

# E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

September 2024



P. O. Box 3443, Oakton, VA 22124  
Email: [ocawwomen@aol.com](mailto:ocawwomen@aol.com)  
Website: [www.ocawwomen.org](http://www.ocawwomen.org)  
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

*(from Linda Devine, Editor)*

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer. My thanks as always to those who contributed material for the e-newsletter, and I appreciate my husband Ed's work on preparing the many photos in this issue and additionally creating videocaptures.

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).

## **Table of Contents**

	Page
July 2024 National Board Meeting.....	1
News from the Maryland Chapter.....	3
News from the Virginia Chapter.....	12
News from the New Orleans Chapter.....	19
News from the Silicon Valley Chapter.....	24
News from the Hawaii Chapter.....	37
Follow-up: Library of Congress Asian American Association event.....	41
From and About Our Members.....	42

## **July 2024 National Board Meeting**

*(from Maria Yang, National President)*

*(Editor's Note: The OCAW National Board consists of the national officers and the Presidents of the five chapters. The third quarterly meeting of the year was held via Zoom in July. Maria has provided a summary of the meeting below.)*

The OCAW National Quarterly Board Meeting was held on Sunday, July 21, 2024, via Zoom and was chaired by Karina Hou, President of the Maryland Chapter, who was in charge of the meeting. The team discussed the leadership of various chapters, potential role transitions, and the need for improved organization and

communication at the national level. They also shared updates on chapter activities and upcoming events.

At the start of the meeting, **National President** Maria Yang shared the sad news that Barbara York, President of the Virginia Chapter, had lost her husband, who passed away peacefully in his sleep on Mother's Day, May 12. OCAW National extended its condolences by sending flowers. Linda Devine, National Vice President for **Communications**, commended Barbara for her exceptional leadership of the Virginia Chapter, especially in the face of her personal hardships.

The board then discussed the agenda for the next meeting, granting Maria discretion over final decisions. With regard to **OCAW programs**, Linda shared updates on the health issues of her mother (Mimi Hom, Vice President for Programs) and the possibility of organizing another concert.

Linda also gave updates on the e-newsletter schedule, while Sharon Chun, National **Webmaster**, gave a presentation on the website's functionality. Christina Chang, Immediate Past National President and current advisor, clarified the current status of the Opera International Fund.

Susan Chong Wong, National **Secretary**, announced her intention to resign from this position due to her frequent travels. The board discussed the possibility of transitioning roles within the organization. Sharon Chun proposed that Edwina Lee, Immediate Past President of the Hawaii Chapter, take on the role of National Secretary, allowing Susan to remain involved as an advisor. Susan agreed to the suggestion, and the team decided to explore the plan further.

Sharlene Chun, President of the **Hawaii Chapter**, reported on the activities of the chapter, including a luncheon with the President of the New Orleans Chapter, Pat Ellzey; a Tao dance concert; and a fundraiser event planned for September. She emphasized the organization's focus on cultural learning and helping older women. Linda commended Sharlene for her successful work as Hawaii Chapter Membership Chairman the previous year, which led to a significant increase in membership.

Yufan Lu, the new President of the **Silicon Valley Chapter**, expressed concerns about assuming the role, citing her age and the chapter's aging membership. She suggested promoting younger members and encouraging their active participation in community activities. Hawaii President Sharlene acknowledged Yufan's concerns and emphasized engaging middle-aged and younger generations in community activities. Yufan also shared her vision for an organization she is involved with that provides services for older adults. She emphasized her commitment to keeping the organization active and relevant for future generations. Linda and other members praised Yufan's efforts and encouraged her to take on the role of SVC President, and to call on the valuable experience of the current officers who would lend strong assistance to her. Linda also requested that Yufan provide a list of the chapter's new officers and committee chairs so that she could publish it in the national e-newsletter.

Yuling Khorsandi, Vice President of the **New Orleans Chapter**, updated the board with chapter news, highlighting President Pat Ellzey's success in recruiting young professionals. The discussion also covered Pat's visit to the Hawaii Chapter and Yuling's organized tour of a garden mansion in New Orleans. She recommended that members connect with OCAW sisters in other cities for meaningful interactions when traveling. Yuling also shared that a local Chinese architect will be volunteering to guide the chapter on a visit to the French Quarter in the fall, and this promises to be a beneficial and engaging event. Linda asked Yuling to request a brief announcement from Pat about this event for the upcoming e-newsletter.

Cathy Roberts, Treasurer of the **Virginia Chapter**, reported on a chapter event which was a welcome luncheon for Lily Tan on July 1 at the Lotus Garden restaurant in Vienna, Virginia. Cathy shared that Lily, a member of the OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter, was recognized by United Chinese Americans for her

outstanding books and contributions to the Chinese American and AAPI communities. Cathy also discussed the chapter's plan for an upcoming event to celebrate the Chinese Moon Festival on September 15, and expressed gratitude for President Barbara's contributions to the Virginia Chapter.

Karina Hou, President of the **Maryland Chapter**, reported the chapter's activities, including a membership meeting lunch on June 15 at Peter Chang's restaurant in Bethesda, Maryland. She then concluded the meeting.

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

*(Karina Hou, President)*

#### **Lunch at Q by Peter Chang**

*(from Linda Devine)*

On Saturday, June 15, 2024, the OCAW Maryland Chapter hosted a lunch at the Q by Peter Chang restaurant in Bethesda, Maryland. Karina Hou, OCAW-MD President, and Linda Devine, MD Lifetime member and National Vice President for Communications, had made arrangements for the event.

Many OCAW-MD members did not know one another, so the main purpose of the occasion was for them to meet and learn about each other. Members were also invited to bring a guest, and many chose to invite individuals whom they wanted to introduce to the chapter, with the potential that these ladies could become interested and involved with OCAW. About twenty attendees participated.

Linda began the proceedings by welcoming the guests, and announcing that due to an unavoidable conflict, OCAW National President Maria Yang was unable to attend the lunch and sent her regrets. However, Maria wanted to extend her greetings to all, and said she hoped that she would be able to meet everyone at a future time.

Linda Devine

*(Videocapture by Sarah Dong)*



Linda then introduced special guest Cathy Roberts, a longtime OCAW member who serves as the National Vice President for Membership, in addition to being the Treasurer of the OCAW Virginia Chapter. Also our guest was her husband Dick, who has been a supporter of OCAW for many years, and has done much to help the organization. He has co-hosted many OCAW events in his and Cathy's lovely home, and as a talented photographer has provided many pictures of OCAW events. As Linda proclaimed, OCAW husbands are often the unsung heroes of our organization!



Cathy Roberts

*(Photos taken by Christina Poy)*



Karina Hou

Linda then turned the meeting over to Karina, who officially welcomed all to the event. Karina said that as President of the OCAW Maryland Chapter, she wanted to welcome members old and new, and all of their guests. She thanked Linda for her help in arranging the lunch, and for her assistance overall with the Maryland Chapter. She then thanked Christina Poy, former OCAW-MD President and current Advisor, for introducing her to OCAW. Because of Christina, Karina said she has enjoyed serving as Maryland President.

Karina commented that as she looks around the room, she sees that every woman there is capable and powerful. She encouraged all of us to combine our power to create a bigger whole, with which we could accomplish much. She welcomed those attendees who were with us for the first time, to join our big family



with love, care, and support – and especially in today’s current environment, to advocate for peace.

Because of the interruption of COVID, we were stymied in having as many activities and events as we would have liked in the recent past, but going forward she hopes that we can do more. She has current ideas that she is developing, and she welcomes all to participate.

At the conclusion of Karina’s remarks, we proceeded with individuals’ narratives. Attendees had been invited to prepare a brief, two-minute introduction of themselves. They were encouraged to talk about whatever it is they chose, such as: their current job; if they were retired, their former career and maybe what they were doing now; their community service and volunteer work; their hobbies and interests; or whatever it is they wished to say. Karina asked Christina Poy to start things off, and we went around the tables in turn. A few even chose to talk about their favorite saying, or reminded us about how women have come such a long way over the decades.



Patricia Fenn, former OCAW-MD  
Vice President

*(Photo taken by Christina Poy)*



Christina Poy

*(Videocapture by Sarah Dong)*

It should have been no surprise that each and every individual gave wonderful remarks! There were so many accomplished people present, and they were all well-spoken and kept to their allotted time. We learned \*a

lot\* about each other in those efficient commentaries – great achievements, and some amazing, innovative, community-service-oriented programs. The discussions created such a positive atmosphere.



*(Photos taken by Karina Hou)*





Mary Tom, OCAW-MD Lifetime member and President, OCA-Greater Washington, DC Chapter

*(Photo taken by Christina Poy)*



Susan Young, former OCAW-MD Secretary

*(Videocapture by Sarah Dong)*

After a few attendees had spoken, the food began to arrive. Karina had selected a wonderful menu. We dined on:

- Crab and Pork Soup Dumplings
- Pan Fried Chive and Shrimp Dumplings
- Crispy Shrimp Rolls
- Cilantro Fish Rolls
- Crispy Duck Rolls
- Roast Pork Pastries
- Beef Wide Noodles
- Tofu Skin Salad
- Sugar Rice Paste
- Smoked Sausage Rolls



*(Photos taken by Karina Hou)*



*(Photo taken by Christina Poy)*



Karina was personally very generous and had brought bottles of champagne to share. Flutes were filled with fine bubbly, and we all toasted to one another and the occasion.

Once servers filled the lazy susans with delicious dishes and attendees began to dine, we resumed our narratives. Everyone's introductions continued to be interesting, insightful, and enthusiastic.

Originally, attendees had also been informed that if they chose to, they could talk about a favorite charity, and possibly others might be interested in learning about it and perhaps want to support it. Maybe the charity could be a health organization, or a cultural entity such as a symphony orchestra or theater group, or a community service organization which helps those less fortunate in some way. During attendees' presentations, many nonprofit organizations had already been discussed. Nevertheless, a couple had not yet been talked about, so participants were able to bring these additional ones to the audience's attention.

Christina announced that she had brought membership applications for those who might be interested in joining. We are delighted that as a result, the Maryland Chapter gained two new members! Welcome to Yang Yu, guest of Christina Poy, and Roxanne Yamashita, guest of OCAW-MD member Pam Wong. Roxanne also joined as a MD Lifetime member! 😊



New Lifetime member Roxanne Yamashita

*(Videocapture by Sarah Dong)*



New member Yang Yu

*(Photo taken by Christina Poy)*

Additionally, former OCAW-MD President Suzy Hung had been away for the past few years, but is back in the area and attended the lunch. Friends were glad to see her again, and she also rejoined as a MD Lifetime member.

Claire Chao, an OCAW Hawaii member and author, had co-written a memoir with her mother, entitled ***Remembering Shanghai: A Memoir of Socialites, Scholars and Scoundrels***, and Claire had very generously offered complimentary books to OCAW members. Linda had brought copies of the book to those MD members who had expressed an interest in receiving one, and she reminded those attendees to pick up their designated books. The OCAW Maryland Chapter wishes to thank Claire once again for her generosity!

Meanwhile, during all of the member introductions and announcements, the food kept coming! The lazy susans kept being refilled with dishes upon dishes. Karina realized that she hadn't ordered so much food, and she inquired what was happening. As it turned out, our host, Peter Chang, had decided that he wanted to treat our organization to some special food – as he explained, “so that we could try out some new dishes!” We all suspected that it was a special favor to Karina, whom he knew very well and held in high regard. As a result, we kept on eating, declaring that this meal was not only our lunch, but also tonight's dinner and tomorrow's breakfast! ☺

We were particularly pleased when Peter made an appearance in our special dining room to say hello, and we could personally offer our thanks for his generosity. Needless to say, we couldn't finish all of the dishes, so the servers provided many carry-out containers so that we could take the remaining food home.



Tariq Nizami, host Peter Chang, and Sarah Dong

*(Photo courtesy of Sarah Dong)*

*(Editor's Note: A special thank-you to Sarah, guest of Karina Hou, who created a lovely video of some highlights of the lunch, and from which Ed Devine was able to create some videocaptures for this article.)*



It was a beautiful day, so before participants needed to leave, we all went outside and took a group photo in front of the restaurant. It was tempting to even remain outside and enjoy the wonderful weather, but many of us went back inside to our dining room and continued to have more conversation. Having learned much about one another from our earlier introductions, we followed up with further talk and traded anecdotes in the relaxed setting.

It was a really successful event. The food was plentiful and excellent, there was a robust exchange of information, we all made new friends and acquaintances, and we all enjoyed a wonderful sense of fellowship.



### News from the Virginia Chapter

*(from Barbara York, President)*

The summer was very quiet for the chapter as several members were away on vacation and family travel. However, we did hold an event.

#### Lunch to host Lily Tan, former President of the OCAW Silicon Valley Chapter

A group of Virginia Chapter members hosted a lunch for Lily Tan on Monday, July 1, 2024 at the Lotus Garden restaurant in Vienna, Virginia. She was in town to receive the 2024 United Chinese Americans' Iris Shun-Ru Chang Award for Humanity for a book she had authored, entitled ***Fire Scar: The Untold Story of the 1887 Burning of San Jose's Chinatown***. Several members knew Lily and enjoyed reconnecting with her. The rest of us enjoyed meeting her, learning about her book which she gifted to us, and catching up on news.



*(Photos taken by Amy Lee)*





(standing) Alice Yee Way, Norman Way, Steve Chang, Tony Byler, Dick Roberts, Cathy Roberts, Amy Lee, and Maria Yang

(seated) Christina Chang, Donna Byler, Lily Tan, Barbara York, and Noreen Hom

*Editor's Note:* In the spring of 2017, Lily had flown from California to attend OCAW National's 40th Anniversary Conference and Reunion, and had been the M.C. for the Saturday night dinner. Several of us had had the opportunity to meet her at that time.

In October 2022, she also traveled to D.C./Virginia to attend OCAW National's 45th Anniversary celebration, and we were able to reunite with her then. During that celebration, she also was a speaker at the Sunday afternoon conference, and in addition to talking about *Fire Scar*, she had been persuaded to give a brief, light demonstration of her innovative hair-curling technique. It involved rolling up strands of her hair and placing them inside a child's socks, and she had all of us laughing during her delightful presentation! It was good to see her again this July.



Lily Tan





## **Book review**

*(from Veronica Li, former Acting Virginia Chapter President)*

At the July 1 OCAW-VA luncheon, author Lily Tan presented her book, *Fire Scar*, about the burning of San Jose Chinatown in the 1880s. The book, written under her penname Lily K. Lee, is the winner of the Iris Shun-Ru Chang Award for Humanity from United Chinese Americans (ucausa.org).

Here is my review of *Fire Scar* on Amazon.

[https://www.amazon.com/review/R1UWL1MAODYCPH/ref=pe\\_1098610\\_137716200\\_SRTC0204BT\\_cm\\_rv\\_eml\\_rv0\\_rv](https://www.amazon.com/review/R1UWL1MAODYCPH/ref=pe_1098610_137716200_SRTC0204BT_cm_rv_eml_rv0_rv)

“*Fire Scar* is a piece of historical fiction that brings out the experiences of Chinese Americans more vividly than any history book. It introduces me to the characters who lived in San Jose Chinatown in the late 19th century. Each character is lifelike and easy to identify with. I can get under their skins, feel their joys, and suffer with them the persecution they faced.

The book also shows the dynamics between the Chinese community and the white population of the then frontier town. The Chinese had moved to the area because their labor was needed. But when they started to succeed and thrive, others found them to be a threat and used violence to drive them out.

It’s important to remember history, not to shame or seek retribution, but to understand the forces that fuel hatred and prevent them from taking over the better angels of our nature. America of the 21st century is a much more civilized nation, but we always have to be on guard, as certain events continue to show human nature hasn’t changed.”

## **Upcoming Event**

*(from Barbara York)*

**Mid-Autumn Festival:** The Virginia Chapter Mid-Autumn Potluck Party is scheduled for Sunday, September 15, 2024, from 5 to 9 p.m. It will be held at Amy Lee’s condo’s penthouse party room with its spectacular view of the Potomac River and an unobscured view of the rising full moon. The address is 400 Madison Street, Alexandria, VA. Moonrise per Google will be at 8:00:32 p.m.

We are happy to include all OCAW members and their families. Please RSVP to Barbara York ([york.barbara2023@gmail.com](mailto:york.barbara2023@gmail.com)) and also let her know what you will be bringing.

## **More Orchids**

*Editor’s Note:* I’d like to close the Virginia Chapter’s report with a few more lovely photos taken by Virginia members Cathy Roberts, National Vice President for Membership, and Amy Lee, OCAW event hostess, who attended the fabulous orchid exhibit in March at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Their photos also appeared in the April and June OCAW e-newsletters.



*(Photos taken by Cathy Roberts)*





*(Photos taken by Amy Lee)*



*(Photos taken by Cathy Roberts)*



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

*(from Patricia Ellzey, President)*

We welcomed our usual hot days of summer in New Orleans, so a lot of us OCAW New Orleans Chapter members took off and went on vacations as most of y'all did, too. Among the places we traveled were China, Europe, Japan, and several places in the U.S.

### **Visit with OCAW Hawaii Chapter members**

After several years' absence, this spring President Pat Ellzey was able to visit Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii to visit cousins, and made a special visit to Honolulu to visit old friends and especially the OCAW Hawaii Chapter, where she was invited to meet and have dim sum with OCAW members organized by Membership Chairman Edwina Lee. This was a wonderful event to get together with so many nice OCAW "sisters!"

And since a couple of members could not attend the dim sum event, Queenie Chee and Tina Au invited Pat to join them for lunch on different days.



Former OCAW Hawaii Chapter President Tina Au and New Orleans Chapter President Pat Ellzey

Not being blessed by growing up with any sister siblings, Pat was overjoyed to have met so many OCAW “sisters” in Honolulu and can’t thank them enough for their kind Aloha spirit and generous hospitality. While visiting with them, they expressed a wish that more national Chapter “sisters” would come, meet them, and visit Hawaii as well.

Pat would also like to invite OCAW “sisters” to come to visit and meet with some New Orleans Chapter members as well. Pat says, “We do not have beautiful leis like the Hawaii Chapter gave me, but we can show you a good time with lots of music and delicious food!”

**(Editor’s Note: See the companion article of Pat’s visit in “News from the Hawaii Chapter.”)**

### **The Silver Liners**

Some of our OCAW New Orleans members belong to a group called the “Silver Liners,” which is a group of Chinese ladies who practice line dancing at the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, Louisiana every Saturday. They are senior ladies who perform for shut-ins such as senior residents at local nursing homes, and at events such as the one pictured below. It was an annual event known as the Senior Dance Gala, and it was held on Thursday, August 1, 2024, at the Alario Center in Westwego, Louisiana, which is part of the New Orleans metro area.

The OCAW members pictured with the group are Li Lee Chen, Nancy Chung, and Mayling Hew.





### **Lunch Meeting**

The New Orleans Chapter hosted a lunch meeting on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, Louisiana. We celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival early with a delicious meal from the local Chongqing Cuisine Restaurant.





The menu included special Chingqing style dishes (not too spicy since most members cannot eat extra spicy) which were hot boiled fish with cabbage, beef and broccoli, salt and pepper large shrimp, sweet and sour pork ribs, and sweet and sour whole fish, along with traditional moon cakes for dessert.



Dr. Lily Qinli Wu assisted with the lunch details and presenting a video that taught about the Mid-Autumn celebration, and Lily Yang sang a beautiful song in Chinese highlighting this wonderful time in China. Following are the lyrics:



### Mid-Autumn Festival Song

The Mid-Autumn moon hangs in the sky,  
Illuminating the wooden building, shining through the small window.  
Distant mountains shrouded in mist.  
Nearby waters stretching vast and wide.  
Thousands of overseas wanderers,  
Separated by mountains and rivers, gazing toward home.  
Gazing, gazing,  
Tearful eyes filled with endless melancholy.

Coconut trees sing in the wind,  
Telling of the deep emotions of parting.  
Recalling the trees and grass of the homeland,  
Unable to forget the nurturing of a loving mother.  
With autumn, the phoenix tree leaves fall,  
Overseas children long for home.  
Longing, longing,  
This feeling and intention last long.

With autumn, the phoenix tree leaves fall,  
Overseas children long for home.  
Longing, longing,  
This feeling and intention last long.  
Longing, longing,  
This feeling and intention last long.

### Upcoming Events

Our **next lunch meeting** will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024. It will take place at a French Quarter restaurant, and we will have a successful local Chinese Architect, Louis Kong, who volunteers as a French Quarter tour guide for the Friends of The Cabildo (famous history museum). It is next to the St. Louis Cathedral in front of Jackson Square – the most famous photographed site in New Orleans.



Louis was born in Hong Kong and came to New Orleans to earn his Master's degree in Architecture at Tulane University. He loved it here, built a very successful career, and has been a bit of a local celebrity ever since. He is a knowledgeable and witty conversationalist who can speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Hakka, and English, and he promises to give us a special tour. It will be a walking tour around the oldest part of the French Quarter – the St. Louis Cathedral area, and will include fabulous mansions. Louis will highlight all of the historic architectural aspects as well as the history of the area. We certainly look forward to such a unique and memorable experience!

Coordinating with the Asian Pacific American Society (APAS), we have scheduled the following future events:

1. On Saturday, October 5, 2024 will be the **annual free food tasting picnic** where China will participate with a traditional Chinese dish in competition with the other Asian countries' cuisine. It will be held at the Chinese Presbyterian Church.
2. On Saturday, November 2 will be the **annual APAS fundraiser event** where China (OCAW members and others) was the country chosen to perform the entertainment. Chinese cultural traditional dancing will be presented by several of our OCAW members. OCAW has named our Secretary Nellie Yip Underwood to receive the Outstanding Chinese Community Leader Award this year, and she will be recognized and given an honorary award. She is also the APAS Secretary, the Gala event Chair, and a church leader.
3. On Saturday, December 7, the **free annual Children's Holiday Party** for all the Asian children in the New Orleans area will be held at the Chinese Presbyterian Church for children 12 years old and under.

Our chapter now has 21 members and 17 are lifetime members.

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

*(Yufan Lu, President)*

#### **The Longest Day**

*(from Aichu Wang, Event Organizer)*

The Longest Day fundraising event on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association was held on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at the South Bay Overseas Chinese Cultural Center in Milpitas, California. The theme of the occasion was "Dance for Health."

At the beginning of the event, Aichu Wang gave a ten-minute presentation on the educational topic of "Alzheimer's Awareness and Impact for the Community."

There were three dance/exercise groups invited to lead and teach during the activity. They were the California Line Dance Association of America, the National Taiwan University Folk Dance Club – Northern California, and Yo-yo Total Body Workout. The Organization of Chinese American Women – Silicon Valley Chapter co-sponsored the event.





There were two sessions from 1 to 3 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. About 40 people attended each one. During each session, the participants learned international folk dances, line dances, and body workouts for thirty minutes each, for a total of one-and-a-half hours of happy and healthy time.







It was a fun event full of energy. People experienced different dances and sports and received the benefits of body and brain fitness at the same time. The event was free but donations were welcome.



(center) Event organizer Aichu Wang



Thanks to folk dance teachers Lily Shen, Shoshia Lin, Frank Lin, and San-San Chiu. The line dance teacher was Linda Lee. The body fitness coach was Woanyu Yu.



Two happy groups of dancers!

With generous contributions from people who attended the June 1st event or not, Aichu was able to achieve a total amount of donations exceeding \$16,000. Their support for the Alzheimer's Association was very much appreciated. The funds will be used to provide numerous free services and educational programs for the community as well as important research projects.

Let's work together to achieve a world without Alzheimer's disease!

*(Editor's Note: Congratulations, Aichu, on initiating, organizing, and coordinating this event! With its overwhelming success, you have so much to be proud of!)*



### **Annual Officer Installation and Scholarship Award event**

*(from Cynthia Chang, Public Relationship)*

The Silicon Valley Chapter held its annual officer installation and scholarship award event on Sunday, August 18, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Florentine Trattoria in Saratoga, California. 45 guests attended the event, including officers, board members, and the scholarship recipient and her mother, as well as other members.

We also had a renowned writer, Lily Hsueh, as our keynote speaker on the topic: “Walking on the path with all of you, a sharing of some females making an impact on her (Lily’s) life.”

Lily attracted quite a few guests to the event, and we had six new members join our chapter that day.

Everyone had a wonderful time with old/new friends and learning accomplishment/activities of OCAW over the last 38 years.

1) Monica Hsiao presented the scholarship award to Amelia Chang. This was Monica’s report:

“The 2024 Youth Achievement Award recipient is Amelia Chang, an 11th grade student at Saratoga High School. She is not only interested in storytelling, but also enjoys drawing. Amelia has been on the school badminton team for 2 years, is a graphics manager for journalism, has run an Instagram art account for 3+



years, and was selected for the California State Summer School for the Arts. The awards she has received include the President's Volunteer Service Award (100+ hours of service), being selected for the AAPI Multimedia Art Exhibition 2024, etc. Her extracurricular activities and academic achievements are pretty impressive, and she also has a positive attitude to explore and learn things. Overall, Amelia is well qualified for the scholarship."

Monica Hsiao, Sherry Hsu, and Sophia Yang served on this year's Scholarship Committee.

## 2) OCAW-SVC 2023-2024 Officers

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 and Sherry Hsu  
Flyer Design: Candice Huang  
Photographer: Michelle Huang  
Hospitality: Wendy Chang  
Historian: Alice Chiou  
Activities: Annie Ying, Wendy Chang, and Maggie Tsai

3) Yufan Lu, Incoming OCAW-SVC President, expressed her thanks for the outstanding leadership for the past two years of Jen Tsao, Outgoing President.



Jen Tsao and Yufan Lu



Yufan also stated the following:

She is honored to become President of OCAW-SVC for the 2024-2025 year. She was connected to OCAW-SVC through Cynthia Chang who invited her late father (a renowned calligrapher) to join our community events for calligraphy demonstrations at local schools, the library, the History Museum, the community center, etc. She resonated our vision of promoting Chinese culture and building bridges in the local community.

The 2024-2025 events are currently under planning, and she asked for the attendees' continuous support of OCAW-SVC.

4) Carol Yuan then presented a report on the history of OCAW and a few long-term achievements.



She informed the audience of the founding of the organization by Pauline Tsui and Julia Chang Bloch in 1977. She cited highlights of Pauline's life, including her Federal government work which advanced equal opportunity for career advancement for women. Pauline was considered a pioneer of Chinese women's rights in the U.S. Carol continued by speaking about Julia Chang Bloch, including her serving on several corporate and nonprofit boards, and her appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Nepal by President George H.W. Bush.

Carol stated: "Pauline and Julia were enjoying the hard-won successes in their careers but found themselves missing a larger part of themselves – a community of Chinese American women who could draw mutual



strength and support from each other. They had a vision of bringing together Chinese American women to support their causes, struggles, and successes. Ultimately, it would be a place that Asian American women could learn, advocate, and work together...” Pauline and Julia turned their vision into reality through the founding of OCAW with Pauline as its first president. OCAW was a pioneer as the first national Asian American women’s organization in the United States.

Among many other programs over the years, OCAW partnered with the Education and Science Society in Virginia to provide annual scholarships to middle school girls in rural China. This program helped hundreds of girls in ten of China’s provinces. OCAW also provided scholarships to young artists in music, working with Muriel “Mimi” Hom, OCAW Vice President for Programs. Through OCAW, Mimi’s work with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Strathmore Music Center and her founding of Opera International produced multiple operas and concerts over decades.

Carol explained that “in the mid-1970s, a nationwide advocacy campaign was launched to obtain a Congressional Resolution to designate one week in May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week.” This concept originated from Jeanie F. Jew, a staff person on Capitol Hill. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed into law and proclaimed a week in May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. In 1992, President George H.W. Bush expanded on this by designating the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

OCAW chapters were established nationwide. The Silicon Valley Chapter was established in 1986 by Dorothy Lee. Other chapters were founded as well. Currently still in existence are also the Hawaii, New Orleans, Virginia, and Maryland Chapters.



Our chapter goals are as follows:

- a. To integrate Chinese American women into the mainstream of American society;
- b. To exchange culture background to eliminate racial and cultural misunderstanding;
- c. To address a variety of issues and concerns facing Chinese American women today; and
- d. To help immigrants to understand and adapt to American society while keeping their good traditional culture.

Many of our members are serving as elected officials and leaders of school and community organizations. We also have worked with other organizations to provide activities benefiting the community and promoting a better understanding of our culture/traditions, such as National River Clean-Up Day, Blossom Festival, Relay for Life, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Crime Prevention, and Road to College, as well as Lunar New Year and Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations. In addition, we have members' socials, outings, hikes, and hands-on activities to learn and have fun together.

5) Lily Hsueh then gave a speech about her mother, a famous Chinese writer, Yang Jiang, and close friends (who were present and are OCAW-SVC members) who had all made great impacts on her life. Her personal sharing touched many attendees' hearts, and everyone seemed to really enjoy her talk.









We were so pleased to see six new members join our chapter at the end of this event, attracted by our goals and activities.





*(Photos taken by, and courtesy of, Sophia Yang and Yufan Lu)*



## **News from the Hawaii Chapter**

*(Sharlene Chun, President)*

### **Visit from Patricia Ellzey, New Orleans Chapter President**

*(from Edwina Lee, Membership Chair, and Queenie Mow Chee, Event Chair)*

Pat Ellzey's visit to Hawaii to visit her relatives and longtime friends provided her and the OCAW Hawaii Chapter a wonderful opportunity to reunite. Several Hawaii members had met Pat in person at OCAW National's 45th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C. and Virginia in October 2022.

Queenie Mow Chee had a wedding reception commitment in the first week of June in eastern Canada, but right before her trip she was able to meet with Pat on Friday, May 31, 2024, along with Hawaii President Sharlene Chun. They met at the Oahu Country Club Anuenue, a casual dining venue. It was a lovely day to be on the covered terrace with a soft tradewind and sunshine, with a view of the golf course and Honolulu city beyond.

Salads, soups, and desserts seemed to be the popular order for that scrumptious, mostly healthy lunch. The conversations were light and jocular, and to know that Pat has a "Hawaiian background" as her dad was a Maui boy, gave us another warm connection.

Pat received a homemade plumeria lei as her first Hawaiian-style welcome back. Queenie's plumeria tree was in bloom, and she had been able to sew a fresh lei for her – a very special present indeed! In turn, Pat gifted us with bags of Louisiana "ha-mai" (salted dried shrimp for flavoring select Chinese dishes).



Pat Ellzey, Chef Michael, and Sharlene Chun at the Oahu Country Club

*(Photo taken by Queenie Chee)*

On Sunday, June 9, several other OCAW Hawaii members met with Pat at Happy Days Restaurant. In attendance were past Hawaii Chapter presidents Susan Chong Wong, Frances Goo, Sharon Chun, Sandy Young, and Edwina Lee, with (perhaps a future president?) Wendie Liu. We had a private room and ordered noodles and dim sum for lunch. Pat received many leis from us to welcome her to Hawaii, and reciprocating, she presented us with her Louisiana salted dried shrimp gifts.

It was great seeing her again, as several of us had met her at OCAW National's 45th Anniversary Conference. We all had a grand time talking with each other and eating our delicious meal. She recalled with appreciation that the OCAW Hawaii Chapter had sent the OCAW New Orleans Chapter a donation to help them with the cleanup after their club's meeting place, their church hall, was devastated by a recent hurricane.

It was a delight to connect with yet another OCAW Sister, and we wish her and her Chapter members a warm aloha!



Wendie Liu, Frances Goo, Sharon Chun, Patricia Ellzey, Sandy Young, Edwina Lee, and Susan Chong Wong



### **Donation to Shriners Children Hawaii**

*(from Queenie Mow Chee)*

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter donated \$1,000 to Shriners Children Hawaii (Shriners Hospitals for Children – Honolulu).

It was at the start of 2022, as former president Roberta Wong Leung ended her 2021 term, when she proposed that the Hawaii Chapter make this donation in commemoration of Shriners Children Hawaii's 100th year anniversary in Hawaii.

In return, a brick with our chapter's name would be engraved and be paved into the driveway of the Shriners Hospital porte cochere. The Board approved the donation and the check was sent.

Perhaps due to the COVID pandemic, there was a problem with producing the brick. Edwina Lee, who served as the 2022 and 2023 Hawaii Chapter President, continued to follow up.

The brick had space for only a limited number of letters, and the Board voted on the best possible way to create the right message. Today, we can now view the brick paved into the hospital's driveway.



*(Photo courtesy of Sherry Ravago, Shriners Children Hawaii Stewardship Coordinator)*

The Shriners Hospital in Honolulu was established on January 2, 1923 as an annex to the Kauikeolani Children's Hospital in Honolulu. Back then, it was known "for crippled children," and with care "regardless of ability to pay or insurance status."

It served the local island children and specialized in orthopedic care.

The location was moved to John and Wilheme Dowsett's mansion, through their generous donation a few years later, as the need for more space grew.

Of note, in 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the hospital. He himself had been inflicted with polio which had a lifetime effect.

In 1965, the Shriners were able to purchase land in downtown Honolulu on Punahou Street. Over time, the facility grew and expanded into pediatric specialty care and was no longer known as a hospital for crippled children.

The Shriners continue to assist with fundraising for the care of children throughout the Hawaiian Islands, the Pacific Rim, and parts of Asia. The general community has also been tapped to contribute, and OCAW can be counted as one small contributor.

Today, Shriners Children Hawaii continues to provide care, still regardless of ability to pay or insurance status.



Officers of the Hawaii Chapter gesture toward the brick laid in the driveway of Shriners Hospital with OCAW Hawaii's name engraved.

Sharon Chun, Serena Kyi-Yim, Roberta Wong Leung, Sharlene Chun, Edwina Lee, and Kimberly Hoi

*(Photo courtesy of Shriners)*



## **Upcoming Event**

### **A Harvest Moon Tea**

*(from Edwina Lee)*

*(Editor's Note: Edwina understands that other chapters probably cannot attend this event, but the Hawaii Chapter wanted OCAW members to know that they are hosting a fundraiser to raise monies for charities.)*

The Organization of Chinese American Women Hawaii Chapter presents

#### ***"A Harvest Moon Tea"***

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Oahu Country Club – Nuuanu Ballroom

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

\$55 per person

Additional Donations Welcome!

Celebrate the season of the Harvest Moon and share the bounty with those in need. Tea time, with a Chinese lilt in entertainment through musical journeys and recalling old Shanghai when we welcome member and author Claire Chao with her book co-authored with her late mother, Isabel Sun Chao (*Remembering Shanghai: A Memoir of Socialites, Scholars and Scoundrels*). Claire generously donated hardcover books which will be available for sale at this event!

A special benefit to the Hawaii Chapter and  
Ho'ola Na Pua, Maui Strong, and The Legal Clinic

Ho'ola Na Pua helps children at risk from abuse and sex trafficking.  
Maui Strong continues to seek kokua at the first anniversary of the Lahaina fires and is still in recovery mode.  
The Legal Clinic provides much needed legal assistance to the immigrants who seek U.S. citizenship and more.

## **Follow-up: Library of Congress Asian American Association event**

*(from Maria Yang, National President)*

The Library of Congress Asian American Association celebrated its 30th anniversary and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month on Friday, May 24, 2024, at 2 p.m. The event featured a cultural concert at the grand and historic Coolidge Auditorium in the Thomas Jefferson Building in Washington, D.C. Maria Yang wrote an extensive report on this event which was published in the last (June 2024) OCAW e-newsletter.

OCAW was one of the sponsors for this event, and Maria received an acknowledgment from the Association for our welcome support.

The following is a link to the celebration program which took place.

<https://youtu.be/XWppohS65MM?si=ZMgyqcctxZWdPJoa>



## **From and About Our Members**

### **About Karina Hou, Maryland Chapter President**

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

*(Editor's note: As one of the most prominent members of Washington, D.C.'s Chinese American community, OCAW-MD President Karina Hou continued to stay busy being involved with many events and activities this past spring.)*

The Chinese Fashion and Art Experience. On Friday, April 26, 2024, the Chinese cheongsam exhibition had its opening in the U.S. at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, attracting many enthusiasts of Chinese culture from all over the world. The integration of modern art, traditional cheongsams, and fashion trends represented a significant movement in contemporary society. Karina was thrilled to participate and saw many Chinese American women during the opening ceremony.





On Wednesday, May 1, Karina was proud to represent OCAW and celebrate Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian Heritage Month with President Joe Biden and Asian American leaders at The White House. President Biden acknowledged the contributions and achievements of Asian immigrants.



On Thursday, May 9, the Chinese American Museum DC hosted a private reception for the Washington Educational and Cultural Attaché Association (WECAA), welcoming diplomats from around the world and various distinguished guests from Washington, D.C. The attendees engaged in wonderful conversations about diverse cultures, connections, and world peace.





On behalf of OCAW-MD, Karina attended the White House's celebration of AAPINH Heritage Month on Monday, May 13. President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and actress Lucy Liu each delivered speeches at the event.







On Thursday, May 16, Karina attended the book donation ceremony by Master Hsing Yun at the Library of Congress, which was an important part of preserving the history and practice of Buddhism.







Renowned composer Tan Dun, along with a team of young musicians and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), graced Karina's home in Maryland on Friday, May 17. The symphony orchestra also delighted the guests with a mesmerizing quartet performance. Special thanks to Chef Peter Chang for providing exquisite dishes for the dinner.







Conductor Tan Dun, accompanied by five young musicians from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, performed the U.S. premiere of *Dunhuang Five Mystical Beings* on Saturday, May 18 at the Strathmore Music Center in North Bethesda, Maryland, with support from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.



The inspiration for the five instruments comes from ancient Chinese instruments depicted in the Dunhuang murals: the bili, xiqin, shakuhachi, five-string pipa, and Tang Dynasty sheng. Tan Dun transformed these mural images into music, performed by a symphony orchestra, “transporting the audience to another world.” This concert was held in celebration of Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian Heritage Month.

At the Helen Hayes Awards ceremony on Monday, May 20 at The Anthem in Washington, D.C., Karina felt honored to be a sponsor and was inspired by the achievements of many outstanding artists. She extends her gratitude to all of the organizers and supporters whose efforts made this event possible and added great brilliance to the theatrical stage of Washington.





On Tuesday, May 21, Karina joined the “Tea and the World” event hosted at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China. This event not only deepened her understanding of Chinese tea culture but was also a great opportunity to experience traditional tea ceremonies and appreciate the connection between tea culture and Chinese history. The embassy’s organization and warm hospitality made every guest feel the warmth and charm of Chinese culture.





**Destined to meet from thousands of miles away!**

*(from Jen Tsao, Silicon Valley Chapter Immediate Past President)*

In early August, my husband Alex and I attended the National Taiwan University Medical College alumni's reunion near San Francisco. As alumni of NTU, although we are not medical school graduates, we thought it would be a good opportunity to hear an update from the university Principal.

Unexpectedly, among the crowds of attendees, we ran into Alex's high school classmate, Dr. Henry Hwu, whom we hadn't seen in more than 50 years! He is now a surgeon.

We visited him the next day at the hotel. At the moment of our departure, he brought a guitar from his room and sang to us in the hotel lobby. He sang "Let It Be Me."

We were so touched, and I was almost in tears! A 50-year friendship is unforgettable.





Alex Tsao, Dr. Henry Hwu, and Jen Tsao

