's seat at the United Nations until **1971**, when it was transferred to the PRC.
- **1980s–1990s** – Taiwan began **political and economic liberalization**. Martial law ended in **1987**, and the first direct presidential election was held in **1996**.

- **2000–present** – Taiwan has become a **democratic society** with regular elections and peaceful transfers of power. The ROC continues to exist in Taiwan, though its international recognition is limited, with most countries recognizing the PRC instead.

*(Photos taken by Maria Yang)*

### **Muriel “Mimi” Hom’s Celebration of Life**

*(from Linda Devine)*

*(Mimi peacefully passed away on July 22, 2025 at age 98. Among several other positions, she was Founder and Director of Opera International, and OCAW National Vice President for Programs for 30 years.)*

Planning and executing a memorial service/Celebration of Life for Mimi Hom was a labor of love by her family and close friends. As Mimi had advanced in years and the subject of her future memorial service had come up, she told her children that she did not have any preferences as to what Bible readings or other items were selected. However, she cared *\*only\** about the music (not surprising!), and she was extremely specific about which pieces were to be performed, and by whom, and in what order! So we received our marching orders from her, and dared not deviate from them! ☺

With the music set, her son Steven Hom suggested a minister, close friend Hongfa Chu suggested a pianist, and daughter Linda Devine suggested a Remembrances speaker. Daughter and OCAW-MD lifetime member Janet Biermann and Linda then met with the chaplain at the venue for the service. From then on, Janet masterfully organized the Celebration of Life, coordinated the participants, and tended to all of the details.

Sunday, September 28, 2025, could not have been a sunnier, lovelier day, to serve as a backdrop for the service. That afternoon, many gathered to pay their respects to Mimi at the Chapel of The Village at Rockville, in Rockville, Maryland.



*(Photo taken by Li-Ly Chang)*



The venue was packed, with additional folding chairs eventually needed – a testament to the love and respect that so many people had for Mimi. In addition to family members, friends, and neighbors, numerous OCAW members were in attendance, as well as members of the Chinese Community Church in Washington, D.C., and the Hermon Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD. Opera International and the Maryland State Music Teachers Association were also represented. Furthermore, many from different parts of the country tuned in to participate online, although unfortunately The Village's wi-fi was problematic at that time, with only some people able to have some reception.

Frank Conlon, a wonderful pianist and longtime fixture on the Washington music scene, played lovely music as attendees gathered. Rev. Dr. Michael Koppel from Hermon Presbyterian Church presided over the service, and welcomed guests. Janet Biermann then presented a scripture reading.



*(Photos taken by Li-Ly Chang)*

This was followed by Haibo Bai's beautiful rendition of *I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*, sung in Chinese. Haibo is a longtime family friend and performed in several Opera International productions, and she continues her work as a sought-after voice teacher in Montgomery County, MD.



Hongfa Chu, longtime friend who also served as an indispensable Opera International manager, then gave Remembrances which were informative, touching, and humorous.



(Photos taken by Maria Yang)

Afterward, the audience joined together in the recitation of *Psalm 23*, and then Linda Devine gave Remembrances on behalf of the family. She covered Mimi's life and career from her time as a child prodigy on the piano, through to her entertaining The Village's fellow residents and staff with her piano-playing at age 98!



Rev. Charlene Barnes, Chaplain of The Village, presented another scripture reading, and Rev. Koppel followed with an uplifting homily, but also shared some humorous remarks about his time with Mimi. After the audience recited *The Lord's Prayer* together, Maria and Emily Chu, Haibo's and Hongfa's daughters, sang their beautiful duet of the much-beloved *Evening Prayer*.



(Photos taken by Maria Yang)

Rev. Koppel gave the Commendation, followed by Karla Chisholm's and Steven Hom's vocal/guitar presentation of *I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*, sung this time in English. (Some might remember Karla's and Steven's enjoyable performance at OCAW's 45th Anniversary Saturday night dinner in 2022.)



*(Photo taken by Li-Ly Chang)*

The Benediction and Blessing concluded the service, and Frank Conlon finished with a beautiful postlude.

A light reception organized by The Village followed the service, and attendees were able to gather, have refreshments, renew relationships, visit with one another, catch up on news, and share reminiscences. For many of us, we hadn't seen some individuals in decades, and it truly was a wonderful reunion! We also were heartened by the many attendees who praised the service as being very well-done – the Remembrances being comprehensive and heartwarming, and all of the music being superb.

#### **Notes on the program**

*(from Patricia Fenn, Incoming OCAW-MD President))*

(Note: Pat submitted this historical information on *Evening Prayer*, which was performed at the service.)

The *Evening Prayer*, sung by Maria and Emily Chu. is from the German opera, *Hansel and Gretel*.

Attribution: “*Evening Prayer* in the second act of Engelbert Humperdinck’s opera, *Hänsel und Gretel*, composed in 1892 and first performed on December 23, 1893...is a treasure that will live forever in the hearts of countless listeners. Called *Abendsegen* in its original German and *Evening Prayer* in English, it is also known as *The Children’s Prayer*. In the opera, it is what Hansel and Gretel sing before they go to sleep, alone and lost in the woods.”

Pat also recommended that I include a lovely poem which had been published in the program. The backstory:

Among the kind condolence messages that I had received, was one from **Kitty Hsu Dana**, OCAW-MD Vice President. In it, she had included a **Native American poem**.

I thought it was lovely, and when Janet and I were discussing the contents of the printed program, I told her of the poem and she, too, really liked it, so we included it to share with others.

*Perhaps they are not stars  
But openings in Heaven  
Where the love of our lost ones  
Pours through, and shines down upon us  
Telling us they are happy*

### **Beautiful flowers – thank you!**

Linda Devine, Janet Biermann, and Steven Hom would like to thank the **OCAW National Board** for the beautiful stand of flowers that adorned the front of the chapel for our mom's Celebration of Life.

It was arranged by President Maria Yang and Treasurer Joanne Wang, and we are very grateful for their efforts on behalf of the Board. Two cascading pink ribbons were imprinted with the words, "Dear Mimi. Your contributions were greatly appreciated. OCAW National Board."



*(Photo taken by Maria Yang)*

We also would like to express our appreciation to **Henriette Levy**, longtime OCAW-VA member, who regrettably could not be with us at the service, but who also sent a lovely stand of flowers.



*(Photo taken by Veronica Li)*

We are grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of the National Board and of Henriette!

(Note: Wonderful flowers were also sent by Nancy Marriott, Mimi's longtime friend and generous benefactor of Opera International, and Eddie King, who for years tirelessly took photos of Opera International's productions and whose beautiful work captured the operas to be immortalized in perpetuity.)

#### **With gratitude for your donations**

We were touched by unsolicited monetary contributions made by some thoughtful people to help us cover the cost of the reception. **Former OCAW National President Faith Breen** was among those donating, in memory of Mimi, whom she knew since her childhood days. Thank you, Faith!

#### **Thank you very much for your attendance**

We would like to extend our appreciation to all of the individuals who came to the service, some from far away, like Mimi's niece Diane who flew in from California. Chenye Yuan, one of the singers whom Mimi had helped years ago, is now a celebrated opera singer in China. He had been planning a trip to the U.S. this season, but when he found out about Mimi's Celebration of Life, he and his wife rearranged their travel plans so that they could attend the service, arriving at Dulles International Airport at 5 a.m. that morning!

To all of those who attended, including OCAW Maryland and Virginia members, thank you so much; your presence was really touching!

#### **Live streaming**

Amanda Devine and Jake Wexler, Mimi's granddaughter and her husband, had put a lot of effort into

arranging a livestream of the service, for those who could not attend in person, either because they had health and/or mobility issues, or because they lived in other parts of the country. However, we were all disappointed that the streaming operated only barely, due to the spotty wifi that day, which unfortunately is often the case at The Village.

However, **we would like to thank those of you who tuned in**, attempting to join the Celebration of Life remotely. We regret that only small fragments of the service came through, but we appreciated your efforts.

### Video of the service

Fortunately, however, knowing that we might have streaming problems, we had had backup plans in place, and from extensive video recordings made by Hongfa Chu and Guozhang Yu, along with some footage by Mimi's son-in-law Ed Devine, Ed was able to create a lovely video presentation of the service.

The link has been disseminated widely via Amanda's YouTube account, and those who were not able to be at the service in person have been able to see the recording. As of this writing, it has received 286 views. It will now be a permanent capture of the wonderful afternoon we spent together, remembering Mimi.

If you are interested in checking out the video, we would love to share it with you. Please email me at [devinefive@comcast.net](mailto:devinefive@comcast.net), and I will send you the link. Out of respect for the speakers and performers at the service, Amanda has requested that the link not be disseminated broadly on social media or similar platforms.



OCAW Maryland and Virginia attendees

Dick Roberts, Cathy Roberts, Camilla Ng, Steve Chang, Linda Devine, Noreen Hom, singer Haibo Bai, Maria Yang, Dorothy Hsiao, Christina Chang, and Susan Young

*(Photo taken by Tommy Devine)*



OCAW Maryland and Virginia attendees

*(back row)* Singer Emily Chu, Veronica Li, Rose Li, Albert Lee, and Samantha Lee  
*(middle row)* Singer Maria Chu, Joanne Wang, Christina Chang, Maria Yang, ChiHua Yang, Pam Wong, Christina Poy, Dorothy Hsiao, and Noreen Hom  
*(front row)* Patricia Fenn, Janet Biermann, and Linda Devine

*(Photo courtesy of Patricia Fenn)*

**Thank you for your condolences**

*(from Linda Devine)*

The family of Mimi Hom wishes to thank the hundreds of condolence messages that we have received from so many caring and thoughtful people. They have meant so much to us!

I would especially like to thank OCAW members for their heartfelt outpouring of sympathy. I wish that there was sufficient space in the pages of this issue to publish the many beautifully worded messages that I received, expressing meaningful condolences and praising my mom's generous spirit and her lifelong accomplishments. However, a heartfelt 'thank-you' will simply have to do!

Our family is very grateful to the OCAW Hawaii Chapter for sending us its wonderful artwork by Sharon Chun, expressing its condolences. Thank you!



**Organization of Chinese American Women  
Hawaii Chapter**

September 30, 2025

Dear Linda and family,



On behalf of the OCAW Hawaii Chapter we send our heartfelt condolences to you keeping you in our prayers and thoughts at this time of bereavement. When the video of your mother Mimi Hom's Celebration of Life services is available please let me know and I will forward it to our members. Although the Hawaii Chapter is across the ocean please know we feel your sorrow. Take care and may God be with you to comfort you.

Aloha,  
Sharlene Chun

**Wishes from Hawaii chapter members.**

- Dear Linda, Your Mom was a very generous person and even though I only met her once, I was impressed by her dedication to the Opera International. We will miss her and I am very sorry for your loss. Only time can heal the pain of losing a loved one. With my deepest sympathy. Edwina Lee
- Your mom was gentle and had a great smile. She was sharp and touched others subtly. When we visited, I purposely went to greet her. Sharon Chun
- My deepest sympathy to the family of Mimi Hom, and hoping that you all will be comforted by sharing memories of her blessed and well-lived life. Susan Chong Wong
- It was my pleasure to meet Mimi Hom and Linda Devine when I attended the OCAW National conference in Washington, D.C. In Peace. Wendie Liu
- My deepest sympathy for your loss. Thinking of you during this difficult time. May the soul of your loved one rest in peace. With Love. Tina Au



Likewise we were very touched to receive a lovely certificate signed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Secretary of State of Maryland. We wish to thank Christina Poy, OCAW-MD Advisor as well as Administrative Director for two of the Governor's Commissions, for initiating this very thoughtful keepsake!



Christina has said that Mimi meant a lot to her, and she regarded her as a role model. Christina and Mimi served together for many years on the OCAW National Board in the 1990s, with Christina being one of the youngest officers ever to serve. She said that Mimi looked out for her, helped her in many ways, and taught her the valuable concept of "paying it forward." Mimi lost her parents at an early age, but there were many people who helped her along the way, so she subsequently devoted her life to helping others in return. Christina says that watching Mimi conduct her life in this way inspired her to do the same.

### **Donation in Memory of Mimi Hom**

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter will be making a generous \$500 donation to the Mun Lun School in Honolulu for its music and dance programs in memory of Mimi Hom. Detailed information is contained in this issue in *News from the Hawaii Chapter*, and more will be forthcoming in the next e-newsletter.

The family of Mimi Hom sincerely thanks OCAW Hawaii for its thoughtfulness in remembering Mimi in this way!



Rest in peace, Mimi.

*(Photo taken by Patricia Fenn)*