E-Newsletter of the Organization of Chinese American Women

September 2013

(from Linda Devine)

As always, thank you to all who submitted material for this issue. I also would like to acknowledge the diligent efforts of 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.

Opera International

(from Muriel Hom)

OCAW was pleased to sponsor two concerts by the Macao Youth Symphony Orchestra which recently traveled to the United States. The first concert was held in the Terrace Theater of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, August 29, at 7:30 p.m.
The second performance took place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, also in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, August 31, at 11 a.m.

Concert at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Photo from the Macao Daily News.

OCAW was happy to provide the opportunity for the Macao Youth to showcase their extraordinary talent. These concerts also enabled countless numbers of people to enjoy the orchestra’s beautiful renditions of music by Mozart, Bach, and Vivaldi.

The conductor, Lio Kuokman, was superb, having conducted with many famous international orchestras at a young age. The Philadelphia Inquirer praised him as a “startling conducting talent.” The four talented violin soloists also performed lovely renditions of their solos with the orchestra.

Attendees at these free events were thrilled to be able to enjoy truly beautiful music, and OCAW was very pleased with the turnout for the events. Kudos go to Mr. Wing-chi Chan for organizing and executing this event, and to OCAW for hosting these performances.

(Editor’s Note: Both spellings, “Macao” and “Macau,” are currently in use.)
Tenor Hong-fa Chu concluded the National Shrine program with his singing of Schubert’s “Ave Maria.”

**Thoughts on the Youth Orchestra and the Concerts**

*(from Camilla Ng, Maryland Chapter President)*

*(Editor’s Note: Camilla attended both performances.)*

In reading the notes on the program about the founding of the Macao Youth Symphony Orchestra, I was very impressed to see so many musically talented Chinese youths from this small former Portuguese colony. With a population of about 600,000, Macao is primarily known as a gaming metropolis, and with that as its focus, it was admirable that a grass-roots effort by music teachers created a student ensemble to provide an opportunity for local youth.

In the short 15 years since its inception, this community-based entity has become an internationally recognized youth orchestra. That highlights to me not just the number of children with talent, but also the tremendous dedication of the music teachers.

While we do have a number of very talented Asian American youth musicians in our community, we are not accustomed to seeing an entire orchestra of children and young adults who look like us. For the young Asian Americans in the audience at both performances at the Kennedy Center and at the National Shrine, it was inspirational and a cultural identity affirmation. I sat with my friend Astrid Rapp and her family, whose niece
Mia is an adopted child from China and an aspiring violinist. At the end of the concert, Mia asked if she would one day be able to play those pieces by Bach and Vivaldi. More importantly, even though she did not verbalize it, she was asking if she would be like the youths who are like her, who play so impressively well. That imprinting in the young person of the glorious music in a grand setting, is an inspiration that money cannot buy.

The Macao Youth Symphony Orchestra on the steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Photo from the Macao Daily News.

China Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum

(from Betty Butz, New Orleans Chapter President)

In 2007, a master plan for a China Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. was approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Chinese Academy of Forestry. The two entities will cooperate in the construction of a classical Chinese garden on 12 acres at the National Arboretum. The garden will be a living classroom that is intended to foster cultural understanding and friendship between the U.S. and China. Please refer to: www.usna.usda.gov/ChinaGarden
The garden project presents an opportunity for OCAW to become involved through education and service in the arena of public space usage. I can think of two ways in which OCAW can contribute to the planning of a culturally sensitive spot for relaxation, exercise, and contemplation. OCAW would have the privilege of naming this part of the garden, for example, “Taiji Courtyard.”

**FIRST**
In conjunction with the execution of the master plan, OCAW could request the service 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.

**SECOND**
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.

The basis for a Chinese garden is a philosophy of harmony and balance that is expressed through proper orientation and placement of design elements to mimic nature. Three main design elements are rocks, water, and plants. Below are five useful points in the discussion of this philosophy.

a. **Five directions.** Besides north, east, south, and west, a very important direction is the center. In Chinese, China is known as Zhongguo, the middle kingdom to which other directions ought to orient.

b. **Reverse compass.** Conventional maps are oriented towards the north. This is particularly helpful to map users in the northern hemisphere. In a Chinese landscape, the most desirable position is to have one's back against a supporting northern wall feature while one faces the south. It is helpful to visualize that when situated in this position, the sun rises on the left and sets on the right.

c. **Elemental relationships.** The five elements considered in feng shui are metal, water, wood, fire, and earth. Make use of this sequence, which is productive and generative, and things will follow in good order. When the order is mixed up, destructive influences may surface and the results can become confusing.

d. **Elemental characteristics.** The five elements have a number of thematic associations. The following table gives some examples.

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<th>Shape</th>
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<td>yellow</td>
<td>cubical</td>
<td>health</td>
<td>Indian summer</td>
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</table>
e. The focus of a Chinese garden rests in its energy flow, known as “qi” (pronounced chee). A person can harness this energy flow by doing slow exercise while contemplating the yin-yang balance of nature.

If you are interested in learning more about Chinese gardens, please visit:
http://www.seattlechinesegarden.org/

I hope that you will have interesting comments on the two ways that OCAW could support the China Garden project as mentioned in the beginning of this discussion. Please share them in the next issue of our e-newsletter. Thank you.

Betty Butz

(Editor’s Note: In regard to Betty's request for comments about her ideas above, I encourage readers to submit feedback to me to be published in the next e-newsletter. Your input can range from (1) an article on the subject, (2) comments about her proposals, (3) questions you would like to ask, to (4) simply a statement that you like her ideas and would encourage OCAW to try to pursue them.

Please submit your name, chapter affiliation, and input to me by November 8, so that I can include it in the next issue. Thank you in advance for participating in the discussion!)

Closing on the OCAW History Book

(from Puanani Woo)

Monday, August 19, 2013

Refresh:  HISTORY of the ORGANIZATION of CHINESE AMERICAN WOMEN, May 2013, University of Hawaii Press, soft cover, 200 pp, 8.5x11, $19.00 retail; 500 books printed; 300 books ONLY for sale; 200 books NOT for sale purchased/donated to satisfy PURPOSE #3 noted below.

Knowledge

Dear OCAW Sisters:

Oh, what a relief. This is my final update on our book, HISTORY of the ORGANIZATION of CHINESE AMERICAN WOMEN from the years 1977-2009. It has been my deep pleasure to have worked with all the writers of this book. All beautiful. Compassionate. Intelligent women.
The Chinese American women, from the officers of OCAW to all volunteers nationwide, who created, established, energized, participated in, and led OCAW in the last quarter of the 20th century and first decade of the 21st century are a marvel to me. I honor all of them. They persevered.

**Perseverance**

**Others?** I know of no other American ethnic women’s group/s who initiated, organized, planned, and sustained a predominantly voluntary leadership long-term program of educational services for its peers as OCAW did.

The time span of the last quarter of the 20th century is very significant to me, because those OCAW women stepped boldly and unselfishly into the zone of America’s awakening to blatant racial prejudice of European white Americans against Black Americans, Asian Americans (specifically Chinese Americans), and other American minorities.

Note below how OCAW’s early advocacy fits into the national picture of an early cry for equal treatment for all.

- **1960s:** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr./Black Americans boldly stood up against racial prejudice.

- **1967:** Dr. Betty Lee Sung, an early OCAW leader and eminent national scholar, became known and respected across our nation for her early research and writing about the Chinese in America and their struggles for survival, acceptance, and full participation in American life – from the Gold Rush days to the present. Her book, *The Story of the Chinese in America*, was required reading for one of my M.Ed. education courses at the University of Hawaii.

- **1975:** The United Nations declared 1975 “INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S YEAR.”

- **1977:** OCAW was established.

Dr. Betty Lee Sung, of New York, at age 90, emailed to say she is very pleased that the history of OCAW in a published book is now out as a public record.

**PURPOSE #3:** I received at my home 200 books to satisfy PURPOSE #3 (see below). I mailed 137 of the 200 books by PRIORITY MAIL at a cost of $5.60 per book (3-5 days’ delivery, just like a 1st class letter) and NOT by the less expensive book rate (2-4 weeks delivery), because I wanted every recipient of our book to feel respected by OCAW. The 8.5x11 book-size PRIORITY MAIL envelopes are free from the post office. One pays postage only.

- The exception is that I mailed 3 books to colleagues in Hawaii by the book rate (2 weeks delivery).

- I PRIORITY MAILED 60 of the 200 books to a number of OCAW sisters who graciously volunteered to personally get the books they requested to significant individuals they know who fit PURPOSE #3.
PURPOSE #3 is "To have this history available as study material in WOMEN’S STUDIES and ETHNIC-ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAMS throughout the United States of America, at least, and in selected parts of Asia."

Total cost of the book: $22,853.11 is the total cost of the OCAW History Book Project from (1) production, (2) distribution, through (3) the book launch.

Revenues from the sales of the books: All revenues from the sales of the 500 books will go to the University of Hawaii Press instead of the usual 50% split of revenues to the UH Press and 50% split of revenues to the cooperating 501(c)(3) agency. Pauline Tsui and I originally intended for 50% of the revenues to go to OCAW National as a donation, but the majority vote of the National Board decided not to endorse the book as an official national project for various reasons, and chose instead to encourage support via individual OCAW chapters and members. Thus the UH Press, as the lead entity and publisher, will receive the revenues from the sales of the book.

A complete set of newsletters: Nancy Hwang who, in the early 1980s, designed the OCAW Newsletter masthead, donated a complete set to Pauline. Those newsletters are a more complete and detailed history of OCAW.

Pauline is in the process of working with a designate from the LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, ASIAN DIVISION, in deciding if the LOC/AD will accept this complete set of OCAW Newsletters and other OCAW memorabilia.

Done: I have completed my commitment as voluntary Project Director for the book. I deleted from my computer all material concerning the book. The complete manuscript on disc is with the UH Press.

The cooperation and brilliance of Pauline, senior editor, and all the writers and significant others in producing our book was a gift to me. I love language arts and American history.

I thank Linda Devine and her husband Ed for their outstanding, objective, and professional work in editing and putting out our very informative OCAW e-Newsletters.

I wish the OCAW National Board continuing best in all they do.

Cooperation

As of July 1, 2013, I am fully committed as chairperson of a committee to raise a six-figure fund for the library in the almost completed Hawaiian architecturally designed building named HALE ‘OLELO, which will house the scholarly KA HAKA ‘ULA O KE’ELIKOLANI COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE. This college is nationally accredited to offer a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Hawaiian Language, an indigenous language, at the University of Hawaii in Hilo, Hawaii. www.halekuamoo.com

Sincerely yours,

Puanani Woo
News from the Maryland Chapter

**Dragon Boat Festival Races**

*(from Christina Wong Poy, Treasurer)*

During the weekend of May 18-19, 2013, Camilla Ng and Christina Wong Poy paddled with Team Apex in the annual D.C. Dragon Boat Festival races in Georgetown, Washington, D.C. Our team participated in our division’s 250-meter finals on Saturday and won the gold medal! We also competed in the 500-meter races on Sunday.

![Team Apex at the Dragon Boat Festival](image)

Evans Watson (Christina Wong Poy’s Gates Millennium Scholars Program colleague), Christina Wong Poy, and Camilla Ng

**Dragon Boat Sticky Rice Gathering (Zongji Wrap)**

*(from Susan Young, Secretary, and Camilla Ng, President)*

The OCAW Maryland Chapter hosted a Zongji Wrap on Saturday, June 15, 2013, at the elegant home of Cathy and Dick Roberts in Oakton, Virginia. We made Cantonese-style zongji, or doong (in Toisanese).
Special thanks to Kit Poy for making home-brined salted egg yolks for the zongji.

Camilla Ng prepared the other ingredients. The Cantonese-style zongji contained short-grain glutinous rice, salted pork in five-spice powder, split mung beans, Chinese chestnuts, dried Shiitake mushrooms, peanuts, Chinese sausage, and dried shrimp. (Optional black-eyed peas could be substituted for mung beans.) The bamboo leaves that gave the wrapped bundles such fragrant flavor required the most preparation – 4 days of soaking and water changing, then boiling to soften and further remove the tannin.

Several members brought their teenaged daughters to experience the preparation of this traditional food of Duanwu Jie, a festival that has a 2,500-year-old history. This is one of the largest traditional festivals celebrated by the Chinese, which commemorates the beloved patriot and great poet Qu Yuan. It is held on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. Many of us remember our grandmothers or mothers making zongji when we were children.

The wrapping was set up on the spacious deck of Cathy and Dick’s house. It was a lovely setting on a mild sunny day. The wrapped zongji were then boiled for 3 hours.
While the pot boiled, the convivial gathering enjoyed the potluck and social. Lots of other delicious food was brought by attendees.

We all had a fabulously fun time reconnecting with our heritage in making this traditional food. And of course, the best part was the unwrapping of the zongji, smelling the blending of all the ingredients that came together, flavored by the bamboo leaves. Yum!

Our gracious hostess Cathy Roberts, also a master knitter, will resume leading the monthly knitting group this fall. Cathy can teach knitters of all levels, from beginners to advanced. Stay tuned for the future announcement of “Knit with Cathy.”

Many thanks to Cathy and Dick for hosting the Zongji Wrap, and to everyone who came to this successful event. All enjoyed this memorable afternoon to learn how to wrap zongji and to have this opportunity to visit with one another.

*(Photos by Hong-yee Chiu)*
Hosts Dick and Cathy Roberts
Lingbi Stones: China's Number One Viewing Stone

(from Camilla Ng)

On Sunday, June 23, 2013, members of the Maryland Chapter – Faith Breen and her husband Chip, Ruey Min, and Camilla Ng – attended the illustrated lecture on Lingbi Stones, presented by Dr. Tom Elias, former Director of the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. The program, sponsored by the Potomac Viewing Stone Group, was held in the auditorium of the Arboretum.

Dr. Elias’ talk covered an overview of Lingbi stones, historically and today, and provided information on the categories of Lingbi stones and the wide variety that are found in the present day. During the hour-long talk and slide presentation, we were taken on a visit to Lingbi County in Anhui Province to see an ancient Song Dynasty mining site; a visit to a current, active mining site; and visits to two small towns in the heart of Lingbi County. Dr. Elias shared with us interesting information on these stones, showed us a wide selection of Lingbi stones, and described how they are used in gardens and indoors.

Daughter of the Sea
Lingbi stones are Chinese stones that are considered the most prized among the traditional and historic scholar's stones. The earliest known written appreciation on Viewing Stones is *Yunlin Shipu, Stone Compendium of the Cloudy Forest* (first half of the 12th century), which enumerates 116 types of stones of which Lingbi stone was named the first stone. Another book, a catalog of 246 prized stones, is *Suyuan Shipu, Stone Compendium of the Plain Garden* (1613).
Lingbi stone is marine limestone that was uplifted and exposed to weathering. The mineral content is mainly fine-grain crystalline calcite with minor dolomite, pyrite, and iron oxide. Named the “First Rocks under heaven” by Emperor Qianlong of the 18th century, it is also called the chime stone. This highly prized stone is used in the ancient percussion musical instrument Qing, for when it is struck it gives a crisp metallic sound – hence, chime stone.

In August 1978, archaeologists working at the 2,400-year-old Tomb of Marquis Yi of Zeng in Sui County, Hubei Province, unearthed a magnificent set of Qing stone chimes. The 32 chimes are arranged in two horizontal rows suspended on a bronze frame. Such stone chimes are known to have been played at the imperial court (source: CCTV, Lingbi, the Chime Rock – http://www.cctv.com/program/e_documentary/20081230/106095_1.shtml).

Lingbi stones are not only music to the ears but also eye candy to the collectors. A Chinese garden is not complete unless it has grotesque rocks. Traditionally, five standards are used for evaluating Lingbi rocks; they should be slender, undulating, hollow, translucent, and grotesque. Rocks that meet all five standards are regarded as first-class. Adding to these five old literati standards are provenance, who owned it, antiquity, the appearance of being ancient, and the pedestal or seating. The modern criteria for viewing stones have expanded to include 400 varieties of stones. The standards are shape, color, texture, and quality (hardness).

Lingbi stones come in various colors, including yellow, black and white, gray, red, and white. The collector stones may come in many sizes ranging from the original garden landscape stones, to smaller scale scholar’s stones that fit in one’s palm, stones that were brought into the interior for appreciation. In the Song Dynasty
Lingbi stones were mined and transported by boat on the Grand Canal. Depleted after a thousand years of mining, high quality Lingbi stones are now very rare.

Readers who are interested in finding out more about Chinese Viewing Stones, books on this subject, and articles written Dr. Elias on Viewing Stones, can go to the Viewing Stone Association of North America website:  [http://vsana.org/](http://vsana.org/)

**Second Annual National Harbor Regatta**

*(from Christina Wong Poy)*

The Second Annual National Harbor Regatta occurred on Saturday, August 24, 2013 – a clear and beautiful day, perfect for dragon boat racing. With each team of 20 paddlers seated two to a bench, one steersperson, and one drummer, it’s quite a sight to watch, and it is exhilarating to participate in these races.

Team Dragon Alliance with bronze medals for the Division B 2000-meter race. Christina Wong Poy is kneeling 2nd from the right. Camilla Ng is standing 4th from the right.
This event was my second year paddling with the Dragon Alliance. Last year, we won a silver medal in the 500-meter race and placed fourth in the 2000-meter competition. This year, I recruited some of my D.C. Dragon Boat Festival teammates from Team Apex, including Camilla Ng, to paddle with us. We placed fourth in our 500-meter finals, but qualified to compete in the 2000-meter race and brought home a bronze medal! Camilla and I have come full circle, as she originally recruited me to paddle in the annual D.C. Dragon Boat Festival in 2009, and I've been hooked ever since!

**Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center**

*from Camilla Ng*

Through Mary Tom, President of OCA-Greater Washington DC and OCAW Maryland Chapter member, Camilla learned of the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) in Washington, D.C.

According to its website, the mission of the Center is “to advance the civil and legal rights of Asian Americans by focusing on providing linguistically accessible and culturally appropriate legal services to low-income Asian immigrants in the metropolitan D.C. area who have limited English proficiency. The goal is to ensure that Asian Americans can access government services and the legal system to protect and enforce their rights, and to seek full participation in American society.” The Center’s Executive Director is Zenobia Lai.

Camilla wishes to share this resource, should members ever have need of legal counsel. This is a first step that they can take to learn about legal processes and rights.

The Center’s website:  [www.apalrc.org](http://www.apalrc.org)

For legal assistance, please call:  202-393-3572, Ext. 22

If you wish, you can ask for a staff member who speaks Chinese.

**News from the New Orleans Chapter**

*from Betty Butz, President*

**OCAW History Book**

Thanks to Pauline Tsui and Puanani Woo and all the ladies who were involved in the OCAW book project, I have spent several moons enjoying the history of our organization. It is a wonderful feeling being in the company of other writers via their encouraging words.

The book project fund enabled me to send copies of the book to Hong Kong, Japan, Ohio, and Oregon; and to local organizations – the Asian Pacific American Society, the University of New Orleans, the Confucius Institute at Xavier University of Louisiana, the Academy of Chinese Studies, and the Chinese Presbyterian Church.

**Upcoming Events**

We look forward to a wonderful autumn of celebrations. First on the lineup is the Asian Pacific American Society gala at the Sheraton Hotel. I was able to persuade the English Turn Golf and Country Club to donate
a raffle prize of a round of golf for a foursome. At the gala, OCAW New Orleans Chapter member Hu Jing will be presented a community service award representing the Chinese communities in the city.

Other autumn celebrations have also been planned by the New Orleans Chinese Association and the Confucius Institute at Xavier University of Louisiana. Chapter members are invited to these events.

Our chapter is considering holding a fall meeting at the New Orleans Museum of Art, followed by a stroll in the Sculpture Garden.

News from the Silicon Valley Chapter

(from Sophia Yang, President)

Annual Event

On Sunday, August 4, 2013, the Silicon Valley Chapter held its 27th annual event at the Quinlan Community Center in Cupertino, California. We had our Officer Installation, Youth Achievement Awards Presentation, and Fashion and Talent Show.
The following is the list of officers for the term 2013-2014:

President – Sophia Yang
Vice President – Carol Yuan
Secretary – Nai Hsueh / Joanna Yun
Treasurer – Teresa Huang
Membership – Lisa Tsai
Webmaster – Hong Tai
Public Relations – Cynthia Chang
Event Committee – Monica Hsiao, Sherry Hsu, Alice Chiou, Rose Cheng, Jessie Wu, and Yura Shieu

The 4 young Scholars who were the Youth Achievement Award recipients were Derek Sun, Tiffany Zai, Derek Chao, and Grace Chang.

With about 150 attendees and 5 performing groups, we had a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon. The show opened with a singing group performing “Medley from The Phantom of the Opera.” Two award-winning Line Dance Groups and a Folk Dance Group gave wonderful performances. The show featured a Flute Trio composed of three middle school girls. The Break Dance group, A1-Crew, was the highlight of the show.

All of the Youth and Adult Models did a fabulous job as well.
Upcoming Event

Our next event is scheduled for Sunday, September 29, 2013. It will be the “Road to College” Seminar.

The speakers will not only provide information about the college application process, but they also will share their personal experiences and thoughts. We expect that this seminar will benefit both the parents and students from high school.
News from the Hawaii Chapter

OCAW-Hawaii: Mid-Term

(from Geraldine Ko, Secretary)

Now that half the year has sprinted by, it is time for our state of the club evaluation, our way of keeping tabs on ourselves and how we’ve been progressing in our commitment to empower women and be a blessing to the Chinese-American community.

When we turned the page at the beginning of the year, President Rena Young Ochse’s plan was to focus on our membership as our fountain of intelligent information, skill, and talent, and it was Rena’s intent to provide a platform for these to be shared. To this end, Rena chose our past three guest speakers, Mss. Hong Jiang, Robin Lung, and Fawn Shang, from the ranks of our membership.

It is only logical then, that our club has as its second goal, an increase in membership. Our primary vehicle has been our general membership meetings where we could make an impression by packaging them with polish, power, and professionalism. We have tried to show a vibrant organization involved in projects that have historic, artistic, literary, and cultural value, as well as activities that are fun and delightful. Our efforts have yielded 14 new members.

Our communications tool has been primarily our newsletters which have disseminated information and announcements, showcased our efforts, and reflected our pride and enthusiasm. The colorful photos have given warmth and energy to our news, and more importantly have displayed the ladies who have witnessed and participated in each history-making milestone. The newsletters have been telling our story. Our newsletter editor Ms. Ann Matsumoto chose our lovely logo and has expertly arranged articles and photos into logical and attractive layouts.

Ann also has been caring for our website, where irreplaceable archives have been electronically stored and safeguarded to facilitate access for research. It even has videos. As we continue to build upon our pioneer women’s legacy of ideas and ideals, Ann has been busy scanning our manuscripts, starting with those that made history yesterday and those that have kept our history alive during the subsequent years. Ann hopes for member participation by submitting articles, starting dialogues, and assisting in structuring and managing our website.

Because of our club’s strong social conscience and because of the added benefit of exposure, we have tried to help the community by giving to worthy causes. We donated $300 which gave us a tee bearing our name, to the annual golf tournament sponsored by the Palolo Chinese Homes. We also donated $25 to the United Chinese Society for the annual Qing Ming Day when different societies honor their ancestors at gravesites. Our board also approved Rena’s proposal to continue our kokua to the Canaan Community Gospel Center, led by the Reverend Godwin Lai.

Clearly we are needful of funds. Our Fundraising Committee chair Ms. Gladys Lee and assistants Mss. Jane Au, Rena Ochse, Linda Young, and Gigi Ko have plans for a Hawaiian Luncheon on Saturday, October 19, 2013, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the theme “A Touch of Aloha,” at Treetops Restaurant whose bay windows show off a world of beautiful treetops. Lunch will be a buffet of Hawaiian food in addition to the restaurant’s daily fare. The Polynesian entertainment will be provided by member Isabella Rose Monzon, who will fly in her family of Hula dancers from her Hula studio in Cleveland, Ohio. Tickets will be $40 per person.
Ms. Kimberly Oliveira is trying to organize a fun outing that starts with lunch followed by a tour of the late Doris Duke’s estate called Shangri La, possibly in August. We are also looking forward to our Christmas Installation luncheon, expertly organized yearly by Ms. Queenie Chee.

So far, so good. It is hoped that the momentum continues during the remaining half of the year. We continue to be thankful for this opportunity to serve.

**Update on FINDING KUKAN**

*from Robin Lung*

In the last several months, producer Robin Lung traveled to Los Angeles to present information about the 1941 Oscar-winning film KUKAN and its Hawaii Chinese producer Li Ling-Ai to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. She also conducted a few key interviews for the film, including one with L.A. historian Jenny Cho (author of the upcoming book, *Chinese in Hollywood*), and one with Bishop Museum’s DeSoto Brown who spoke about the amazing collection of KUKAN-related lantern slides of 1937 Nanking that were recently discovered at the museum. In L.A. Robin also recruited Emmy-winning composer Alex Wurman (“March of the Penguins” and “Temple Grandin”) to compose music for her film.

Robin is now on a fundraising campaign to raise $10,000 by October 15 to pay for the film’s editing costs. More information can be found on her website:  [http://findingkukan.com](http://findingkukan.com)

**“A Touch of Aloha” Fundraiser**

*from Rena Young Ochse, President*

The OCAW Hawaii Chapter will present “A Touch of Aloha,” a Hawaiian Buffet Luncheon, on Saturday, October 19, 2013, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Treetops Restaurant in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Entertainment will be provided by Ohana Aloha, Kumu Isabella Rose Monzon and her family, from Cleveland, Ohio.

The event is a benefit to support the Canaan Community Gospel Center.

The cost is $40 per person. For tickets, email Linda Young, at:  lyoung98707@gmail.com

Event Chairpersons are Gladys K. Lee and Jane M. Au. Committee members are Gigi Ko, Linda Young, Rena Young Ochse, and Isabella Rose Monzon.

**General Articles and Items of Potential Interest to Members**

*from Faith Breen*

(Editor’s Note:  The following is an article from “The New York Times” that Faith said she shared with her daughter and son.  She feels that there is a lot of important information contained in it, and that this topic would be an excellent one for a future OCAW conference/seminar.)
Sheilah O’Donnel tells herself that her new home, a townhouse in a development in Chevy Chase, Maryland, just a stone’s throw from a Safeway, isn’t really all that bad. Sure, it’s near a gas station. And the front window, with its cheerily upholstered cushions, overlooks a dreary parking lot. And yes, it’s kind of small – “an apartment,” O’Donnel, who is 44, sometimes says bitterly, when she’s reminded of her former life with her ex-husband in their custom-built, six-bedroom home. But then again, it’s perfectly maintained and impeccably furnished, and most important, it’s rented with her own money, from the first real job she has had in almost a decade.

It’s a mid-level sales job, a big step down from the senior position she held before she had children and quit work. When she was first hired, in May 2011, her salary was just a fifth of what she earned at her peak. But, she said, she wasn’t complaining. All around her, she saw women her age scrambling to find work, some divorcing and losing their homes...

After one emotional session with a friend, her 12-year-old daughter asked what all the fuss was about. O’Donnel told her: “This is the perfect reason why you need to work. You don’t have to make a million dollars. You don’t have to have a wealthy lifestyle. You just always have to be able to at least earn enough so you can support yourself.”

Nine years ago, O’Donnel was promoting a very different message. She was a spokeswoman of sorts for a group of women – highly educated, very accomplished, well-paid professionals with high-earning spouses – who in the early 2000s made headlines for leaving the work force just when they were hitting their stride. They were a small demographic to be sure...but they garnered a great deal of media attention.

This magazine...called the phenomenon of their leaving work the “Opt-Out Revolution,” and other coverage followed: a Time magazine cover story on “The Case for Staying Home” and a “60 Minutes” segment devoted to a group of former mega-achievers who were...“giving up money, success, and big futures” to be home with their children.

O’Donnel, featured in the “60 Minutes” story...had...landed in a competitive training program at Oracle, the technology company, where she rose quickly through the ranks, ending up in the top 5 percent of the sales force. She also met the man who would become her husband... – an up-and-comer in management. They worked hard and became well off. At her peak, O’Donnel was earning $500,000 a year.

But after her first two children were born, O’Donnel’s travel for work became more difficult...

...the stresses of life in a two-career household put an overwhelming strain on her marriage...

...She quit her job, trading in a life of business meetings, client dinners, and commissions for homework help, a “dream house” renovation, and a third pregnancy. “I really thought it was what I had to do to save my marriage,” she said.
But the tensions in her marriage didn’t improve...and...Without a salary or an independent work identity, her self-confidence plummeted...

I reached out to O’Donnel – and nearly two dozen other women – because I was curious, after 10 years and many, many “why women still can’t have it all” debates, to know what happened to the mothers who gave up promising careers in the late 1990s and early 2000s to be home with their children.

The economic landscape had changed greatly since these women...first decided to leave work and head home. In the years they were out of the work force, many of the professions they left contracted and changed; even once rock-solid fields like law were becoming insecure in ways that no one had previously thought possible.

The culture of motherhood, post-recession, had altered considerably, too. The women of the opt-out revolution left the work force at a time when the prevailing ideas about motherhood idealized full-time, round-the-clock, child-centered devotion. In 2000, for example, with the economy strong and books like Surrendering to Motherhood, a memoir about the “liberation” of giving up work to stay home, setting the tone for the aspirational mothering style of the day, almost 40 percent of respondents to the General Social Survey told researchers they believed a mother’s working was harmful to her children (an increase of eight percentage points since 1994). But by 2010...fully 75 percent of Americans agreed with the statement that “a working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work.” And after decades of well-publicized academic inquiry into the effects of maternal separation and the dangers of day care, a new generation of social scientists was publishing research on the negative effects of excessive mothering: more depression and worse general health among mothers, according to the American Psychological Association.

I wondered if these changes affected the women who opted out years ago. Had they found the “escape hatch” from the rat race...? Were they able, as a vast majority said they had planned, to transition back into the work force? Or had they, as the author Leslie Bennetts predicted in her 2007 book, The Feminine Mistake, come to see that, by making themselves financially dependent upon their men – particularly at a time when no man could depend upon his job – they had made a colossal error?

The 22 women I interviewed, for the most part, told me that the perils of leaving the work force were counterbalanced by the pleasures of being able to experience motherhood on their own terms...

Sylvia Ann Hewlett, an economist and the founding president of the Center for Talent Innovation in New York, surveyed thousands of women in 2004 and after the financial crisis in 2009. She has found that roughly a third of “highly qualified women” leave their jobs to spend extended time at home. Though her subjects were all women with graduate degrees or bachelor’s degrees with honors...many reported having a difficult time transitioning into the work force...

...Over the last 10 years, the decades-long advancement of women to higher positions in business and politics seems to have stalled. According to the nonprofit research group Catalyst, women now account for just 4 percent of Fortune 500 chief executives, 17 percent of corporate board seats, 20 percent of law partners, and 19 percent of Congress (thanks to a big bump in the 2012 elections). A younger generation of female high achievers, especially those who aren’t most highly privileged, aren’t getting a very hopeful message. And without women in powerful positions pushing for change, employers have less incentive to alter workplace practices that may encourage women to exit after they have children...

...not a single woman I spoke with said she wished that she could return to her old, pre-opting-out job...What I heard instead were some regrets for what, in an ideal world, might have been – more time with their children combined with some sort of intellectually stimulating, respectably paying, advancement-permitting part-time work – but none for the high-powered professional lives that these women had led.
Men, too, are feeling the crunch of excessively demanding work. They now report more work-life stress than women do, according to the Families and Work Institute. They also may be penalized more than women if they try to accommodate their work schedules to the needs of their children, as research appearing in the June issue of The Journal of Social Issues shows. It’s perhaps not surprising, then, that some husbands find themselves eyeing their wives’ lives at home with envy. “Men want to say we’re more than a paycheck,” Ted Mattox told me. “There has to be something more than going to work for 50 years and dying.”

Judith Warner is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and the author of Perfect Madness: Motherhood in the Age of Anxiety.