

Greetings from Sami Lauri, President of KOWIN DC



Dear KOWIN DC sisters,

I hope the year 2018 was prosperous and full of good memories! It's the season of celebration as we look back on the year of the dog... 2018 is about to end and I want to say that KOWIN DC has had a great year. Besides having all four quarterly meetings, 7 of our members attended the 2018 KOWIN conference in Sokcho last August and had a fabulous time. You can read a detailed synopsis in this edition from Jieun our general secretary who attended for the first time. Members who attended are: Sue-Kyung Vittas, Lucy Nam, JH Lee (on behalf of KOWINNER), Suzanne Doud-Galli, Cathy Kim, Ann Jelly, and Jieun Kang. If you haven't attended an annual KOWIN Conference held in Korea, I encourage you to do that in the future. It will be a wonderful time you can remember for a long time.

Our members are striving to their best in their professional fields and contributing their talent to many other organizations. You can read about some of their activities in this issue as well. If you do volunteer work, we would like to hear about your contribution, please write your story for the next newsletter!

As we are wrapping up 2018, KOWIN DC hosted its *Year End Gala* on Dec. 2 at the Westin Tysons Corner. This year, we held the annual Leadership Seminar on the same day and invited 35 seminar attendees to our Gala. At the seminar, we had two very distinguished speakers, Jessica Lee, who is a senior director at CKA (Council of Korean Americans), the leading organization to advocate for Korean-American communities and their voices in policy making and philanthropy; and So Jung Lim,

who bravely took on the challenge to become the first Korean American city council member in the City of Fairfax. With these incredible speakers who shared their life stories, all who attended were inspired and challenged to further their dreams. The seminar also presented, "Social Etiquette and Manners," for young ladies who will attend social and official gatherings and this session taught them what to expect and how to behave accordingly.

I wish young ladies who attended this year's seminar and gala walked away with good impression of how strong female Korean descendants are succeeding in every aspects of life!

Please enjoy reading this newsletter and best wishes for you and your family in this holiday season!

Yours in Sisterhood,

Sami Lauri
 KOWIN DC President

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2018 Second Regular Meeting

June 9, 2018

Report by Eunji Kim



The second KOWIN DC regular meeting of 2018 was held at Washington Newstar Realty in conjunction with a KOWIN DC Bazaar on Saturday, June 9 with 14 members in attendance.

President Sami Lauri welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their participation as she opened the meeting. The president gave a report on the 2017 Gala, the 2018 Retreat, and the Spring Tea Party, which were all successes where everyone had an enjoyable time. The President hoped more people will be able to join next year. She also reported that KOWIN DC received a grant of \$2000 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the KOWIN leadership seminar.

A discussion ensued about how to better enhance communication among members and more details about the activities planned for 2018. Some activities included monthly breakfast meeting, which was decided to take place every second Saturday of the month.

The third meeting date was decided for August 3, 2018 and an announcement was made about the annual KOWIN conference being held in Sokcho, South Korea from August 28-31, 2018.

Following the report from the Treasurer's committee, there was a special lecture given by Sun Young Kim, a detective in Montgomery County, on "How to Prevent #Me too." It was an enlightening time learning about the current issues and what we can do actively as women when we become a victim of sexual misconduct.

2018 Third Regular Meeting

August 3, 2018

Report by Eunji Kim



The third KOWIN DC regular meeting of 2018 was held at Woo Lae Oak in Virginia on Friday, August 3, 2018 with 14 members in attendance.

The meeting began with Vice President Cathy Kim's opening announcements and welcome. President Sami Lauri then introduced a new member, Ji Yeon Yeo.

The Vice President gave a recap of important items that were decided on last meeting such as the waiving of the initial membership fee and the venue for regular meetings, as well as ways to address communication issues. Next, a financial update was given from the Treasurer's committee.

The meeting followed with a discussion on details about future KOWIN DC activities, which were mentioned at the first meeting. There was mention of a need to focus the goal of the KOWIN DC annual leadership seminar, which includes a discussion of themes, formats, and targeted audiences for a fruitful and meaningful seminar. Myong Nam suggested that we create small groups in KOWIN DC and discuss different businesses and activities.

An announcement for the KOWIN convention held by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) was made. It will be held in Sokcho, Gangwon-do from August 29-31. Finally, the meeting ended with a special lecture from



Florence Lowe-Lee on a very relevant topic and concern, titled, "Career Change...Now or When?"

passionate discussions on the policies that were needed for peace to be actualized through equality.

The 18th Annual KOWIN Conference

August 28-30, 2018

Report by Jieun Kang



The 18th KOWIN Convention, which was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) and KOWINNER, took place from August 28-30. It was held in Sokcho, Gangwon Province with the theme of "The Korean Peninsula and the Road to World Peace." More than 550 Korean female leaders from 34 countries around the world participated. KOWIN DC members, Cathy Kim, Jieun Kang, Suzanne Kim Doud Galli, Lucy Nam, Sue-Kyung Vittas, Anne Choe, and JH Lee attended.

The conference officially started with a welcoming and inspiring speech from the Minister of MOGEF Chung Hyun-back and a special cultural performance of the region called *dondolna-i*, one of Korea's cultural heritages.

The Global Women Leader Forum, which was a core program of KOWIN, was divided into three sessions (Females and Peace; Preventing Gender Violence; and Increasing Female Social Participation), which led to

On the second day, there was a networking session, which was divided into two groups: Economy and Society, and Education and Culture. In the afternoon, there was time set aside for participants to explore the local culture. We were able to have a pleasant time enjoying each other's company as we visited national parks as well as the local marketplace. As a special session for the overseas participants, we were able to visit the Unification Observatory and the DMZ museum.

As I participated for the first time, I was very impressed by the well-organized conference and the opportunity to meet Korean female leaders from all over the world. I hope to see more younger generation female leaders join next year.



2018 Fourth Regular Meeting

November 2, 2018

Report by Eunji Kim

The fourth KOWIN DC regular meeting of 2018 was held on November 2, 2018 at Woo Lae Oak restaurant with 17 members and three guests in attendance. Before the meeting officially started, people were enjoying talking to each other and catching up on how they had spent their summers as well as how fall was treating them. The official meeting began with President Sami Lauri's welcome and opening announcement.



The President then introduced the new KOWIN DC fellow, Eunji Kim, and reported that former fellow, Taeyi Kim, would be having to leave due to the upcoming birth of her second child. Taeyi shared some final words as she ended her term as a KOWIN DC fellow and expressed her great gratitude for all the things she was able to learn from each and every one of the KOWIN DC members. She thanked everyone for being so welcoming as she was relatively new to life in the U.S. and for all the opportunities she had been given. Next, there was a time of everyone introducing themselves, sharing how they had joined KOWIN, as well as a brief personal and professional background.



Next, Jieun Kang gave a presentation on the 2018 KOWIN Conference held in Sokcho, which she had been able to participate in for the first time this past summer. There were six other KOWIN members, some as KOWINNERS, who also attended. The members who participated shared what a memorable experience it had been in meeting people from diverse countries.

There were several upcoming events that KOWIN DC members were a part of as hosts and there was time to introduce those events to other members. Lucy Nam first shared about the upcoming inaugural film festival co-hosted by the Washington Coalition of Comfort Women (WCCW). She asked for support of this great cause in spreading awareness and hoped that many members will be able to join. It was decided that KOWIN DC would contribute by sponsoring one reception and many more members contributed by purchasing tickets and personal donations.

Next, Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas shared about the upcoming KOWINER convention that will be held in Sao Paulo,

Brazil. President Sami Lauri then gave an update on the preparation for the KOWIN DC leadership seminar and Year End Gala, which will be held on the same day, December 2, 2018.



2018 KOWIN DC Annual Leadership Seminar & Holiday Gala

December 2, 2018

Report by Eunji Kim



The 2018 Annual KOWIN DC Leadership Conference was held as a special joint event with the Year End KOWIN DC Gala on December 2, 2018 at the Westin Tysons Corner. We had many new young Korean American women come for the first time this year and enjoyed a wonderful time of connecting with other younger and older Korean American women. For the seminar section, we had two very



passionate and inspiring guest speakers come and share their life stories. Their wealth of experience and passion for what they were doing exuded out throughout the whole session up through the engaging Q&A time.

Contrary to what one may think of an etiquette lesson, it was an interesting as well as very practical time of redefining etiquette as she connected it with her own experiences of hosting and attending events in the U.S. as well as China, sometimes where there were 8000 guests in cultural events like the fourth of July. There were many questions from the audience and everyone enjoyed the great learning experience.



After the seminar, 35 attendees were specially invited to join the KOWIN DC holiday gala that evening. It was a great opportunity to share what KOWIN does with the younger Korean American woman community at large and the night was filled with fun activities, good food and good company. There were several awardees presented for their hard work and contribution to KOWIN. After, young and old danced the night away under the guidance of our very own Vice President, Cathy Kim, who led the Best Dresser and Best Dancer contest.

So Lim, the first Korean American woman to be elected as city council member for the City of Fairfax, gave great life advice: First, find something that really resonates with what you want and resonates with you emotionally and second, break down your goal into specific steps to accomplish. Jessica Lee, who is the Senior Director at Council of Korean Americans, shared her experience of having lived and worked in DC for 10 years. She also shared how there is a great need for more people with Korean American sensibilities in the political arena to represent our voice properly.



In the second half of the program, the Social Etiquette Session was led by Louren Chen, Executive Officer of the Chief Information Office of the Defense Intelligence Agency, with assistance by Courtney Collins, who is the program coordinator for the International Training and Education program at American University as well as a Ph.D. candidate in the field of international higher education.

Save the Date! – Members Retreat 2019

February 15-17, 2019

The annual members retreat is planned to be held on February 15-17, 2019 at Lake Anna. As last year's retreat at the same location was an enjoyable time of getting to know the members better, we hope this will be a relaxing time for everyone amidst their busy schedules and a time of bonding. There will be delicious food and good company. We hope to use this time to recharge to be more productive



throughout the year and hope many will be able to join us. Save the date!



academics, all of whom were there to discuss issues of global concern and the world economic outlook. The seminars and flagship event created a forum for government delegates and policy-makers to discuss the major financial issues confronting the world.

Despite being struck by an earthquake and tsunami a month before, the Indonesian government hosted a beautiful, memorable event. They spent 3 years preparing for this important and influential global financial gathering. The Indonesian government also kindly organized cultural and hospitality programs for participants to have a chance to experience the many facets of Indonesian culture. With my family joining me in Bali, I was able to combine business with pleasure and had a wonderful time.

Member News

Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas

2018 IMF Annual Meetings, Bali Nusa Dua, Indonesia



I was able to attend the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group. The Annual Meetings, which took place from October 8-14, 2018, were hosted by the Indonesian government on the beautiful island of Bali. Approximately 10,000 people, including the press media, attended and the meeting participants consisted mostly of the representatives of the central banks, ministers of finance, and private sector executives and

Yang-ro Yoon

AALEAD 20th Anniversary Gala

On October 27, 2018, AALEAD (Asian American Leadership, Empowerment and Development), an NGO for which Dr. Yang-Ro Yoon is serving as a board member, celebrated its 20th anniversary of supporting low-income and underserved Asian Pacific American youth with a Gala evening at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Over 360 business and nonprofit leaders, public officials, educators, and AALEAD supporters and friends attended and the ambitious funding goal of about \$300,000 was achieved. Ten KOWIN DC members were able to attend and many more made significant contributions in various ways.





In her remarks as a Presenting Sponsor, Dr. Yoon shared that while AALEAD mainly serves Asian American youth, AALEAD is not for the Asian American community alone but for all Americans. She also emphasized that AALEAD is not just about diversity but also about unity: “AALEAD supports low income underserved Asian American youths to be empowered, self-confident, and feel comfortable with their own identity, and they will then be open-minded, tolerant, and generous to others. This way, our AALEAD kids will be good citizens of America and full members of this great country, ‘out of many one,’ ‘E pluribus Unum.’” This message of a larger unity was particularly important as the Gala was taking place just a couple of hours after the tragic gun-shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh. Throughout this memorable evening, there was a palpable mood of energy, pride, and longing for a larger cause.

Young-Key Kim-Renaud

The 26th Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium

Young-Key Kim-Renaud, Professor Emeritus of the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department at the George Washington University, devoted much time during this very busy season giving lectures and presentations at a number of conferences and at several universities. Among these were venues commemorating her mother, Hahn Moo-Sook's 100th birthday, both in the U.S. (the 26th Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium held at George Washington University, November 9-10), and in Korea (Sookmyung Women's University, October 25). She also presented several research papers this year; among these were, “The Role of *Panmal* in the Evolving Korean Honorific System” (Indiana University, September 28); and “Korean Language, Power, and National Identity” (Monash University, Australia, August 17-18).

Young-Key also made numerous media appearances commenting about the recent developments in relations with North Korea following the third inter-Korean Summit, including CGTN America's “The Heat” with Anand Naidoo (March 9), “World Insight” with Tian Wei (May 3), and CGTN's “World Today” with Asieh Namdar (September 20).

Additionally, Young-Key also was given the distinction to have one of her poems be included in the American Rhetoric Online Speech Bank (April 4). “I Remember,”

which she recited in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice, was included alongside those of dignitaries Barack Obama and Gen. Jeong Seung-jo, who gave addresses at the same event held at the Korean War Memorial on the National Mall (Washington, DC, July 27, 2013).

Suzanne Kim Doud Galli

Suzanne Kim Doud Galli, MD, Ph.D., FACS, is a double board certified facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon in solo practice in Washington, D.C. She has been an active member of KOWIN DC since 2012 and traveled this year to Sokcho for the yearly conference. She spoke at Smith College's Women of Color Conference this year and was an invited speaker at several surgical conferences. She was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Council of Korean Americans.

Meet the New Fellow

Eunji Kim



Eunji Kim is currently pursuing her M.A. in International Training and Education at American University and she also works as the Graduate Assistant for the program. Having grown up both in the United States and Korea and experienced varied educational settings, she is interested in impacting Korean education policy.

After her experience teaching middle school math in Baltimore City public schools for one year, she continues to volunteer weekly at the Baltimore Inner-city Mission as the after school tutoring program coordinator. She also assisted in founding Valor Philippines Mission School, one of the schools under Valor Global Foundation, an international education non-profit based in Oregon and South Korea. She attended Handong University in Korea, before transferring to St. John's College in Annapolis, MD, where she received her B.A. in Liberal Arts.