



Greetings from Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas, President of KOWIN DC



Dear KOWIN DC Members and Friends,

I am very honored and humbled to take the baton from outgoing president Young-Key Kim-Renaud to serve as president of the KOWIN DC Chapter (Korean Women's International Network) since June 2015. I am lucky to take over the presidency at this point in the evolution

of KOWIN DC, and my vision will be aligned and not too different from that of the past presidents. I will continue to carry out the main activities such as quarterly meetings, a leadership seminar for young professionals of Korean heritage, including other nationalities, as well as other programs for improved networking and building friendship.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by past presidents, without whom our organization would not be what it is today - a respected organization not only in the Korean American community but also in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Heartfelt thanks to Kim Sohn, Christine Choi, Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, and Young-Key Kim-Renaud for their tireless efforts to successfully raise the level of KOWIN DC higher and higher. Where KOWIN DC is today is only possible due to the admirable leadership of the past presidents along with the support of qualified KOWIN members who have worked hard alongside them. I have big shoes to fill and am counting on each of you to continue to provide the kind of support that you have so generously given in the past.

My aspirations are to ensure that the activities of KOWIN DC are something for our members to look forward to in the midst of the ordinary daily and professional grind. KOWIN DC provides a wonderful opportunity to encounter members from many different career fields, but members who all share in common and are bonded by their Korean heritage.

Since the beginning of my term, we held two regular quarterly meetings (August 16 and November 5), participated in the International KOWIN Convention in

Tongyeong, Korea (August 25 – 28), and conducted the 6th KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar (November 14). I wish to express my appreciation to all those who participated and supported the aforementioned events and made each of them a success. You can read about these events in this newsletter. The new KOWIN DC organizational structure with strengthened Advisory Board is also included. If you are interested in joining any of the functional committees, kindly let the Chair of the relevant committee know. Their contact information is listed.

Please do not forget that KOWIN DC is our organization, yours and mine. Despite our hectic schedules, let's all take the time to improve this great organization together as it is an organization that can touch and enrich our lives as well as those of the people around us. In the interest of working together to build KOWIN into something even greater, let's remember to – and here I am borrowing my favorite quote from John F. Kennedy – “ask not what KOWIN DC can do for you, ask what you can do for KOWIN DC.” – and together I know that we can continue to strengthen this very special organization.

God bless KOWIN sisters! Thank you.

Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas
 President, KOWIN DC chapter

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2015 Third Regular Meeting

August 16, 2015



The 3rd regular meeting was held with new KOWIN DC president Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas at her residence with 32 attendees including preexisting and new members of KOWIN DC. Graciously President Vittas prepared and donated the cost for the food and drinks for the meeting.

President Vittas gave her short remarks, thanking everyone for having confidence in her and she said that she is lucky to succeed previous President Kim-Renaud, who accomplished so many things. President Vittas reviewed the new organizational structure and announced the names of various committee members. She mentioned that she would like to trust and empower each committee chair to make the appropriate decisions.

After, President Vittas proposed an idea to raise the yearly membership dues from \$100 to \$120 and members who join the group late in the year can pay only a prorated amount (\$10 for each month) until the next year period begins from January. Members voted and passed the proposal. The new member's initiation fee stands at \$300. The Fundraising Committee agreed on ideas to raise enough funds for KOWIN DC so that they don't have to collect the meeting registration fees at each meeting and also to support the leadership seminar and fellowship fund for our fellow.

The Treasurer team prepared a financial report including the current balance as of August 2015 and income and expenses for 2015.

Next was a discussion about the upcoming events. This year, the holiday gala would not take place since KOWIN had a banquet/gala at the KOWINNER Convention in May. There was also an introduction of KOWIN DC members who would attend the 2015 Tongyeong KOWIN

Convention in August, titled Global Women Leaders Forum. Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas was asked to participate as a panel member on gender equality issues and Anne Choe was asked to participate as a panel member on discussing 70 years of women of Korean ancestry living and working abroad. Also members discussed about the Leadership Seminar to take place in November this year. Members (Lucy Nam, Young-Key Kim-Renaud, Judi Alloway, KangEun J. Olson) have been working hard preparing a grant application and won a grant from Korea's Ministry of Gender Equality & Family. Lucy Nam and Jisoo Kim serve as Co-Chairs for the Seminar Committee.

There was a discussion about the silent auction that took place during the KOWINNER Convention in May. Fundraising/Silent Auction chair Jung Hee Lee asked the members to donate new and valuable items for a future silent auction and also to suggest a minimum bid amount to avoid any item selling at a price lower than the donor wishes. When a member donates an item, KOWIN DC is going to issue a thank you letter which can be used for tax reporting purposes.

As a part of the speaker series, President Vittas prepared a short talk titled "Introduction to Greece 101" sharing her knowledge and experience with Greece and Greek culture as a person who is married to a Greek person and frequently visits family in Greece. She summarized Greece as a financially troubled country, yet with happy people enjoying good weather and good food. She mentioned that Korean and Greek culture has surprising similarities, especially when it comes to family values and dynamics.

2015 Fourth Regular Meeting

November 5, 2015





The 4th regular meeting was held at Woo Lae Oak with 21 attendees including preexisting and new members of KOWIN DC.

Participants of the 2015 KOWIN Convention which took place in Tongyeong, Korea, from August 25-28 shared their experience. President Vittas gave the general background of this year's convention and listed the names of KOWIN DC participants. Lucy Nam said our members represented KOWIN DC well and she encouraged new people to participate at next year's convention. Anne Jelly, one of the members who attended the convention for the first time, spoke of her experience at the KOWIN convention as a great chance to meet a lot of extraordinary people. She said she became quite busy during the convention as she had many interviews with local news outlets (Chosun, KBS radio, Maeil Business newspaper, etc.) sharing her personal story of entering the workplace and discussing issues such as job retention by women.

Lucy Nam and Jisoo Kim, Leadership Seminar co-chairs, gave a report on the progress of the preparation of this year's seminar, which took place on November 14, 2015. They said it was challenging to recruit twice as many mentors than other years but said that the seminar committee was hard at work. They asked for the KOWIN DC members' cooperation.

On behalf of our Treasurer, Junghee Lee, Anne Jelly gave the Treasurer's Report with the current balance. A registration fee was not collected this time and the dinner expenses were covered using the current KOWIN DC account. As KOWIN DC members decided at the last meeting, members will try to raise funds to cover upcoming expenses such as dinner bills for the meetings, and the cost for other events.

Next, members discussed about the upcoming KOWIN DC activities. Since there was a banquet during the KOWINNER Convention this May, around Lunar New Year 2016 was mentioned as a possible date for the next Banquet but a decision was not made. The next retreat date was discussed but not decided yet. Members will further discuss about a time when the rent is cheaper with off-season rates and many members are available.

A future fundraising event was also discussed. Jung Hee (JH) Lee and Helen Won, Fund Raising Committee chairs, talked about their plan for hosting a silent auction in the near future. The date and the place are to be announced. The silent auction that they are planning will be similar to consignment style sales, where KOWIN DC members sell their used or unused items and donate 30% of the sale price to KOWIN DC. Members can take this

opportunity to clear out their closets and make money selling their items, purchase something unique and valuable from other members at a great price, and also help raise money for KOWIN DC.

As part of the Speaker Series, Soo Y. Yee provided an information session about the "Risk of Breast Cancer for Korean Women." She previously worked as a community health specialist at the Fairfax County Health Department and currently is a program coordinator at the Support Program for Korean Breast Cancer Survivors, run by the University of Maryland School of Public Health. She informed the members that the number one cancer by Korean women who live in the U.S. is breast cancer. Unlike other cancers, the survival rate is high if the breast cancer is detected in the first stage, so she emphasized the importance of early detection. Thus, she recommended getting a mammogram every 2 years, but more importantly she stressed that self-detection is very important and can be reliable even when the mammogram fails to detect a tumor in the case of some women with dense breast tissue. Everyone had a great opportunity to practice how to detect various lumps using the sample breast that she brought.

2015 KOWIN Convention: Tongyeong

August 25-28, 2015

Report by Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas



The following members from the KOWIN DC Chapter attended the 15th KOWIN convention sponsored by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family which was held in the beautiful port city of Tongyeong, Kyungsangnam-do on August 25-28: Anne Choe, Anne Jelly, Emily Kessel, Komelia Hongja Kim, Kyung Min Kim, Myong Ho (Lucy)

Nam, Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas, and Helen Won. The total number of participants at the convention was approximately 600 persons, consisting of approximately 250 participants from abroad, representing 33 countries.

On August 26, participants enjoyed special presentations in commemoration of the 70th year of liberation from Japanese occupation and to showcase Tongyeong. The presentation also included emphasizing the importance of developing leadership in our future generation of Korean women across the globe. There were five different global women leader forums including Gender Equality in which Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas was a panelist. DC Chapter attendants shone among other participants with their eager and active participation in all phases of the forums. Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, Anne Choe, and Kyung Min Kim either served as panel members for the various discussion topics that the Forums dealt with or as a discussion summary presenter.

The following morning all participants had an opportunity to network with members in their career field in breakout sessions where they provided policy recommendations for the Korean government. The afternoon consisted of two tour options: 1) Tongyeong's history and culture or 2) Mirook island.

The Prime Minister, Governor of Kyungsangnam-do province, and Mayor of Tongyeong were among the many special guests participating in the convention who delivered welcoming and congratulatory remarks, along with the Minister of Gender Equality and Family.

The convention, set against the backdrop of beautiful Tongyeong city, was a wonderful opportunity for women leaders from all over the world to network while also spending some quality time with our own KOWIN DC participants, as it seems we never have enough time to enjoy each other's company even though we live in the same city!

The following are personal reflections from the KOWIN DC members who participated in 2015 KOWIN Convention.

Emily Kessel: The Tongyeong Convention was one of the most unique experiences I have ever encountered. During my time in Tongyeong, I met female leaders from all backgrounds and regions of the world including Egypt, Japan, Russia, and Singapore. We shared stories about the Korean community in our home countries and recommendations on how the South Korean government can support each community. It was fascinating to hear how each individual had come to be in her home country, listen to the varying levels and dialects of Korean, and

learn how each KOWINNER member uniquely identified with Korean culture. As the former KOWIN DC fellow, I feel truly blessed to have had this opportunity to deepen my relationship with KOWIN DC members and build a connection with KOWINNER members from across the world.

Kyung Min Song: My decision to attend the Tongyeong Convention was rather unexpected since I had just joined KOWIN this August. In fact, I was a bit worried thinking that I do not know many people at the Convention. However, I had an amazing three days at the Convention connecting with so many great Korean women from all over the world. A session on female activists who fought for our independence made me proud of being a Korean woman. In addition, I had never been to Tongyeong before and I loved every bit of the beautiful town. I would like to attend the coming Conventions if possible.

Anne Jelly: The convention meant so much to me and really touched my heart and provided an overwhelming personal experience. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to our KOWIN DC members because without you and our KOWINNER and DC chapter I would not have even known about the convention and would not have been able to visit Korea. This convention gave me the opportunity to connect with media reporters to share my career and my life story with other Koreans. I learned so much, met so many extraordinary people, and was able to make new friendships with other KOWIN chapter members and explored our proud and beautiful countryside. It was a visionary and eye opening event for me. The conference did not simply feel like an event but it was a reunion and great fellowship and you never knew what doors it might open for you. I am so proud of my heritage and history. Thank you so much to KOWIN DC members and I wish any of you who missed the conference or new members will have an eye opening experience in the future.

6th Annual KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar

November 14, 2015

Report by Miok M. Pak



The 6th KOWIN-DC Leadership seminar was successfully held at Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town with almost 100 participants on a beautiful autumn Saturday. With this year's theme "Shaping own future: One step at a time," the seminar kicked off with President Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas's welcoming remarks, followed by congratulatory remarks from Do-ho Kang, Consul-General, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.

Angela Oh, J.D., the keynote speaker of this year's seminar, spoke on the topic of "Self-awareness, self-care beyond the balancing game," emphasizing that the understanding of oneself begins with the awareness that many things beyond one's control affect our decisions and circumstances we are in. Her life story and message was received with much empathy and fervent response. Following Angela's speech was the art exhibition by Ying Ming Tu, an acclaimed visual artist whose artwork well portrays his artistic philosophy in combination with his spiritual practice.

Unlike previous years, this year's mentoring session was divided into two, a morning mentoring session led by senior mentors and an afternoon mentoring session led by junior mentors to provide the professional views and experiences of both generations to the young professionals in various vocations. The participants were assigned to two different mentoring table choices out of 10 career fields: (1) Arts, (2) Business, (3) Education, (4) Government, (5) Health/Bio Medical, (6) IT/Science, (7) International Organization, (8) Journalism/Media, (9) Law, and (10) NGO.

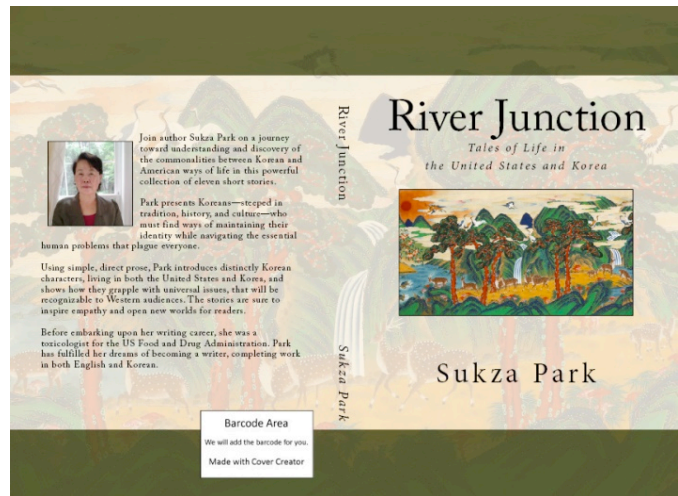
The Leadership Seminar co-chairs, Lucy Nam and Jisoo M. Kim, worked tirelessly to prepare for this year's leadership seminar and our Fellow, Soyeon Kim, along with many talented KOWIN DC members (Judi Rhee Alloway, Yunkyong Kang, Jungsil Lee, Kyoung-Ah Nam,

Miok D. Pak, Kyung Min Song) worked hard as Leadership Seminar Committee members.

Member News

Sukza Park

Sukza Park just published a short story collection < River Junction > through Amazon.com



Suzka Park grew up in Korea and moved to the United States in 1969, giving her exceptional insight into the process of walking the tightrope between adapting to a new culture and maintaining one's own cultural identity.

In this powerful collection of eleven short stories, Park introduces distinctly Korean characters—steeped in tradition, history, and culture—who must find ways of maintaining their Korean identity while navigating the essential human challenges that affect everyone.

Using simple, direct prose, Park vividly captures distinctly Korean characters, living in both the United States and Korea, and shows how these individuals grapple with universal issues, all while establishing the deep threads of humanity running between Koreans and English-speaking audiences everywhere. The stories will ignite sparks of empathy and recognition that will expand minds and broaden horizons.

Before embarking upon her writing career, she was a toxicologist for the US Food and Drug Administration. Park has fulfilled her dreams of becoming a writer, completing work in both English and Korean.



Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas

Trip to Korea



After the Tongyeong Conference, Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas remained in Korea, spending the majority of her time in Seoul, but also visiting other cities. She was invited to Jangseung, Chollanam-do, a lovely city that seems as though it's covered in yellow flowers, for a tape cutting ceremony to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the city's own academy. Ex- Prime Minister Hwang-sik Kim, who hails from this city, delivered the keynote address for this celebratory event.

Sue went to Kangwon-do with her siblings, toured various cities in the province, and looked at the 2018 winter Olympics site, PyeongChang. The area has improved and changed so much since her last visit more than 10 years ago.

While in Seoul, she delivered lectures on the subject of international business etiquette, protocol, and soft skills to various university students and organizations. She also had the pleasure of attending her niece's beautiful wedding.

Fall is a very busy season in Seoul laden with many activities. Sue was invited to participate in numerous forums and conferences, including the World Knowledge Forum, where she had the honor of sitting at the table of Heejung Kim, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family. The Minister was glad to learn that Sue was a KOWIN member from DC. She also went to the Korea Industrial Development Institute, which featured a powerful keynote speaker in the area of creativity and capability, and a conference held by the Human Development Institute entitled "Xi Jinping's Dream: the silk road and the effects of the Asian infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)."

Sue recalls that it was an interesting and rewarding two months spent in Korea, full of many valuable learning experiences and the rediscovery of old countryside cities.

Suzanne Kim Doud Galli, MD, PhD, FACS



Dr. Doud Galli had the opportunity to serve as keynote speaker at the first Korean American Medical Student Association conference under the auspices of the Korean American Medical Association. She spoke on the importance of making philanthropy part of the Korean American identity.



This summer, Dr. Doud Galli represented KOWIN DC and joined 13 other Korean American community leaders in a wreath laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial on the anniversary of armistice day. The evening was organized by KOWIN DC's Hannah Kim and featured dignitaries, veterans, and Korean dancers, as well.

That same weekend, she joined past president Dr. Lucy Nam and Washington Coalition for Comfort Women president Jungsil Lee in welcoming previous KOWIN DC guest and keynote speaker for our leadership seminar, Senator Yonah Martin from Canada. They accompanied the senator on a visit to the Comfort Women Memorial in Fairfax. The senator has prioritized this issue at the national level.

Hai Kyung (Hia) Kim



Hai Kyung (Hia) Kim was an invited speaker at the Women's Forum during the US-Korea Conference on Science, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (UKC 2015) held between July 29 and August 1, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering (KWiSE) and Korean Federation of Women's Science & Technology (KFWST) sponsored the Women's Forum. The theme of UKC 2015 was "Pursuing Excellence with a Servant's Heart" and Mrs. Kim spoke about "Servant leadership in the IT field." UKC is the flagship conference of the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA). UKC attracts more than 1200 participants from both the US and Korea.

Fundraising Effort: Cash Donation

"Thank you for your kind and generous donations"

Sung Cha Hong Cha (홍성자) \$100

Christine Choi (김광자) \$100

Sujin Shin Hur (신수진) \$100

Sami Lauri (함은선) \$100

Jung Hee (JH) Lee (이정희) \$100