



Board Members at the August meeting

L to R (top): Bob Osborne, Chi-Ann Lin, Cindy Armijo (staff), Imja Choi, Charles Smith, Dr. Chris Park, Mia Oram (staff), Jackie Downing (CFGNH), Dr. Hesung Koh, Dr. Heseung Song

The East Rock Institute Board of Directors held its regular meeting on August 12th as a working board retreat at the Whitney Center in Hamden, CT.

On a lovely summer day, members of the board rolled up their sleeves to work on setting a strategic direction for ERI and focusing on our programs and partnerships in the coming year. Board Members were treated to a kick-off presentation from Jackie Downing of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (CFGNH), who spoke about “Board Effectiveness and the 10 Responsibilities of Non-Profit Boards”. Afterwards, the Board discussed its investments in programs here in the United States and abroad and finished the afternoon with clear action items to keep this vibrant organization moving forward.



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Grateful Acknowledgement:

The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven is a valued partner to East

Rock Institute and we express our thanks to Jackie Downing, Director of Grantmaking & Nonprofit Effectiveness, who joined us at our August Board of Directors meeting.

Our board members come from diverse backgrounds, but with a common focus: **to Learn, to Search, to Serve**. Summer offers a great opportunity to brush up on these values. Read how one board member spent her summer learning about new cultures and preparing to share them in the classroom.



Travel to Myanmar (Left) and Cuba (Right) – Diverse Cultures, Common Theme

By Chi-Ann Lin, ERI Board Member

This summer I traveled with fellow teachers to Myanmar through Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO), a non-profit organization that encourages educators to travel abroad and incorporates their experiences into the classroom.

Myanmar:

As a burgeoning democracy emerging out of decades of military rule, it was an interesting and exciting time to visit. Although certain areas of the country continue to grapple with religious and ethnic conflicts, we were able to visit Yangon (the former capital), Mandalay (the last royal capital before British colonization), Bagan (home to over 2000 Buddhist pagodas), and Inle Lake (known for its leg rowers).

Cuba:

My summer of travel also included Cuba, another country in transition. We visited the capital Havana, relaxed on the beautiful beach in Varadero, and visited the former Spanish colonial towns of Trinidad and Cienfuegos. We also got to ride in a 1942 Chevrolet and a 1959 Cadillac along the way!

Chi-Ann Lin is a social studies teacher at Staples High School in the Westport Public Schools system. She joined the board of ERI in 2017 and serves as Treasurer.

Board Member at S. Korea Aging Conference

Im Ja Choi is the Founder and current CEO of Penn Asian Senior Service (PASSi) and an ERI Board Member who traveled to Korea this May as part of the planning for the 2018 Global Aging Network Conference and World Conference on Islands' Environ Network in Korea to be held next year. The event was held at Ara Auditorium, Jeju National University on May 11th and is part of the Global Aging Network Korean Chapter and World Peace Island.



Please Contribute to ERI Annual Fund. Your tax-deductible gift will go directly to support our programs that promote cultural understanding through Korean Culture. Our Teach Korea Corps is now in its 11th year and reaches students in public schools in Connecticut. You may send contributions to: ERI, 251 Dwight Street, New Haven, CT 06511

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