



OCA San Mateo County Chapter

Embracing the hopes and aspirations of Chinese and Asian Pacific Americans

San Mateo County Chapter P.O. Box 218 San Mateo, CA 94401

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President's Message by Melodie Lew

Happy New Year and Gung Hay Fat Choy! I hope 2015 is off to a good start for everyone. You will read about all the exciting events which San Mateo OCA has held this past year, and the "Save the Date" will give you a preview of upcoming SMOCA events for the early part of 2015. Our two interns for this year, Jennifer Zhang and Meghan Chang have written about all the events which took place during the second part of 2014. You will read about those events in the spring newsletter.

San Mateo OCA continues to work and support the pilot Chinese mental health outreach worker, Sunny Choi, in San Mateo County. He has completed the first six months and will continue for the remainder of the 2014-15 fiscal year. Chinese has also become a threshold language and all County documents must be translated into Chinese. There is a translation service which the County uses but the translations are quite inadequate and often inaccurate. The County cannot change translation providers so it is currently in the process of using Chinese-literate mental health staff to review the documents to ensure the translations are correct. In addition, there are some stipends available for outside folks to provide a third review of the documents. Don't ask me why it is like this. Both Santa Clara and San Francisco counties have many services for their Asian populations, so we continue to support San Mateo County

as it moves to provide adequate mental health services for its Chinese speaking population.

Our 11th annual Speak and Lead with Pride Program will begin on the January 31st and continue to mid-March. Please come and support the fine students at the final competition on the March 18th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. You will be pleasantly surprised at how well our finalists do! The 2015 scholarship luncheon will be held on the April 26th, Sunday, at the San Mateo Senior Center beginning at noon. Come and wish our 2015 crop of high school seniors well as they look forward to the next chapter in their lives. Look for more information in the email notes which I send out.

Folks are beginning to talk about this year's Gala. San Mateo OCA is looking for participants to help plan the event or it will not happen this year. Please email Chris Bush (chrisbush2@yahoo.com) or myself (boygie.m2000@yahoo.com) to volunteer so we can continue this fine and fun event. Thank you and looking forward to seeing you all at some of our 2015 events.

Cheers & Gung Hay Fat Choy!
Melodie Lew

Save the Date!

March 18: Speak and Lead with Pride Final Competition: 1700 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo at 6:00 pm

April 26: Scholarship Luncheon: San Mateo Senior Center 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas

2014 OCA National Convention

By Meghan Chang

This year's OCA National Convention was held in Los Angeles, California at the beautiful Millennium Biltmore Hotel. The convention was buzzing with activity from the very first day. Every single day there was something new. During the day, there would be all kinds of exciting events happening. Different panels were shown, fantastic guest speakers appeared, wonderful workshops were being held and so much more! Every night there would be a different event to attend to. Mixer's were held, a trip to a museum with delicious food and on the last night, a beautiful gala was held. The 2014 OCA National Convention was one to remember.



2014 SMOCA Annual Picnic

By Jennifer Zhang

On August 23, OCA hosted its annual summer picnic at Central Park in San Mateo. Families and OCA members came to catch up and enjoy delicious hotdogs and hamburgers along with fruits and desserts. California Senator Jerry Hill visited the picnic and discussed the past Mills AP situation and his signing of a bill to prevent future cancellations of AP tests. Current Berkeley student Jennifer Kao, and past Speak and Lead award winner, also talked about her experience working with Senator Hill and her studies at UC Berkeley. Everyone enjoyed the summer event and had an amazing time.



YOCA Volunteers at Coastal Cleanup

By Meghan Chang

Early in the morning on September 20th, YOCA met at Ryder's Park to help out volunteer and contribute their time in the effort to cleanup some of the garbage along the trails and water. It was amazing to see all these young adults up and ready early in the morning to help out their community. Throughout the day, little by little, YOCA helped to restore the Park to a pristine condition. Great job YOCA!

YOCA in Action at the San Carlos Food Bank

By Meghan Chang

On November 8, 2014, YOCA volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Carlos. The group was taught how long canned food really lasts until it expires and the process of delivering the food to families in need. After that, we were all put to work. The group was divided into separate groups, each with a specific task. Some were in charge of sorting cans, others in charge of boxing them. It was a heartwarming feeling that we were all able to contribute to bettering someone else's life.



SMOCA 27th Annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala

By Jennifer Zhang



On October 15th, 2014, the San Mateo County Chapter of OCA (SMOCA) hosted its Annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala at Dominic's at Oyster Point in South San Francisco. This year's theme, Individuals Who Inspire, recognized outstanding citizens: the associate director of Community Mental Health at Asian Americans for Community Involvement, Dr. Laurie Leung; the president of San Mateo United Homeowners Association, Ben Toy; and STEM education liaison for the San Mateo County Human Services Agency, Josie Yu.

Guests attending the delightful masquerade event were entertained by the emcees of the night, David Louie of KGO Channel 7 News and Stephanie Chuang of NBC Bay Area, who also auctioned off visits to their news stations. The event involved a raffle with a variety of prizes and an impressive silent auction comprised of items from beautiful paintings to

certificates to Yan Can Asian Bistro. Members enjoyed a delicious dinner while San Mateo OCA members, including Sarah Chew, intern Meghan Chang, and others, delivered eloquent speeches.

The 27th Annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala was an extraordinary and successful event, recognizing important figures in the Bay Area's Asian Pacific community, and raising funds for SMOCA's valuable programs, such as its college scholarship program, high school intern program, Speak and Lead with Pride, and others. Everyone was reminded of SMOCA's passion and commitment to its community. SMOCA would like to thank everyone that attended this wonderful event for their support and efforts. Thank you and see you at the next annual Gala!



SMOCA Gala



NBC Bay Area Interview

By Meghan Chang

Recently, SMOCA had the opportunity to appear for an interview on NBC Bay Area's Asian Pacific America. SMOCA Board Member David Chai and I had the chance to visit the NBC studios in San Jose and we were interviewed by Robert Handa. Dr. Chai and I discussed what OCA is and how we are ever present in the community. This was an unforgettable experience! You can find the video with this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2pI6hr1ok4>



2014 Holiday Luncheon

By Meghan Chang

On December 6, 2015, SMOCA hosted a holiday luncheon at Crouching Tiger in Redwood City. The afternoon was filled with laughter, conversations, meeting new faces and greeting familiar ones. The lunch included a delicious array of Chinese dishes which everyone devoured. Thank you to those who attended and we hope to see you again at the next one!



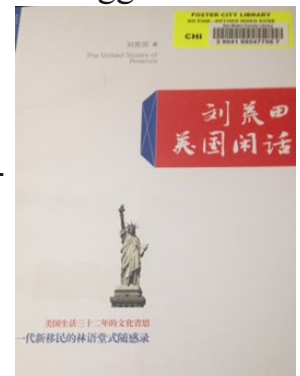
Insights From a Chinese American Author

By Jennifer Zhang



Chinese author Liu Huang Tian [刘荒田] visited the Foster City Library on October 6th to present his works and to promote Chinese literature. Liu Huang Tian immigrated to America thirty-two years ago. He discussed the difference in lifestyles of the American people and how he took ten years to adapt to it. Another topic included the struggles of being a writer subject to censorship in China.

Author Liu encourages people to develop an interest and passion in literature in order to develop emotional health and stability. On that day, Mr. Liu donated several copies of his new novel to the Foster City Library, composed of his thirty-two years of American experiences and thoughts.



Meeting With a Chinese American Politician

By Jennifer Zhang

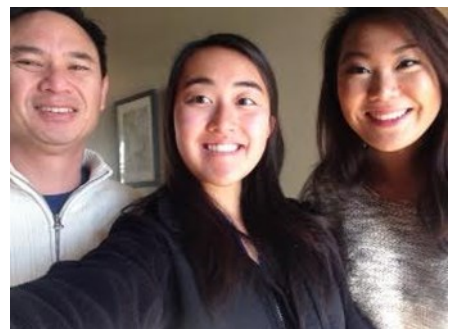
Millbrae is a booming town for many Asian Americans, mostly for Chinese Americans. Former Mayor of Millbrae Wayne Lee served as Millbrae mayor in 2014, representing a population of over 20,000.

The Councilman's interest in politics began at a young age. Before becoming a politician, he participated in community groups, such as leadership and youth commission. Lee started his involvement in Millbrae when he attended a city council meeting and proposed ideas for economic development. He then ran for city council, and though failing once, finally was elected.

This year was a busy year for Councilman Lee, passing a Fire Assessment, growing reserve funds, and developing various areas of the city. Also, Millbrae grew through new businesses, staffing, and programs. He is excited for Millbrae to become an international city, which will also be partnering with the neighboring SFO. Speaking to economic issues in Millbrae, Councilman Lee notes that with only a five million dollar movable budget, Millbrae aspires to introduce businesses and affordable housing.

The Asian community in Millbrae, as he describes, delivers positive change and diversity. In 2014, under his lead, Millbrae hosted its first annual Korean Cultural Festival along with other projects with the Japanese and Chinese communities. He compliments the youth of the Asian community for their hard work and involvement in various aspects of the city. He titles youth as the "fuel of the economy" that will be the future of progress.

Wayne Lee serves as a Millbrae Council Member for 2015.



President Obama's Immigration Plan

By Jennifer Zhang

With over 11 million undocumented citizens in our nation, President Obama, on November 20, 2014 announced his new plan. "If you meet the criteria, you can come out of the shadows and get right with the law," said Obama in his executive speech. Around 4.7 million undocumented individuals, with children who are US citizens and who have lived in America for five years, will be allowed to apply to stay and work in America. The other requirements include the passing of a background check and agreeing to pay taxes. However, the president's plan only applies to people who have recently arrived.

Though the plan benefits many immigrants, some American worry that the citizenship of these immigrants will endanger their economic prosperity. They stress that the change will allow immigrants to compete with them for jobs and opportunities.

Often immigration is perceived as an issue for other communities, but it affects the Asian American group as well. There are currently about 1.4 million undocumented Asian and Pacific Islanders residing in America. For most Asian American families, Obama's plan will help to keep immigrant families together. The Asian and Pacific Islander community makes up for 40 percent of individuals who await family immigration visas. In addition to the president's existing plan, many Asian Americans hope that Obama will reach out even further to help more immigrants achieve citizenship and obtain access to necessities such as health care.

The president's new plan has satisfied and dissatisfied many. Until it is approved by the Congress, immigrants will readily anticipate their acceptance into our prosperous country.

2014-2015 SMOCA Interns

Jennifer Zhang—Public Relations Intern



Jennifer Zhang is attending Mills High School in the Bay Area as a junior in the fall. She is involved with different youth service clubs such as Millbrae Leos Club, Interact Club, and Green Youth Alliance. In her free time, she also plays tennis, explores music, and attempts to learn new things. This is her first time to be involved with the SMOCA but she is excited to serve as an intern.

Meghan Chang—Public Relations Intern



Meghan Chang is currently a junior at El Camino High School in South San Francisco. She was the 2014 San Mateo Chapter Speak and Lead with Pride winner. Ms. Chang enjoys spending her free time playing tennis, volunteering at her church and reading great books. She aspires to be a successful attorney in the future and hopes make a positive impact in not only her community but everywhere she goes.

Membership Application / Renewal Form

Membership is open to all U.S. citizens or permanent residents at least 18 years of age, except agents of foreign governments. Members pay annual dues, of which more than half of the members' dues go to OCA National for programs, etc. The balance of the dues remains in the Chapter and provides some of the funding to operate the Chapter and its activities.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Family Membership \$50; Single Membership \$40; Student Membership \$10

Please make your check payable to:

OCA-San Mateo PO Box 218 San Mateo, CA 94401

2015 Officers & Directors

Melodie Lew, *President*

Jacob Chu, *Treasurer*

Committee Chairs

David Chai, *Speak & Lead Program*

Chris Bush, *Special Events*

Melodie Lew, *Scholarships*

Leonard Chan, *Website*

Sarah Chew, *YOCA*

Franklin Kang and Melodie Lew, *Internships*

Additional Directors

Chris Bush, Walter Chao, Immediate Past President Martin Jung, Franklin Kang, Monica Yeung Arima, William Chang and Arlene Chang

2015 Advisory Council

Dr. David Shen - Orthodontist, Chairman

Monica Yeung Arima - Real Estate Broker

Dr. Samuel Chan - Cardiologist

Dr. Shu-Wing Chan - Cardiologist

Hon. Jerry Hill - California State Senator

David Louie - KGO-TV Reporter

Wade Loo - Real Estate Broker

Elizabeth Tsai - Best Western/ Los Prados Inn

Martin Yan - Yan Can Cook Show

Doris Morse - Sister Cities Int'l

Maggie Mui - Sr. V.P. Wells Fargo

Philip Wang - Publisher

OCA

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