

E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

September 2022



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501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

(from Linda Devine, Editor)

I hope everyone is doing well as we make the adjustment into fall.

Thank you to those who submitted material for this issue. I also wish to thank my husband Ed for his work in preparing the photos.

I continue to encourage OCAW members to write articles or submit information for the e-newsletter if there is something you think would be of interest to the membership. I continue to pursue my goal of publishing a wide variety of material if possible.

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

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OCAW 45th Anniversary Celebration

(from Linda Devine, on behalf of the 45th Anniversary Committee)

Plans are steadily evolving for the celebration of our 45th anniversary this year. Although specific proposed activities are still in flux, a general outline has begun to emerge, and the celebration committee is happy to share it with you in its current form (but subject to change).

OCAW members from the New Orleans, Silicon Valley, and Hawaii Chapters will be arriving in the Washington, DC area on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

Friday, October 21

The day will be spent sightseeing in downtown DC. Specific sights which are being researched for potential tours are **The White House**, the **U.S. Capitol**, and the **Library of Congress**. However, these visits are subject to special arrangements, so at this point we are in the process of seeing if such tours will be possible.

The **Washington Monument** and the **Lincoln Memorial** are also on our tentative list of places to be visited, but certainly other sights are possible.

In the evening, Cathy Roberts, National Vice President for Membership, will host a **meet-and-greet reception** at her lovely home in Oakton, VA.

Saturday, October 22

The day will begin with a tour of the **Chinese American Museum DC** in downtown DC.

This will be followed by visits to **Smithsonian museums** of interest to participants. Some which have been suggested for consideration are the Museum of Natural History, the Museum of American History, the Museum of Asian Art (the Freer and Sackler Galleries), the National Gallery of Art, the new Museum of African American History and Culture, and others.

In the late afternoon or early evening, there might possibly be a walk around **Chinatown** or a visit to the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**. This will be followed by **dinner at a restaurant**, probably in Virginia.

Sunday, October 23

We will convene at the Penthouse party room of OCAW-VA member Amy Lee's building in Alexandria, VA.

In the morning, we will have a **meeting** to discuss OCAW's future, and also have short presentations by each of the chapters about their mission, goals, and activities.

We will break for lunch and perhaps take a walk around **Old Town Alexandria**.

In the afternoon, there will be a few **presentations given by individual speakers** on educational and cultural topics.

In the evening, a **dinner buffet** will be offered, and participants will be able to enjoy the beautiful night view of Washington, DC from atop the 23rd floor.

This will conclude the three-day official portion of the celebration.

Especially for our out-of-town visitors (local members are very much welcome as well, but you might have to provide your own transportation):

Monday will provide the opportunity for OCAW members to enjoy sights a drive away from DC. It is proposed that they will visit **Luray Caverns**, and drive along **Skyline Drive of the Shenandoah Valley** and hopefully be able to view the beautiful fall colors.

Tuesday will feature sightseeing at **Great Falls**, with dinner at Christina Chang's home.

Our out-of-town members will depart for home on Wednesday.

For the two days of sightseeing downtown, it appears that the best mode of transportation could be the **Big Bus Tours' Hop-on, Hop-off bus** which circulates around the downtown DC area and makes stops at numerous sights. The cost for one day is \$48.60, and the cost for two days is \$57.60. A 10% discount on the price of a ticket is available if you purchase it online.

If you would like to learn about what this bus offers, here is the link to the website:
www.bigbustours.com/en/washington-dc

One has the option of taking this bus, riding the metro, or walking – or a combination of all three, depending upon which sights and how many you would like to see. We encourage flexibility, so that individual participants can visit the specific sights that they prefer, perhaps in small groups, and not necessarily be tied to one large group.

We are discussing the possibility of having a registration fee to offset expenses such as food, room rental, etc. Perhaps contributions of a smaller amount might be requested of those participating in only one or two events.

We are continuing to move forward to work out specific details, and will of course be sending out information to all of the chapters as plans become more definite.

For questions:

Contact OCAW at 301-907-3898, or write to us at: OCAWWomen@aol.com

or

Contact your chapter president.

We heartily welcome all OCAW members, their family members, and guests to participate in any or all of the activities and events. We are looking forward to a wonderful occasion, meeting new people, reuniting with old friends and acquaintances, and celebrating the milestone that is OCAW's 45th anniversary. We hope that you will join us!

News from the Virginia Chapter

(Maria Yang, President)

Summer Lunch Gathering

(from Cathy Roberts, Treasurer)

Maria Yang, President of the Virginia Chapter, organized a summer lunch gathering and kindly treated the chapter lifetime members to a delicious Dim Sun luncheon. It was held on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at the Vinh Kee Chinese Seafood Restaurant in Falls Church, Virginia. Fourteen members and two spouses attended the event.

We enjoyed the delicious dishes and each other's company. We laughed, chatted, and shared our COVID-19 lockdown stories. One of our members came back to the area from Charlotte, North Carolina to join us, and another brought an old picture which was taken 19 years ago at another get-together to share our memories. Looking at the photo, we were surprised and could not avoid saying, "Wow, we were so young!"

The lunch ended with laughter and reminded us that we should get together again soon. Thanks to Maria for her generosity and for organizing such a wonderful outing.



(Photos taken by Maria Yang)



(Photo courtesy of Amy Lee)

News from the New Orleans Chapter

(from Pat Ellzey, President)

On Sunday, August 29, 2021. Hurricane Ida struck southeast Louisiana as a powerful Category 4 storm. It brought destructive storm surge, high winds, and heavy rainfall to the region and left over one million customers without power, including the entire city of New Orleans. One of the victims of this massive weather event was the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, LA. Members of the OCAW New Orleans Chapter are actively involved in the church and its activities and events.

As a result of the hurricane, the church's three-shingle, flat, and metal roofs leaked, and rain soaked the ceilings which collapsed and destroyed all three offices, numerous books, photos, furniture, wall hangings, and carpets. The rain flooded the hallways, part of the sanctuary, and the large fellowship hall. Then, with all the water soaked into the ceilings, walls, carpets, and attic, the sweltering September heat caused mold to start growing everywhere. In addition, next to and surrounding the church, tree limbs fell and the fence broke in several places.



OCAW New Orleans members helped to clean up and start to restore the church back to normal. It has been a year since Ida hit, and we were able to use the church only in recent weeks. There is still more restoration work to do. We are also pursuing obtaining additional insurance money, as repairs have been a huge expenditure.



News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(Jen Tsao, President)

Annual Event in a Park and New President Transition

(from Anne Hu, outgoing President)

On July 24, 2022, on a sunny Sunday afternoon, OCAW-SVC held an outdoor event in a park for officers and members. Due to the pandemic, we decided to have our annual Officer Installation, Youth Achievement Award Presentation, and member social in an outdoor setting at the Edith Morley Park in Campbell, CA.

Unfortunately, outgoing President Anne Hu had contracted COVID, so she was not able to attend the transition to the next President Jen Tsao, a longtime member of OCAW-SVC. Jen received her President's seal from SVC board member and former President Cynthia Chang. Jen has already mapped out events for the entire year, and her vision in expanding our membership and recruiting. The new slate of officers is enthusiastic under Jen's leadership!





New President Jen Tsao and Cynthia Chang

The recipient of the chapter's 2022 Youth Achievement Award and scholarship is Anouk Yeh. She graduated from Saratoga High School this summer and will be double majoring in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration and Film and Media at Yale University in the fall. Anouk is not only excellent in academic performance, but is also versatile and is talented in many different ways, such as teaching a weekly poetry workshop at the Santa Clara Juvenile Hall. She also worked as a freelance journalist and served as the president of LEO District 4-C6 (a youth community service organization).



After the scholarship award presentation, it was members social time. Former President Sophia Yang prepared refreshments and snacks for everyone, and bingo games followed. We enjoyed a nice outdoor event!

News from the Hawaii Chapter

(Edwina Lee, President)

Second General Membership Meeting

(from Queenie Mow Chee, Secretary)

OCAW Hawaii Chapter members and guests met on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at the King Restaurant & Bar on Kapi'olani Boulevard in Honolulu. This was the second of the chapter's four quarterly general membership meetings for 2022.

The meeting was conducted and then welcomed our esteemed guest speaker, the former First Lady of the State of Hawaii, Mrs. Vicky Cayetano, and her child prodigy sister, Ms. Ginny Tiu. (As a young child, Ms. Tiu performed on the piano on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and toured the U.S. with her siblings.)



Mrs. Vicky Cayetano, our speaker and honoree, addresses OCAW members, former members, and guests.

(Photo taken by Queenie Chee)

OCAW Hawaii honored Mrs. Cayetano for achieving the American dream as an immigrant Chinese American woman from the Philippines. From developing her commercial laundry business into one of the largest in the State of Hawaii, to raising her family as a single mother, she was well prepared to serve as First Lady of the State of Hawaii for eight years, being the spouse of the first governor of Hawaii of Filipino descent. We applaud her grit, graciousness, and genius.

As a bonus, she delighted us with a story of her brush with early fame. As a child, she had a pivotal role in the movie “It Happened at the World’s Fair” with the legendary Elvis Presley. Vicky was just a little girl who was overwhelmed and couldn’t get her lines in the script right. As she told us, she broke into tears during the filming. That evening Elvis took her to dinner at the Seattle Space Needle restaurant where he consoled and encouraged her. The next day, she nailed her lines. Little Vicky was inspired by the “King of Rock and Roll”!



Barinna Poon, President of the Hong Kong Business Association, addresses remarks to our guest speaker.

(Photo taken by Queenie Chee)

Our members were impressed and entertained. Some guests at the meeting were young ladies with bright futures. It is our hope that they also found inspiration from Mrs. Cayetano's talk.

OCAW must take note and not forget:

In 1999, while serving as First Lady of Hawaii, she opened the doors of the Governor's official residence to OCAW, the historic Washington Place, once home to Hawaii's last reigning monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani. An elegant reception kicked off that year's Biennial OCAW National Convention.

Note: At the time of our meeting, Mrs. Cayetano was a candidate for governor of Hawaii on the Democratic ticket. The Hawaii Chapter had invited her to speak and inspire, not to campaign. The Hawaii Primary Election was held on August 13, 2022. Mrs. Cayetano came in second in the number of votes needed to represent the Democratic nomination for Governor of the State of Hawaii in November's upcoming General Election.



Alena Auyong, Kamehameha School Data Governance; Laura Lyn Tan, Narcissus Festival 1st Princess 2022; Vicky Cayetano, honoree and guest speaker; and Jenalyn Ng, Narcissus Queen 2022

(Photo taken by Queenie Chee)

Sarah Liu, Miss Hawaii Chinese Princess; Vicky Cayetano; Kaylee Lin, Miss Hawaii Chinese Queen; and Joyce Lin, Miss Hawaii Chinese Princess

(Photo courtesy of Edwina Lee)





Head Table with Associated Chinese University Women (ACUW) and OCAW Presidents,
and Miss Hawaii Chinese Pageant winners

(Photo taken by Robbieana Leung)



Lei Galang and her guests, Roberta Wong Leung and Robbieana Leung, and Sharon Chun

(Photo courtesy of Roberta Wong Leung)



Hawaii Chapter President Edwina Lee and Vice President Susan Chong Wong.
Hard at work and seated and masked on the left, Communications Chair and
National Webmaster Sharon Chun.

(Photo taken by Queenie Chee)



Queenie Chee and her guests

(Photo taken by Robbieana Leung)

Third General Membership Meeting

(from Queenie Mow Chee)

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter held its third General Membership Meeting on Sunday, August 21, 2022. Our featured speakers were the Principal and President of the oldest and largest Chinese language school in America, Mun Lun School.

The Principal is a first-generation Chinese American lady, while the President is the first female in the history of the school to hold this position.

More information on this meeting will be published in the next issue of the *OCAW E-Newsletter*.

Human Rights Resolution

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter feels that it exists in part to stand up for important issues, such as the safeguarding of Human Rights. Member Vicky Ho wrote a resolution taking a stance in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, considered settled law in the United States for nearly 50 years. The Resolution was discussed by the Hawaii Board, was announced to the membership via the chapter's newsletter, and was discussed and passed by the chapter at their General Membership Meeting on August 21, 2022.

RESOLUTION

Human Rights (Roe v. Wade)

Per USCourts.gov:

Annotated:

“The main point and purpose of the 14th amendment that was ratified in 1868, was to grant citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States – including former enslaved people – and guaranteed all citizens “equal protection of the laws.” ”

Three important points include:

1. It keeps membership in the United States from being defined by race or ethnicity.
2. Governments cannot violate human and civil rights.
3. Equal rights are for all.

To redefine the U.S. as “white again” goes against the 14th Amendment.

Further, Title IX specifically prohibits sex discrimination.

On the recent reversal of “*Roe v. Wade*” by the U.S. Supreme Court:

Hawaii was the first state of the union to allow women the right to choose abortion within a definition of safety.

The late Governor John A. Burns, who was a staunch Catholic, allowed the passage of this Bill to become Hawaii State Law in 1970.

The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* Editor, A.A. Smyser, wrote on March 21, 2000, thirty years later (excerpt):

“THIRTY years ago, on March 11, 1970, Gov. John A. Burns, a Catholic, sent the state Legislature the most memorable message ever received from a governor.

He began: “House Bill 61, relating to Hawaii’s century-old abortion law, is now Act 1 of 1970. The measure became law without my signature.

“I have declined to sign this bill after much study and soul-searching, after receiving competent advice from island and national specialists in law, medicine, theology, human rights, and public affairs, and also sincere prayer to the creator named in our nation’s Declaration of Independence as the source of our inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Hawaii thus became the first state to make abortion legal. It was followed the same year by Alaska, New York, and Washington. On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the right to abortion is protected by the Constitution.

Burns wrote: “I have made my decision. I stand by it. It is the decision of the governor of Hawaii, not the private and personal whim of John A. Burns. It reflects my best judgment as governor, made after consultation with the best minds in the state, in regard to what is best for all the people of Hawaii.” ”

That year, Alaska and New York followed in passing that law in their states. In 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States made it a Federal Law.

This year, almost 50 years later, the U.S. Supreme Court has chosen to reverse this decision. We must take a stand to note that this is not right.

Therefore, the OCAW Hawaii Chapter recognizes its mission and has passed a resolution in protest of the violations of human rights and that of minorities and women.

The Hawaii Chapter Board took this under discussion and shared it with the members in the August 2022 chapter newsletter. A Resolution was presented, and a motion made and voted on, on August 21, 2022 at the Hawaii Chapter General Membership Meeting.

The Organization of Chinese American Women Hawaii Chapter reaffirms that the following individual liberty and rights are absolute and protected under the U.S. 14th Amendment with respect to:

- Women’s access and choice of reproductive health care as affirmed by *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. The basic freedom to decide by the individual woman and her doctor should not be interfered with by third parties.
- The personal freedom to choose a marriage partner (be it inter-racial or same-sex) should be codified and passed by the U.S. Senate as in the Respect for Marriage Act.

From and About Our Members

United Chinese Americans: 2022 Convention and National Youth Convention

(from Karina Hou, Maryland Chapter President, and Brian Smith)

The third UCA Chinese American Convention and the Inaugural UCA National Youth Convention were held from July 14 to 16, 2022, in Washington, D.C. Together, they successfully attracted over 650 participants including more than 250 youth participants from over 40 states. The convention offered 34 program sessions, including congressional visits and reception; displayed 60 community showcase projects; and held 21 roundtable discussion groups.

It symbolizes the rise of a new generation of Chinese Americans and the aspiration of a civically engaged community for full participation in American life. Heartfelt thanks to our donors and sponsors for your generous support, to more than 80 convention volunteers and staff for your tireless hard work day and night, and to all the convention participants from near or far, coast to coast, because you all made this community event truly remarkable!



UCA's theme for this year's conventions was to build a civically engaged community. At the convention, participants heard inspirational speeches from congressional representatives including Judy Chu, Grace Meng,

Andy Kim, Raja Krishnamoorthi, and Jamie Raskin. They heard the heroic story from Professor Anming Hu and those involved from Knoxville, TN on how they defeated the Department of Justice's first trial under the China Initiative. They learned how the U.S.-China competition will impact the well-being of our community at this moment and in the future.

Attendees learned how to save our children's lives by increasing knowledge of and decreasing stigma on AAPI mental health, and by fostering intergenerational relations and conversations. They discussed how to engage state legislatures to include AAPI history in K-12 education in our efforts to fight anti-Asian hate. They exchanged lived experiences in showcasing their communities and AAPI youth organization projects.

Participants celebrated their achievements at the fun-filled gala with more than 500 people in attendance. And they launched their first youth convention and were impressed by the passion, talent, and pride in our next generation.



Karina Hou (*third from the left*) with musicians

Award for Community Service

Congratulations to Maryland Chapter President Karina Hou, who received the President's Award for Community Contribution from United Chinese Americans on Saturday, July 16, 2022 in connection with their Chinese American Convention. Karina has been a prominent Asian American leader for many years, and it is fitting that she be recognized for her hard work and diligent efforts on behalf of the Chinese American community.





TECRO Art Exhibition and Reception

(from Maria Yang, Virginia Chapter President)

I was invited by the Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in the United States to attend the opening of an art exhibition at Twin Oaks Estate, Washington, DC on Friday, August 12, 2022.

The theme of the art exhibition is “Nature Matters.” As stated in the exhibition catalogue, nature nurtures all forms of life, which coexist without any individual living in the soil. Nature is also where many artists find their inspiration and creativity. Artists’ creative efforts may also be a tribute to Nature, highlighting human dependence on and respect for it.

The Taiwanese artists presenting their artwork in the exhibition are Iyo Kacaw, Yosifu Kacaw, Sophie Chang, Ya-hsin Hsiao, Idas Losin, Guang-ming Yuan, Shun-fa Yang, and Chih-hang Lin.

The following pictures were taken during the opening reception of the event.

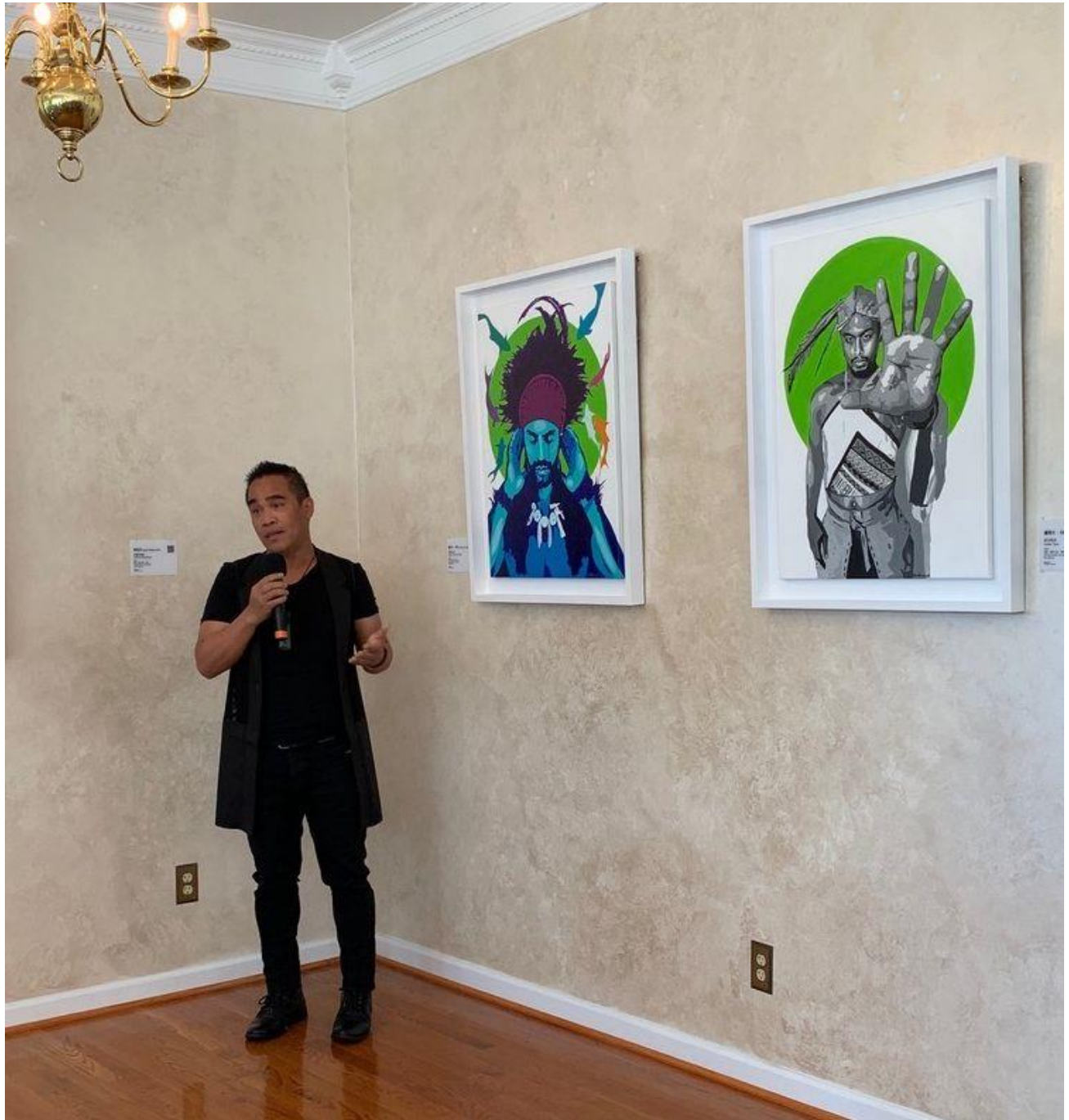




Maria Yang (President of OCAW-VA); Aaron Chen (Director, Education Division, TECRO); Cheryl Choy (Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Studies, George Mason University); and Tsun-yu Lee (Administrative Officer, Education Division, TECRO)



The Land Eaten by the Sea (cypress) by Iyo Kacaw



Yosifu Kacaw and his two paintings: *Songs of the Coral Reefs* and *Green Tears*



Packing II (camphor wood) by Chih-hang Lin



Sanjia Village, Chiayi County (giclée print on acid-free paper) by Shun-fa Yang



Landscape of Energy-Pause (digital print on paper) by Guang-ming Yuan

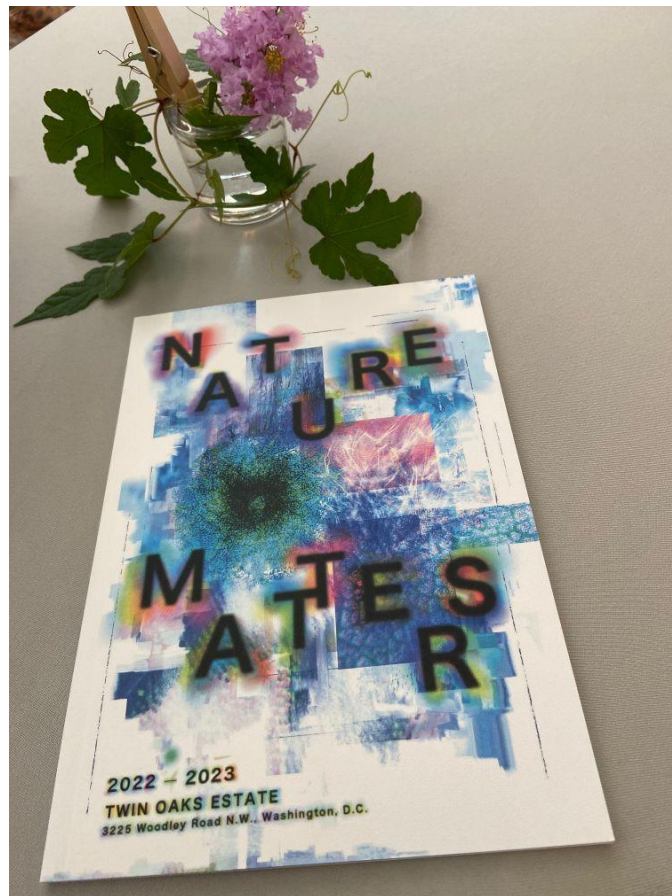
(Photos taken by Maria Yang)

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(from Christina Poy, Maryland Chapter Treasurer)

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) and the Taiwan Fine Arts Foundation (Art Bank Taiwan) invited eight Taiwanese artists specializing in modern art to join an exhibition themed “Nature Matters.” They hope that these Taiwanese pieces may remind us of the beauty of our environment and how important it is for us to protect it.

On Friday, August 12, 2022, OCAW Virginia President Maria Yang, OCAW Maryland Treasurer Christina Poy, and Cheryl Choy (Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Studies, George Mason University) attended an opening reception of the “Nature Matters” exhibit at the Twin Oaks Estate (the residence of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office ambassador) in Washington, DC.



Christina Poy with artist Yosifu Kacaw

Yosifu Kacaw was born in the Amis tribe of Matalim in Yuli, Hualien, Taiwan.
He centers his art on Taiwanese indigenous peoples.



Ambassador Bi-khim Hsiao
presenting opening remarks

Maria Yang, Christina Poy, and
Cheryl Choy



(Photos courtesy of Christina Poy)

President Biden Event

(from Karina Hou, Maryland Chapter President)

President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden headlined an event which promoted his “Building a Better America” legislation. It was held at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, August 25, 2022.

Karina was pleased to be one of the invitees to this important occasion. There were many special speakers who gave remarks, and she enjoyed the event very much.



About this legislation: “President Biden forged consensus and compromise between Democrats, Republicans, and Independents to demonstrate our democracy can deliver big wins for the American people. After decades of talk on rebuilding America’s crumbling infrastructure, he delivered the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – a historic investment in America that will change people’s lives for the better and get America moving again.”

