



ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS, INC.



EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF CHINESE AND ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

OCA Peninsula Chapter of San Mateo County P.O. Box 218 San Mateo, CA 94401 (650) 376-1019
www.ocasanmateo.org

Message from the President

Plans for 2006

By Amy Chung

We are off to a running start. Especially with my Texas Longhorns winning the National Championship at the Rose



Bowl-- it's been a great beginning! Way to go, Vince! The feeling of victory especially at the coffers of defeat is ever so sweet.

We just concluded our Board retreat and one of our goals this year is to further enhance our existing relationships with our corporate sponsors and to look into establishing new ones. Many corporations are very willing to give support as long as they know that the person making the request is personally involved in the organization that they are supporting. They want to see that you personally put in your own time and take an active role in the organization. Whether that's serving as a committee chair or serving on the Board we welcome you. If you would like to take a more active role, we're ready for you.

We welcome back Hayden Lee to the Board after a hiatus of some years. Hayden, former OCA Executive Director and co-founder of our Chapter, has spent much of the past odd years in the political arena. He brings a lot of wisdom, enthusiasm and knowledge from his earlier years. Hayden will be overseeing the communications committee, including this newsletter and our

website, working with two of our OCA Interns, Ruby and Florence.

The Board of Directors has also pledged a \$1,000 donation for the OCA Legacy Fund (formerly the OCA Building Fund) in appreciation of Wade Loo's service and dedication. Wade thinks he's retiring after 13 years, but he can't get away that easily.

On a sad note, Ken Dong, our longtime OCA friend and Board member, passed away in November. An internship fund was set up in his name and we have received over \$3,500 towards the Ken Dong Internship from friends and loved ones. We will miss him dearly.

Join Us!

Chinese New Year Dinner

**THE YEAR OF THE DOG
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006 AT 6:30 PM**

**at Indulge Asian Buffet, \$30/person
1000 El Camino Real, Belmont**

Includes over 120 items including lobster, sea clam, king crab legs, mussels, crab and shrimp, Sushi Bar, Korean bbq, fine meats, soft drink (alcoholic beverages extra) and a raffle ticket for an Apple IPOD Nano, raffled during the evening. Additional raffle tickets may be purchased in advance or at the dinner. Need not be present to win.

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 6, 2006 WITH PAYMENT TO:
OCA San Mateo Chapter, P.O. Box 218, San Mateo, CA 94401.

For more information, please call Martin Jung at 650-312-2358.

OCA Sponsors Medicare Seminar

By Martin Jung

On Saturday, Nov. 12, the Foster City Library held a free Medicare seminar that was made possible by the support of the OCA San Mateo Chapter and the Friends of Foster City Library, who believe in helping the community. HICAP, the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program of San Mateo County, focuses on community outreach. The recent changes to Medicare have caused confusion and resulted in many to ask questions regarding their health coverage. Diana Gray, counselor for the San Mateo Office, was ready, willing, and able to spend the afternoon to share information with the public.

The seminar was open to people who wanted more information. The enthusiastic presentation included handouts and was followed by a question and answer session. Topics included the interim prescription discount card and the new prescription drug coverage that will begin in 2006. If you need help with Medicare or other health care issues, free counseling is available. HICAP counselors can also help you with Medicare claims, appeals, and denials or matters related to delays of service or treatment. Unbiased advice is given about long-term care insurance, Medicare HMOs, supplemental insurance, and more. For information, contact Diana Gray at (650) 627-9350 or at hicapr@aol.com.



OCA Member Martin Jung and Diana Gray, Program Manager of HICAP.

OCA Celebrates 17th Achievement Awards Gala

By Martin Jung

On Saturday October 1, 2005, OCA honored two outstanding women from two distinct fields and background at the 17th Annual Asian Pacific American Achievement Awards Gala at the South San Francisco Conference Center. The two honorees--Justice Joyce Kennard of the California Supreme Court and Janet Yang, a distinguished movie producer--definitely exemplified our theme for the evening. The theme was: "Achieve with Inspiration and Courage."

Chapter board member William Kwong added, "What a successful event! I was so proud of the honorees, Justice Kennard and Janet Yee, because they really are such pillars in the community and so inspirational." In addition, William commented, "I know from being behind-the-scenes the amount of hard work put in by the entire board, especially Alden Soohoo, Karen Gok, Wade Loo, Amy Chung and Martin Jung. OCA-San Mateo will really miss Wade after he steps down from the board, but thanks for teaching us how to carry on." Vice President Dr. Alden Soohoo adds, "I was most impressed with how down to earth and gracious the honorees, Justice Joyce Kennard and Janet Yang were. I was fortunate to spend some time with the two of them and I walked away very impressed and happy that we were able to honor two such worthy Asian Pacific Americans. Of course OCA San Mateo always puts on a great gala and I look forward to the years to come."

A special presentation was made to long time Board Member, Ken Dong. The Board honors Ken by renaming the Outreach/Events Internship to the Ken Dong Internship in recognition of his community service and selfless contributions to OCA through the years. Ken is known as the head chef at the annual picnic- always the silent contributor behind the scenes. A tribute was also given to Wade W. Loo for his 13 years of contribution to OCA. The Board of Directors pledged to contribute \$1,000 in Wade's name to the National Center for APA Leadership Building Fund in Washington D.C. An inscription of Wade's name

will be inscribed as a permanent reminder of all his contributions. Wade was surprised at his recognition by OCA, and says, "Thank you, Members of the Board of Directors, especially Alden Soohoo, Karen Gok & Conrad Lee for their hard work in preparing for this surprise tribute to his retirement from the Board."

The Gala is OCA's sole fundraiser for the year. The proceeds of the Dinner Gala go toward scholarship, internship and educational programs. Now in it's second year, the Speak and Lead with Pride program provides youths a way to practice their public speaking skills and nurture their confidence. "We believe the Speak and Lead with Pride program gives youth the opportunity to practice these skills in a non-threatening environment which will help them in their future endeavors," says Amy Chung, President of OCA San Mateo. In addition to our mission for civil rights advocacy, heavy emphasis is placed on helping our youth and future generations. "I believe that the difference is in you and if you don't care about the community who will?" remarks Amy.



Melanie Wong, Louise Lao, Ruby Chua and Joe Rodriguez are OCA interns and friends of that helped out during the event.

Thanks to our sponsors of our 2005 Annual Dinner. They are:

Platinum Sponsor
WELLS FARGO

Gold/Scholarship Sponsors
**FRANKLIN-TEMPLETON
INVESTMENTS
ELIZABETH TSAI OF BEST WESTERN,
LOS PRADOS INN**

Silver Sponsor
MINAMI, LEW & TAMAKI, L.L.P.

Special Sponsor
UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK

Individual Table Sponsors
**MONICA & ADRIAN ARIMA, SHU-WING &
FLORA CHAN, HOWARD & NANCY CHANG,
WALTER CHAO, WEI TAI & VIOLET KWOK,
KAREN GOK & CONRAD LEE, WADE W. LOO,
OCA SILICAN VALLEY CHAPTER.**

Additional Donors
**KTSEF, CALIF. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
JOYCE L. KENNARD, LUCAS FILM, LTD.,
RANCH 99**



Meet your Board Members: At the Gala, the happy board members smile and pose for the camera, from left to right, following the heads: Walter Chao, Jacob Chu, Wade Loo, Alden Soohoo, Arlene Chang, Maggie Mui, Amy Chung, David Chai, Karen Gok Lee, William Kwong, Newsy Yan, Martin Jung, Selina Chang, and Po Yee Ung.

At the Event

William Wong's Book Signing at Foster City Library

By Ruby Chua, OCA Intern



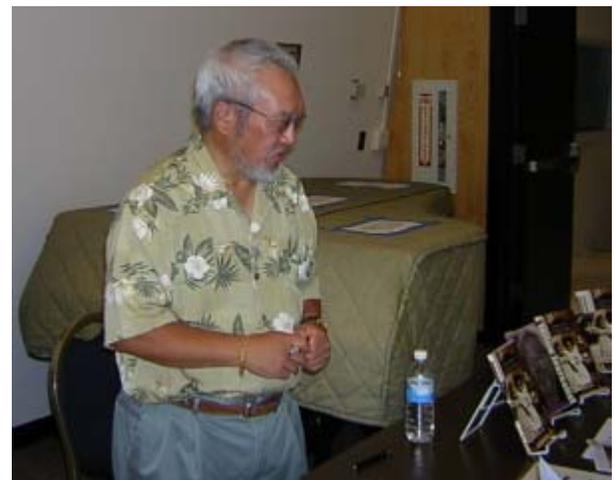
William Kwong with proud honoree, Justice Joyce Kennard, at the Gala.

On Thursday, September 29, author of *Oakland's Chinatown*, William Wong, arrived at the Foster City Library to introduce and autograph his books. Consisting of many varied pictures from the book, Mr. Wong told the story of his growing up in Oakland's Chinatown through a PowerPoint presentation. The slideshow went from pictures of Chinese immigrants working on railroads to Mr. Wong's childhood barber and restaurants.

Old and young alike listened intently as William Wong explained how he came about to write his book and the anecdotes of his life that had inspired it. Most importantly, Mr. Wong emphasized the significance of knowing and understanding one's roots, which in his case was being an Chinese American growing up in Oakland Chinatown.



The martial arts performers received a standing ovation from the receptive crowd.



William Wong explained his book to his listeners.



President Amy Chung, on right, and David Louie of ABC News who served as master of ceremonies for the gala event.

**Register
to Vote!**

Speak and Lead

By Cary Chen, William Kwong, and Ruby Chua, OCA Intern

From September through November 2005, high school students Ruby Chua, David Lam, Stephanie Lam, Louise Lao, Clinton Ngan, Hyun Oh, Minn Oh, Melanie Wong, and Melinda Wong successfully completed the second annual Speak and Lead Program, sponsored by OCA San Mateo, at the Foster City Library Community Center.

Instructors Cary Chen and William Kwong, both OCA Board Members and attorneys, taught the students the basics of composing speeches for different situations. Throughout the weeks, both students and instructors alike sacrificed time off their busy Saturdays to make it to the classes. Each week, students prepared and delivered speeches based on a given topic the week prior and receive critical feedback from both the instructors and their peers. Title: Speak and Lead Gets A Tour of KTSF (Channel 26)

At KTSF on October 28, 2005, KTSF Program Manager Victor Marino gave a comprehensive tour on everything from how ideas are developed to the actual broadcasting of shows. Serendipitously, the station was taping a segment for "Night Shift," a show about indie music, bands, movie reviews, and comedy sketches. The participants watched the taping of the music segment and comedy sketch, and then chatted with Night Shift hosts, Brian Tong, Sabrina Shimada and Pete Mar.

The Program finished with a guest speech from Assemblyman Leland Yee and a speech competition for a \$500 prize between all nine students, judged by OCA Board Members David Chai, Cary Chen, and Martin Jung. For their final speeches, the students prepared persuasive speeches on any topic of their choice. They were also allowed to incorporate any visual aid of their own design and creation. Hillsdale High sophomore, Ruby Chua, won the final competition for her speech on the topic of suicide.

All high school students are eligible to apply for the Program, but there are only 12 openings due to the interactive nature of the course. Successful applicants are those who: 1) have demonstrated an interest in leadership but have not had the opportunity to take similar courses, and 2) are able to get a strong recommendation from a teacher or school counselor. Those who are interested in participating in the Fall 2006 Speak and Lead Program should contact Cary Chen at 415-315-2800. Early applications to the Program are strongly encouraged.



Students learn to speak and lead. From left, Cary Chen, Minn Oh, William Kwong, Ruby Chua, Hyun Oh, Melinda Wong, Clinton Ngan, Stephanie Lam, David Lam, Melanie Wong, Louise Lao.



At the October event at KTSF, from left to right: Hyun Oh, Melanie Wong, Sabrina Shimada, Pete Mar, Minn Oh, William Kwong, Stephanie Lam, Brian Tong.

Building Fund Update: The Dream is on its way to becoming a reality

By Amy Chung

Last month National OCA identified a possible building site for its National Office in Washington, D.C. It is strategically located on Dupont Circle near 18th Street & Massachusetts. The building had just taken a reduction in price from \$6 million to \$4.5 million. An initial offer of \$3.8 million was submitted and offer was accepted at \$4.1 million. A 45-day due diligence period is currently underway, with closing scheduled for May 31, 2006.

The white brick building has great potential, wonderful presence, a beautiful terrace in the back, fireplaces, and a tenant leasing half of the almost 13,000 square feet of space for the next four years (revenue producing). The longer we wait, the more expensive a building in D.C. would be. Here is the link for you to check out:

<http://www.fototime.com/inv/B1EF526316989B2>, to the pictures taken by Kwong, which will give you an idea of what the building looks like.

To date, OCA has now raised \$700,000 in pledges and contributions for the Building Fund. In order to complete this deal, we will need to raise \$1.5 million by closing, but have some idea of the commitment within the next 45 days. We need to reach out to major donors we know who would be willing to donate for naming opportunities or lend monies (interest free) for a period of time. In this case, interest is tax deductible. Secondly, we will need to go to those who have pledged and ask if they can possibly expedite the fulfillment of their pledges. To help the fundraising efforts, Ken Lee and George Cha have created the National Center Challenge Fund which will match all funds raised up to \$1 million with their personal money. The Legacy Fund needs all of us now to do what we can to make this dream a reality.

WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The White House Internship Program offers an excellent opportunity to serve our President and explore public service. We are seeking exceptional candidates to apply for this highly competitive program. In addition to normal office duties, interns attend weekly lectures, tours, and complete an intern service project. Interns may serve a term in the Fall, Spring or Summer. All candidates must be at least 18 years of age, hold United States citizenship, and be enrolled in a college or university.

We hope you will explore our White House Intern Website for additional information at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/wh-intern.html>. To apply, read and complete the White House Intern Application. A strong application includes the following:

- sound academic credentials
- history of community involvement and leadership
- solid verbal/written communication skills
- demonstrated interest in public service

Completed application materials must be submitted to Karen Race, Deputy Director and Intern Coordinator in the office of White House Personnel, at intern_application@whitehouse.gov prior to the following deadlines:

Applications due **March 7, 2005** for **Summer 2006 term - (May 23 to August 25, 2006)**

Applications due **June 1, 2006** for **Fall 2006 term - (September 5 to December 15, 2006)**

If you have questions you may contact Karen Race by phone, (202) 456-5979 or by e-mail, intern_application@whitehouse.gov

The OCA Tradition - by Hayden Lee

Some of us in OCA are lifers. No matter what we do or where we go, we are OCA people. It happened like that with me. After college I returned to Maryland and eventually got involved in OCA as a volunteer. OCA was young then, with fewer than ten chapters. Because I was an English major (someone referred to a Chinese American English major as a pink DoDo bird), I was drafted to be the editor of the National OCA newsletter. My real job then was helping to manage a Chinese restaurant in Baltimore.

Kung-Lee Wang, the founder of OCA, must have seen something in me that I had no idea was there: he asked me to apply for the position of OCA executive director—the first paid position for National OCA. I did and served in that position for about three years before leaving to figure out what else to do with my life. The National Urban Fellowship brought me to San Francisco.

In 1987, my cousin, Jim Tso, was National OCA President and Harry Tong was a CPA and attorney in Foster City who had inquired to National OCA about starting an OCA chapter here. I had married and lived, as I still do, in Millbrae. Jim, Harry and I met at the Marriott in Millbrae and Harry and I went on to start this chapter that year. Harry was our first president and eventually I served my term too. We struggled some in the early years, but with the coming of the Wade Loo era, the chapter took off and is now one of the largest chapters in the country.

Wherever I am, it seems I have become a sucker for this community stuff. Coming back to the board of the chapter has once again reminded me of the roots of all of this, which is our community. There is great value in simply organizing our community. We have a wonderful working Board. We celebrate our long and rich cultural heritage, eat the best food in the world, debate issues, and promote leadership in our people. It is wonderful. For myself, I have been a very lucky person to have experienced these things—and to continue to experience them. To have seen OCA grow, our community mature, elected officials rise, business people succeed, and to be a part of it—it is a richly satisfying experience.

Our job is not done yet, though. We need more Chinese and Asian elected and appointed officials in our County. There is a lot more of our heritage to enjoy and share. There are voters to register and civil liberties to protect. And there are great friends to make, more families to raise, and complex issues to discuss. In short, there is still much leadership to do. This is the OCA tradition.

2006 OCA San Mateo Board of Directors

Officers:	Membership - Po Yee Ung
Amy Chung, President	Regional Website - Walter Chao
Alden Soohoo, Vice President	Scholarship - Franklin Kang & Newsy Yan
Karen Gok Lee, Treasurer	YOCA & Speak & Lead - Cary Chen
Martin Jung, Secretary	Additional Directors:
Committee Chairs:	David Chai
Communications - Hayden Lee	Canyon Chan
Events - Martin Jung	Arlene Chang
Fundraising - Jacob Chu	Selina Chang
Internship - William C. Kwong	Elizabeth Tsai

OCA San Mateo County Calendar of Events 2005

Date	Event	Time/Location
Feb. 10, 2006	Chinese New Year Dinner	Indulge Restaurant, Belmont, 6:30 p.m. See notice on page one

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

**Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc.
Peninsula Chapter of San Mateo County
P.O. Box 218
San Mateo, CA 94401**