



## Greetings from Young-Key Kim-Renaud, President of KOWIN DC



Dear KOWIN DC Members  
 and Friends,

On behalf of our KOWIN DC sisters, I am happy to share with you the Spring 2014 issue of our newsletter which reports our varied and interesting activities. Our membership continues to grow and we have also welcomed to our events

whoever would like to network with us, the only exception being our annual retreat, which is open exclusively to members and to those who are seriously considering joining our organization. At the retreat we get to know each other better through activities and conversations in an informal setting. In early February, we had another great retreat in Annapolis.

We must keep in mind that in order to be effective as an organization for and by women of Korean descent who are active on the world stage, we need to bring those who work closely with us into our conversation. This includes men and women from Korean and other communities. It is in that spirit that we chose the theme of our most recent leadership seminar as "diversity and inclusion." The great variety of participants included Professor Alexa Huang, whose keynote speech deeply touched the audience with her extraordinary life story of trials and triumphs, and our own Yongsook Victoria Suh, who after her upbeat and buoyant lecture, led a fantastic panel discussion with four impressive leaders.

Our regular meetings have also featured very interesting speakers. KOWIN member Jinsook Lee, Washington Bureau Chief of MBC, spoke of the situation on the Korean peninsula following the shocking news of the execution of Chang Song-thaek in November 2013. At the February 2014 meeting Mindy Kotler, Director of Asia Policy Point, enlightened and updated us on the current debate on "Comfort Women" issues.

KOWIN DC is a group of ladies who come from all walks of life, who also enjoy socializing with each other. Our holiday galas provide a wonderful occasion to dress up, be merry, get to know each other, and also let us be

known to others. Two guests at our last gala, Kitty Heflin and Katie Ziglar, from the Smithsonian Institution, organized a special reception for KOWIN DC members at the Freer Gallery on April 9, 2014, hosted by Julian Raby, Director of the Sacker Gallery and the Freer Gallery of Art. KOWIN DC members were treated to an elegant and enlightening evening with Louise Cort, curator of ceramics, and nine other museum personnel who provided an exhibition tour of Cranes and Clouds and a behind-the-scenes visit to the collections storage at the Freer Gallery.

KOWIN DC is reaching out not only to fellow Koreans but also to the larger community to which we belong. This is the road we should continue to travel.

Best Regards,

Young-Key Kim-Renaud  
 President, KOWIN, DC Chapter

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## 4th Annual KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar

November 16, 2013



KOWIN DC had another incredible leadership seminar with the great help of Seminar Committee Co-Chairs Lucy Nam and Melissa Park. The 4th Annual KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar was held at the main conference room of the Korean Embassy with the theme of *Leadership Serving the Needs of Our Local and Global Community*.

Kyung B. Yoon, Executive Director of the Korean American Community Fund (KACF) in New York, delivered a motivational speech based on her personal experience called "Full Circle: Receiving and Giving." This was followed by a panel discussion entitled "Pay It Forward: Service and Philanthropy that Change Lives," moderated by Melissa Park; Panelists were Grace Han Wolf, Yang Ro Yoon, Becky Lee, and Judi Rhee Alloway.

During the lunch break, the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues (WCCW) shared a video clip and Judi Rhee Alloway gave a brief lecture on email etiquette. The mentoring session was divided into 10 professional fields, where young Korean-Americans (as well as a few non-Koreans) had an opportunity to learn directly from successfully established mentors in different vocations.

More than 100 participants attended this event and left positive feedback. Seminar Committee Members included Miok Pak, Jungsil Lee, Grace Han Wolf, Jisoo Kim, Kyung-Ah Nam, and KangEun Jeong Olson.

## 2013 KOWIN DC Holiday Gala

December 7, 2013



The annual KOWIN DC Holiday Gala was held at the beautiful and historic Cosmos Club in Washington, DC on December 7, 2013. Under Gala Committee Chair Sami Lauri's leadership, Gala Committee members dedicated themselves to preparing for and successfully pulling off a lovely event with more than 80 guests. The night started off with Sami's opening remarks, KOWIN DC President Young-Key Kim-Renaud's welcoming remarks, and Consul General Do-ho Kang's congratulatory remarks. Lucy Nam, former President of KOWIN DC and 2013 Leadership Seminar Committee Chair, and Sami Lauri were presented with appreciation plaques for their dedication and contribution to KOWIN DC.



Music and entertainment characterized the second part of the program. Two young Korean American musicians, Kihyun Moon (Baritone) and Daeun Choi (Piano), performed great songs such as "Chanson du Toréador" from the opera *Carmen* and "On a Fine Day in October" (10월의 어느 멋진 날에). There was a "best dressed" competition and guests danced to music performed by a local live band. In addition, a silent auction to fundraise for the KOWIN fellowship took place throughout the event.





## 2013 Fourth Regular Meeting

December 29, 2013



The fourth regular meeting of 2013 was held at Woo Lae Ok, Tysons Corner with more than 30 members, prospective members, and supporters of KOWIN DC. After the members' introduction, KOWIN DC President Young-Key Kim-Renaud gave a brief welcoming remark and reported on some of the major events that the chapter held in 2013 including the leadership seminar and holiday gala. Treasurer/Vice President Junghee Lee reported on the budget and each committee chair (Seminar/Gala/Publication/Fundraising) also brought people up to speed on their respective activities. Members then discussed upcoming events such as the winter retreat, KOWINNER Convention, and KOWIN DC fellowship. There was a special presentation called "Recent Development in the Korean Peninsula" by MBC Washington DC Bureau Chief Jinsook Lee. Ms. Lee's presentation was followed by an intense Q&A session.

## 2014 Membership Retreat

February 7-9, 2014

A dozen KOWIN DC members attended the 2014 KOWIN DC membership retreat at an amazing waterfront vacation house in Annapolis, MD. The participants had a thoroughly relaxing time full of beautiful scenery and delicious home cooked meals.

During the retreat, members participated in hands-on workshop sessions. Jung Ran Lim led an interesting workshop on "True Colors," and Sukza Park led a review

discussion on her novel *Secret Drawer*. Besides the workshops, members also had an in-depth discussion on the general future of KOWIN DC as well as specific upcoming activities. They also had a passionate discussion on various toxic elements in today's life, thanks to Sukza Park, Ph.D. in Toxicology, and Lucy Nam, a medical director at Inova Fairfax Hospital.



After the serious conversations, Sami Lauri lightened the mood and led everyone in joyful singing. Early the second morning, some members enjoyed an outdoor spa in a big jacuzzi while others went on a short city trip to Annapolis thanks to new member Judy Do's kind guidance. A lovely weekend of laughter, good food, walking, and sharing stories brought members much closer and fostered the development of genuine friendships.





## 2014 First Regular Meeting

February 23, 2013



The first regular meeting of 2014 was held at President Young-Key Kim-Renaud's residence with about 30 attendees including members and supporters of KOWIN DC. The official meeting began with the President's welcoming message, followed by two special announcements: Grace Han Wolf, who is a KOWIN DC member and is running for Herndon Town Councilmember for her third term, asked the members for support; Kitty Heflin, Cultural Outreach Coordinator at the Freer and Sackler Galleries of the Smithsonian Institution, announced that they would like to host a special reception for KOWIN DC members in the spring.

Mindy Kotler, Director of Asia Policy Point, gave a special lecture on the 'Comfort Women' issue. Under the title of "The Death of the Kono Statement and How Reality Resurrects It," she explained the background and meaning of the Kono Statement, which led to an intense debate. While enjoying dessert and tea, each Committee Chair and the Treasurer reported their activities and discussed fundraising ideas and future event schedules.

## 5th Annual KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar

April 5, 2014

The 5th KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar was successfully held at the George Washington University's beautiful Mount Vernon Campus with more than 100 participants. The theme of the seminar was "Korean Women's Place in the Sun: Celebrating Diversity and Enhancing the Culture of Inclusion," as explained by President Kim-Renaud in her welcoming remarks.



Alexa Huang, Professor of English, Theatre, East Asian Languages and Literatures, and International Affairs at the George Washington University, delivered a keynote speech based on her personal stories called "Foreign Shores: Pursuing a Full Life as a Racial and Gender Minority." All attendees paid full attention to her beautifully composed story, in which she shared her sufferings and the challenges she had to go through as a transgender as well as foreign-born scholar. After the moving keynote speech, all the participants showed their deep appreciation with a standing ovation.



A panel discussion led by Yongsook Victoria Suh on "Owning the Power of Leadership as a Woman" followed in which successful Korean-American women working in the medical, government, and law fields had a discussion on how Korean women play an important role in American society. The seminar's highlight was a mentoring session that was divided into 9 professional fields. Young Korean-American women (as well as a few

non-Korean women and men) had opportunities to learn directly from successfully established mentors in different vocations. Seminar committee members included Young-Key Kim-Renaud, Miok Pak, Yongsook Victoria Suh, Yunkyoung Kang, and KangEun Jeong Olson.

## MEMBER NEWS

### Suzanne Kim Doud Galli



Suzanne Kim Doud Galli, MD, Ph.D., FACS, was appointed to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Asian American Professionals in DC. She was also elected president of the Smith College Club. Lastly, she was named to the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for the Association of a Junior Leagues International.

### Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas

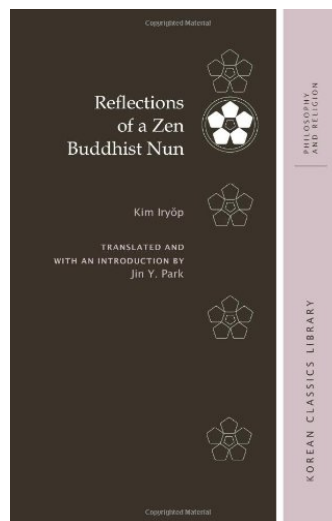


Since her retirement from the IMF in April 2012, Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas has been traveling a lot and living abroad in Greece and from the end of August 2013 in Korea where her husband is a Visiting Professor at Seoul National University (SNU). She was appointed as an Honorary Ambassador of Korean Tourism by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism on March 15, 2013.

She has been actively involved with many projects in Korea and has delivered lectures mostly related to international protocol and soft skills at a number of universities and institutions, including SNU, UNICEF (Seoul office), and Kim and Chang law firm. She also received a certificate for successfully completing a six-month study program and thesis for the Science Policy and Research course at SNU and received an exemplary scholar award on February 25, 2014 from the Dean of the SNU Natural Sciences Department.

### Jin Y. Park

A member of KOWIN DC, Jin Y. Park (Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion, and Director of the Asian Studies Program, American University) published



*Reflections of a Zen Buddhist Nun: Essays by Zen Master Kim Iryöp* (University of Hawaii Press, 2014). As a female writer, a new woman (first generation Korean feminist), and a Buddhist nun, Kim Iryöp (1896-1971) lived a prolific life. Park's first book *Reflections of a Zen Buddhist Nun* offers the reader stories of her life, her activities as a new woman, and her thoughts on Christianity and Buddhism. Both philosophical and intimate,

and available for the first time in English, this English version of a book by one of the most well-known Korean female intellectuals in the 20th century will avail readers from both academia and the general public who are interested in the life of a pioneering woman, her thoughts on family, love, religious practice, God, good and evil, and the meaning of existence.





**Christine Choi**



Christine Choi, an executive board member of KOWIN DC and president of the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues (WCCW), received a certificate of commendation from the Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family for her great contribution to comfort women issues. She has devoted herself to correct misunderstandings on the issue and to rehabilitate the damaged reputations of surviving comfort women.

**Lucy Nam**



Dr. Lucy Nam taught at the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine (Sint Maarten) as visiting professor from November 18-26, 2013. She gave 7 days of lectures on Gastrointestinal Pathology to third year medical students. Students were eager to learn and engaged actively in case study presentations. The weather was gorgeous and she enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere of beautiful beaches and wonderful seafood. She is also invited to return in 2014 for more lectures.

**Young-Key Kim-Renaud**



[Photograph of Young-Key Kim-Renaud and Chang-rae Lee by Jae-An Lee, taken on February 3, 2014, at Princeton University's Creative Writing Library. Published with permission of the photographer.]

Young-Key Kim-Renaud, Chair of the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department, the George Washington University, interviewed Chang-rae Lee about his latest book *On Such a Full Sea*, published by Riverhead Books in January 2014. The interview was published in *Koreana*, Spring 2014. The full text of the interview is also available at the following website: [http://koreana.or.kr/months/news\\_view.asp?b\\_idx=3356&lang=en&page\\_type=list](http://koreana.or.kr/months/news_view.asp?b_idx=3356&lang=en&page_type=list). The interview was translated into five languages and published in the Korean, French, Spanish, Chinese and Indonesian editions of *Koreana*.

**Keum-jin Yoon**



Keum-jin Yoon, director of the Korea Foundation Washington DC Office acquired a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Hanyang University in February 2014. Her specific field of study is museum studies. Her dissertation title is *An Analytical Perspective in the Development of International Exchange of Korean Museums: Focused on National Museums*.

## 2014 KOWIN DC BOARD/COMMITTEES

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<b>Seminar</b>	<b>Young-Key Kim-Renaud Miok Pak Yongsook Victoria Suh Yunkyoung Kang KangEun Jeong Olson</b>
<b>Mentoring</b>	<b>Hannah Y Kim</b>
<b>Program</b>	<b>Myung Ja Shim Lee Sung Hee Rhee</b>