

Greetings from the President of the KOWIN DC Chapter



Dear KOWIN DC members,

It has been almost six months since our last newsletter. The hot summer has passed and fall is upon us. I hope you all had nice vacations and were able to relax a little bit. Our members have accomplished many things and we want to share their news with you.

First of all, six people, including our new fellow Erika Shin, attended the 2011 KOWIN International Convention in Ulsan, Korea. This year's main theme was "Green Korea." Included in the main theme was "Service and Giving" which provided much food for thought. In addition to the wonderful experiences similar to the ones we had at past KOWIN conventions, a special feature of this year's meeting was the availability of simultaneous translation in English, Russian, and Japanese. This is a significant change, which will enable second-generation Korean American women leaders with limited Korean language proficiency to participate in future conventions.

Two of our members, Jung Hee Lee and Jennifer Ahn, received KOWIN Achievement Awards, and another member, Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas, gave two presentations at the 2nd KOWINNER International Convention in Hong Kong in June. (Any member who has attended a KOWIN convention in Korea in the past is eligible to be a KOWINNER.) The next convention will be held in Romania.

The KOWIN DC Chapter continues to grow and become better organized. At our July meeting, Sami Lauri was elected the 2nd Vice President, and the Next Generation Committee was created.

We will be holding this year's Leadership Seminar, the most important annual event for KOWIN DC, on November 19. Despite her very busy schedule, Balbina Hwang graciously accepted the Seminar Chair's role. Detailed information on the seminar will be available through e-mails as well as through our much anticipated website. The website will be launching soon, so please look out for the announcement. Just as in last year's seminar, this year's seminar will be targeting young professional Korean American women poised to become our future leaders. I sincerely hope KOWIN DC can play a significant role in creating opportunities for

them to contribute to the common good of the United States and Korea.

Finally, we are planning to have a fun-filled year-end party on December 10 at the prestigious Cosmos Club, so please mark your calendars. This is an open party for all area women leaders and their guests, so bring your friends, spouses, mentors, and mentees.

I look forward to working with you and seeing you at these events. Thank you for your continued support.

Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, M.D.
 President,
 KOWIN DC Chapter

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KOWIN Dinner Meeting with Korean Minister of Gender Equality and Family

February 25, 2011, DC Chapter



The KOWIN DC Chapter held a special dinner meeting on women's leadership on February 25. The guest of honor was the Korean Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Paik Hee-young. The audience consisted of KOWIN members as well as Korean American women leaders representing various social and professional sectors in the Washington Metropolitan Area. A total of sixty people attended this event, including ministry officials and local Korean news reporters. During the meeting Minister Paik was presented with a pin created by Professor Komelia Hongja Okim. The dinner was held at Sea Catch Restaurant in Georgetown.

In her keynote speech at the 55th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) at the UN Headquarters in New York, Paik pointed out that education is essential to women's human rights and upward mobility. Elaborating on this point at the KOWIN DC event, she further explained that one of the ways to improve the status of women is to locate competent women and promote their employment to high-ranking positions. She also praised UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for appointing many women to positions of leadership in the UN. Furthermore, she stated that she hoped that the Korean government would take a more active position in the movement to resolve gender inequality issues worldwide, particularly given its elevated position in the global society today.

July 20, 2011, Chicago Chapter



On July 20, the KOWIN Chicago Chapter also held a dinner meeting on women's leadership with Minister Paik at the Glen Club, IL. A total of 40 people attended it and they presented Paik with a crystal plaque to welcome and thank her. Myong Ho Nam, President of KOWIN DC, was also in attendance.

2011 KOWIN Seminars & Conventions

2011 Ulsan KOWIN International Convention



This summer, from August 30 to September 1, the annual KOWIN International Convention was held in Ulsan, Korea. Approximately 500 Korean women leaders (both from Korea and overseas) participated. The government of Ulsan metropolitan city, the Overseas Korean Foundation (OKF), the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, and the Maeil Economy News sponsored the event. Under the theme "Global

Korean Women Leading Green Korea,” environmental and progressive issues were discussed. Featured sessions included: “Sustainable Development and Eco-Business,” “New Ways of Spending: Green Consumers,” “Women Economic Leaders: Noble Challenges and Successes,” “Insight for Earth, Green Mind,” “Eco-Life: Beyond Thinking and Toward Doing,” “Green Technology Changing the World,” and “Next-Generation Leadership.”

The opening ceremony was attended by many prominent figures, including the Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Paik Hee-young; the Mayor of Ulsan Metropolitan City, Park Maeng-woo; the Chair of the Presidential Council on Nation Branding, Lee Bae-yong; the Democratic Party Representative and Chair of the National Assembly Committee on Women and Family, Choi Young-hee; Lawyer Kang Gui-won; and the former Congresswoman Lee Yeon-sook. On the second day of the event, Minister Paik appointed 20 women leaders the 5th Regional Directors of KOWIN. They will hold their positions until 2013.

During the convention, KBS Producer Goo Soo-hwan’s special lecture titled, “Sharing is a New Type of Korean Wave: the Leadership of Lee Tae Suk the World Witnessed,” deeply moved the audience. Producer Goo introduced Father Lee Tae Suk’s selfless life devoted to children and the sick in Sudan until his premature death from colon cancer, with a documentary film, “Don’t Cry for Me, Tonj (Sudan),” offering to the participants a humanitarian question envisioning how to live the rest of their lives.

Other notable activities in the event included the book donation program, whereby participants gave about 350 children’s books and novels in their local languages to the Ulsan Multicultural Family Support Center, and the special outings to Ulsan Hyundai Manufacturing Industry, the Bulguk Temple, and Taehwa Riverside Park. The convention concluded with a tea time at Cheongwadae (the Blue House) with First Lady Kim Yoon-ok.

Six members from the KOWIN DC Chapter attended the convention: Dr. Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, Seok-Nam Chung, Dr. Yongsook Victoria Suh, Jung Ran Lim, Kimberly Gube, and Erika Shin.

<Participants’ Comments>

“There were some personal challenges of communication during the Convention because I am not fluent in Korean. However, I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the highly talented and skilled participants. The highlight of the event was the Blue House tour and the tea party with the First Lady.”
 —Kimberly Gube

“Participating in the Convention was an unexpected yet precious gift to me. I was able to meet many fabulous women leaders from all over the world and gained valuable insights that cannot be learned from a textbook. Each one’s story was very touching and inspirational.”—Jung Ran Lim

“Despite my short stay in Korea, I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Convention, including the tea party at the Blue House. I was particularly impressed by the beauty of the Taehwa Riverside Park and the magnificent view of Hyundai manufacturing facilities for cars and ships. In addition, Ms. Lee Bae-yong’s presentation on great women in Korean history was enlightening, and Mr. Goo Soo-hwan’s story about Father Lee Tae-suk was also memorable.”—Sue Pender

“Korea, ‘the Land of the Morning Calm,’ is endowed with sedate and dignified philosophy. The KOWIN journey, however, seemed nothing close to being calm at first because it resonated with women of robust distinction and awareness. The key to the meeting was to allow me to share my uniqueness and to link the individuality as a collective whole. Ultimately, the journey was to obtain the sense of rejuvenation and belonging in ‘the Land of the Morning Calm.’”—Yongsook Victoria Suh, M.D.

Hong Kong KOWINNER International Convention



The 2nd KOWINNER International Convention was held from June 24 to June 26, 2011, at Harbour Plaza North Point Hotel in Hong Kong. There were 120 participants representing 20 countries, including 20 young next-generation leaders. The theme of the convention was “My KOWIN, our KOWINNERS! Let’s work together to achieve our health, wealth, and growth in the coming years.”

From the KOWIN DC Chapter, Jennifer Ahn, Jung Hee Lee, and Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas attended. Jennifer Ahn and Jung Hee Lee were among the 24 successful businesswomen who were awarded for their achievements during the convention. Sue-Kyong Shin

Vittas was an invited speaker, chairing two sessions: "The G20 and the International Protocol" and "the G20 and the Next Generation's Responsibilities." Jung Hee Lee spoke about the cure for Alzheimer's disease in a session about healthcare. The Honorable Former US Congressman Chang-jun Jay Kim (spouse of Jennifer Ahn) was one of the featured speakers to discuss gender equality issues and challenges.

The convention was a huge success thanks to the effort of the organization committee, which ensured smooth operation of the meeting and which provided a forum for networking and exchange. The KOWINNERS' next convention will be held in Bucharest, Romania.

**The 5th KOWIN US Eastern Regional Conference
 Success & Service: Bloom where you are planted!**



As part of a series of mentoring and leadership projects, the KOWIN Chicago Chapter hosted the 5th KOWIN Eastern Regional Leadership Conference at the Union League Club of Chicago on June 18, to instill confidence, positive mentorship and leadership for young Korean American women. The honorary co-chairs of this conference consisted of Congresswoman Jan Shakowsky; the Korean Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Paik Hee-young; and the 4th Regional Director of KOWIN U.S. Eastern Region, Dr. Jinhwa Suh.

The conference covered various topics about leadership, finding mentors, personal development, and success in family life and career. The participants were encouraged to find personal mentors who would inspire them by representing a vision of competent, devoted, and professional female leadership in society. The conference also provided an opportunity to network with others supporting Korean American women's leadership.



The KOWIN DC Chapter contributed \$500 for the event, where approximately 180 people participated including four KOWIN DC members: Kwang Ja Kim, Eun Ae Lee, Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas, and Myong Ho Nam. The keynote speaker, K.B. Yoon from New York, gave a powerful and heartfelt presentation based on her experience as Executive Director of the Korean American Foundation of New York on success, benefaction, and service.

KOWIN DC Chapter Meetings & Activities

The First Membership Meeting: 3-22-2011



On March 22 at Han Gang Restaurant in Annandale, VA this year's first general membership meeting was held, and the following agenda items were discussed:



The highlight of the meeting was Mihae Kim's demonstration of the draft of the KOWIN DC Chapter website. The project will be completed before this year's Young Professionals Leadership Seminar and will be used for the online registration system. Also for better networking, Oh Hae Kyung encouraged members to sign up for Facebook and add the KOWIN DC account as a friend. In addition, the second KOWIN DC newsletter was issued successfully under the supervision of new communication committee members.

A new standing committee and the organization of membership, including the roles, components, and members of the two divisions (Functional and Professional) were discussed. Also, the members unanimously agreed that the tax-deductible sponsorship from members would be \$300 per year, and that junior membership for young leaders would be introduced later, though the amount of the membership fee remained undecided.

It was mentioned that due to conflicting KOWIN events elsewhere, the Young Professionals Leadership Seminar will be held in the fall instead of in June.

Other reports included the results on the first fundraising art show, the 2011 membership fee collection, the expenditure for the website design and management, and the positive responses to the KOWIN dinner meetings with the Korean Minister of Gender Equality and Family. Furthermore, Dr. Yongsook Victoria Suh and Moon-Sook Shin were all welcomed to the KOWIN DC Chapter as new members.

The Second Membership Meeting: 7-16-2011



The second KOWIN regular meeting was held on July 16, at Jung Hee Lee's lakeside vacation home in Grasonville, MD. Here is a brief summary of the meeting:

- Financial reports on the second fundraising art show (at MK Gallery) and member donations were made. The final goal this year is to raise \$10,000. So far, we have achieved half of this year's goal.
- The DC Chapter website is nearly complete, but still needs contributions from members for its content.
- The KOWINNER International Convention for 2011 (6/24-26) was held in Hong Kong. KOWIN DC Chapter members Jung Hee Lee, Jennifer Ahn, and Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas attended, and Jung Hee and Jennifer received awards for significant achievements in business.
- The most anticipated event this summer was the 2011 KOWIN International Convention in Ulsan, Korea. The participants were Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, Seok-Nam Chung, Yongsook Victoria Suh, Susan Oh, Silvia Park and Erika Shin.
- The 2011 Young Professionals Leadership Mentoring Seminar will be held on one of the Saturdays in November, and Balbina Hwang will be the chair.
- The 2011 Holiday Gala is scheduled for Saturday, December 10, at the Cosmos Club. The banquet committee (Kwang Ja Kim, Jung Hee Lee, and Sami Lauri) will be coordinating the event.
- Sami Lauri (Eun-Seon Ham) was elected one of two vice presidents, and a new "next-generation committee" was created to help recruit and support younger Korean American women leaders in the DC Metropolitan Area.
- President Nam presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Thelma Seo-eun Choi, the first KOWIN fellow, for her dedicated service ('10-'11). Erika Shin is the succeeding KOWIN fellow.

2011 REMAINING EVENTS CALENDAR

October 3	The 3rd Newsletter Release
October 4	KOWIN DC Membership Meeting
October 15	KOWIN DC Website Launch
November 19	Young Professionals Leadership Seminar
November - December	Fundraising Jewelry Holiday Trunk Sale - MK Gallery
December	Year-End Party

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Fundraising with MK Gallery: KOWIN Member Mia Kim, MK Gallery Owner, Providing Jewelry and Art Shows to Help KOWIN DC's Project

Jewelry & Art Show at MK Gallery for Fundraising in April and May



From April 23 to May 7, the KOWIN DC Chapter hosted its second art show, *Jewelry & Art Show*, at MK Gallery in McLean, VA. It was to benefit the 2011 KOWIN DC activities, such as the Young Professionals Leadership Seminar and the Fellowship Program. It featured two speeches, one by Professor Komelia Hongja Okim of the Montgomery College, a KOWIN member, and one by Professor Sukjin Choi of James Madison University. Professor Okim introduced the various art media she uses to convey her aesthetic vision. Professor Choi explained how she applies the traditional Korean inlay technique called *Sanggam* to the practical creation of modern art.

Minju Lee: The Light for the New Birth

From July 2 to July 21, the KOWIN DC Chapter, Kyunggi GHSGWDC and MK Gallery hosted the third fundraising art show, "Minju Lee Solo Exhibition." Ms. Lee is a well-established Korean artist with permanently placed pieces in the Korean National Modern Art Gallery, Kyunggi Province Art Gallery, BB International Fine Arts in Switzerland, and the Korean Embassy in China. Her main theme for this exhibit, her first solo one in the DC Metropolitan Area, was "The Light for the New Birth."



From these two exhibits, over \$1,000 was raised for the KOWIN DC Chapter. We greatly appreciate MK Gallery and Mia Kim, as well as the KOWIN DC members who participated.

The Scarf Sale

This fundraising event was planned and executed by former KOWIN DC Chapter President Kwang Ja Kim, and President Nam and Treasurer Myung Ja Lee helped promote it. We sold boxes of scarves Kwang Ja had brought back from Korea for a total of \$750.00.

Personal Donation

Donations by KOWIN DC chapter members for the Leadership Mentoring Seminar and Fellowship Fund:
 Jung Hee Lee - \$1,000 (Randolph Nursing Home)
 Jennifer Ahn - \$200
 Myong Ho Nam - \$1,000

News from Members

- Choi (Suk) Song-nam of New York was elected the 5th KOWIN Eastern Regional Director from September 2011 to August 2013. We wish her the best and will support her and benefit from her leadership.

- The new Atlanta Chapter of the KOWIN Eastern Region was officially established on April 9, 2011. A reception was held at a conference center at Emory University in Atlanta. The Director of the KOWIN Eastern Region, Suh Jin-hwa; the President of the South Chapter, Chung Sook-hee; and the president of the DC Chapter, Nam Myong-ho, attended the celebration. The executive committee members include President Bae Myong-sook, Vice President Kim Jung-hwoe, Vice President Kim Kyu-rhee, and Adviser Kim Myong-sook. We wish the Atlanta Chapter the best.

- Jae-ok Jang's *Vignette of Korean Cooking IV*, a May 2011 bestseller in Korea, is now released in Washington D.C. Volume 4 was already published in Chicago and New York, and a second edition will soon be published due to its popularity. Jang stated that she wrote the fourth volume to show her appreciation to her supporters from Korean communities and she hopes that the book will help many Korean Americans and anyone else interested in Korean food in creating healthy Korean dishes. Volume 4 introduces seventy well-being recipes, including thirty-three that make use of honey powder and various healthy porridge breakfasts.

- Kwang Ja Kim (KOWIN Advisor, former president) who is the president of the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women (WCCW) Issues organized a peaceful protest on July 29 in front of the Japanese Embassy in DC to urge the Japanese Government and the Emperor of Japan to officially acknowledge Japan's cruelest offenses during World War II. Kwang Ja read a letter that was addressed to the Emperor and Empress of Japan to act as the moral and spiritual leaders for the Japanese people. This demonstration was part of the ongoing efforts of WCCW and commemorated the 4th anniversary of the passage of HR-121 by the US Congress.

- Prof. Young-Key Kim-Renaud (KOWIN Advisor) was invited to compose and recite a poem at the Appreciation Event for the Korean War Veterans held on June 24 & 25 at the Sheraton Premier Hotel. Wearing a beautiful white *Hanbok*, she recited her poem titled, "I remember" about her childhood experiences during the war to 450 veterans and their families attending the gala.

- Sami Lauri was appointed the Chair of the Appreciation Event for the Korean War Veterans Committee. The event was hosted by the Korean American Association of Virginia, Friends of Korean War Veterans, and Korea-America Society. This two-day event included lodging, banquets, and entertainment for over 450 Korean War Veterans and their family members. The event ended with a program that took the veterans to the Korean War Memorial to lay a wreath.

- Eun Ae Lee, president of the Korean American Foundation and KOWIN member, received the Overseas New Artist Award from the quarterly magazine *Prologue (Seo-shi)* at the 2011 Yun Dong-joo Literature Festival with Poet Lee Jae-moo as the invited speaker, on July 10 in acknowledgement of her four poems, including "Cuckoo Mother." The Yun Dong-joo Society of literature hosted the event at Woo Lae Oak, Tysons Corner, VA and poet Lee Jae-moo, winner of the first prize of the first festival, was the special guest. Ms. Lee expressed her gratitude for such a noble award and stated that the "Prologue (Seo-shi)" defined her philosophy on life.



- Florence Lowe-Lee (Lowe, Myeong-hwa), secretary of the KOWIN DC Chapter, left the Korea Economic Institute (KEI), where she worked for 19 years, and opened her own consulting firm. There was a farewell party at her house on Saturday, September 3, and KOWIN members and KEI staff gathered to celebrate her career at KEI and to wish her good luck in her new endeavor. There will be an announcement for the opening reception of her new office soon.

- Jung-Sil Lee, director of an art company called ArTrio and writer of the biweekly "Exhibition Highlight" column in *The Korean Times*, introduced the "Green" exhibition at the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. in her July 12 column. "Green" was the third event of the "Spectrum" series at the museum, following "Red" and "Blue." Dr. Lee's article inspired and encouraged the viewers to see the symbolism of the color green—



nature, spring, the beginning of lives, pureness, eco-friendly movements, and more.



• June Yun, current assistant administrator of the National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC) of Korea for the Washington D.C. area, is now the 15th standing committee member of NUAC. The standing committee members are appointed by the chair (the president of South Korea), and the committee discusses delegated legislation and miscellaneous issues. The 15th overseas committee consists of twelve people, including the first woman member in the D.C. area—June Yun. Yun has been an active member of the Korean American society. In addition to being a KOWIN member, she works as the president of the Organization of Korean American Women and the director of the Korean American Association of Washington D.C.



2011 KOWIN DC CHAPTER FUNCTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Functional Committees

Communication / Publications / Web

Young-Key Kim-Renaud, ChanSu Chong, Balbina Hwang, Hai Kyung (Hia) Kim, Mihae Kim, Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas

Bylaws and Nominations

(OPEN)

Seminars

Balbina Hwang, Florence Lowe-Lee, Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam

Public Relations

Jennifer Ahn, Sami Lauri, Florence Lowe-Lee

Banquet

Christine Choi, Junghee Lee

Fundraising

Christine Choi, Mia Kim, Junghee Lee, Komelia Hongja Okim

Finance

Myung Ja Lee, Sami Lauri, Sue Pender

Professional Committees

Healthcare

Miri Ham, Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, Victoria Y. Suh

Education

Balbina Hwang, Young-Key Kim-Renaud

Business / Entrepreneur

Mihae Kim, Susan Oh

International Organizations

Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas

Government

ChanSu Chong, Balbina Hwang

Art

Mia Kim, Jung-Sil Lee, Komelia Hongja Okim

** We still need **Chairs** and **Members** for the **Law, Journalism, and Performing Arts Committees**. We still need more volunteers to work with the Committees' Chairs.*