



1999 OCA Asian American Achievement Awards Gala

by Karen Gok Lee

On November 20, 1999, OCA honored six outstanding Asian-Americans at the 11th annual Asian American Achievement Awards Gala. Those honored were Iris S. Chan, Nancy Koo, Daphne Kwok, Gus Lee, Hon. Norman Y. Mineta, and Emerald Yeh.



The Foster City Chinese Dance Troupe

The Foster City Chinese Dance Troupe captivated the audience, followed by opening greetings from San Mateo Chapter board member Yvonne Chen. George Ong, OCA National President, presented a calendar of upcoming events. David Louie, journalist and reporter for KGO-TV Channel 7, made the evening one to remember as Master of Ceremonies.

Iris S. Chan, Executive Vice President of Wells Fargo Bank, was the first honoree to be presented with a trophy. She is the highest ranking



OCA San Mateo President Karen Lee with Daphne Kwok

woman Vice President at Wells Fargo. Iris remarked that success must be matched with quality and value, and that community work should be a very important part of everyone's life.

Our next honoree was Nancy Koo, Senior Director for International Information Technology at Gap, Inc. Her focus on teamwork, understanding, praise, and cooperation is what empowers people and builds a company.

Daphne Kwok, Executive Director of OCA, reminded the audience that we must ensure that fair hiring of Asian-American scientists continues, and that there is a very important upcoming Senate vote on Bill Lan Lee.

The audience was captivated by 10 year old Amber Patterson, soprano, who sung our National Anthem and operatic selections.



Above: Master of Ceremonies David Louie

Below: Alden Soohoo and Amber Patterson



Hon. Norman Y. Mineta could not attend the gala, but our well wishes go to him and his family.

The evening concluded with Gus Lee and Emerald Yeh. Gus Lee is the brilliant author of *China Boy* and *No Physical Evidence*. He is an inspiration to all. Emerald Yeh, reporter, community leader, and journalist, then told us a story of human rights and dignity.

Thank you, all corporate sponsors, families, and individuals, and your generous support towards the scholarship and internship fund, and thank you, all honorees.

President's Message

by Yvonne Chen

As a very new president of the San Mateo Chapter of OCA, I didn't know what to expect at the National Board meeting of OCA, held in Washington DC on January 22-23. Fortunately, Wade Loo and Karen Lee were there to fill me in on the background surrounding important issues.

It was an exhilarating, exhausting, and inspiring meeting. You all should be proud of these Chinese-Americans from every walk of life, from the 2nd-4th American born generation to immigrants from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the PRC. These people of all ages have dedicated a great portion of discretionary time to furthering OCA's mission, "embracing the hopes and aspirations of Chinese and Asian Pacific Americans in the United States." They did not introduce themselves by their professions, ranks or titles (even though they were all highly successful), but related to each other through a common desire for civil rights, community service, and integration of Asian Americans into the political process. They dealt with hard issues, and plainly stated their disagreements and their points of view with preciseness and eloquence.

As you might have guessed, the central issue for this meeting was the Wen Ho Lee case. The national reputation of the OCA staff and Executive Council is so strong that both Bill Lann Lee and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson came to the Board meeting on Saturday morning just to address and discuss this issue. They were most sincere and candid and talked to us about due process and racial stereotyping, the two issues that the National Board was most concerned about.

On January 19, 2000, OCA sent this official press release:

Secretary Bill Richardson announced the appointment of two members of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) to Department of Energy positions. Jeremy Wu, Executive Vice President of OCA - Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter, was appointed to become the National Ombudsman for the Department of Energy, a career position. OCA Executive Director Daphne Kwok has been appointed a member of the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board. Secretary Richardson also released his Task Force

Against Racial Profiling's Final Report. The Task Force was formed in June 1999 to address the impact of the Wen Ho Lee case on the employees of the National Laboratories, especially Asian Pacific Americans. Yvonne Lee, member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, served as a member of the Task Force.

Even though I was tired before and during the two-day meeting, I found myself recharged and energized by the people on the Board. I encourage readers to become active members of the OCA San Mateo Chapter, to join our local Board, and to attend the national conference in Atlanta.

About OCA

OCA is the Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc., a national non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. OCA is comprised of 45 chapters around the U.S. and has 5,000 members. This newsletter is published by the Peninsula Chapter of San Mateo County, which was founded in 1987.

The chapter's website is at www.ocasanmateo.org.

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President:	Yvonne Chen
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Secretary:	Lola Hom
Treasurer:	Karen Gok Lee
Community Affairs:	May Gee
Events:	Ken Dong
Fundraising:	Joe Lai & Mayling Ou
Membership:	Wade W. Loo
Newsletter & Internet:	Canyon Chan & Po Yee Ung
Public Affairs:	Hayden Lee
Scholarship:	Alden Soohoo
Additional Directors:	Armand Chau, Neil Cu, Barbara Fung, Richard Fung, Judy Lee, Johnny Ng, and Ho-Shyuan Wu.

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Lee Davis, *Pacific Bell External Affairs Director*
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OCA National Convention Comes Through Big in Dallas

By Wade Loo

Each year, the OCA National Convention gets bigger and better. This year, the 21st OCA National Convention in Dallas, Texas, was certainly no exception.

It had something for everyone. There were the usual seminars, exhibits, career fairs, and health screenings. There were also special seminars entitled *Multi-Ethnic Business Development for Women*, and *The Loyalty Question: Why Must APAs Still Bear the Burden of Proof?*. The *State of America* Summit and the First National Summit for Asian Pacific American Employee Networks were held at the conference.

There were speeches by San Francisco Police Chief Fred Lau and Phoebe Eng, author of *Warrior Lessons*.

The Friday night gala honored outstanding citizens Congresswomen Patsy Mink as well as our own chapter member, David Louie of KGO-TV. Oregon Congressman David Wu capped the evening with his keynote speech.

At the national board meetings during the convention, the entire six hours was spent on a discussion on whether or not OCA should support a resolution asking Japan to apologize for its wartime atrocities in China. After a very emotional and contentious debate, a compromise resolution was passed without mentioning Japan or an apology, but stating that "OCA, on humanitarian principles, is against all human injustices, including atrocities and war crimes committed.

Below: OCA-SM President Karen Lee and honoree Gus Lee at the Achievement Awards Gala



2000 Events Calendar

Come celebrate the Year of the Dragon! On Wednesday, February 9, OCA will hold our Chinese New Year Banquet at 6:30pm. It will be held at the ABC Seafood Restaurant in Foster City.

Later in the month, OCA San Mateo has partnered with OCA San Francisco and East Bay as well as the San Francisco Lodge of the Chinese Americans Citizens Alliance to present the first local premiere of the documentary film *We Served with Pride: The Chinese American Experience in WWII*. The screening and program will start at 1:30pm on Sunday, February 27, and will be followed by a reception. The event will be held at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco.

For more details, see our website at <http://www.ocasanmateo.org>. For more information on the film, visit <http://www.weservedwithpride.com>.

Upcoming Events:

Chinese New Year Banquet

February 9, 2000 @ 6:30 pm
ABC Seafood Restaurant
973 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City

OCA Leadership Conference Reception

February 12, 2000 @ 6-8pm
Foster City Library Community Center
E. Hillsdale and Shell Blvds.

We Served With Pride Documentary Film Screening & Reception

February 27, 2000
Herbst Theatre
401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
1:30pm Program and Film Screening
3:00pm Reception in Green Room

How to contact National OCA:

Organization of Chinese Americans
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 707
Washington, DC 20036
(202)223-5500
fax:(202)296-0540
email: oca@ocanatl.org
<http://www.ocanatl.org>

OCA Commends Vice President Gore's Proposed Initiative to Preserve World War II-Era Internment Camps

From OCA National

The Board of Directors of the San Mateo Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) cordially invites OCA members to join them at "A Community Commemoration of the Day of Remembrance" on February 19, 2000 at the San Mateo Buddhist Temple Hall, 2 South Claremont, San Mateo at 5:00 PM. Please RSVP to Mary Jo at (650)593-7358 or Kate at (650) 574-6676.

Washington, D.C. - The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) commends the release of the most comprehensive report on the history and status of World War II internment camps and Vice President Al Gore's proposed \$4.8 million for a new initiative to help preserve several of these historic sites throughout the West.

"The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II was an important history lesson for Americans and one which should not and cannot be forgotten," said OCA National President George M. Ong. "We applaud the Vice President and the Administration for realizing the importance of preserving several of the camps as historic sites which will serve as a reminder to us and future generations that we cannot ever allow this to happen again to any American."

The report, entitled "Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Internment Camp Sites," will be released next week. It is the most exhaustive survey ever of the 35 sites associated with the relocation and internment during WWII. The proposed \$4.8 million for FY2001 will be sent to Congress on Monday and used to construct a new visitor center at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California. The funds will also be used to acquire and protect other former camp sites and construct an interpretive exhibit near a former work camp in Arizona and start a Park Service study of "World War II on the Home Front."

OCA National Vice President Raymond Wong said, "This initiative and study is a positive step and sign of the Administration's support for the Asian Pacific American community and for what its people have contributed and sacrificed in the

name of freedom and democracy. The history of the Japanese Americans and their experiences in internment camps has not been widely taught in our schools, but now millions will learn when they visit these historic camp sites."

2000 OCA/UPS Scholarships

OCA has been provided with funding from the UPS Foundation to fund the OCA Gold Mountain college scholarships for Asian Pacific Americans who are the first persons in their family to attend an institution of higher education. Chinese immigrants looked upon America as a mountain of golden opportunities to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Scholarships of \$2000 each will be awarded to ten Asian Pacific American students with financial need. All winners will be selected to attend an all expenses paid trip to participate in the OCA National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, July 27-30, 2000.

Eligibility:

- * Asian Pacific Americans who are the first person in their immediate family to attend college.
- * APAs who are entering their first year of college in Fall 2000.
- * Must be in financial need.
- * Must be a permanent resident or US citizen.
- * Cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.00 or above.

Deadline: Application must be postmarked by May 1, 2000

For additional information, contact OCA National at:

OCA Gold Mountain College Scholarship
1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, #601
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 223-5500
or see <http://www.ocanatl.org/ups.htm>

The UPS Foundation was founded in 1951 and supports education and human welfare issues.

OCA San Mateo wishes to thank

Wells Fargo Bank

for its generous contribution and
for being the title sponsor of our
1999 Asian American
Achievement Awards Gala

and also thank

Bay View Bank

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Pacific Bell

PG&E

State Farm

for their support as
corporate sponsors
of the Awards Gala.

OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Email _____ Occupation _____

- Family, \$40 Single, \$30 Senior/Student, \$20

I am interested in helping in the following areas:

- Activities Public Affairs Membership
 Newsletter Fundraising Other

Send application to: OCA Peninsula Chapter, P.O. Box 218, San Mateo, CA 94401.

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