



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 May, 2007

AsianWeek Writer, Editor Removed over “I Hate Blacks” Column

On March 1, the OCA San Mateo County Chapter urged the owners of the manazine AsianWeek to go beyond what they have already committed to doing in response to one of the newspaper’s columnists’ recent racist article entitled “Why I Hate Blacks.” The letter was signed by Chapter president Newsy Yan and Public Affairs Co-Chair David Chai. After OCA and other groups complained vehemently about the column, its author, Kenneth Eng, redsigned and recently the editor of the paper, Samson Wong, was removed but stayed active in the paper. OCA had urged AsianWeek to apologize, which it did publicly. Eng, who resides in New York, apparently spoke for himself, not for the majority of Chinese Americans.

“These incendiary remarks by one individual in a national newspaper can spark unnecessary hate crimes throughout the nation,” said Chapter president Newsy Yan. “And we have the responsibility for doing everything we can to avoid those crimes from happening. AsianWeek owes it to its readership and sponsors as well.”

Since its inception in 1987, OCA San Mateo Chapter has strived to achieve equal rights and community harmony over the years. In March, while accepting a plaque from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors honoring the Chinese New Year, Newsy Yan and Wade Loo of OCA San Mateo met with the members of the local NAACP and the leaders of the two organizations agreed to be in touch soon in an effort to work together on sensitive issues such as these.

David Chai, the Chapter’s Co-Chair of Public Affairs, found the publication of such an article incredulous. “Typically, an editorial of this nature will go through a number of editors, publishers, and proofreaders prior to publication,” Chai stated. “It is hard to believe that those people within the newspaper would allow this to be published without seriously considering—or even agreeing—with the gist of its message.” National OCA also had strongly criticized Eng’s article. “This column is shameful for its blatant bigotry and hate speech, and only serves to build barriers between communities that should be working together for a free, fair, and equitable society,” said Michael Lin, Executive Director.

OCA Scholarship Luncheon

Sunday, May 6 at 12:00 PM
 Foster City Recreation Center, Lagoon Room
 650 Shell Blvd

Foster City, CA 94404

Phone: (650) 533-3065

\$10 per person/\$8 for OCA members

Or FREE with a new membership

Please RSVP to 650-533-9132

Special Thanks to our Benefactors:

Phil & Louise Wang

Monica & Adrian Arima

Dr. Chen Chung Ho and Mei Ly Ho

Elizabeth Tsai/WellsFargo Bank

7th Annual Asian Pacific Ameerican Heritage Celebration

May 12, 2007. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
 San Mateo Central Park Rec Center
 (El Camino Real & Fifth Ave.)
 info: www.asianamericanbooks.com

Sponsored by: Asian American Curriculum
 Project, OCA, JACL, & Downtown San Mateo
 Assn.

**Demonstrations, Arts & Crafts, Food, Sales,
 Exhibits, Raffle & More**

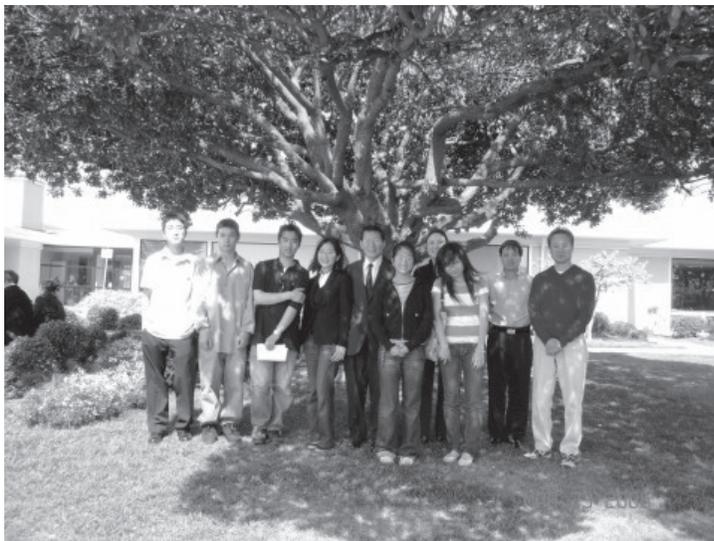
Afternoon performances: Taiko Drummers,
 Chinese Orchestra, Dan Chan the Magic Man,
 Charlie Chin, J-Town Hui, Hiyas Philipine Folk
 Dance, and more

Speak and Lead with Pride, Youth Takes On Future Leadership

We just finished an 8-week session teaching high school students of Asian descent about the art of public speaking. All six students completed the program, each giving a final speech on the last day, March 31, with three judges from OCA-San Mateo Chapter. Throughout the 8-week program, they were taught the various techniques for preparing and practicing on the delivery of their short speeches. By the end, there were noticeable improvements over the course of the program. The winner of the final speech was Mr. Thomas Tao, a senior from the Mill High School in Millbrae. The title of his speech was Spontaneous Combustion, where he talked about a number of “theories” on combustion inside the human body from internal chemical reactions. He will be heading to Dartmouth College in September.

The instructor was David Chai, an OCA-San Mateo Chapter Board member, assisted by William Kwong and Cary Chen, also Board members. The judges for the final competition were Newsy Yan, OCA-San

Mateo Chapter President, Martin Jung, Vice-President and Ben Yeung.



The Speak and Lead Group, from left to right: Chris Song, Lawrence Leung, Thomas Tao, Jinyoung Choe, David Chai, Heejung Choe, Newsy Yan, Stephanie Lin, Ben Yeung, Martin Jung

Ted Turner Apologizes for Chinamen Remark

by David Chai

When KGO radio talk show host Ron Owens asked billionaire Ted Turner about his views of the air pollution environment in China and whether they would adopt the regulation of using alternative energy to gasoline, Turner replied that Chinese people are smart, and asked whether anyone had ever met a dumb Chinaman. He also rhetorically asked if you have ever seen a Chinese restaurant with a “business closed” sign. Apparently Turner was not aware that the term “Chinaman” is derogatory to Chinese Americans.

Turner subsequently apologized, saying “I sincerely regret my recent comments made at the Bay Area Council’s Outlook conference on



Ted Turner asked rhetorically if you have ever seen a dumb Chinaman.

Thursday, May 8th in San Francisco. As many people know, I do not believe in any form of prejudice or discrimination, and was unaware that the term “Chinaman” was derogatory and hurtful to the Asian Pacific American community. I have the deepest respect for all cultures and have dedicated what time and resources I have to unify this diverse country and world around the common cause of greater peace. Please accept my apology for any anguish my remarks may have caused, as it was not my intention to offend or disrespect anyone.”

The OCA/JACL Leadership Conference

by Martin Jung

It was my good fortune to attend the 13th JACL/OCA Leadership Conference, March 2-6, in Washington, D.C. JACL is the Japanese American Citizens League. State Farm Insurance Companies sponsored the event. 15 OCA and 15 JACL members attended. It was a rewarding trip that involved culture, education, and politics. I would recommend the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference to those who are interested in learning about APA community issues and how to effectively work with OCA National. The common theme of leadership, membership, relationship, collaboration, and sponsorship was mentioned throughout. I met and spent time with the OCA and JACL members from the various chapters across the country.

I had the opportunity to meet with APA public officials in Congress and visit various sites. We took the Metro and visited to the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, a monument for the Japanese who were placed in interment camps. Inscriptions in the granite are the names of the ten World War II relocation camps and the number of interned people at each location.

The topics were diverse and interesting. The speakers were enthusiastic and dynamic. They included Michael Lieberman of the Anti Defamation League and Hilary Shelton of the NAACP. Guest speakers covered topics such as history of Asian Pacific Americans from railroads to the new millennium, APIA vote and analysis of 2006 elections, Asian issues, Asians and major political parties, the legislative process and working with the Hill, media and message training, immigration policy, coalition building, and the Congressional Asian Policy American Caucus.

I visited our new OCA National Building Headquarters. I enjoyed Congresswoman Mazie Hirono's company at the Burma Restaurant; she is from Hawaii. We had the City Lights Chinese dinner with Norm Mineta, who shared a humorous story with us. President Bush called a meeting and all attendees were present except for Colin Powell. The President, being very punctual, requested to have the door locked. Moments later, footsteps were heard, the turning of the front door, and then a loud thump. It was Mr. Powell's head bumping against the door as he was trying to enter. Since the door was locked,

he entered through the alternate entrance. As he was walking in, everyone present by this time was laughing.

I also said hello to OCA National President Ginny Gong, Executive Director Michael Lin. In addition to OCA staff Hope Chu, David Chu, and Keith McAllister. Hope, the Communications Manager, is open to suggestions since she is new to the position. Our visit to meet the members of Congress was an event to remember. Congressman Mike Honda passed us in the hallway and said, "The meeting has been cancelled." He was joking, of course.



JACL/OCA Leadership Conference, at Kennedy Center, from left to right, Brian Moriguchi, Cliff Akiyama, Ava Li, Marsha Auchard & husband, Linda Tran, Jenny Yen Ling Liu, Joyce Eng, Betty Chu-Fujita, and Nancy Takayama, Karl Endo, Jenny Wong, Christine Qian, & Martin Jung.

business card ad for liquid sushi
goes here

National News

Immigration Reform Bill Applauded, Criticizes White House Proposal

National OCA welcomed the recent announcement of a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill. Ginny Gong, National OCA President, said, "We welcome measures in the bill which would decrease or eliminate long waiting periods for family reunification....some families have been waiting for literally decades to be reunited with children, parents, and siblings."

The bill is called the Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy (STRIVE) Act. Asian Americans represent about 5% of the US population and approximately 1 million of the 12 million undocumented immigrants currently in the US.

While positive about the proposed law overall, OCA expressed concerns about certain aspects of the bill, including the proposed "touch-back" provision, which would require undocumented immigrants working towards legal status to leave the country and return legally at least once.

OCA also condemned the White House plan for immigration reform. The proposal would make it nearly impossible for U.S. citizens and permanent residents to sponsor family members for lawful immigration. It has the potential to completely eliminate visas for parents, siblings, and adult children of citizens and legal residents.

OCA Expresses Support for Virginia Tech Community

National OCA expressed its support for Virginia Tech students, faculty, staff, friends, and family members in the wake of yesterday's tragic shootings. "The events at Virginia Tech were horrible and devastating, and OCA extends its support and sympathies to the entire grieving community," said Ginny Gong, OCA National President. "We hope that the healing process, is swift and complete for all those affected." Michael Lin, OCA Executive Director, said: "We, like the rest of the country, are shocked at these murders."

Outrage Over Racist Segment

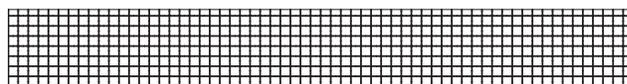
National OCA expressed outrage at an offensive radio segment aired on WFNY 92.3 FM in New York City on April 5th and re-aired on April 19th. The segment featured a prank call made by station DJs JV and Elvis to a Chinese restaurant in which they make numerous comments that demean Asian Pacific Americans, women, and the gay community. During the 6-minute segment, the DJs address restaurant employees as "Asian lady" and "Chinese man"; make demands for "lots of Asian food, son of a bitch"; and ask for "shrimp flied lice" and "some old dung."

The DJs also accost one woman on the phone, saying, "Should I come to your restaurant so that I can see you naked... that way I can see your hot Asian spicy ass." They tell another restaurant employee, "You are a very nice Chinese man... probably can't drive for shit, but who cares." The DJs also call one employee "faggy."

"The blatant racism, sexism, and homophobia in this segment and in the DJs' other work is appalling," said, Ginny Gong, OCA National President." While one of the DJs has apologized and both have been suspended indefinitely without pay, OCA issued demands that both DJs as well as the producer responsible be fired.

Hate Crime Law Re-Introduced

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act of 2007 has been re-introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would expand the scope of existing law in several ways. First, it would increase the resources available to federal and state law enforcement officials to enforce hate crimes. Second, it would expand the classes of people protected by the law to include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability.



YEAR OF BOAR DEDICATION BY THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

by Newsy Yan

“Chinese New Year is a time where Chinese Americans and Chinese kick off the New Year with a family reunion dinner on New Year’s Eve.” These were the opening words of supervisor Mark Church at the San Mateo County Supervisors’ Board Meeting on February 27, 2007, as he called for a resolution honoring the Chinese New Year 2007. Afterward, Wade and I were presented a plaque dedicated to OCA, San Mateo Chapter.

Supervisor Church mentioned that the New Year celebration “starts with the New Moon on the first day of the New Year and ends on the full moon 15 days later”—the Lantern Festival. He also noted that 2007 would be a special Chinese New Year—the Golden Pig Year which only comes around once every 60 years.

As part of my acceptance speech, I thanked our supervisors for their hard work; acknowledged the excellent social, economic and educational environment of San Mateo County that has been enjoyed by our OCA resident members and families; and expressed the enthusiasm of working with the County leadership in the future.

Mr. Mark Church represents the First District of San Mateo County, which covers the cities of San Mateo (west portion), Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae, San Bruno, South San Francisco (east of El Camino Real) and unincorporated areas of Burlingame Hills, Highlands/Baywood Park and San Francisco Airport. He served on the Millbrae City Council in 1995 and as Mayor of Millbrae from 1997 to 1998, was elected to the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County in 2000 and re-elected in 2004. We are now privileged to have him as a member of our OCA, San Mateo Chapter.

Resolution

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2007 YEAR OF THE BOAR

WHEREAS, Chinese New Year is the most important annual Chinese festival, celebrated with firecrackers, ceremonial lanterns and traditional decorations, lively displays of dragon dancing, lion dancing and other folk activities; and

WHEREAS, Chinese New Year starts with a family reunion dinner on New Year’s Eve, spent bidding farewell to the old year and thanking one’s ancestors for their blessing and protection; and

WHEREAS, Chinese New Year is when houses are cleaned and decorated with red paper showing Chinese characters of prosperity and wealth, prayers and offerings are made, new clothes designed in traditional styles are worn, with red being the color that symbolizes good luck; and

WHEREAS, Chinese New Year is a time where families will pay a visit to their oldest and most senior family member; and

WHEREAS, Chinese New Year is celebrated by the Chinese-American community in San Mateo County on February 18, 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, recognizes the celebration of Chinese New Year 2007, Year Of The Boar.

Dated: February 18, 2007

SUPERVISORS:

Rose Jacobs Gibson
ROSE JACOBS GIBSON, President

Mark Church
MARK CHURCH

Jerry Hill
JERRY HILL

Richard S. Gordon
RICHARD S. GORDON

Adrienne J. Tessier
ADRIENNE J. TESSIER



Attest: *Deborah Narayan*
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

National Convention in Sacramento to Host *Meet Your Legislator Night*

Volunteer or Attend

by Hayden Lee

On Wednesday evening, June 27, OCA members will have the opportunity to meet their California legislators in Sacramento, just before the National OCA Convention commences there from the 28th to July 1st. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only meet your legislators but also an opportunity for California Chinese Americans to show their organization to our law-makers. With eight chapters statewide, from San Diego to San Francisco to Sacramento, OCA in California is one of few statewide Asian American organizations with this type of membership and community advocacy. There are more OCA chapters in California than in any other state in the country.

The Sacramento OCA Chapter--a vibrant OCA chapter--is hosting the 4-day 29th OCA Convention this summer and will Youth Day, College Day, Welcoming Remarks, and 17 workshops that will cover Asians in the media, to Feng Shui, health and immigration and national security. The Convention will culminate in a Saturday night gala including a banquet, music, and dancing. Linda Ng, president of the Sacramento Chapter, has said that the theme of this year's convention is "Light the torch for the next generation."

The Convention will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center in downtown Sacramento and accommodations will be available at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel. Some of the additional features of the Convention include an evening with Martin Yan, reception and tour of the Railroad Museum, and a trip to the old town of Locke on Sunday. The OCA National Board of Directors meeting will be held during the Convention also, and this is a wonderful opportunity to watch the inner workings of the national organization. The Sacramento Chapter is also look-

Regional OCA Chapters Reach Out at New Year's Parade

On the weekend of March 3-4, 2007, three of the local chapters in Northern California joined together to co-host an OCA booth at the annual Chinese

New Year Festival and Parade in historic San Francisco Chinatown. The OCA San Francisco, OCA San Mateo, and OCA

Sacramento Chapters were out in full force to renew & recruit members as

well as to promote the upcoming OCA National Convention in Sacramento June 28-July 1, 2007. Thanks to the generosity of Southwest Airlines, a free round-trip ticket was available for drawing by any members who renewed or joined on the 2-day weekend. The event was a great opportunity for the 3 chapters to share ideas for future collaborations.



San Mateo OCA's Wade Loo, second from right, and Chapter President Newsy Yan, far right, help at a Regional OCA table at the Chinatown New Year's Parade.

ing for volunteers to help during the Convention. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at (415)759-8178.

This event and those like it are special to many of us who have been involved in OCA for years. Many members do not know it, but the first OCA chapter in California was the Southern Alameda County Chapter, mainly based in Fremont and Hayward, which is now defunct. Our San Mateo Chapter was the second California chapter of OCA, started 20 years ago in 1987.

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

Mark your calendar!

- 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

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Scholarship Sponsors

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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

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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**