

Greetings from the President of the KOWIN DC Chapter



Dear KOWIN DC Members and Friends,

Happy Black Dragon Year! On this lunar New Year's Day, I wish you and your loved ones a very prosperous 2012.

As I look back, 2011 was a very busy and energetic year for the KOWIN DC Chapter and its Members. In addition to our regular membership meetings, the Chapter hosted the Dinner Reception for the Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (February 24); participated in the 5th KOWIN Eastern Regional Leadership Conference in Chicago (June 18); had strong representation at the 2nd KOWINNER International Convention in Hong Kong (June 24 – 26) by three of our Members; had broad representation at the 11th KOWIN Annual International Convention in Ulsan (August 30 – September 1) with two KOWIN Junior Members and 2011-2012 Fellow in addition to four of our regular members; hosted several fund raising events; launched our official website; successfully held the 2nd Annual KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar for Korean-American Women; and hosted a wonderful Holiday Gala at Cosmos Club.

All of these achievements would not have been possible without your participation and support. I want to send my deep appreciation to the Executive Committee Members and the Functional Committee Chairs, who have spent countless hours planning and executing various projects and events. I also want to thank all the members and friends who actively participated in these events, which was essential for the successful year of 2011.

It has been only four months since our last newsletter. However, we want to report KOWIN DC's several successful events to you. Our Members had impressive personal activities that you will read about as well.

This year, we will continue to work hard to organize better events, publish better-quality newsletters, provide interesting website contents to read, and offer fun events for all Members and Friends to participate in and enjoy.

KOWIN DC is now getting recognized as one of the premier Korean-American Women's Organization in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. I strongly urge you to join us in more of our activities, which are featured on our website (www.KOWINDC.org) and in the Event Calendar section of this newsletter. Please mark your calendar for the events.

Best Regards,

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



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The 2nd Annual KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar for Korean-American Women

November 19, 2011



On November 19, 2011, KOWIN DC hosted our Second Annual Leadership Seminar for Korean-American Women. Building on the tremendous success of the inaugural seminar last year to promote mentoring and networking opportunities for the next generation of Korean-American women, the theme of this year's seminar was ***Beyond Boundaries: Mentoring Women for Leadership Roles***. This year, we were fortunate to have the Sejong Society co-host the seminar, which was held at SAIS (Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies). The **Sejong Society** is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping young professionals learn more about Korea and U.S. policy towards the Korean Peninsula.

panel sessions focused on different aspects of achieving success beyond boundaries, including those in "traditional" career sectors such as law, medicine and government, and other "non-traditional" sectors such as the arts and entrepreneurship. Panelists included: **Judy Rhee Alloway**, CEO of So Venture In; **Florence Lowe-Lee**, Founder of GABI (Global America Business Institute); **Jong Joo Lee**, Unification Attaché at the Korean Embassy; **Jung-Sil Lee**, Founder of ArTrio; **Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam**, Medical Director at Inova Fairfax Hospital; **Silvia Park**, Founder of SilTek; **Sue Pender**, Accountant; **Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas**, Senior Information Technology Officer (Team Leader), IMF; and **Yun Jung Yang**, Managing Partner at Yang & Ullman. A common theme that emerged was that despite the typical barriers and obstacles that women of Korean heritage face in pursuing professional careers, perseverance and the passion to succeed are formidable ingredients for achieving success.

This theme was reinforced by our keynote speaker, **Eun Yang**, TV-anchor for local NBC-news. Perhaps one of the most publically visible representatives of Korean-American women's success, she gave an energetic speech that was both admirable and inspirational. The seminar concluded with an opportunity for participants to break out into small mentoring groups, which allowed for more intimate discussions with the speakers. We hope that next year's seminar will continue to build upon the mentoring network that was established in the last two years.



Leadership Seminar the 1st Panel Session

With over 50 participants, the seminar provided an excellent opportunity for women of all ages to hear from accomplished women across a variety of fields who discussed their path to professional success. Moderated by **Balbina Hwang**, Chair of this year's seminar, the two

Keynote Speaker EUN YANG with the 2nd Panelists





The 2011 KOWIN DC Holiday Gala: *An Elegant Evening at the Cosmos Club*

December 10, 2011



KOWIN DC Choir, Singing "Arirang"

The KOWIN DC Chapter hosted a fun-filled holiday gala to celebrate the closing of a wonderful year at the elegant Cosmos Club—a historical, private social club, famous for its intellectual membership—on December 10, 2011.



Grant from Consul-General Yoon to President Nam

The evening's emcees were two stylish ladies, Sami Lauri and Jung-Sil Lee. The opening remarks were made by Junghee Lee, Banquet Committee Chair, which were followed by welcome remarks by Lucy Nam, KOWIN DC President. Two guest speakers, Soongu Yoon, Consul-General from the Korean Embassy, and Jay Kim, Former U.S. Congressman, delivered congratulatory remarks.

Two members were honored with KOWIN DC Awards: Mia Kim received the Outstanding Service Award and Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas the Distinguished Member Award. Part I of the evening program ended with Young-Key Kim-Renaud giving a brief introduction of the Cosmos Club, of which she is a member, Estella Kyung Mi Lee's singing "O Holy Night," and Reverend Thorn W. Myung's benediction.

Part II of the gala had more performances including the KOWIN DC choir singing "Arirang," one of the most popular Korean songs, which amusingly some Chinese tried to claim as theirs recently. Erika Shin performed attractive piano pieces. Soon these performances were followed by a variety of cheerful games, raffles, competitions for the best-dressed member, and the best dancer, etc. The participants enjoyed the various programs and dancing as ways to renew their friendship with each other and to get ready for a happy and dynamic Year 2012.

Ballroom Dance Time



2012 KOWIN DC EVENT CALENDAR

January 27 – 29	Membership Training Retreat
February 1	The 4th Newsletter Release
March 27	The 1st Membership Meeting
May	Fundraising Event
June	Announcement of 2012-2013 KOWIN DC Fellow
June 15 – 17	The 3rd KOWINNER Convention
July 17 (?)	The 2nd Membership Meeting
August 31 – September 5 (?)	The 12th KOWIN Annual International Convention
September 25	The 3rd Membership Meeting
October	The 5th Newsletter Release
October 27	The 2nd Annual KOWIN DC Young Professionals Leadership Seminar
November	Fundraising Event
December	The 2012 KOWIN DC Holiday Gala

KOWIN DC Chapter Meetings & Activities

The Third Membership Meeting: 10-04-2011



The KOWIN DC Chapter's 3rd Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday October 4th at Woo Lae Oak.

Members Present: Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam (President), Jung-Sil Lee, Sami Lauri, Jina Kim, Kwang-Ja Kim, Eun Ae Lee, Junghee Lee, Myung Ja Lee, Meeree Ham, Florence Lowe-Lee, Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas, Susan Oh, Balbina Hwang, Kimberly Gube, Jung Ran Lim, Erika Shin (Fellow)

Guests: Ji-young Cho, Sara Yun, Young-eun Na.



Congratulating Treasurer Myung Ja Lee's Birthday

Main Topics: Leadership Seminar, which will be held jointly with the Sejong society of DC at the SAIS auditorium; Balbina Hwang is this year's chair; invited Keynote Speaker, Eun Yang, a Channel 4 news anchor (to be confirmed); and items to be decided, ie theme of the seminar, mentor list and the career tracks to be represented, time frame, food catering, etc. Other topics

included financial report, update on website project, presentation by Jina Kim and Ji-young Cho on the Korean Service Foundation's Fund Raising Banquet in 2012 Spring, and KASF's Scholarship Award Banquet. These events are lead by KOWIN DC Chapter Members, and KOWIN DC will support the activities.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Personal Donations

Donations by KOWIN DC Chapter Members and Supporters to fund the Leadership Mentoring Seminar, Fellowship Program, and other activities:

Choi, Hee S.	\$100
Kim, Hoon Ae	\$50
Kim, Kwang-Ja	\$300
Kim, Mia	\$1,000
Lauri, Sami	\$300
Lee, Myung Ja	\$300
Moon, Heacha	\$200
Rev. Myung, Thorn	\$100
Nam, Myong Ho (Lucy)	\$300
Oh, Susan	\$300
Suh, Victoria Y.	\$1,000
Shin Vittas, Sue-Kyong	\$300

News from Members

Montgomery College Professor Komelia Hongja Okim Responsible for the American Pavilion at the 2011 Taipei World Design Expo



Montgomery College Professor Komelia Hongja Okim, who is a world-renowned metalsmithing artist, curated the American Pavilion at the "2011 Taipei World Design Expo: International Craft Design Exhibition," from September 30 to October 30, 2011. The American Pavilion, which represented one of the seven countries featured in the exhibition, featured 15

leading contemporary American craft professional artists, including Professor Komelia Hongja Okim and Kevin Hluch. Taipei World Design Expo is one of the most prominent design events in Taiwan and the 2011 exhibition was the 2nd annual exhibition after the 2010 one. Over 3,000 professionals from 60 countries participated in this event, and the Expo attracted more than one million visitors.

KOWIN DC's Vice President Junghee Lee Plays a Central Role in the First Korea-Maryland, USA Bio Expo 2011



Junghee Lee (CEO of SG Bankcard Service Inc.), Vice President of the KOWIN DC Chapter, held 'Korea-Maryland, USA Bio Expo 2011' at the Baltimore Convention Center from November 1st to 4th, 2011, as CFO of the State of Maryland Business Office-Korea (SOMBOK, www.sombok.org). The expo was hosted by SOMBOK and JG Business Link International, and sponsored by the State of Maryland, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, the Seoul City Government, the University of Maryland Bio Park, and Johns Hopkins University. It was the first expo of its kind between Korea and the U.S. Through this expo, Ewha Womans University and the University of Maryland at Baltimore signed an MOU, and Hanbat National University and the University of Maryland signed an MOU for cooperation. Special symposia and forums, consulting, business partnering, and industrial tours were provided for the exhibitors, and the events received a great deal of attention among biotechnology industry. 'Korea-Maryland, USA Bio Expo' will be held every November.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/wgmtv?blend=7&ob=5#p/a/u/1/2G1iwbSs7Ik>

Julie Jung-Sil Lee Founded ArTrio Inc. in Rockville, MD, and Curated the First Exhibition Titled, "BioArt: Encounter of Art & Science."



Julie Jung-Sil Lee, Ph.D. Adjunct Professor of Corcoran College of Art and Design founded ArTrio Inc. in Rockville, MD. ArTrio's mission is to curate global art exhibition, and to offer various art education, and help art exchanges. ArTrio curated the first exhibition titled, "BioArt: Encounter of Art & Science." The exhibition was held from November 1 – November 4, 2011 at the Baltimore Convention Center in conjunction with "Korea-Maryland, U.S.A. Bio Expo 2011", organized by JGBLI. The 13 participant artists explored the synergistic overlapping of art and science, specifically the bioscience. Dr. Lee also wrote various catalogue critics and gave public lectures including *The Azure East Sea: The Aesthetic of Dokdo*, in the exhibition of HMAA, and *Beautiful East Sea-Dokdo*, October 20, 2011, at Korean Cultural Center.

Susan Oh, Recently Nominated President of the Virginia Korean American Disabled People's Association, Launches a Major Campaign for a Building Project for Disabled Koreans



Susan Oh (President of New Star Realty and the President of the Korean Business Women's Association) was nominated Chair of the Virginia Korean American Disabled People's Association (KADPA) in 2011. Among various projects of the Virginia KADPA, Susan Oh is focusing on building a 'Group Home' for disabled people.

After growing up, most disabled people move to general group homes for disabled people, but they have



difficulties due to culture and language barriers. The 'Group Home' building project intends to provide a safe and comfortable environment for such people. The Virginia KADPA held its first fundraising event at Woo Lae Oak on November 13, 2011, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, with about 170 sponsors, members and families attending. There are 120 Korean American disabled people in Virginia, and about 50 families are members of the Virginia KADPA.

<http://www.vakadpa.org>

Young-Key Kim-Renaud Awarded the "Distinguished Korean Award" at the 6th National Convention of Korean American Leaders



Dr. Young-Key Kim-Renaud, Professor and Chair of the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department at The George Washington University, was honored with the Distinguished Korean Award at the 6th National Convention of Korean American Leaders, organized by the Korean American Foundation (Thorn W. Myung, President) at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel in Virginia on November 18, 2011.

Dr. Kim-Renaud received high praises for her achievements in the area of Korean language, culture, and literature studies. As a researcher, author, and teacher, she has analyzed aspects of the Korean language and the Korean writing system; studied cultural history of Korea; and promoted interdisciplinary, intercultural, and international understanding. She founded the annual Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium series at GW in order to uphold her mother, writer Hahn Moo-Sook's spirit of education and dialog. The HMS Colloquium is having its 20th meeting in November 2012.

In her response, Dr. Kim-Renaud said that in her dictionary the most beautiful word is 'understanding.' Understanding others and learning about herself has been fun for her, and she felt embarrassed to get an award for doing what she enjoys so much. So she was receiving the award with humility, taking it as an encouragement for her to keep working hard.

Among the well-wishers at the convention were Han Duk-soo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, local Korean community leaders of the Washington DC Metropolitan area, and also several of our KOWIN members, including President Nam.

Florence Lowe-Lee Launches a New Venture in International Consulting



Florence Lowe-Lee has recently left her job of 19 years as Treasurer and Director of Finance and Publications at the Korea Economic Institute (KEI), and founded the Global America Business Institute (GABI) in Washington, D.C. GABI's mission is to advance awareness and proficiency in global affairs, and to promote international exchanges through strategy consulting, research, and professional fellowship programs. GABI is currently working with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) in Korea to promote understanding of US-Korea nuclear energy cooperation and Korea's commitment to nonproliferation through monthly policy roundtable discussions, nuclear expert seminars, podcasting, publication, and other public outreach programs.

<http://www.thegabi.com>

Kwang-Ja Kim, President of the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues, organizes the 1000th Wednesday Rally for the Comfort Women in front of the Japanese Embassy



Joining the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues (WCCW, Kwang-Ja Kim, President), a large number of U.S. citizens and Korean residents demonstrated in front of the Japanese Embassy in Washington DC on December 14th (Wednesday) to show support to the 1000th Wednesday Rally for the Comfort Women as a global solidarity action calling for restoration of justice and human rights for the victims. The demonstrators including key members of the Korean American community condemned the Japanese government's silence and disregard despite the U.S. Congress House Resolution 121 (HR121) adopted in 2007 calling upon the Government of Japan to "officially acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility for the Comfort Women Issues." The demonstrators said "What Japan did to those women is an unprecedented brutality in human history. We strongly object to Japan becoming a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council." "The Japanese Government should admit the crime, recognize these historical facts, and make a formal apology without further delay. The Japanese Government needs to make an honest effort in writing down the true history and educate the next generation." The 1000th Wednesday Rally in Washington DC was held peacefully and gathered about 300 people including members of the Korean American community and civic and human rights groups. After the demonstration President Kwang-Ja Kim delivered the resolution of the demonstrators to the Japanese Embassy in person.

Clarksburg Elementary School Principal Kwang-Ja Lee Receives the ROK National Order of Civil Merit



Kwang-Ja Lee, Principal of Clarksburg Elementary School in Maryland, was awarded the National Order of Civil Merit for Overseas Koreans from the Korean Government in recognition of her contribution to the growth of Korean-heritage education for second-generation Korean Americans and introducing Korean-language instruction to American schools in 2010. The first Korean American

ever to serve as a school principal in the Washington DC Metropolitan area, she has been the principal of the 100 year old Clarksburg Elementary School for 15 years. Principal Lee is the Chair of the Korean-American Education Foundation, which supports the United Korean School of Washington (Virginia and Maryland). In an interview with the Korea Times on January 2, 2012, Principal Lee emphasized the importance of education in cultivating 21st-century leaders who can create synergy among different kinds of people, and the critical role parents must play in the process. Principal Lee's tireless effort helped win a grant from the Korean Embassy in Washington, DC, for three elementary schools in the Montgomery County—Clarksburg, Matsunaga, and Wayside—to offer Korean language and culture programs. Currently over 30 students in each school are participating in a Korean program as an after-school activity, and Principal Lee hopes to see it expanded in the near future.

Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas Celebrated Last Year's Success and Opened Up the New Year with KOWIN DC Members at IMF Luncheon.



KOWIN DC Members enjoyed a leisurely lunch to celebrate the New Year at the Executive Private Dining



Room of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Thursday, January 5. The luncheon was hosted by Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas as a small token of appreciation for the tireless efforts of the Banquet Committee members and other members who contributed their valuable time and efforts to prepare for the KOWIN DC Chapter's first Holiday Gala. The lunch also served as an occasion to congratulate Thelma Seoeeun Choi, our first KOWIN fellow, on her new position as a Research Assistant at the IMF. Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, Christine Choi, Junghee Lee (SOMBOK), Sami Lauri, Myung Ja Lee, Helen Won, Jung-Sil Lee, Florence Lowe-Lee, and Thelma Choi were in attendance to enjoy the celebration.



We still need more volunteers to work with the Committees' Chairs. KOWIN DC is your organization. Please sign up for any committee of your interest.

2012 KOWIN DC BOARD/COMMITTEES

Executive Board

President	Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam
Vice President	Junghee Lee, Sami Lauri
Executive Director	Florence Lowe-Lee
Treasurer	Myung Ja Lee
Secretary	Helen Won
Auditor	Sue Pender
Advisor	Young-Key Kim-Renaud Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas
Immediate Past President	Kwang-Ja Kim

Functional Committees

Communication / Publications / Web

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

Bylaws and Nominations

Junghee Lee, Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam

Seminars

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

Public Relations

Jennifer Ahn, Sami Lauri, Florence Lowe-Lee

Banquet

Junghee Lee, Kwang-Ja Kim

Fundraising

Kwang-Ja Kim, Mia Kim, Jung Hee 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