



## Message from the President

*Alden Soohoo, D.O.*

Greetings from all of us at OCA San Mateo! *Wish you were here!*

Just like admiring a vast beautiful landscape from high on a mountain, I find myself surveying all that our chapter has accomplished and all that it must do and I find myself thinking "I wish you were here!"

I often tell my patient's as they work their way through rehabilitation and recovery, "When climbing a mountain, every now and then it is a good idea to turn around and see how high you have climbed". This is no less true for the work and commitment that we have surging at OCA San Mateo.

So far this year all four of our officers have been able to attend a National Board meeting where greater connections with national OCA issues and ultimately local issues take place. Additionally, our new secretary Amy Chung attended the OCA~JACL Leadership conference in Washington DC and continues to rise to the challenges of leadership posed by our organization. Such efforts are important in securing the future of our chapter.

In February, under the leadership of the Advisory Council Chairman, Dr. David Shen, the OCA Advisor Council was convened. A collective brainstorming session of brilliant experienced minds from many different backgrounds took place and further reinvigorated our efforts and provided us with some good ideas to pursue.

Our Chinese New Year Celebration Dinner featuring Nona Mock Wyman author of *Chopstick Childhood in a Town of Silver Spoons* was a great success with over 50 people attending. At the beginning of the event, I proclaimed that this would be the Year of the Ram for our chapter and not the

Year of the Sheep. This remains a guiding thought for us throughout this year.

OCA San Mateo then co-sponsored a lecture by Iftekhar A. Hai, from the United Muslims of America, speaking on the root causes of terrorism. During his lecture Mr. Hai reminded us that much of the plight of many Muslim and Arab Americans are not unlike that of the Japanese during World War II.

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, during the month of May, OCA San Mateo co-sponsored a book reading by Asian American author Teresa Leyung Ryan. Our chapter also created book displays for the Foster City and Redwood City Libraries showcasing Asian American authors and some of their books. We will also be co-sponsoring a Hate Crimes Workshop at Stanford.

From the beginning of the year, I wanted OCA San Mateo to renew its efforts in bringing to light and ultimately dealing with issues involving civil rights and issues that affect Asian Pacific Americans. And in review of our commitment to focusing on issues of civil rights, maintaining and celebrating our heritage, providing leadership and opportunities to our youth, I again think to myself what a job we have for our community, and again "*I wish you were here*" to partake in our community's work and enjoy the fruits of our labor!

*Dr. Alden Soohoo has served on the OCA Board of Directors since 1989. In addition to maintaining his chiropractic practice in South San Francisco, Alden and his wife Laurie are busy raising their three sons Andres, Austin, and Alec. Alden has chaired the OCA Scholarship Committee for 8 of the 9 years that he has served on the committee. He brings with him experience from other boards and committees including experience as president of the California Chiropractic Association-San Mateo Society and the San Mateo County Human Relations Commission. As president, Alden's goals are increasing membership through increased community awareness of civil rights issues that face Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.*

## Chinese New Year's Dinner Followed Advisory Council Meeting

*Wade Loo, Board Member*

A very productive Advisory Council Meeting was held, on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Foster City Recreation Center, which was attended by 8 of the 16 members of the Council and some members of the Board of Directors. Some of the issues discussed included: 1) Being more proactive; 2) Getting more media exposure; 3) Adopting a cause to rally the membership and recruiting new members, e.g. – Speaking out against the transfer of funds from Basic Aid Schools to the State General Fund, to try

## Ohio Asians Honored for Civil War Service

*-Canyon Chan, OCA San Mateo*

On Saturday, April 26, 2003, a state historical marker was unveiled and dedicated at the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden in Columbus, Ohio that honors all known and unknown Asians who fought in the Civil War. It is not well known that Asians had served in the Civil War since it is rarely mentioned in history textbooks. Unlike other Civil War soldiers, Asians were denied war pensions and citizenship due to anti-Asian sentiment at the time.

Researchers were able to find at least 17 Union soldiers with Chinese last names who served in Ohio. Other researchers have found additional evidence of Asians, mostly Chinese, who served in the Civil War.

This is the first official marker to be permanently displayed in public that recognizes Asian American sacrifices and contributions to the United States. This marker should help increase awareness of the role Asians have played in American history. A number of OCA-Columbus chapter members spearheaded the effort to get the marker approved as well as raise funds for its costs, notably Dr. Chih Ping Chen and Dr. Sui-Leung Lee.

Over 150 people attended the dedication ceremony on the afternoon of April 26. Three OCA San Mateo

to offset the deficit problems in the State budget. Your Board is diligently working to address these issues and welcomes input from all members.

After the Advisory Council Meeting, everyone went across the street to the ABC Seafood Restaurant to enjoy a delicious 9-course Chinese banquet. In total, 50 attendees had a great time at the feast, which was preceded by a reading of excerpts from Nona Mock Wyman's book, "Chopstick Childhood", which recounted her experience of having been raised in an orphanage for Chinese girls. Ms. Wyman graciously autographed copies of the book which were on hand for sale.



chapter members – Wade Loo, Amy Chung, and Canyon Chan – attended, along with all of the other OCA National Board members.

The ceremony included greetings from OCA Columbus chapter board chair Sonya Gong, OCA National president Raymond Wong, and Jim Strider of the Ohio Historical Society.

Proclamations were read by Steven Abels from the Ohio governor's office, and Jim Stowe from the Columbus mayor's office. Roderick Chu, the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, gave remarks. Angela An, a television reporter from local station 10-TV, was the mistress of ceremonies. The marker unveiling was followed by a gun salute and taps performed by VFW Post #4719.

That evening, a celebration banquet was held at the Hyatt on Capitol Square. OCA Executive Director Christine Chen introduced the keynote speaker, the Honorable Michael Honda from the 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (San Jose, California). All of

the OCA-Columbus chapter members and volunteers were recognized for their efforts. Maria Durant, Columbus television reporter for ABC6/Fox 28 was the mistress of ceremonies for the evening's proceedings.

Marker text front:

ASIANS IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR  
Despite exclusionary laws preventing U.S. citizenship, Asians served in the Union and Confederate armies and navies during the American Civil War (1861-1865). Many of these soldiers were denied citizenship following their services due to the anti-Asian sentiment, which culminated in the Naturalization Act of 1870 and the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. In November 2002, House Joint Resolution 125 was introduced to Congress to posthumously proclaim Civil War soldiers of Asian descent to be honorary citizens of the United States as recognition of their honorable services. It is difficult to identify soldiers of Asian descent since many did not apply for or receive pensions; however, research indicates that at least 17 Union soldiers with Chinese last names served in Ohio.

(continued on other side)

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS  
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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Marker text back:

ASIANS IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR  
(continued from front side)  
In memory of all known and unknown Civil War soldiers of Asian descent

## Millions Awarded to Officer by Jury

### Japanese American plaintiff said he endured racial bias in the K-9 unit for years.

*By Jean Guccione, Times Staff Writer  
LA Times, Friday, March 21, 2003*

In one of the largest employment discrimination verdicts against the Los Angeles Police Department, a Japanese American officer who fulfilled his dream of becoming a police dog handler was awarded \$3.5 million Thursday for suffering racial discrimination, harassment and retaliation that forced his transfer to a less prestigious job.

An, Jacob V / Priv / 76 OVI  
Au, Charles / Priv / 55 OVI  
Au, Christopher / Capt / 120 OVI  
Koo, John A / Priv / 6 OVI  
Koo, William H / Priv / 47 OVI  
Lau, Bernhard / Priv / 108 OVI  
Lau, John / Priv / 107 OVI  
Lee, Ai / Priv / 82 OVI  
Lee, Buck / Under cook / OH Sharpshooters  
Mar, William L / Priv / 2 OVI  
Meng, John / Priv / 25 OVI  
Tow, Lew / Priv / 165 OH inf  
Wan, Adam / Priv / 64 OVI  
Wan, Washington / Priv / 91 OVI  
Wang, Aaron / Priv / 69 OVI  
Wang, Philip J / 1<sup>st</sup> Sergt / 91 OVI  
Yan, Franklin / Priv / 88 OVI

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*Canyon Chan has been involved with the OCA San Mateo chapter for close to 10 years and has served before as chapter secretary in addition to his current role as treasurer. Canyon works as a portfolio manager and Director of Alternative Strategies at Franklin Templeton Investments in San Mateo.*

*Amy Chung currently serves as the Secretary for San Mateo chapter. She is a Retirement Plan Administrator with Franklin Templeton Investments and consults on various operational and compliance issues as they relate to retirement plans. She is a member of the Retirement Services sales team.*

"This man went through seven years of living hell and nothing could give him back his career, but this verdict is a clear vindication of Officer [Richard] Nagatoshi's courage, determination and honor," attorney Matthew S. McNicholas said after the downtown Los Angeles jury reached 12-0 verdicts on all three employment claims.

It is the highest employment discrimination verdict against the LAPD on behalf of an Asian American and against its K-9 unit, where Nagatoshi was one of two Asian Americans, McNicholas said. The other Asian American also has sued the department.

The city plans to appeal the verdict, said Eric Moses of the city attorney's office.

Moses said that there were "legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons" for the actions that Nagatoshi claims were discriminatory and retaliatory, and that the harassment claim was filed past the statute of limitations.

"We don't believe the damage award was commensurate with the alleged damage," Moses said. "We believe they are more punitive" because Nagatoshi did not present medical records to support the allegation of emotional distress.

The jury, after two days of deliberations, awarded Nagatoshi \$591,000 for loss of wages and benefits and \$3 million in general noneconomic damages for the loss of the value of his career.

In one incident, Nagatoshi's fellow officers in the K-9 unit refused in January 2001 to respond to his backup calls during a 2 1/2-hour car chase, McNicholas said. He also received an e-mail in May 2001, stating, "You will pay for your treachery [sic]."

"This jury became his backup," McNicholas said.

The 40-year-old officer, married with two children, graduated from the Police Academy in 1985 and was selected for the K-9 unit in 1993.

After two years in the unit, all of the dog handlers, including Nagatoshi, spoke out against their

supervisors, who were trying to remove a lieutenant from his post.

Later, a sergeant made a derogatory remark about an Asian American driver during a K-9 unit event and forced Nagatoshi to sign a complaint form written in Korean, although he is not Korean, as his supervisors laughed.

Over the next several months, supervisors shunned him and investigated him for two alleged excessive-force complaints, which were dismissed, McNicholas said.

He took off the maximum 29 days in December 1999 to "reduce the stressful environment being created at home as a result of the retaliation at work because his wife was pregnant.

Nagatoshi transferred to the Armory, where he distributes supplies, in November 2001, two months after filing his suit.

During that time, someone posted copies of his complaint in the K-9 unit offices and stuffed pink women's underwear in his work mailbox, court papers said.

McNicholas said his client tried to resolve his dispute internally, seeking help at several levels.

## "Celebrating Our Women Leaders",

*Phil Tajitsu Nash, Mar 14, 2003, AsianWeek*



OCA's Executive Director, Christine Chen, was featured in a recent article in AsianWeek magazine, celebrating the accomplishments of Asian Pacific American women in Washington, DC.

March is Women's History Month, a time to reflect on and give thanks for the powerful, visionary women who have moved us forward as a community. I was fortunate to have strong female role models on both sides of my family, starting with a very empowered mother, a Japanese American grandmother who was a school teacher in an era when most teachers were men and a paternal grandmother who was a Suffragette and a teacher as well. Even my sister, a history professor and activist in Massachusetts, is blazing trails that have opened my eyes and made this world a better place for all of us.

## Young Organization of Chinese Americans (YOCA)

Margarette Lee, YOCA President

The San Mateo chapter of the Young Organization of Chinese Americans (YOCA) is a youth branch of OCA devoted to helping the next generation of Asian Americans understand their cultural heritage and its continuing contributions to American society. To achieve this goal, our YOCA members organize community service and fundraising projects, take on leadership roles, and foster group

### TIME Magazine

Global World Beaters

People to Watch in International Business

By [JYOTI THOTTAM](#)

Monday, Feb. 24, 2003

#### MICHELINE CHAU

Star Warrior

When she joined Lucasfilm as CFO in 1991, Chau, 50, brought order to the movie-magic empire built by Star Wars creator George Lucas. The company has grown into a \$1.5 billion special-effects,

## The Organization Of Chinese American's San Mateo County Peninsula Chapter Proudly Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month By Donating Books And Co-Sponsoring A Book Display At The Redwood City Public Library

Redwood City, CA – May 12, 2003

In honor of Asian Pacific Heritage Month, the Organization of Chinese American's San Mateo County Peninsula Chapter donated copies of the recently published *The New Face of Asian Pacific America: Numbers, Diversity and Change in the 21st Century* to 12 different peninsula public libraries. The Chapter mounted an Asian Pacific heritage book display, featuring Asian American authors, at the Redwood City

bonding and a sense of cultural identity through social events. This year, our community service activities included a beach cleanup at the local Coyote Point Park and holiday caroling at senior citizen centers. We have also branched out to increase awareness in political issues by participating in the Junior Statesmen of America's Fall State Conference. We will also have a fundraising membership drive picnic following the OCA Hatecrimes workshop at Stanford on May 24th. It is our hope that our members will take their experiences gained from the YOCA to become active community leaders in the future.

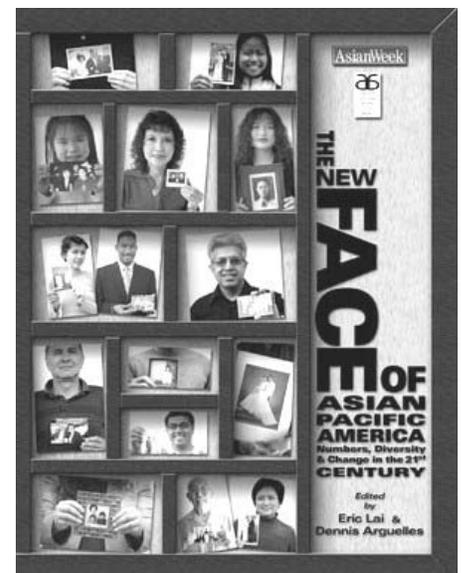
production and computer-game powerhouse. Recently promoted to COO, Chau will work to turn Lucasfilm's disparate units into an ensemble cast — encouraging the movie-effects team at Industrial Light & Magic, say, to collaborate more closely with online game designers. A native of Singapore, Chau's favorite Star Wars hero is Yoda.

*Micheline has been a member of OCA San Mateo for over 10 years and we are proud to call her one of our own". Micheline and her husband Armand (14 year OCA board member) have been longtime supporters of OCA.*

Public Library located at 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, 94063 through out the month of May.

The co-editors of the book are Eric Lai of [Asianweek](#) and Dennis Arguelles of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. The

book is comprised of articles written by leading Asian-American scholars, journalists, and community leaders from across the nation. It provides the most comprehensive, up-to-date analysis of the significant Asian Pacific American



demographic and cultural changes through informative essays and over 100 photos, charts, and graphics. It also provides an analysis of the recently released socioeconomic census data on the rapidly growing and diverse Asian Pacific American population as well as demographic analysis on fast growing mixed Asian American ethnic/race population. The public and community college libraries were all very pleased to receive copies of

## **Festive Celebration May 11th Marks New Era For Locke, Lion Dancers Provide Special "Good Luck" Ceremony**

### **Land Sale Completed & Federal Funding Secured For New Sewer System**

*LOCKE, Calif.* -- Several hundred people will gather along the rustic Main Street area of this tiny Sacramento River Delta town at noon Saturday, May 11th to witness a traditional Lion Dance that heralds a new era for Locke, a National Historic Landmark and the nation's last remaining, free-standing rural Chinese American town.

The celebration is being held to commemorate the town's land sale to the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), and to announce that federal funding has been secured to replace the town's rapidly deteriorating sewer system.

"We're beginning a new chapter in the history of Locke," said Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli. "As we continue to move forward with the preservation and protection of this important community, future generations will be able to come here and learn about its history as well as the significant roles and important contributions that Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans have made to California."

The Lee-Jet-Don Lion Dancers of Sacramento will parade through Locke's Main Street to both begin and conclude the celebration that starts at noon on Saturday, May 11th. As many as two dozen costumed dancers will perform a Lion Dance in the troupe's unique, martial arts style known as Yau Kung Moon Kung-Fu that originated in southern China. Lion Dances are a traditional part of Chinese culture that bring good luck and prosperity. The

this important book to add to their collections. "This book is a very nice handbook, perfect for school assignments," said Redwood City Public Library Director Yvonne Chen. Visit Redwood City Public Library at <http://www.rcpl.info> for more information about the Library's services, programs, and events. Check us out!

world famous St. Mary's Drum and Bell Corps of San Francisco also will provide musical entertainment.

SHRA closed escrow in late February on the purchase of the township's 10-acre site for \$250,000 from the Locke Property Development Company. SHRA needed title to the land as part of the application process for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to replace the town's sewer system. The federal grant was approved in April. Dave Hartwell from the USDA's Rural Development office in Davis, Calif., will present a check for \$825,000 to county officials as part of Saturday's festivities.

The Sacramento County Sanitation District 1 is responsible for the sewer work. The four-month project is expected to begin in September of this year. SHRA ([www.shra.org](http://www.shra.org)) will provide approximately \$200,000 in matching funds for the sewer system work, Agency officials said.

Nottoli, current chair of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, whose district includes Locke, and Supervisor Illa Collin will co-host the celebration. Other elected officials, plus state, county and local officials and many of the town's 80 residents are expected to partake in the celebration. Representatives from many local and statewide Chinese American cultural and civic organizations are also expected at this important, milestone event.

County and SHRA officials plan to make announcements about the work by Locke's Community Advisory Committee and to talk about plans to reconnect the building owners with the land under their structures.

Authors Jeff Gillenkirk and James Motlow also will be in Locke to autograph the latest edition of their

book, *Bitter Melon: Inside America's Last Rural Chinese Town*.

The celebration coincides with Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, which is celebrated during the month of May to recognize the contributions made to this country by Asian/Pacific Americans. The May 11th celebration also coincides with the 31st anniversary of when Locke was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places on May 6, 1971. Locke became a National Historic Landmark on Dec. 14, 1990.

Also, 2002 marks the 50th anniversary of when the California State Supreme Court declared the state's Alien Land Act to be unconstitutional. The Alien

Land Act was passed by the California Legislature in 1913 to prohibit people who were not eligible for citizenship from owning land in the state. It was primarily directed at Asian Americans, including many of the founders of Locke, who, by the time of the Act's passing, had become significant contributors to the state's agricultural industry.

The Alien Land Act prohibited Locke's Chinese American founders from owning the land under their homes or businesses. This detachment between ownership of the land and the buildings continues today and has contributed to the town's structural decline because improvement loans usually need to be secured by both the land and the building.

## Are Americans Anti-Asian?

*Parade Magazine May 4 2003*

That's the troubling question raised in a survey by Yankelovich Partners. One in four respondents expressed "strong negative attitudes" toward Chinese-Americans; 24% wouldn't want a family member to marry an Asian-American; and 32% thought Chinese Americans were more loyal to China than to the U.S. The Committee of 100—a group of distinguished Chinese-Americans,

including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who address the concerns of their community—blames decades of negative stereotyping by the media and even school textbooks. Changing minds will be "a rather formidable task," says Henry Tang, committee co-chairman. He notes that more than 20,000 American families have adopted Chinese babies and fear that they'll be scarred by prejudice.



Yo-Yo Ma: Chinese still suffer from stereotyping.

dramatic transformation of the building—now featuring 40,000 square feet of gallery space—allowing the museum to better fulfill its mission of leading a diverse global audience in discovering the unique material, aesthetic, and intellectual achievements of Asian art and culture.

The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with extended evening hours every Thursday until 9:00 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays, major holidays (New Years Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas), and during certain large scale Civic Center Events (please call for details).

Admission: Adults: \$10, Seniors 65 and older with ID: \$7 College students with ID and youth ages 13



## Asian Art Museum Now Open!

The Asian Art Museum is one of the largest museums in the Western world devoted exclusively to Asian art. Its holdings include nearly 15,000 treasures spanning 6,000 years of history, representing cultures throughout Asia. The museum's new home is the result of the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the city's former

Main Library, a 1917 beaux arts– style building. Renowned architect Gae Aulenti oversaw the

through 17: \$6 Children under 12, Museum Members, and SFUSD students with ID: Free Thursday evenings after 5 p.m. admission is just \$5 for all visitors except those under 12 and members, who are always free. "Target Tuesdays": On the first Tuesday of every month, admission is free to all visitors courtesy of Target Stores.

The museum accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover Cards as well as cash.

### 2003 Calendar of Events

May	APA Heritage Month
June 1	Scholarship Luncheon
June 28	Tour of the Asian Art Museum
Aug 7 – 10	OCA National Convention – Honolulu, Hawaii
August 24	OCA Annual Picnic
October 11	Annual Fundraising Gala

***We have arranged for an architectural tour of the museum for June 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person plus admission. To reserve your space please make your check payable to OCA in the appropriate amount and mail to: Serena Lucchesi, 181 Flying Mist Isle, Foster City, CA 94404. Be sure to include your name, telephone number and e-mail address; we will get back to you with details. The group is limited to a maximum of 18 so get your check in right away!***

### **Clarissa and Franklin Kang Announce the Birth of Their Son, Aaron Jayson Kang.**

“He is a lean, strong, healthy boy as he enters his second world. With his multicultural background, it is our hope we will raise a strong conscientious man who will see beyond himself to help others and do his part to better the world.”

*Chapter Vice President Franklin M. Kang spends his days as an attorney for the U.S. Postal Service in San Francisco. While attending law school at the Catholic University of America, Franklin worked as an intern at OCA's National Headquarters.*

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