



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 Feb., 2007

OCA Celebrates 18th Annual Achievement Awards Gala

by Martin Jung

On Saturday October 28, 2006, OCA honored the accomplishments of three individuals from three distinct fields and background at the 18th Annual Asian Pacific American Achievement Awards Gala at the South San Francisco Conference Center. The three honorees were Kenneth Fong, Chairman of Kenson Ventures LLC, Ben Fong-Torres, Author, Broadcaster, & Sr. Editor of Rolling Stones Magazine, and Yuan Yuan Tan, San Francisco Ballet's Principal Dancer. All honorees exemplified our theme for the evening, "Breaking the Mold, Leading the Way" in a black tie affair. "OCA San Mateo never fails to honor Asian Americans over a broad spectrum. The recognition and



From left, 2006 Chapter President Amy Chung, Ben Fong-Torres, Yuan Yuan Tan, and Ken Fong

awarding of a leader in Science and Business, a leader in the Literary Arts, and an achiever in the Fine Arts; was not only a masterful stroke when it comes to honoring Asian Americans but an elegant one," says Vice President Dr. Alden Soohoo.

In addition to the OCA Achievement Awards presented onorees, special commendations were also presented by offices of Jerry Hill (California Assemblyman), Ira Ruskin (California Assemblyman). Leland Yee (California Assemblyman) and Tom Lantos (Congressman) made the presentations in person. Other

Continued on page 6

OCA San Mateo County Chapter Presents

The 2007 Chinese New Year's Dinner!

Year of the Boar!
 Hung To Seafood Restaurant
 221 South Spruce Ave.
 South San Francisco, CA 94080
 Friday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner includes Hung To House Appetizers, Prawns w/ Honey Glazed Walnuts, Sautéed Squid & Scallops, Seafood Soup, Peking Duck, Two Vegetables with Oyster Mushrooms, Crab with Ginger & Green Onions, Steamed Fish, & Braised Yee-Fu Noodles

\$30/Person

RSVP by Feb. 26, 2007 with payment to:
 OCA San Mateo Chapter, P.O. Box 218, San
 Mateo, CA 94401

For more information, call 650-533-3065

New Officers Take Over Chapter's Helms

New officers took over the San Mateo County Chapter last month. Newsy Yan, a longtime OCA member and director, became this year's president. Newsy is an attorney with her offices in San Francisco and lives in Millbrae. Martin Jung became vice president of the Chapter and is also serving as acting secretary for now. Martin lives in San Mateo and works at Franklin-Templeton Investments. Jacob Chu is our new treasurer. Jacob lives in Burlingame and also is employed at Franklin-Templeton.

OCA Moves Forward

Happy holiday! On behalf of the Board of our OCA San Mateo Chapter and as its newly elected president, I wish you and your loved ones all the best in 2007.

2006 was a great year for OCA! On the national level, our decade-long dream to secure a permanent home in Washington D.C. has finally become reality. It is in the prestigious DuPont Circle area and truly



an accomplishment due the hard work of all our leaders and members, with the blessing of our community. I was fortunate enough to attend the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at the beginning of the year. You are all invited to visit our new "home away from home" next time you are in D.C.

OCA continued to advance the social, political and economical well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. The joint effort from all of our 50 chapters nationwide continued to improve the image and visibility of OCA. Our voice in immigration reform, affirmative action, voting rights and hate crime prevention is received loud and clear.

At our local chapter level, the immediate past president, Amy Chung, and our dedicated board members concluded another successful year. In 2006, OCA San Mateo provided thirteen deserving high school graduates with scholarships; honored people and business entities for their achievements and community service at our annual fundraising gala; hosted candidates night to promote healthy political debates on issues affecting Asian Americans; sponsored voter's registration event; donated time at the local food drive, organized family picnic, Angel Island Presentation, Judy Yung Book Talk and annual holiday party.

Looking ahead, OCA San Mateo is dedicated to continue best serving our community. I ask you to envision the impact OCA has made in protecting your rights and interest as an American. Your support and generosity is, and always will be, deeply appreciated. Your investment in OCA today will produce a beneficial legacy for generations to come. Thank you for being part of OCA and have a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

Holiday Party on Dec. 10th

by Martin Jung

Our Annual Holiday Party was held at the San Mateo Senior Center on Sunday December 10. The holiday spirit brings together family and friends. It is also a time for reflection to give to the less fortunate. This year we featured Skates the Clown who captured the kid's attention with her outgoing personality, magic and balloon making skills. Talented Max Guiterrez played a variety of Christmas songs on the piano throughout

the afternoon and led the audience with the popular carols. Kids were delighted when Santa Claus



Skates the Clown entertains OCA kids.

made a special visit and were eager to line up as he handled out presents to those that were not naughty but nice. Each child had a smile on her/his face after sitting with Santa and receiving a gift.

Membership Report

by Po Yee Ung, Membership Chair

We have met the deadline of sending out our membership dues to National OCA by the end of January. Also, we would like to thank all those members who have responded so promptly to our renewal notices, so that, now, 43 Family members and 31 Single members are on our current record as having paid their dues for 2007. Included among the Single members, we have 5 Seniors and 1 Student. However, next year, we will have to discontinue the Senior category, as National OCA wants us to include the Seniors under the Single members. So, from 2008 on, the annual membership dues for Seniors will be \$30 each.

On January 1, 2007, Newsy Yan begins her year as President of our OCA - San Mateo County Chapter. This year, It is our hope that with all of our members' help we can increase our membership base. Also, we sincerely invite everyone to attend our functions, so that we can get to know you, and also learn how we can improve our services to you. We promise to listen carefully and be proactive to your concerns.

Judy Yung Shows Us the Real Chinatown

by Martin Jung

OCA co-sponsored with the Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc. and the San Mateo Public Library on Nov. 14th, author and historian Judy Yung's slide

talk on the new pictorial history book, *Images of America: San Francisco's Chinatown*, co-authored with the Chinese Historical Society of America. Spanning over 150 years of history, the book reveals how a place visitors see as foreign and exotic is, in fact, a

vibrant Chinese American neighborhood with a complex history and rich cultural legacy.

This collection of 200 vintage photographs looks beyond the facade of Chinatown to show the realities of daily life, including a community's struggle for survival against racial hostility, exclusion laws, two major earthquakes, and redevelopment. The images of ordinary people working, shopping, and socializing in Chinatown, combined with the changing streetscape, historic landmarks, and significant cultural and political events, are organized into three historical periods, providing a panoramic view of community transformation from the gold rush to the present day.

Judy Yung is a second-generation Chinese American born and raised in San Francisco Chinatown. She received her B.A. in English Literature and Chinese Language from San Francisco State University and her Master's in Library Science and Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Yung worked as a librarian, journalist, and director of two book projects on Asian American women before becoming



Judy Yung

Professor of American Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she taught courses in Asian American studies, women's history, oral history, and mixed race.

Her publications include: *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*; the critically acclaimed *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*; *Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*; and most recently, *Chinese American Voices: From the Gold Rush to the Present*. Her husband's memoirs, *The Adventures of Eddie Fung: Chinatown Kid, Texas Cowboy, and POW Survivor*, will be published next year. She is currently working on a narrative history of Pacific immigration through Angel Island.

National OCA News

National Convention to be Held in Sacramento in June

The 29th Annual National OCA Convention will be held close by in Sacramento this summer, from June 28 to July 1 at the Sacramento Convention Center and the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel.

The brochure for the Convention can be downloaded from OCA National's website, www.oceanatl.org. Last year, the Convention was held in Philadelphia and in 2005, it was held in Las Vegas. Register early!

Michael Lin Appointed National Executive Director

Replacing Dorothy Wong, Michael Lin became the Executive Director of National OCA on December 1, 2006. He has been an OCA member for over 25 years and is retiring after 30 years at the National Institutes of Health where his last position was as a Program Director responsible for nurturing and funding cutting edge research in the cardiovascular field. He was also OCA National President from 1995 to 1998.

2006 Elections Change San Mateo County

by Hayden Lee

The 2006 elections--both the primary election in June and the November general election--changed the political and community of San Mateo County. The elections of Leland Yee, Fiona Ma and Rod Hsiao signaled the next big step in the Chinese and Asian community's development here.

Leland Yee's election to the State Senate, replacing Jackie Speier who was termed out, showed that a Chinese American candidate could win a major heated election in San Mateo County in which he took on much of the County's political organizations. For example, none of the five County supervisors endorsed Leland Yee's candidacy. Also, Mike Nevin captured many of the non-Asian endorsements. Leland Yee is, to my knowledge, the first State elected official in San Mateo County. Most of the political watchers in the County anticipate that this will change County politics in a major way. Yee put together an impressive political organization, raised a considerable amount of money, and waged a major campaign that covered most of the County. What is important is also that Yee gathered a significant number of non-Asian votes showing an Asian candidate could cross over ethnic lines.

Fiona Ma's win in Leland Yee's seat in the State Assembly puts two Chinese Americans in the State legislature representing parts of San Mateo County. Although her seat covers only parts of the North County, such as Daly City and Brisbane, this is where Leland Yee entered State politics and then jumped to the Senate. Ma is ambitious, as is Yee, and most believe that these seats are not--when they finish--the end of either.

Rod Hsiao represents, to my recollection, the first Chinese American candidate to win a seat in a County-wide election since the late Frank Lee won reelection to the Harbor Commission in the 1990s. Hsiao, Yee and Ma all take serious issue with school and education issues which are most dear to Chinese American families--as well as all families.

Several other Chinese and Asian candidates also ran in this election but did not win. Virginia Chang Kiraly, a Republican candidate, took on incumbent Ira Ruskin but lost. Fel Amistad, a Filipino American, ran against Rod Hsiao. And Jeffrey Tong ran for County School Board from South San Francisco but did not make it. These elections, win or lose, signal more political activity among the many Chinese and Asians who live in this County. Clearly there still exists a huge dearth in the number and percentage of elected supervisors, city council members and school board members in the County and 20 incorporated cities in

San Mateo County. Even non-Asian elected officials throughout the County agree that our community is under-represented here. (*These are not the views of OCA but those of the writer.*)

Speak and Lead with Pride

by David Chai

It was two years ago that OCA-San Mateo initiated a program called "Speak and Lead with Pride". The purpose was to provide our high schoolers an opportunity to learn the art of public speaking, thereby developing her/his leadership potential. We sent out notices for this program to the guidance counselors of all the San Mateo high schools to ask them to recommend high-achieving students. Since it is held over eight weekends, each time for one and half hours, it attracts only those who are dedicated to learn new lifetime skills. This time we have six high school students, from freshman to senior, all from the Mills high school in Millbrae.

The program covers a number of topics centering on preparing and delivering a speech. Such topics as knowing the subject matter, the occasion, the audience and their expectations are first covered. Then preparation of the speech with a beginning, a middle and a conclusion section with a variety of techniques, including transitioning and audio & visual aids, are discussed. Finally, the preparation for delivery with some stress-relieving techniques, voice control, eye contacts, body posture and hand movements are demonstrated. Most importantly, each week, the students are given subject matter to choose and prepare for a few minutes of actual delivery in front of the class to be critiqued by her/his classmates as well as the instructor. The learning comes from continued practice and feedback. In addition, we invite a guest speaker who has excellent public speaking skills for them to listen and to ask intelligent questions. There is a final competition for the best speech delivery with a cash prize.

The program was originally designed and offered two years ago by Board member William Kwong. He was assisted by Cary Chen when it was offered for the second time. This time, Board member David Chai is leading the program, with assistance from both William Kwong and Cary Chen. If continued demand is there, we would like to make this a regular yearly program.

Second Harvest Food Sort

by Martin Jung

The Second Harvest Food Bank provides food to 670 nonprofit agencies and distribution sites.

The agencies include childcare, homeless shelters, pantries, soup kitchens, and senior nutrition centers. The food bank provides food to hungry people throughout the Bay Area. The Food Bank distributes food to those of limited income by collecting surplus food from bakers, grocers,

growers, manufacturers, and packers.

They are a private nonprofit organization whose goal is to collect and distribute approximately 27 million pounds of food every year to low-income children, adults, and

seniors. The Food Bank serves an average of 163,500 individuals each month including 60% are families with dependent children. Their Mission is to provide food for those people in need in our community.

The food donated to Second Harvest needs to be prepared for distribution, whether it is sorted or repacked. Volunteers are important to help prepare 26 million pounds of food to be distributed to an average of 143,000 people in each month. What a simple and easy way to give back to those that are in the need of help. It was a rewarding experience to take time to benefit others in our community. Contributions from volunteers help provide food to the hungry in the counties, which Second Harvest Food Bank serves. OCA members from the San Mateo County Chapter participated at the San Carlos warehouse site. Our project activity included packing various mixed canned and packaged goods in boxes for the needy. Everyone was productive and the time went by quickly.



From left, Stephanie Kurniawan, Chandra Kurniawan, Mayling Ou, Adrienne Ou, Martin Jung, Karen Lee, and Nancy Lee.

OCA DEDICATES NEW HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Jan. 14, 2007--Another historic chapter in the annals of OCA was made today with the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony of the new OCA National Center for Asian Pacific American Leadership. OCA National President Ginny Gong formally dedicated the building that also became OCA's permanent headquarters in the nation's capital. The over 300 attendees included dignitaries such as Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Congressman David Wu, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, Congressman Albert Wynn, U.S. Department of Labor Chief Financial Officer Sam Mok (representing U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao), OCA Founders Kung-Lee Wang and Alex Mark, corporate partners, colleagues, community friends, leaders and members from across the nation. The ribbon cutting ceremony and reception at the new Center located in Dupont Circle followed the formal dedication held at the National Broadcasters Association.

"For more than three decades, OCA has continually demonstrated its leadership at the local and national levels. We have been a passionate voice for Asian Americans throughout the nation and visionary in our efforts to facilitate the gathering of hearts and minds. Once again, we had set our sights on a new horizon and have succeeded," she added.

OCA National Center Campaign Chair and OCA Past National President Claudine Cheng remarked, "With the establishment of the OCA National Center for Asian Pacific American Leadership, OCA is reaffirming to Asian Pacific Americans nationwide, our commitment to advancing the interests of the community at the national level. On behalf of the fundraising campaign committee, I thank the OCA chapters and all the contributors from around the country whose support has made it possible for OCA to acquire a permanent presence in Washington, DC. This has truly been a grassroots campaign in the spirit of leaving a legacy for future generations and for the betterment of the entire community.

During the dedication, a special announcement was made by Leslie Moe-Kaiser, State Farm's Corporate Relations Manager for Asian and Pacific Islander American Communities. State Farm announced its decision to award OCA with a \$500,000 grant for education programs in the areas of financial literacy for families and business development for entrepreneurs hosted at the OCA National Center. Special guest and Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta thanked OCA founders Kung-Lee Wang and Alex Mark for leading the way.

18th Annual Awards Gala, Continued

dignitaries in attendance included Mayor of South San Francisco Joe Fernekes and Vice Mayor Rich Garbarino.

President Amy Chung also gave special recognition on the national front of the recent purchase of OCA's permanent home in Washington, D.C. for the National Center for APA Leadership. "With permanent headquarters, OCA will be able to focus on the expansion of additional programs that will nurture and develop the leadership of our future youths." The grand



OCA Board Member Jacob Chu, standing right, with Young OCA members Minn Oh, left, Melinda Wong, and Stephanie Lam

opening ceremony is scheduled for January 12, 2007. This will be a significant milestone in OCA's history.

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 its third year, the Speak and Lead with Pride program provides youths a way to practice their public speaking skills and nurture their confidence. OCA Secretary Martin Jung comments, "it's such a positive feeling to



OCA's Alden Soohoo, left, with Mistress of Ceremonies Claudine Wong

experience giving back to the community, raising money for a worthy cause, and working together as a team." Claudine Wong, our Mistress of Ceremonies, felt "It was a privilege to be a

part of the OCA's Asian American Achievement Awards gala. It was a night filled with the warmth and laughter

Of people who gathered to honor achievements made by remarkable members of our community. It was also inspiring to be surrounded by people looking forward to all the achievements yet to come."

OCA Takes Issue with Rosie O'Donnell's Mocking of Chinese

OCA, a national Asian Pacific American organization dedicated to ensuring social justice for APAs, questions the tone and intent of Rosie O'Donnell's apology for comments made on "The View" on December 5th, and its implications on the Asian Pacific American population.

O'Donnell apologized during the December 14th episode of her show, "The View," after public outcry by the APA community over her mocking of Chinese newscasters. "You know, it was never [my] intent to mock, she said, "and I'm sorry for those people who felt hurt or were teased on the playground." She further went on to characterize her accent as "Chinese, Asian, pseudo-Japanese, sounded a little Yiddish ..." In her comments, O'Donnell mocked Chinese people and the Chinese language.

"I am very concerned about the tone and intent of Ms. O'Donnell's so called 'apology,'" said OCA National President Ginny Gong. "I don't believe she fully realizes the seriousness of what she did in front of millions of Americans and the impact it has on our community. Jokes used by comics should not be at the expense of an entire population of people. As a very public figure, she is an influential role model and should lead by example," she added.

"OCA will never condone the mocking of any language in this manner and tone," commented Michael Lin, OCA Executive Director. "O'Donnell does not show the respect that all Americans are entitled to, nor do we think she realizes how this type of language can manipulate itself into much more serious and potentially violent acts. We will be calling on our chapters and affiliates to proactively educate our community and the community-at-large to ensure that such incidents are not repeated."

One of the basic points of the OCA/Allstate Hate Crime Education and Prevention program is that deceptively simple acts and comments are the root and catalyst of hate crimes and bias incidents. O'Donnell and many others may not have considered her comments racist and only intended in jest. However, these comments when left unaddressed, can lead to much more serious incidents and crimes

2007 Officers & Directors

Newsy Yan, *President*
Martin Jung, *Vice-President*
Jacob Chu, *Treasurer*
Martin Jung, *Acting Secretary*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

David Chai, *Speak & Lead Program*
Walter Chao, *Co-Chair Website*
Jacob Chu, *Co-Chair Website/Co-Chair Interns*
Amy Chung, *Fundraising*
Hayden Lee, *Public Affairs/Communications/Newsletter*
Martin Jung, *Events/YOCA*
William C. Kwong, *Co-Chair Interns*
Po Yee Ung, *Membership*
Alden Soohoo, *Scholarship*

DIRECTORS

Arlene Chang
Cary Chen
Karen Gok Lee

2007 Events

- March 2 Chinese New Years Dinner
 - April 26 Business Mixer
 - May 12 Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration
 - May 6 Scholarship luncheon
 - June 2 Burlingame Centennial Parade
 - July 19 Business Mixer
 - Aug 12 Central Park Picnic
 - Sept 15 20th Asian American Achievement Awards Gala
 - December Holiday party
- Other events:
- Candidates nights
 - Speak and Lead with Pride
 - Children book reading/book signing

2007 ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

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, \$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**