

# PPSEAWA USA NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020



## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear PPSEAWA USA members,

The PPSEAWA USA Board of Directors voted to transfer banking services from Sterling Bank to Chase Bank at the Fall Board Meeting on October 8, 2019. Two accounts were opened at Chase Bank in November, for checking and the Education Fund.

We are saddened by the loss of our national treasurer, Tsui-Mei “May” Liao, due to cancer. On July 2nd, I attended her wake. She was a member of New York Chapter. She was well respected and loved. She had been taking care of her auntie and her mother for decades; her mother was a pianist who passed away on April 4, 2020 at age of 94 years. Tsui-Mei served many organizations. She helped many people in the community and at church with her warm heart and keen intelligence, she will be missed dearly.

We held a virtual meeting of the Board of Directors via Zoom on July 6, 2020. Natalie Christou was approved as Treasurer until the next election.

We are in good financial standing. The audits were completed on time thanks to Chicago Chapter Treasurer Sandy Maki and New York Chapter Treasurer Sue Eng. Our longtime accountant, Phyllis Jaffee, senior manager at Marks Paneth LLP, filed the taxes for us gratis. We are so grateful for her assistance and generosity. Membership Dues from the New York and Chicago Chapters have already been received.

PPSEAWA USA offers a needs-based scholarship to cover tuition and school fees and obligations—paid to the school.

*Continued on the next page...*

### Board of Directors 2019-2021

**President:**

Patsy Fang Chen

**Immediate Past President:**

Akari Yamada

**First Vice-President:**

Mei Chuan Chao

**Vice-Presidents:**

Helen Ceglia

Natalie Christou

Eleanor Schlesinger

Dr. Ardenia Jones Terry

Anita Yamada

**Secretary:**

Akari Yamada

**Treasurer:**

TsuiMei Liao (2019-2020)

Natalie Christou (2020-2021)

**Chapter Presidents:**

*Chicago:* Lingling Wei

*New York:* Vera Olichney

**Nominating Committee:**

Bonnie Chin (Chicago)

Sue Eng (New York)

Sharon Vass (Toledo)

**Education Scholarship Committee:**

Rebeca Massey, Chairperson

Helen Ceglia

Natalie Christou

Teresa Hintzke

Helga Rothweiler

Ardenia Jones Terry

**United Nations Representatives:**

Pemphe Chikondenji (Youth Rep)

Natalie Christou

Sue Eng

Vera Olichney

## MEMBERSHIP

Total membership on June 30, 2020, was 118 members. The Chicago Chapter has 22 members, including 1 honorary member. The New York Chapter has 96 members, including 3 student members.

The Toledo Chapter dissolved in February 2020. They closed their bank account and sent over \$716 to the national treasurer. I sincerely hope they will stay on as Members-at-Large.

We are accepting applications for national membership from Members-at-Large in other cities. You can contact Patsy Chen for an application. The dues for members-at-large are \$25 per year, and cover the period from May 1, 2020-April 30, 2021.

### IN LOVING MEMORY...

Richard Van Duyne (Chicago)

June 2019

Martha Mackin (Chicago)

September 2019

June Chao (New York)

August 2019

Nanako Oguri (New York)

May 2020

Tsui-Mei Liao (New York)

June 2020



*Continued from page 1...*

I am happy to report that the first National Fundraiser for the Education Fund held last spring was successful according to Sue Eng, NY Chapter Treasurer. 22 members prepaid \$50 per person for lunch in the Delegates Dining Room at UN Headquarters on May 7, 2019, so \$149 in total was raised for the Education Fund. Thank you for your support!

The full report on our national philanthropy - scholarships for high school girls - can be found on page 3. It is always a great pleasure to encourage young student to further her journey in secondary education.

Our Annual Review was accepted by the United Nations and we received grounds passes for these UN Representatives in January: myself as head of the organization, Natalie Christou, Sue Eng, Vera Olichney, and Youth Representative Pempho Chikondenji.

We regret that the 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN headquarters in New York was cancelled due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Our representatives have adjusted as the United Nations shifted to remote meetings and webinars. Reports from their activities in the past year follow on pages 4-5.

PPSEAWA USA can take a cue from the UN - it's time to commit to do all we can to recover better, together.

Warmest regards,  
Patsy Fang Chen, President

## SCHOLARSHIP 2019

By Rebeca Massey, Education Fund Committee Chairperson

Dear PPSEAWA Sisters,

October 2019. Greetings to you all. It was my sincerest desire to be among you at this meeting but the recent arrival of my new granddaughter demanded my presence in Sedona, Arizona.

It is with great pleasure to let you know that since 2002 when the Education Fund was established until this year 2019, the Education Fund has granted over 20 scholarships ranging from \$350 to \$1000 per applicant per school year. The monies were sent directly to the institution where the student applicant was enrolled. The grants have been primarily focused on helping young women finish their last two years of high school. Several girls from South East Asian, India and the US have benefitted from our scholarship. During the last few years we have helped cover the tuition of several young girls from the Jyoti Children Development Foundation, Inc. a school for the deaf in Kanpur, India and also a handful of young women from Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart in Chicago.

For the current school year 2019-2020, two scholarships are on the way for the Jyoti School for the deaf in Kanpur, India. The total for both is \$700.00 US dollars. This organization is dear to us because it was founded by the late Dr. Saryu Dixit and his wife, Shanti Dixit, a long-time Chicago chapter member. We are happy to continue our long-time relationship with this organization, which makes it possible for deaf persons to be integrated into their community and the world at large.

At this time, I would like to mention

that I am thrilled to have in this committee a member of each local chapter to help promote the mission of the E.F., for reaching out to potential candidates, creating awareness of the scholarship existence and developing strategies for fund raising. The E. F. sustainability is purely based on the generous contributions of local chapters and of individual members who throughout the years have made a generous donation. As current chairperson, I am grateful to all of those that contribute to the strength and viability of this fund and I want to encourage others to do likewise. A big thank you is owed to the New York Chapter, to our current PPSEAWA USA President Patsy Fang Chen, and 1<sup>st</sup> VP Mei Chuan Chao, for this year's contributions that comes to \$1,199.86. Our sincere thanks to the Toledo chapter as well. According to our treasurer our present balance is over \$10,000.

Lastly, as I reflect upon how far the Education Fund has come over the past 17 years, I am moved to propose that we consider greater inclusion of its benefits, not just cover the last two years of high school as stated in the guidelines. With the discretion of the committee, greater impact would be achieved by making scholarship funds available to a other young women seeking educational opportunities beyond the traditional preparatory school path.

On behalf of the entire committee we want to thank you for helping keep this fund strong, impacting lives and potentially changing the world, one woman at a time.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

By Akari Yamada

2020 has been defined by Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). We have had many changes in our daily lives since a global pandemic was declared in March. On March 2, the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) was cancelled by the United Nations. Then, shelter-in-place orders were enacted in California, Illinois and New York – home of our local chapters. Due to these measures, PPSEAWA USA regretfully had to cancel the Annual Members Meeting scheduled in New York in May. The United Nations also remains closed to the public until the end of the year, so we will not have in-person meetings this fall.

We have found ways to stay connected with each other online:

Visit PPSEAWA USA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ppseawausa/](http://www.facebook.com/ppseawausa/)

The PPSEAWA Group on Padlet has recommendations on free-of-charge activities we can enjoy from home.

August 24: The Chicago Chapter held a virtual program on the Asian Diaspora in Latin America via Zoom. Many national members joined in.

Kesinee Dulyarat, International Representative to the UN/NY, has invited members to virtual public programs at the United Nations.

Stay in touch! We miss seeing you!



## UN REPORT 2019

By Sue Eng, PPSEAWA USA Representative to the United Nations NY

I attended five events at the United Nations from May-December 2019. The environmental programs had several take-aways for PPSEAWA:

### Families and Climate Action: Focus On SDG13 Climate Change on

May 16, 2019. Antonio Guterres , UN Secretary General said “*Climate Change is undeniable. Climate action is unstoppable. And climate solutions provide opportunities that are unmatched.*” Global problems need both international and grassroots solutions. Energy is the dominant contributor to climate change (SDG7 Clean Energy) so turn lights and computers off when they are not in use, reduce monitor brightness, adjust thermostats and install solar energy to promote energy efficiency in households, public facilities and commercial buildings. We should reduce our purchase of disposable items, and also reuse and repurpose as much as possible (SDG12 Responsible Consumption). Family plays a big role for sustainable lifestyle education, such as teaching children to recycle. Each degree Celsius increase in global mean temperature is estimated to reduce global production of foods so we can green our commute, eat more meat-free meals, reduce greenhouse gases (SDG13 Clean Air). We can support forest restoration efforts, go paperless and look for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification on wood products (SDG15 Life On Land).

### Focus on Faith: Planting & Nurturing the Seed of Climate Responsibility on June 6, 2019.

This civil society briefing talked

about climate change from the Hindu Anglican, Faith and Buddhist perspectives. Three sectors will be included in mitigating climate change: young people through education, religious leaders through churches, and increasing public adaptation and awareness.

### Invitation To a High-Level Summit During the UN General Assembly - Africa: Open for Business Summit on September 27, 2019.

Climate change is connected to economic growth. Flooding and drought affect food production and cause hunger, and disrupt hygiene and sanitation. Focus should be opportunities in quality education, especially for women, universal health care, and production of drugs within Africa to combat diseases.

I also attended the Inaugural ECOSOC Presidential Lecture Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress In Creating The Future We Want – the speaker was Steven Pinker, a Psychologist, Harvard Professor and Best-Selling Author, on the “*Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress*” on May 20, 2019.

“Negotiating At The United Nations: A Practitioner’s Guide” on September 17, 2019. Although women work harder to prove their abilities and strategies at the UN in the past, better access to information technologies is a great tool for negotiators to form alliances.

## UN REPORT 2020

By Patsy Chen, PPSEAWA USA Representative to the United Nations NY

### Unintended Pregnancies during COVID-19 - April 28, 2020

Covid-19 could lead to millions of unintended pregnancies. Ongoing lockdowns and major disruptions to health service during the COVID-19 pandemic could result in seven million unintended pregnancies in the coming months according to data released by the UN Population Fund and partners.

### Virtual Press Briefing - April 30, 2020

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hosted Virtual Press Briefing. Started mourning the 200,000 death from the COVID-19 pandemic recently. It continued its path of worsening destruction. He particularly worried about the lack of sufficient solidarity with developing countries. He called for global ceasefire, so the only enemy would be the COVID-19. The UN set out a US \$2 billion Global Humanitarian Response Plan for the most vulnerable population including refugees and mentally displaced persons.

### Annual Memorial Service - June 30, 2020

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres remarked to Annual Memorial Service for civilian, military and police who lost their lives in protecting us from March 16 - December 31, 2019.

This year, UN Paid tribute to 77 personnel who lost their lives during this period: 38 were military, 36 were civilian personnel, they came from 41 countries. We mourned their passing.

## YOUTH REP'S REPORT

**Pempho Chikondenji, PPSEAWA USA Youth Representative to the United Nations in New York, attended *Take the Hot Seat, a High-level Intergenerational Dialogue.***

During the 63rd session of the Commission for the Status of Women in March 2019, youth from over 100 countries were selected to participate. Among the keynote speakers included Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka- UN Women Executive Director, and Jayathma Wickramanayake- UN Secretary-General's Envoy. The youth presented CSW63 Common Minimum Standards: recommendations created collaboratively by the youth as a call for governments to ensure that their efforts towards achieving the SDGs, primarily relating to public services, social protection, and sustainable infrastructures meet the youth needs.

This event primarily focused on SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure). Some of the issues and recommendations identified by the youth referenced these goals.

### Challenges

- Unequal power dynamics/unequal division of unpaid care work disproportionately affecting women hence their restricted access to social protection services
- Gender stereotyping in the provision of public services
- Limited mobility due to the lack of access to adequate infrastructure

### Recommendations

Governments and nongovernmental organizations should aim to invest in the following:

- Youth employment
- Subsidized childcare
- Support services to teenage mothers
- Sustainable infrastructure Public awareness campaigns addressing gender-power relations

## CHICAGO CHAPTER REPORT

### Board of Directors

President - Lingling Wei

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Katherine McCaughan

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Akari Yamada

Corresponding Secretary - Mei Chuan Chao

Recording Secretary - Anita Yamada

Chapter Representatives - Bonnie Chin, Teresa Hintzke, Rebeca Massey

### Obituaries

Richard Van Duyne on June 28, 2019

Martha Mackin (Marti) on September 17, 2019

### Charitable Contributions

- \$850 to the Jyoti Children's Development Foundation. Scholarships to cover tuition, room and board for 2 hearing-impaired girls at the Jyoti School for the Deaf in Kanpur, India
- \$685 in-kind donations for domestic violence operated by YWCA Evanston/North Shore

### Programs 2019-2020

- June 10 Annual Meeting & Election
- September 16 Peace Day Commemoration
- October 8 National Board Meeting at the UN Church Center in New York
- October 14 Impact of Nutrition on Women's Health and Wellbeing with Dr. Radha Sukhani
- November 11 Hmong Textiles
- December 9 Holiday Tea and collection drive for the women's shelter for violence survivors
- February 10 Hmong in America: Science, Spirituality and Cross-Cultural Medicine
- March 2 Japanese Women in the Reiwa Era
- Spring programs cancelled due to COVID-19. Due to the increase in domestic violence cases under quarantine, we had a service project for the women's emergency shelter.



## NEW YORK CHAPTER REPORT

### Board of Directors

President - Vera Olichney

1st Vice President - Patsy Fang Chen

Vice Presidents - Fran Todd, Marlene Doran, Eleanor Schlesinger, Carol

Pilosi, Amy Banker

Membership Chair - Helen Ceglia

Corresponding Secretary – Skye Suter

Recording Secretary - Richard Lin

Treasurer - Sue Eng

Chapter Representative - Eleanor Schlesinger

Nominating Committee - Yasuko Kawamoto (Chair), Eleanor Schlesinger,

Patsy Fang Chen, Marcia Greenfield

UN Representatives: Amy Banker, Patsy Fang Chen, Natalie Christou,

Sue Eng

### Obituaries

Princess June Chao on August 14, 2019

Nanako Oguri (Nana) on May 4, 2020

Tsuimei Liao (May) on June 26, 2020

### Charitable Contribution

\$500 to the PPSEAWA USA Scholarship Fund in May 2019

\$149.86 to the PPSEAWA USA Scholarship Fund in June 2019

### Programs 2019-2020

- June 4 Antarctica Endangered by Suzanne Vlamis
- September 9 Pressed Flower Art by Ming Chu Cheng
- September 20 Six members attend the International Symposium on SDGs: Climate Change Action at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York (TECO-NY)
- October 8 National Board Meeting at the UN Church Center followed by a Tour of the Asia Society
- November 7 Nutrition Cognition by Sylvia Burnett Elbaz
- December 13 92<sup>nd</sup> Holiday Celebration at the 3 West Club
- February 21 Lunar New Year Celebration with TECO-NY
- Spring programs cancelled due to COVID-19

On July 13th, Vera Olichney, President of NY Chapter, Francesca Todd, VP of NY Chapter, Natalie Christou, Treasurer of USA and I visited the office of Ambassador Lily Lih-Wen Hsu, the Director-General of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York. Ambassador Hsu was relocated to serve in Taiwan's Department of Foreign Affairs. We thanked Ambassador Hsu for her generous and supports to PPSEAWA-NY for the Lunar New Year Celebration annually at TECONY from 2016-2020. Please refer to the photos that we all wore the beautiful scarf of PPSEAWA International while taking the photos with Ambassador Hsu and Director Yang.





## 27<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 27<sup>th</sup> PPSEAWA International Conference was held Caesar Park Hotel Banqiao in Taiwan from June 22-26, 2019. We are so grateful to our amazing sisters in PPSEAWA Taiwan for their warm welcome!

USA President Patsy Chen was the head of our delegation. The other 12 participants were: Amy Banker, Mei Chuan Chao, Bonnie Chin, Kesinee Dulyarat, Sue Eng, Jean Fang, Teresa Hintzke, Iling Hsu, Natalie Lin, Lingling Wei, Akari Yamada, and Anita Yamada.

The theme was “Life’s Journey to Wellbeing”. We began with a keynote address from Dr. Tsai Ing-wen, the first female President of Taiwan, during the Opening Ceremony on June 23. During the Business meetings, Patsy presented the PPSEAWA country report. Kesinee and Amy spoke about their work as Representatives to the United Nations in New York. Akari was a panelist on Financial Literacy throughout a Woman’s Life Course. We had many visitors to our exhibition booth, where we sold beautiful PPSEAWA scarves to benefit PPSEAWA International’s special funds. Our members with ties to Taiwan also worked behind the scenes to help the conference committee.



The election for International Council took place on June 26. Mondhiya Bhangsba of Thailand is the new International President. Several USA members will serve on the International Council until the next triennial conference in 2022: Akari as the International First Vice President, Mei as the International Secretary, and new Chicago Chapter member/former Hawaii President, Genie Trapp, as the International Treasurer. Teresa will continue as the CoNGO representative, and Kesinee and Amy as International Representatives to the United Nations in New York. Sue joined the Finance Committee.

We enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about Taiwan. We visited the National Palace Museum on June 23 with members of PPSEAWA Taiwan. Youth members had a field trip to the Taipei Public Library Solar LEO House on June 24, and council members toured the PPSEAWA Peace Garden on June 26.



Patsy was our most gracious hostess for the USA Delegation dinner at the Din Tai Fung Restaurant on June 24. USA led a karaoke-style sing-along to “What a Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong on PPSEAWA’s Cultural Night on June 25.

