

## New Year's Greetings from Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas, President of KOWIN DC



Dear KOWIN DC Members,

On this New Year's Day, I find myself reflecting on the busy year I shared with KOWIN sisters in 2016. Starting out with planning in early January for the end of February Winter Retreat held in Lake Anna, VA, I don't think there was a single month that passed by without having something to do for KOWIN DC. We

were constantly faced with having to plan and prepare for the upcoming activities, hold the actual events, or if no events were scheduled, there was something else to do to comply with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF)'s requests, be it preparing project proposals for the grant application or some surveys or reports. As a result of the grant project proposal we were able to receive \$2,500 from the MOGEF to deploy in conducting our leadership seminar.

All the meeting and event dates were predetermined and announced early in the year so that members could mark them in their calendars and avoid scheduling conflicts as much as possible since our members lead very busy lives. The four quarterly regular meetings were held at various venues (Lake Anna, Jung Hee (JH)'s summer home in Annapolis, Miyoung (Mia) Kim's MK Gallery, Woo Lae Oak) and on various days of the week. For these meetings, we invited interesting speakers to broaden and enlighten our knowledge and minutes of the meetings were circulated afterwards for the benefit of those who could not attend.

We held four fundraising events to help defray the costs of KOWIN DC operations. Strenuous efforts were required to conduct our signature annual KOWIN DC leadership seminar, the fundraising activities (consignment sales, raffles, and silent auction) and the holiday gala; I dare say that only the relevant committee members who actually worked on staging these events have a good understanding of how much work goes into holding such events.

The success of these events was possible mainly due to members' passion and nice camaraderie and teamwork.

Consignment sales (some percentage of sales is donated to KOWIN DC), introduced last year as a new concept in raising funds, proved to be successful and as an added bonus, the members enjoyed obtaining unique and wonderful items at very low prices. Win-win solutions.

For enhanced communications, our website, "www.kowindc.org" is kept current with the latest updates to enable members to find a host of information. Oftentimes members ask questions for which the answers are readily available on the website, including the list of executive board members, email addresses, and telephone numbers as well as our Treasurer Junghee Lee's address where you send your membership dues or any other checks. The Treasurer's committee manages the membership information and takes care of KOWIN DC finances. The committee provides a financial statement at every quarterly regular meeting and also issues donors with their year-end donation letters. We must not forget to thank the Treasurer's committee for its diligent work behind the scene.

We make it a point to publish KOWIN DC newsletters twice a year covering all of the KOWIN DC activities and the news of our own members' activities outside of KOWIN DC. All the past and current issues of the newsletters (volumes I to XII) are available on our website for members' perusal.

The current issue of the newsletter covers the KOWIN DC activities since the publication of our last newsletter in July 2016 and thus I will not dwell on the KOWIN international convention or any other events such as the leadership seminar or holiday gala that are covered in this issue. Please enjoy reading and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the relevant Committee Chairs whose contact information is listed on the last page of this issue. At the same time, I encourage those who do not belong to any committees to volunteer and join the committee of your interest.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and give my sincere thanks to the executive board and various committee members for keeping KOWIN DC a successful and respected organization. Thank you KOWIN sisters for your continued support and may all of you and your loved ones be blessed in 2017!

With warmest regards,

Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas  
President, KOWIN DC Chapter

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<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas</b> President, KOWIN DC Chapter
<b>Editors-in-Chief</b>	<b>Sukza Park</b> Co-Chairs, Publication Committee
	<b>Yunkyoung Kang</b> Co-Chairs, Publication Committee
<b>Editorial Assistant</b>	<b>Yerin Lee, Fellow</b>

**2016 Third Regular Meeting**

**August 12, 2016**

*Prepared by Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas*



The third quarterly meeting of 2016 was held at MK Gallery (1952 Gallows Rd. #202, Vienna, VA 22102) on Friday, August 12 with 24 persons in attendance.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Vittas presented to our graduating Fellow, Soyeon Kim, a certificate of appreciation plaque and a small gift for her dedicated service and hard work for KOWIN DC during

the past year. Sue introduced the new Fellow, Yerin Lee, who is replacing Soyeon Kim.

The president informed the members that KOWIN DC provided the Activity Report since June of 2015 and planned activities for the first half of 2017 per the Ministry of Equal Gender and Family (MOEGF)'s request. Also, the news was shared that we are receiving a grant from MOEGF of approximately \$2,500 for the 2016 leadership seminar and \$900 for the webinar on comfort women issues.

Members discussed some upcoming events including the KOWIN Convention in Korea, KOWIN DC leadership seminar, and the Holiday Gala. Eight members from KOWIN DC are planning to attend the KOWIN Convention in Korea by MOEGF to be held in Jeju Island from August 23-26, 2016. It was reported that the preparation for the next KOWIN DC leadership seminar to be held on November 12 and the planning for the Holiday Gala are already well underway.

Suggestions were made to put more group photos in our newsletter and on the website, and a discussion on whether and how much information to put out to the public through our website was made.

The president thanked Miyoung Kim for opening up her gallery to hold the meeting. Members enjoyed wine and snacks while viewing the Artist Dongjin Park's exhibition. Later, Artist Dongjin Park presented an Artist Talk on the subject of "City of Paris." At the end of the meeting, everyone had fun shopping for nice and unique items that were offered at very low prices through our consignment sale.

**2016 KOWIN Convention: Jeju**

**August 23-26, 2016**

*Report by Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas*

The following members from the KOWIN DC Chapter attended the 16th KOWIN convention sponsored by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF, Minister Kang Eun-hee) and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province (JSSP, Governor Won Hee-ryong), during August 23-26: Anne Choe, Anne Jelly, Jisoo Kim, Soyeon Kim, Junghee (JH) Lee, Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam, Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas, and Helen Won. The total number of participants at the convention was approximately 550 persons, with 250 participants from abroad, representing 31 countries.





The orientation and gala event held on the 23rd were only for participants from abroad.



The theme of this year's convention was "Compatibility of Work and Family; Hope Energy to Change the World! KOWIN Goes Together" and was held in the newly built International Convention Center (ICC). The participants, consisted of the current and next generation Korean women leaders of abroad and at home in Korea, welcomed the networking opportunities with each other on Jeju Island, "the land of wind, stone and women." Active discussions took place for the development of Korea and the world by exploring the compatibility of work and family related issues.



The KOWIN DC attendants to this convention also savored spending some quality time together away from our normal lives in Washington, D.C. The following are some personal reflections from KOWIN DC members who participated at this convention:

**Jisoo Kim:** It was an amazing experience to see professional women of Korean descent scattered

throughout the world at one venue. The time I spent in Jeju was priceless in that I was able to learn so many significant and meaningful activities taking place in other parts of the world. It made me rethink my role as a professional woman in DC and what I could contribute to society and the world.

**Soyeon Kim:** Jeju International Convention has given me an unforgettable memory. This learning opportunity came as I worked as a KOWIN DC Fellow during 2015-2016. During the convention, I was able to meet Korean women leaders from 31 countries and to listen to their views on life-work balance, which expanded my perspective about my future. It would not have been possible to meet Korean women from various background in one place without this Jeju International Convention. I would like to thank KOWIN DC for providing such a great opportunity. I hope this experience continues as meaningful through close connection with KOWIN members.

## 7th Annual KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar

November 12, 2016

*Report by Judi Rhee Alloway*

On a crisp fall Saturday, November 12, 2016, 75 diverse men and women gathered at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center for "Preparing to Face Global Career Challenges" at the 7th 2016 Annual KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar. Located in a special room reserved for members of Congress, some participants had difficulties getting to the Seminar as surrounding roads were blockaded by police to accommodate DC Marathon runners, whereas others were lost in the huge marble maze of the U.S. Capitol. Upon arrival, participants were welcomed by Dong-Gi Kim, Minister & Consul-General from the Korean Embassy and President & Seminar Co-Chair Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas and Seminar Co-Chair Myong Ho (Lucy) Nam.

For the next 6 hours, participants learned about the philosophy of ubuntu, or "human-ness," inspired by keynote speaker Soonhoon Ahn's 30-year career in the international organization. Sue Vittas provided a presentation on the importance of soft skills and global etiquette and their impact on one's career. Of course, no Leadership Seminar would be complete without a group photo followed by a complimentary lunch.



After lunch, we participated in a group panel featuring member and moderator, Florence Lowe-Lee, Founder and President of Global America Business Institute, and panelists Bettina Tucci-Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary General of the UN, Jung Yeon Kim, Senior Economist at the International Monetary Fund, Jiyoung Song, Operations Analyst at the World Bank, and Melissa Park, Health Science Policy Analyst at the National Institute of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Almost all participants felt that the keynote speaker, global etiquette presenter, and panel mentors were well prepared.



The participants, who aspire to be future international leaders, felt an increase in their confidence to face global career challenges. Over 96% of seminar attendees rated the event 4 stars or higher and 91% said that they would come back to this event in the future. By all accounts, the 7th Annual KOWIN Leadership was a huge success, thanks to the dedication and hard work by the following Seminar and Fundraising committee members: Sue Vittas (Co-Chair), Lucy Nam (Co-Chair), Judi Alloway, Yunkyoung Kang, Hannah Kim, Jungsil Lee, Jung Hee

(JH) Lee (Fundraising Co-chair), Helen Won (Fundraising Co-Chair), and Yerin Lee (Fellow). A special recognition is in order for Hannah who made arrangements for the seminar venue free of charge.

### “Thank you all for your generous donations!”

Listed below are contributors who kindly provided the financial assistance to defray our leadership seminar expenses:

\$500 – Sue Vittas, Lucy Nam, Jung Hee (JH) Lee

\$300 – Sam Gyun Yoon (Korea Heritage Foundation)

\$250 (half page ad in seminar book) – Suzanne Doud Galli, Jungsil Lee, Sukza Park, Helen Won

\$100 – Sungcha Cha, Sujin Hur, Young-Key Kim-Renaud, Jungsil Lee, Yang-Ro Yoon, Yunkyoung Kang, Soyeon Kim

## 2016 Fourth Regular Meeting

November 17, 2016

*Prepared by Yunkyoung Kang*



The fourth regular meeting of 2016 was held at Woo Lae Oak, Tysons Corner (8240 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182) on Thursday, November 17, 2016, with 20 attendees.

President Vittas gave a short report about the 2016 KOWIN Convention, which took place on Jeju Island in August, 2016. She encouraged more people to apply to





attend the KOWIN Convention next year. The KOWIN Convention takes place during the summer in a different city each year and next year's hosting city will be announced in the spring 2017.

Lucy Nam, a Co-Chair of the 7th KOWIN DC Leadership Seminar, gave a report about the Leadership Seminar, which took place on Saturday, November 12th at the Capitol Visitor Center. Lucy said that the cost of hosting this year's Leadership Seminar was covered in part by a \$2,500 grant from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family with the remaining \$3,700 covered from money raised by the Fundraising Committee Chairs, JH Lee and Helen Won. Lucy thanked the Leadership Seminar Committee members, and Fellow Yerin Lee for their work.

Lucy Nam announced that the 2017 KOWINNER Convention will be held from May 12-14, 2017. The conference will take place in Sakhalin, Russia and after the convention, there will be optional tours to St. Petersburg and Moscow. Lucy encouraged members to register early to take advantage of the early bird registration rate.

The Gala Committee members said that they are working hard preparing for the event and shared the details of KOWIN DC's upcoming Holiday Gala, which will be held at the Congressional Country Club, Friday, December 9, 2016. The registration fee is set at \$150 (\$100 is tax deductible) for members and \$80 for anyone younger than 25 years old, and a table for eight at a discounted rate of \$1,000. The president asked all the members to come and attend the gala to show support for the cause and bring friends along.

Sukza Park shared her two new books with the members. Her English version book, titled "River Junctions", was published last winter and its Korean translated version "□□□□" was published this summer. Both of her books are available for sale on Amazon. After the meeting, a guest speaker, Mi-sook Yoon, gave a short talk on "Beauty without surgery." She shared some beauty tips that everyone can try at home.

decorated venue, full with holiday spirit. After the reception, the evening started with Paula Park, Gala Chair, singing a Frank Sinatra melody. KOWIN DC's President, Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas gave a welcoming speech. She gave a brief history of KOWIN and its purpose of connecting talented Korean women through a worldwide network. She also stated her vision of KOWIN DC in 2017, encouraging members to actively get involved in community service and build stronger networks within local Korean women in their professional field.



At the gala, most contributing members were recognized and they were; Lucy Nam (2015 Convention Chair), Young-Key Kim-Renaud (2013-15 President), Jung Hee Lee (Fundraising Chair) and Helen Won (Secretary General).

The congratulatory remarks were given by Mr. Hee Nam Choi, Executive Director of IMF. Mr. Choi said that KOWIN DC and members will play a key role to promote & contribute for fights on equality of gender discrimination in work force. Mr. Hohyun Jang, a minister from Korean Embassy gave a toast followed by an elegant dinner.

## 2016 Holiday Gala

December 9, 2016

*Report by Sami Lauri*

On December 9th 2017, KOWIN DC held its Year End Gala at the Congressional Country Club in Potomac, MD. Over 80 members and guests attended the beautifully



There were vocal performances by 2 lovely ladies; Ms. Sonia Lee & Dr. Ji Eun Park.

After dinner, KOWIN sisters danced the night away while also enjoying Mr. Dave Tauler's singing "Gang Nam Style" and more.

As a tradition of the KOWIN DC gala, there were 'Best Dresser & 'Best Dancer contests and it was the chance for members and guests to showcase their beautiful gowns & talents!

Another tradition is that the KOWIN gala has been a good place to raise some funds for KOWIN's activities such as the leadership seminar and fellow program. There were many items donated by members and they are always appreciated!

KOWIN Gala started in 2011 to celebrate members dedication to KOWIN and strengthen the relationship of sisterhood and it has been a great occasion to reassure commitment to the betterment of Korean American Women in the metropolitan area.

### **"Thank you all for your generous donations!"**

Deep gratitude goes to the following donors who made generous contributions (cash or items) in raising funds for the Holiday Gala:

Christine Choi  
Suzanne Doud Galli  
Mi Ri Ham  
Judy Kim  
Young-Key Kim-Renaud  
Jung Hee Lee (JH)  
Lucy Nam  
Sue-Kyong Shin Vittas

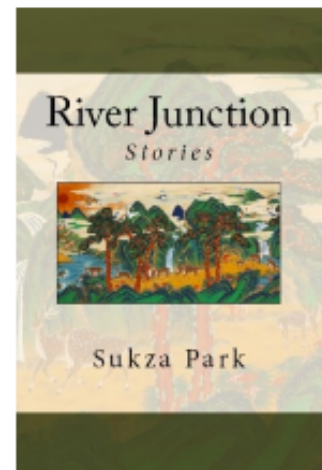
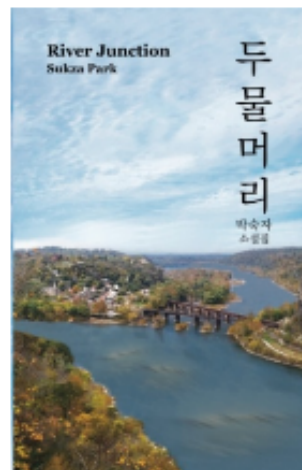
Sujin Shin Hur  
Helen Won  
Yang-Ro Yoon  
Young Jae Un

Thank you ladies!

## **Member News**

### **Sukza Park**

**Sukza Park published <두물머리>, the Korean edition of <River Junction>**



Following the publication of <River Junction> last year, Sukza Park published this year its Korean edition <두물머리>. They are collections of stories about people who live at the junction of two rivers, named America and Korea.

She introduces Korean characters in the collections—steeped in tradition, history, and culture—who must find ways of maintaining their identity while navigating essential human challenges that affect everyone. Reading the stories is a journey to understand the emotional landscapes of Korean immigrants.





In all her stories, Park creates distinctly Korean characters, capturing how these individuals grapple with universal issues of living and loving in “the sea of suffering” called life. The narratives establish the common threads of humanity shared by Koreans and English-speaking cultures everywhere. Her stories inspire empathy and recognition that can expand minds and broaden horizons.

The intended audience includes the second generation Korean Americans who would like to understand the meaning of being a Korean American. Copies are available at \$12.50 through Amazon.com.

### Sue-Kyong (Sue) Shin Vittas

#### Career Counseling Youth Camp: Tongyeong, Kyongsangnam-do, August 27-28, 2016



As the Honorary Ambassador for the Korea Tourism Organization and a former IMF Senior Team Leader in financial and administrative software developments, I was invited to Tongyeong by the Tongyeong Education for Sustainable Development. This event was co-sponsored by the Career Consultant Forum based in Seoul. The purpose of this event was to introduce various future career paths to students in Tongyeong at an earlier age. This was the first time that the Tongyeong Education Foundation included a consultant who had a career overseas and could speak directly to junior high school students about global job opportunities.

The career workshop weekend camp took place in Yeondae-do, an environmentally friendly beautiful eco

island about 25 minutes by boat from Tongyeong city. Besides providing general lectures about my work experience at the IMF to the 100 junior high school boys and girls, I was also assigned to six male students as their mentor. We spent the entire weekend together, making for a fun and rewarding experience!