

E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

November 2013

(from Linda Devine)

My continuing gratitude to all who submitted material for this final issue of 2013. Thanks again to my husband Ed, who continues to do the photo preparation work.

Suggestions or recommendations for any aspects of the e-newsletter are always welcome, and you can reach me at: devinefive@att.net.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, and see you in 2014!

Message from the President

(from Christina Chang)

Dear Member Sisters:

Another year comes to a close. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of our five chapters for your dedicated work to benefit our communities as well as our members.

At the national level, we sponsored two concerts by the Macao Youth Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. We are also working with the Virginia Chapter in closing the year with a seminar regarding menopause, something all women experience to a greater or lesser degree. The OCAW history book has been published. Thank you to all who contributed to the book project.

I am proud to be a part of OCAW. As long as we work together as a family, we will accomplish our mission and goals to promote charitable, educational, and cultural purposes within our means. Please send your suggestions and recommendations. We will make sure your opinion is heard and work toward implementing your ideas.

Wishing you a happy holiday season and a new year filled with health, happiness, and great accomplishments.

Sincerely yours,

Christina Chang
National President
OCAWWomen@aol.com
P. O. Box 815
Great Falls, VA 22066
Telephone: 301-907-3898

Opera International

(from Muriel Hom)

OCAW and Opera International are planning to present a concert next summer in the Terrace Theater of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The program will be “**THREE SOPRANOS AND A TENOR.**” David Yao who works for Anna Chennault has asked us to help a talented young soprano from China who is studying at the Peabody Conservatory of the John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She is HUANHUAN MA and can be heard on Youtube.

I have requested the Ruth H. Kuo and Rhoda How Memorial Foundation for financial assistance in this project. The Foundation has suggested that this concert be a fundraiser for a charity to be determined. Tickets are currently planned to be sold at \$35.

Those interested in joining me in this project can email Mimi Hom at Operainternational@gmail.com, or call 301-365-3479. I would welcome your interest and assistance.

China Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum

The last issue of the OCAW e-newsletter (September 2013) contained an article by Betty Butz, President of the New Orleans Chapter, about the proposed China Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. According to the master plan, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Chinese Academy of Forestry will cooperate in the construction of a classical Chinese garden on 12 acres at the National Arboretum.

Betty felt that the garden project could present a potential opportunity for OCAW to become involved through education and service in the arena of public space usage. Betty proposed two ways in which OCAW could contribute to this project:

- (1) OCAW could request the services of a landscape architect to draw up a design for a feng shui courtyard, a plan that could be distributed to any interested parties. The plan could be offered to supporters of the China Garden, to OCAW members, or to nursing homes, especially ones for aging Asian Americans.
- (2) OCAW could co-sponsor an internship for one or more students of landscape architecture. Interns would participate in the construction of the China Garden, lead tours, or share design drawings and artwork related to OCAW's proposed space.

Betty hoped that OCAW members would think about these ideas, and she requested that any feedback be shared in the e-newsletter.

The following feedback was given subsequently:

From Christina Chang, National President:

Christina felt that a design would be a good idea, even for our own gardens. She also mentioned that Virginia Chapter member Rita Shan has been involved with this project but is overseas right now. Christina said she will follow up with Rita to obtain an update on the project.

From Maria Yang, Vice President of the Virginia Chapter:

Maria had read Betty's article in the e-newsletter, and she felt that it was a wonderful idea for OCAW to become involved. Maria added that she knows of professional landscape architects, so if OCAW chooses to consider engaging the services of one, please contact her and she will put us in touch with these professionals.

Additional thoughts from Betty:

She read the website on the Seattle China Garden. The garden is really beautiful, and is a good source of excellent ideas.

“Leaky Windows”

(from Betty Butz, New Orleans Chapter President)

(Editor's Note: While on the topic of Chinese gardens, the following is a brief article written by Betty. In her note to me, she commented that she was grateful to the internet and all of its wonderful search engines. She found a number of pictures of Chinese gardens and came upon the concept of “leaky windows.”)

A visually charming feature in a classical Chinese garden can be found in the decorative window frames in the walls and partitions. They are called “leaky windows” because there are no window panes to stop wind or water from passing through, but the scene of the garden can be captured via open spaces in the design, many of which are based upon aspects of flowers and common plants. In some gardens, these lattice window designs are seldom repeated. Imagine looking at a garden through viewing windows, each having a different pattern inside the window frame. Such fancy lattice design also can direct the desirable flow of qi.

When you visit a Chinese garden, be sure to look at the world through these leaky windows for unique perspectives. If you or someone in your life is artistically inclined, designing patterns for leaky windows can be a worthwhile art project.

Note from Puanani Woo

Editor's Note: I received a nice note from Puanani Woo, former President of the Hawaii Chapter and Project Manager of the OCAW history book. With the completion of the book, she is closing her association with OCAW. She turned a milestone 80 years old this year, and valuing the precious remaining years of her life (although we hope there will be *at least* another few decades!), she will be focusing her energies on projects that are really important to her. She also feels that it is time to move on so that “new blood” can flourish in our organization.

Puanani plans to finish her commitments to KA HAKA ‘ULA O KE’ELIKOLANI COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. She hopes to complete her work by late 2015, although it may go into 2016.

We once again wish to thank Puanani for making the OCAW history book a reality. She donated not only copious amounts of time and effort to the project, but also personal funds, to see the project through. We wish her all the best!

News from the Maryland Chapter

(Editor's Note: I was pleased to receive two thoughtful articles on the National Parks of China program hosted by the Maryland Chapter in early September. Susan Young and Kitty Dana shared their different but positive perspectives on the presentation.)

Seminar on National Parks of China

(from Susan Young, Secretary)

The OCAW Maryland Chapter and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) presented a special program on National Parks of China on Saturday, September 7, 2013, at the Rock Creek Nature Center in Washington, D.C. The invited speaker, Rudy D'Alessandro, Asia Specialist from the National Park Service Office of International Affairs, presented a narrated slide show of 9 national parks of China that he has visited in the past few years. They are:

1. Baihua Mountain near Beijing (Baihuashan)
2. Hangzhou-West Lake
3. Huang Mountain (Huangshan)



Baihuashan



Hangzhou-West Lake

4. Stone Forest in Kunming (Shilin)
5. Tianmen Mountain in Zhangjiajie (Tianmenshan)
6. Taining Geopark in Fujian (Taining)
7. Wuyi Mountain in Fujian (Wuyishan)
8. Yuntai Mountain in Henan (Yuntaishan)
9. Zhangjiajie in Hunan (Zhangjiajie)

The program was highly successful with about 40 people participating. Everyone enjoyed the slide show and the very informative presentation by Mr. D'Alessandro which discussed the efforts of several NPS sites to establish "sister park" relationships with national parks in other countries over the past few years. For example, Yosemite National Park has three sister parks, Huangshan and Jiuzhaigou National Parks in China, and Torres del Paine National Park in Chile. These partnerships increase information sharing and direct park-to-park contacts to address many common issues, such as preserving natural and cultural resources. It is hoped that many more visitors will visit and enjoy "sister parks."

At the conclusion of the presentation, many audience members asked several interesting questions which promoted a lively discussion, and Mr. D'Alessandro's answers benefited all. Afterward, attendees were able to talk further with Mr. D'Alessandro, meet one another, and partake of some light refreshments. It was an enlightening and enjoyable event, and several participants even congregated afterward and continued their animated discussions over lunch.



Huangshan



Shilin Stone Forest

A Tour of National Parks of China – Next Best to Being There

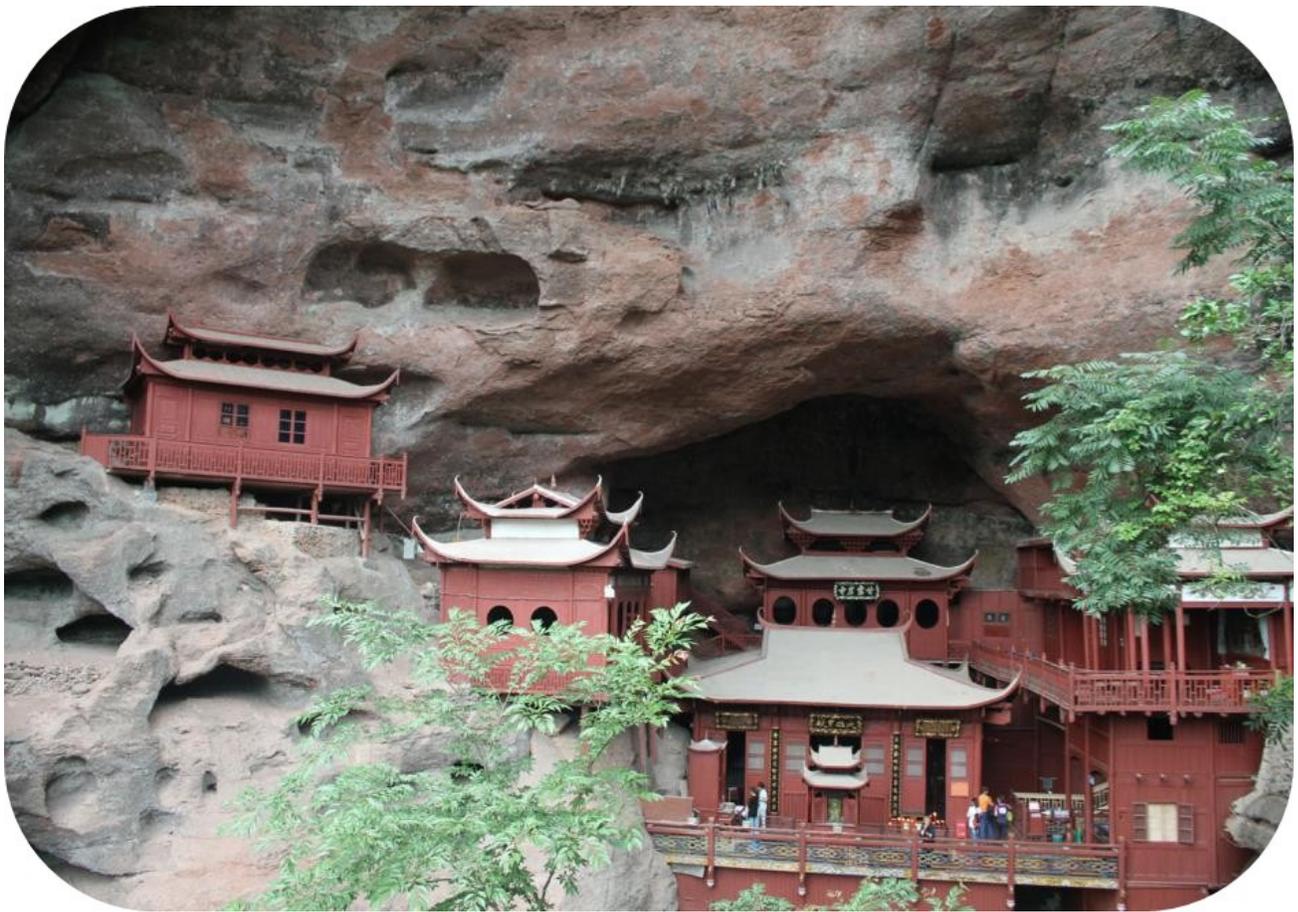
(from Kitty Dana)

On a beautiful day in early September, OCAW members, family, and friends in the D.C. area were treated to a wonderful narrated slide show on the National Parks of China at the Rock Creek Nature Center in Washington, D.C. Rudy D'Alessandro, Asia Specialist of the National Park Service Office of International Affairs, shared his personal experiences and many wonderful photos from delegation trips to China's major parks. We learned about Baihuashan, Hangzhou-West Lake, Huangshan, Shilin, Tianmenshan, Taining, Wuyishan, Yuntaishan, and Zhangjiajie. Rudy spoke of stunning beauty and amazing variations in the parks visited, the sometimes treacherous terrain and always rewarding views, and mystifying observations such as the lack of birds or animals in these parks.



Tianmenshan

We learned a great deal about the Sister Parks between China and the U.S. and the evident pride on both sides to formalize such associations. Rudy described the vital etiquette in the giving of gifts: the Americans could never match the opulence of the gifts from the Chinese, so the solution was to choose gifts of significant meaningfulness – e.g., U.S. Park Ranger hats (and the associated carrier box) and gifts made with wood from specific trees in U.S. parks. The audience was transfixed for nearly two hours of personal, colorful, and often humorous reflections from Rudy. His authentic passion, love, and respect for his subject imbued the event with great relevance and energy, and he responded generously to the many spirited questions and comments from the audience.



Taining World Heritage Site

It took a while for me to write up these reflections from this lovely program. Just coming out of the government shutdown, the “essentiality” of Rudy's work struck me as even more compelling. I had not known that our National Park Service had an International Affairs program; I am both proud and grateful that it does. The beauty of our land and natural assets are major points of pride for all people and countries, and a subject around which parties of different political views can relate. Nurturing relationships and building understanding on something we all care for is an effective way to build bridges across political and cultural divides. I only hope that the upcoming sequestration will not adversely affect National Park Service efforts, and I will hope for the continued vibrancy of this important program.



Wuyishan Nine Bends River



Yuntaishan



Zhangjiajie





Speaker Rudy D'Alessandro (wearing teal shirt)



(Photos courtesy of the National Park Service, Rudy D'Alessandro, and Camilla Ng)

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Dinner at Shepherd's Table

(from Mary Tom, OCA-DC President and Maryland Chapter member, and Patricia Fenn)

In celebration of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, volunteers from OCA-Greater Washington, DC Chapter (OCA-DC), OCAW Maryland Chapter, Chinese Bible Church of Maryland, St. Joseph's Church (Silver Spring, MD), and others served dinner on Friday, September 27, 2013 to 130 guests at Shepherd's Table, a nonprofit organization in Silver Spring, Maryland, which provides services to people in need.

OCA-DC was honored to sponsor the scrumptious Chinese meal of soup, curry chicken, meat and vegetables, and fried rice, along with clementines and apples for dessert. Many thanks to Seven Seas Restaurant in Rockville, Maryland for providing such a tasty and welcome meal for the homeless community in the Silver Spring area.

OCA-DC gladly sponsors these meal offerings twice a year during Lunar New Year and the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. OCA-DC is ever so grateful for the partnership with other community-based organizations to join us in our service to the Shepherd's Table community.

The event was coordinated by OCA-DC President Mary Tom in collaboration with Seven Seas owner Edward Shen. OCAW Maryland Chapter members and associates included Mary Tom, Patricia Fenn, and Betty Toy.



Patricia Fenn (center) and Betty Toy (right)



Volunteers, including Mary Tom (third from right)

(Photos courtesy of Mary Tom)

Farewell Social for Dianna Gorin

(from Camilla Ng, Maryland Chapter President, and Cathy Roberts)

On Sunday, September 29, 2013, at the beautiful home of Cathy and Dick Roberts, the Maryland Chapter and the knitting group bid farewell to Dianna Gorin, who was moving with her husband Henry to their new home in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dianna was a longtime member of the Virginia Chapter. She also liked the conviviality of the Maryland Chapter and was very interested in its many programs, so several years ago she became a Maryland Chapter lifetime member as well.

Dianna was a strong supporter of the Maryland Chapter and made time to participate in our programs. She always brought good cheer and treated us to her home-baked pistachio cake on many occasions. We will miss her humor and kind spirit, and we wish her the best of luck!



Dianna Gorin (center)





(Photos taken by Dick Roberts)

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation Ceremony and Reception

(from Camilla Ng)

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Fairfax County Commission for Women (Virginia) hosted its annual Proclamation Ceremony and Reception on Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax, Virginia. OCAW Virginia Chapter member Jeanie Jew is Chair of the Commission.

In addition to Jeanie, attendees included Maryland Chapter President Camilla Ng, Maryland member Nancy Toy, Betty Toy, OCAW National President Christina Chang, and Virginia member Henriette Levy.

The Art of Penjing

(from Camilla Ng, with editorial assistance from Akey Hung and translations by Henriette Levy)

Mimi Hom hosted a talk on “The Art of Penjing” on Saturday, October 19, 2013 in her lovely home in Bethesda, Maryland. The speaker, Dr. Akey Hung, discussed the history of penjing, the unique

characteristics of penjing, and the differences between Chinese penjing and Japanese bonsai. Post talk, we were treated to home-baked turkey and delicious lemon cake by Mimi. Participants also brought other tasty items to share. We enjoyed food for the mind, food for the body, as well as great fellowship. (*Editor's Note: Mimi baked her special lemon cake as a surprise for Camilla for her milestone birthday, in appreciation of all of Camilla's hard work as Chapter President.*)

Dr. Hung very kindly shared with me his presentation notes, and hence I was able to summarize his talk to share with members who were not able to attend.

* * * * *

On Penjing

Although many in North America know of bonsai (pronounced "bone-sigh"), few have heard of penjing. What is penjing? Penjing is the Chinese art of cultivating little trees in a shallow container that depicts a piece of scenery, or the recreation of a mystical beauty of nature, by using natural materials such as plants, rocks, soil, and water. It is a live art.

The earliest Chinese documentation of penjing was found in the mural in the tomb of Prince Zhang Huai of the Tang Dynasty, who was buried in 706 A.D.

In a 1970 Japanese Bonsai Association publication, Professor Ryōji Iwasa of Chiba University, Japan, stated that bonsai was introduced from China to Japan during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). Dr. Hung credits the Japanese for popularizing the art in Europe as early as 1878 at the Paris World Exposition, and in 1909 at the London World Exposition.

Different meanings of Chinese and Japanese terms:

<u>Chinese Terms</u>	<u>Japanese Terms</u>
Penjing	
Tree Penjing	Bonsai
Landscape Penjing	Bonkei Seikei
Penzai	Hachiue

Tree penjing is similar to but is not the same as bonsai. Landscape penjing is definitely not bonsai.

Unique characteristics of penjing:

- A three-dimensional painting
- A living work of art
- Endless work
- Philosophical aspect (the Buddhist concept of impermanence)

Means of artistic expression:

- Minimizing the dragon to the length of one inch
- Shrinking an area of one thousand miles to the space of one foot

The trinity of a penjing is first, the tree; second, the pot; and third, the stand for the pot.

Popular plants for penjing:

Cymbidium orchid is the king. Meihua is the lord. Pine is the earl. Bamboo is the man of virtue.

Meihua, scientific name *Prunus Mume*, has been botanically misnamed as ‘plum’ or ‘Japanese flowering apricot.’ Meihua is native to China. It is neither apricot nor plum.

The basic styles of tree penjing and bonsai:

- Straight trunk
- Slanting trunk
- Curved trunk
- Cliff-hanging
- Forest
- Literati

There are five schools of tree penjing:

The Yangzhou School: Floating Cloud Style and Platform Style

The Sichuan School: Dancing Dragon Style

The Suzhou School: The 6-3-1 Style

The Shanghai School: uses Bend and Prune technique and includes miniature penjing

The Lingnan School: uses Clip and Grow technique with two styles: giant tree style and towering style

Using a poem, whether created or quoted, to describe a penjing is another unique feature of this type of Chinese art. It arouses the imagination of the viewers, and brings the mind to another realm.



Dr. Wu Yee Sun (from his book Man Lung (Scholar-Farmer) Penjing)

We cannot talk about penjing without honoring Dr. Wu Yee Sun, who contributed a large collection of his penjing to the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. It is housed in the Chinese Pavilion of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum there. Here are three penjing illustrating the live art and its marriage to poetry. Penjing is the “silent poetry.”



Dr. Wu's black pine penjing in the Chinese Pavilion of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.
Dr. Wu described this penjing as "Powerful as a dragon in motion" (English translation by
Henriette Levy). *(Photo courtesy of Akey Hung)*



Dr. Wu's Chinese Elm penjing in the Chinese Pavilion of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.
Dr. Wu described this as "Heart, open as a hollow valley, blossoms out like a rainbow in the
sky" (English translation by Henriette Levy). *(Photo courtesy of Akey Hung)*



Landscape penjing entitled “A small bridge, flowing water, and houses” by Master Zhao Qingquan
(Photo courtesy of Zhao Qingquan)

The creation of this penjing was inspired by the following poem:

Tune of Tianjingsha, by Ma Zhiyuan (1250-1321) of the Yuan Dynasty

Withered vines, aged trees, crows at dusk;
A small bridge, flowing water, and houses.
An ancient road, the west wind, a skinny horse;
The setting sun in the west;
The heartbroken person at the edge of the world.

Some bonsai artists tend to groom the foliage too smoothly, giving them the “haircut” appearance. However, traditional bonsai artists do not practice this technique. The formalistic styles of the tree penjing are also a thing of the past. The naturalistic look is much preferred. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Some penjing/bonsai facts:

- **There is NO Instant Bonsai.**
- Bonsai are not special varieties of plants.
- Good Bonsai are produced through years of patient training.
- Bonsai are not stunted, dwarf plants.
- Bonsai require regular attention.
- The age of the tree is not the most important criterion in evaluating a bonsai.
- Root pruning is not the ONLY technique that keeps bonsai small.

At the end of his talk on penjing, Dr. Hung shared with us his passion for cultivating the Chinese meihua and lamei. Earlier this spring, he had invited a group of chapter members to visit his garden during meihua blooming season in late winter, to share many beautiful meihua and fragrant lamei branches with us. *(Editor's Note: See the article in the April 2013 issue of the OCAW E-Newsletter.)* Lamei, or winter sweet, is a rare plant in this area. Dr. Hung brought many lamei seeds as gifts to the attendees of the penjing talk. Lamei is an intensely fragrant winter-blooming shrub with waxy small flowers, hence “la” (‘wax’ in Mandarin). Dr. Hung pointed out that it is not in the family of meihua.

He demonstrated how to germinate this seed which has a very tough outer skin by scarring the seed lightly with fine-grained sandpaper. This allows water to penetrate the seed to initiate the germination process. Dr. Hung is now known as Akey Lameiseed, like Johnny Appleseed. If you are interested in cultivating this amazing shrub with heavy fragrance but you missed the penjing talk, just email: ocawmaryland@yahoo.com and request that we reserve lamei seeds to be held and given to you at our next program. Dr. Hung has also posted instructions for germinating lamei seeds at: <http://nubesinfinite.blogspot.com/2013/03/blog-post.html>

Dr. Hung is a retired U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Entomologist. In his retirement, Dr. Hung studies insects in the Book of Poetry (Shijing), learns Spanish, sings poems in Taiwanese Min Nan dialect, and volunteers for a hospice organization and a hospital. He is also the founder of the Bowie Bonsai Club (1981), Mei-Hwa Penjing Society (1984), and the Bowie Senior Bonsai Club (2011).



Penjing by penjing master Qingquan “Brook” Zhao, one of the best penjing masters in China
(Photo courtesy of Qingquan Zhao)

For those who are inspired to learn more about Dr. Wu Yee Sun and Man Lung Penjing, here is information extracted from Wikipedia.

Dr. Wu Yee Sun (1900-2005) was a Hong Kong entrepreneur and billionaire who, with friends, founded the Wing Lung Bank. Because of his subsequent success, over the years in Dr. Wu's name or that of his father, Dr. Wu's family has been able to contribute towards setting up or improving hospitals, clinics, universities, and schools in Mainland China and Hong Kong.

In 1967, Dr. Wu and his friends established the Man Lung ("scholar-farmer") Garden as a place to meet, discuss, study, and exhibit. Two years later, he published and distributed Man Lung Garden Artistic Pot Plants, the definitive book on Chinese penjing of the Lingnan style. In 1974 an enlarged edition of the book came out as Man Lung Artistic Pot Plants with the addition of the history and evolution of artistic pot plants, notes from presentations, and over 100 additional photographs.

Over the years, Dr. Wu's personal collection in Hong Kong grew to nearly 400 specimens of penjing. He donated many of these to public institutions in Europe and North America. All of these penjing exhibitions are open to the public. The Wu Chinese Garden Pavilion at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum of the U.S. National Arboretum was opened in 1996.



Chinese Pavilion of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum
(Photo courtesy of Akey Hung)

A website (<http://www.manlungpenjing.org>) was begun to put online his fine works, as well as those of other individuals. Also, in 2002, a comprehensive collection of penjing in full color called Man Lung Penjing was published. It celebrates over seventy years of study and serves as a record of Dr. Wu's creative style.

Impressions from the Penjing Talk

(from Henriette Levy)

Camilla Ng asked me what part of Akey Hung's presentation I found the most interesting. To me it is the fact he pointed out that Chinese Penjing is silent poetry. As we all know, composition in paintings as well as photography is important – where you place a person in a landscape and from what angle you wish the viewer to look at the work, etc. Many Chinese poems are like a picture, and vice versa. I liked how Akey brought out the point from the back of my mind and verbalized it.

Secondly, Akey took a fair stand discussing the differences between Penjing and Bonsai, and emphasized the historical truth that Penjing originated in China and was brought to Japan later on. I really liked how he demonstrated this with historical evidence.



Attendees at “The Art of Penjing” presentation

(Photo taken by Hong-fa Chu)

News from the New Orleans Chapter

Asian Pacific American Society Fundraiser

(from Betty Butz, New Orleans Chapter President, and Li Li)

The Asian Pacific American Society (APAS) has evolved to become a significant hub for social and community activities in our city. Some New Orleans Chapter members are quite active in it.

For example, for another successful fundraiser held on Saturday, September 7, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street in New Orleans, Tina Owen served as Chairperson, Li Li served as First Vice Chair, and Jing Hu was in charge of raffle ticket sales. Jing also received a community service award representing the local Chinese community. She was recognized as past principal of the Academy of Chinese Studies in New Orleans.

There was a silent auction, service awards ceremony, and Miss APAS contest. Miss China won third place in the contest. Member communities celebrated the occasion by presenting entertaining, colorful variety shows.

Confucius Institute Moon Festival

(from Betty Butz)

The Confucius Institute at Xavier University of Louisiana hosted a moon festival on Friday evening, September 20, 2013 in the ballroom of the student center.

The event was free and open to the public. It featured crafts and games for children, and a buffet and entertainment for everyone.



Chapter members Jing Hu and son, Nancy Chung, Mangjee Yeh, Li Li, Yvonne Louie, and founding member Tina Soong (*Photo taken by Si Chung*)

West Jeff Family Festival

(from Betty Butz and Li Li)

On Saturday, October 19, 2013, chapter members participated in a family festival organized by the West Jefferson Hospital Foundation. Jing Hu, Li Li, and Tina Owen managed a tent for children which was sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Society. Although dark clouds and rain threatened a good time until 11 a.m., festival-goers persevered.

After the rain, lots of children came to the tent to make masks and bookmarks, and to do origami. Some stayed after closing time. The festival gave great exposure for APAS to the general public in the West Bank of New Orleans community. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

Photos have been uploaded to the <http://www.apasnola.com/> website, which contains information on past and current APAS activities. There is also a portal to view OCAW e-newsletters.



Having fun at the festival were a festival visitor and chapter members Li Li, Tina Soong, Tina Owen, and Jing Hu.



Shu Peng (Confucius Institute) and Jing Hu (Photos provided by Li Li)

News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(from Sophia Yang, President)

On Sunday, September 29, 2013, the Silicon Valley Chapter held its annual “Road to College” seminar in the Saratoga Library Community Room in Saratoga, California. This event was open to the general public and was for those who were interested in obtaining the most updated information regarding the college application process.

The four guest speakers were:

Jim Narangajavana, co-founder of C2 Education

Dan Kwon, Director of College Counseling at FLEX College Resource Centers

Felicia Tang, University of California at Berkeley Graduate

Jason Huang, University of Rochester Graduate



The representatives from the two college preparation/resource centers listed the preparation tasks for the college application process, and provided the most updated trends regarding college admissions. The two college graduates shared their experiences, from the student’s perspective, with choosing schools and majors.



Our audience had the opportunity to bring up their questions and to have further discussions with the speakers. It was truly a successful seminar which could benefit the high school students who are now in the process of applying to colleges.



Upcoming Events

Our next event will be on Sunday, December 15, 2013. It will be a seminar on Women's Health.

We are also preparing to co-sponsor a Chinese New Year Celebration in the Saratoga community on February 9, 2014.

News from the Hawaii Chapter

(from Geraldine Ko, Secretary)

"A Touch of Aloha," a Hawaiian Luncheon Fundraiser

On Saturday, October 19, 2013, OCAW-Hawaii presented "A Touch of Aloha" Hawaiian Luncheon benefit, at the Treetops Restaurant in Honolulu, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Fundraising Committee was comprised of Gladys Lee, the primary planner and Captain, who very ably steered the project to its hugely successful conclusion; President Rena Ochse, flyer, ticket, and program design artist; Linda Young, Committee Treasurer; and Geraldine Ko, Mistress of Ceremonies and committee member. I cannot remember a more amazing group to work with.



Geraldine "Gigi" Ko, Mistress of Ceremonies

The purpose of this event was to extol the splendor of the islands – its people, cuisine, fashion, and dance. Most of us know that in a national Gallup survey to determine which state of the U.S. has the happiest people, our Aloha state has been on the top of the list for the third year in a row. Yes indeed, Hawaii is our nation’s happiest state.



Event Committee Chair Gladys Lee, committee members Gigi Ko and Linda Young, and chapter member and Ohana Halau (Kumu) Isabella Rose Monzon

That we had our Hawaiian fundraiser in October was a pleasant coincidence, because October was the month designated by the Governor of Hawaii as Hawaii Fashion Month. Thus the affair was a fashion show of island styles worn by family and friends. In keeping with the Hawaiian theme, lei for the four committee members and Pastor Lai were created by Daisy Ching, who also created exquisite floral wristlets for each guest.

The Treetops Restaurant, as always, did not fail to deliver. Surrounded by dense, uncultivated flora and fauna, it looked like a large tree house in the middle of an enchanted primeval forest. Its Hawaiian cuisine, added to the usual daily fare, presented a buffet on a grand scale. Before his invocation, the Reverend Godwin Lai, Pastor of the Canaan Gospel Community Center who was to be the recipient of this fundraiser, spoke to the guests about how the funds will be used to spread Divine Love.

The highlight of the event was the Polynesian revue presented by the Ohana-Aloha Dance Troupe from Cleveland, Ohio, headed by OCAW-Hawaii member Isabella Rose Monzon. Back home they have been hugely successful, performing nearly every weekend at various occasions like NASA conferences, and once at half-time for a Cleveland Indians versus Toronto Blue Jays baseball game. They even performed for former President Clinton’s luau at Camp David.



Ohana-Aloha dancers with President Rena Young Ochse and chapter member and Ohana Halau (Kumu) Isabella Rose Monzon

The dancers brought in their own opulent decorations from home. Mighty were their preparations. There were glitzy sprays hanging from beams, Tapa cloth wrapped around the base of the stage, large leaves on sections of the wall, 2½- to 3-foot trees, big flowers on stands, and a couple of giant fans with Hawaiian landscapes. The setting looked glitzy and festive.

Polynesian dances are an expression of the joy of living and love of life. This the five dancers conveyed beautifully, in several changes of elaborate and colorful costumes. We could picture it as they danced two ethereal hulas about the grandeur of the big island, and the bucolic slopes of Mt. Haleakala, the highest mountain in Maui, where paniolos roamed the rolling green pastures and inhaled the crisp mountain air and the fragrant scent of ginger. Next was a hula to Shania Twain's love song, "From this Moment," where two of the three dancers came down from the stage to give lei to the four committee members and Pastor Lai, then rejoined the third dancer onstage to complete the dance.



There was an implement medley of three dances, each dance demonstrating a different implement used as accompaniment to Hula, and a delightful dance showing the back and forth motions of the Goby fish, endemic to old Hawaii.



Dancers performed with traditional hula implements

Two dances originated from the Maoris of New Zealand: one, a fun dance, with dancers swinging balls on cords through a variety of rhythmic and geometric patterns. The other was an ancient war dance, now being performed by New Zealand's rugby team before its matches.

The final presentation was two spectacular Tahitian numbers, with electrifying hip-shaking to the syncopated rhythm of drums. The entire performance was outstanding, polished and professional.

After the show, several door prizes were distributed to lucky winners, and then came picture-taking by requesting guests with the dancers.

With gorgeous weather, thanks to Mother Nature's glorious cooperation, a well-attended affair filled to capacity, food that wouldn't quit, beautiful people dressed in high fashion, embraces all around, and most of all, a splendid Polynesian revue by the Ohana-Aloha Dance Troupe, the occasion was nothing short of a blockbuster.

Not a bad way to spend an afternoon.



Gladys Lee, Event Committee Chair; Reverend Godwin Lai, Canaan Community Gospel Center; and Rena Young Ochse, OCAW Hawaii Chapter President

Top 5 Hawaii Social Media Influencers

(from Rena Young Ochse, President)

Congratulations to member Gina Salvador who was chosen one of the "Top 5 Hawaii Social Media Influencers" at a recent contest. Gina is the daughter of member Jerilyn Jeffries.

The Hawaii Social Media Summit was held October 25-26, 2013 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center in Honolulu. This year's summit shared best practices and insights on developing and implementing large-scale social marketing and advertising strategies. The event highlighted 50 national and local dynamic leaders focused on the latest in social media trends and practices. The summit also featured the 3rd Annual Social Media Awards honoring "The Top 5" Social Media Influencers in Hawaii. These individuals have greatly and eloquently impacted our community through a variety of social media platforms.



Mandarin Ball

(from Rena Young Ochse)

The Hawaii Chinese Civic Association hosted its annual Mandarin Ball on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at the Marriott Hotel.



The ball featured a Mandarin Jacket contest. In a field of over 30 contestants, Rena Young Ochse (on the left in the photo) won 1st place in the Traditional Jacket category. Gigi Ko won 1st place in the Contemporary Chinese category. *(Editor's Note: Congratulations, ladies!)*

Upcoming Christmas Installation Luncheon

(from Rena Young Ochse)

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter will celebrate the Christmas holidays at the Oahu Country Club.

Date: Sunday, December 8, 2013

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Program: Installation of 2014 Officers

President Rena Young Ochse

Vice President Sybil Kyi

Secretary Geraldine Ko

Treasurer Sharon Chun

Price: \$25 for members and 1 guest

Additional guests: \$45

Event Chair: Queenie Mow Chee