



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) 533-3065 www.ocasanmateo.org February, 2009

OCA Celebrates 21st APA Achievement Awards Gala by Martin Jung

On Saturday, September 27th, at our 21st Annual Asian Pacific American Achievement Awards Gala held at the South San Francisco Conference Center, San Mateo OCA Chapter (SMOCA) had the privilege of honoring two distinguished women and one gentleman from different backgrounds and experiences. The honorees were Yul Kwon, Asian American Donor Program Official Spokesperson and Winner of Survivor of the Cook Islands; Maggie Mui, Senior Vice President and Director of San Francisco Bay Region Specialized Solution of Wells Fargo Bank; and Ginny Soong, President of the World Journal newspaper.

This year's theme for our Annual Gala Fundraiser was "The Circle of Our Success." Former SMOCA high school participants came back to share their thoughts regarding their OCA experiences and made special presentations. Nathan Tsai, 2008 winner of Speak and Lead with Pride; Dr. Mai-Sie Chan, Scholarship winner; and Victoria Min of YOCA told us how OCA participation has affected their lives. Newscaster John Sasaki guided us through the evening with his charm and wit. Bright Horizon Chinese School, which serves children ages 6-12, delighted the crowd with colorful costumes, dance and music. In addition, various raffle prizes were given away.

The Gala is also our major fundraiser of the year. The proceeds go toward scholarships, internships for OCA National in Washington, D.C. and SMOCA, and our Speak and Lead with Pride Program. The Speak and Lead with Pride teaches youths public speaking skills and works to develop their confidence. This fundraiser would not have been possible without the help of generous donations from local supporters

such as Wells Fargo, Best Western, World Journal, and IKEA.

The event planning committee consisted of Chris Bush, Jacob Chu, Martin Jung, Lisa La, Melodie Lew,



Chapter Directors at the Gala: from left, Ben Yeung, David Chai, Jacob Chu, Alden Soohoo, Wade Loo, Martin Jung, Newsy Yan, Lisa La, Liza Normandy, Melodie Lew, Chris Bush, and Hayden Lee.

Wade Loo, Liza Normandy, Alden Soohoo, Newsy Yan and Ben Yeung. We thank them for their effort and dedication. 2007 and 2008 SMOCA President Newsy Yan said, "I thought it was well attended. Our program is praiseworthy and was entertaining."

Chinese New Year Dinner

February 7, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
 Hong Kong Flower Lounge, Millbrae
 El Camino Real & Millbrae Ave.
 \$30/person

2009 Begins a New Era

by Martin Jung, 2009 Chapter President

Greetings and best wishes for the New Year! I hope 2009 finds you in good health and brings you good fortune. Expectations are high as



President Barack Obama and his new cabinet tackle the daunting economy, Iraq war, and health care. There is a renewed sense of hope and optimism.

I look forward to working with our Executive Council. Vice President Lisa La, Secretary Melodie Lew, and Treasurer Jacob Chu. Each individual brings a quality that will be beneficial to our Chapter. Lisa with her vivacious personality and enthusiasm is contagious. Melodie is humble, open minded and looks at the whole picture, while Jacob makes sure we are thrifty and stay within our budget.

Our new high school interns for this year are Mark Chong (Publication Relations), Eric Tsang (Publishing), and Kelvin Chan (Technology). They are ready, willing, and able to get the job done. It will be a learning experience as we move forward. Communication and guidance will remain key.

David Chai has done a wonderful job in guiding our young students, spearheading our Speak and Lead with Pride program. Over the course of six weeks, he will help them develop the skills necessary to become effective in public speaking--a valuable skill that will assist them during college and beyond.

Our Chapter's scholarship program lends a helping hand to those students in need by rewarding their hard work with help paying for college. Dr. Alden Soohoo and Melodie Lew will select students based on their grades, counselor and teacher recommendations, and community involvement. Special thanks to our benefactors: Phil and Louise Wang, Monica and Adrian

Arima, Dr. Chen Chung Ho and Mei Ly Ho, and Wells Fargo.

With the instability of the economy, it will be a challenging year. Fundraising and sponsorship will play an important roles in funding our flagship educational programs: Speak and Lead with Pride, Scholarships, and sponsorship of the Capitol Hill Intern program for OCA National. It is important to maintain existing relationships and as we reach out to establish new ones.

I would like to thank our membership and faithful supporters. In order to have an active voice within the community, your constructive thoughts and suggestions on how we can improve our chapter are welcome as we strive to grow. We definitely appreciate your continued support. I look forward to seeing you soon!

OCA SALUTES LUNAR NEW YEAR STAMP IN NOTABLE YEAR

On Jan. 9, National OCA announced the unveiling of the Year of the Ox stamp by the U. S. Postal Service (USPS). It was designed by artist Kam Mak. OCA was instrumental in advocating for the issuance of the Lunar New Year stamps.

This year of the Ox is one of particular significance to the nation as it is the year in which President-elect Barack Obama was born. "OCA is delighted to partner once again with the US Postal Service in the issuance of the Lunar New Year Stamp," said Ginny Gong, OCA



immediate past national president. "Beginning the year with the inauguration of someone with leadership qualities associated with those born in the year of the Ox should serve our country well. People born in the year of the Ox are said to be able to get the job done. We at OCA anticipate that the year of the Ox will be a successful one for all Asian Pacific Americans and all Americans alike," said Ken Lee, OCA national president.

Speak and Lead with Pride Program Grows

by David Chai

For the fifth year, OCA San Mateo is proud to convene Speak and Lead with Pride (Program). Founded in 2005 to develop the public speaking skills of high school students, Speak and Lead aims to strengthen the confidence of participants, with the ultimate goal of building each student's leadership potential. While participation has remained strong over the years, the tremendous response to this year's offering inspired our Board of Directors to substantially expand the program for 2009. Notices of the 2009 program, distributed to San Mateo County high schools, were met with enthusiasm by the counselors and students alike, yielding an impressive array of applicants and recommendations. The class of 2009 will include approximately 20 highly motivated students, from freshman to seniors and from a variety of high schools including Aragon, El Camino, Mills, San Mateo, and South San Francisco. To ensure that the quality of the coaching is maintained while doubling the participant pool, the Board approved the funding of two separate classes for this year.

The Speak and Lead program covers a number of topics centering on successfully preparing for and delivering an effective speech. Individual topics and themes for 2009 include learning the subject; understanding the occasion; knowing your audience and their expectations; techniques for preparing the introduction, body, and conclusion of a speech; transitioning; and the use of audio and visual aids. The coaching portion will include dealing with stress; voice control; eye contact; proper physical posture; and hand movements. Each week, students will practice speaking to the class on a given subject, followed by immediate evaluations and an opportunity to repeat the delivery while applying the lessons learned. The strength of Speak and Lead is rooted in this continuing feedback and practice. It concludes each year with a final competition for the strongest delivery, recognized with a cash prize.

In its first year, Speak and Lead was developed and led by attorney William Kwong, with assistance from attorney Cary Chen the following year. In 2007,

Dr. David Chai chaired the Program, with assistance from William and Cary. David continued to lead the 2008 Program, with assistance from Dr. Alden Soohoo, Walter Chao and Jeff Chien. This year, David and Rod Hsiao, an elected Trustee of San Mateo County Board of Education, will each lead a class, with assistance from Walter, Melodie Lew, Liza Normandy, who is an elected School Board member of South San Francisco Unified School District and its current President, and OCA chapter member and attorney David Lim. We are grateful to each of the above Board members for their commitment to this program.

Ken Lee Elected National OCA President - George Wu Named Executive Director

George C. Wu, who joined OCA as Assistant Director in March 2008 and was subsequently promoted to Deputy Director, became National OCA's Executive Director this year. George has his law degree from George Washington University and attended Johns Hopkins University also. He began his career at the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) in Washington, D.C. and was an immigration and immigrant rights staff attorney at the Asian American Justice Center, where he also served as a National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Partners Community Law Fellow. "I am honored and delighted to be named Executive Director of OCA at a time when our community has an opportunity to truly build upon the foundations that have made OCA such an integral part of the social justice movement," said Wu. "The Asian Pacific American and civil rights communities have always nurtured my career and I look forward to providing opportunities for established and emerging leaders throughout the United States to help address such issues as education, immigration, and health care reform." Wu will be replacing Dr. Michael Lin, who has served in the capacity of Executive Director since 2006. Lin also served for four years as the OCA National President (1995-1998). He will continue to volunteer for OCA and remain an active member. "

Chapter Continues Voter Registration Drive

By Ben Yeung

As the 2008 elections approached, OCA San Mateo organized a voter registration and information event on October 6th. Co-sponsored by the Office of Warren Slocum and the League of Women Voters, the event took place at the San Mateo Public Library. Steve Okamoto, Co-President of the local chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), acted as emcee.



Carol Marks from Warren Slocum's office of voter's registration, Ben Yeung, Newsy Yan, Martin Jung and newly-elected Assemblyman Jerry Hill.

San Mateo Board of Education Trustee Rod Hsiao represented OCA. Also present were guest speakers president of the County Board of Supervisors Jerry Hill, now a State Assemblyman, and Supervisor Mark Church. The event was well attended and lively discussions took place when Beth Bhatnagar of the League of Women Voters talked about various propositions on the November ballot. Carol Marks from the Office of Warren Slocum also demonstrated the use of the electronic voting machine, while answering questions regarding the voting process. Future voters and OCA interns Eric Tsang, Kelvin Chen, and Mark Chong helped in the setup.

OCA CRITICIZES MILEY CYRUS FOR MOCKING

The photograph of Miley Cyrus and others slanting their eyes currently circulating the Internet is offensive to the Asian Pacific American community and sets a terrible example for her many young fans. Cyrus "has also insulted her many Asian Pacific American fans," said George Wu, executive director of OCA. "The inclusion of an Asian Pacific American individual in the photo does not make it acceptable. OCA hopes that Miley Cyrus will apologize to her fans."

Second Harvest Food Sort **by Mark Chong**

On November 19th, I volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Carlos with our OCA chapter. At first, I was kind of skeptical as to whether or not I would enjoy the experience, but those suspicions quickly dissipated. That Wednesday night, we spent our time sorting donated food items before they were to be shipped out to those in need.

After every crate had been emptied and every can had been packed, I felt like I had really accomplished something. I do other kinds of community service, but nonetheless it still felt good to be giving back to the community. I really look forward to attending other similar events with OCA in the future.



At Second Harvest Food Harvest, Ben Yeung, Treasurer Jacob Chu, Vice President Martin Jung, Intern Mark Chong and Membership Chair Lisa La

OCA SUPPORTS IMMIGRANT CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the former "Legal Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act" (ICHIA) as section 214 of H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA), by a strong vote of 289-139. ICHIA gives states the option to enroll legal immigrant children and pregnant women in federally-funded Medicaid and CHIP with no five-year waiting period.

Senate Committee. Your activity has also moved ICHIA one step closer to passage in the Senate. Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) will now allow ICHIA as an amendment and passage of that amendment in Committee is anticipated. ICHIA faces its toughest battle when CHIPRA goes to the Senate floor.

Holiday Party

by Lisa La and Jacob Chu

OCA San Mateo held its annual holiday party on the 14th of December at Yeah! Chinese Restaurant in Redwood Shores. More than 40 people attended and enjoyed a delicious buffet-style lunch featuring four different main dishes. Although the weather outside was dreary, holiday music, videos, and decorations created a festive mood indoors. Even football fans were entertained with the 49ers game shown on another flat screen.

Back at the North Pole, Santa was busy compiling his list of whos been naughty and whos been nice, so Squeegee the Elf attended in his absence. Unmistakable in his green and red outfit, Squeegee was especially



At the Party, Diana Okamoto, David Chai, Audrey Chai, David Lim and JACL President Steve Okamoto

talented in twisting balloons into colorful hats and toys, bringing fun to all the girls and boys.

It was a wonderful occasion to see old faces and fresh ones. Gifts were handed-out to the little ones, while the adults exchanged warm best wishes for the season. Yeah! Restaurant was a new venue for our holiday party, and the manager and staff made us feel more than welcome.

2009 Officers & Directors

Martin Jung, *President*
Lisa La, *Vice-President*
Jacob Chu, *Treasurer*
Melodie Lew, *Secretary*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

David Chai, *Speak & Lead Program*
Walter Chao, *Website*
Chris Bush, *Membership*
Hayden Lee, *Newsletter*
Ben Yeung, *Events*
Lisa La, *Interns/YOCA*
Alden Soohoo, *Co-Chair Scholarship*
Melodie Lew, *Co-Chair Scholarship*

ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS

Arlene Chang, Cary Chen, Franklin Kang, Karen Gok Lee, Chris Bush, Liza Normandy, Lisa La, and Newsy Yan, Ben Yeung.

2009 ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. David Shen, DMD <i>Orthodontist, Chairman</i>	Doris Morse <i>Sister Cities Int'l</i>
Monica Yeung Arima <i>Real Estate Broker</i>	Maggie Mui <i>Sr. V. P., Wells Fargo</i>
Dr. Samuel Chan <i>Cardiologist</i>	Hon. Ira Ruskin <i>Assemblyman</i>
Dr. Shu-Wing Chan <i>Cardiologist</i>	Elizabeth Tsai <i>Best Western/Los Prados Inn</i>
Hon. Jerry Hill <i>S.M. County Supervisor</i>	Philip Wang <i>Publisher</i>
David Louie <i>KGO-TV Reporter</i>	Martin Yan <i>Yan Can Cook Show</i>
Wade Loo <i>Real Estate Broker</i>	Robert Yee <i>Civil Engineer</i>

Our Sponsors:

Platinum Sponsor
Wells Fargo

Gold/Scholarship Sponsors
Elizabeth Tsai of Best Western, Los Prados Inn
99 Ranch Market

Silver Sponsor
Franklin-Templeton Investments
Minami, Lew & Tamaki, L.L.P.

Individual Sponsors
Monica & Adrian Arima, Robert & Patty Choi, Wei Tai & Violet Kwok, William C. Kwong, Karen Gok & Conrad Lee, Hayden & Faith Lee, Wade W. Loo, Elizabeth Tsai.

Scholarship Sponsors
Monica & Adrian Arima, Dr. Chen chung & Mei Ly Ho, Elizabeth Tsai, Philip & Louise Wang

OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____
(please include all names if family membership)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Email _____ Occupation _____

Family, \$50

Individual, \$40

Student, \$10

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**

TO: