



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 October, 2007

Chapter Dinner Highlights 20th Anniversary

by Martin Jung

Our OCA Chapter celebrated its 20th Asian Pacific American Achievement Awards Gala, on Saturday, September 15, honoring two outstanding men and one woman. The dinner event, held at the South

Our interns--Ruby Chua, Victoria Souttaphonh and Charles Zhang--produced a special presentation highlighting the Chapter's achievements throughout the years. They really put in a concerted effort, while at the same time satisfying their school studies.



From left, Jeff Adachi, Newsy Yan, Noel Lee, Yvonne Lee, and David Louie at the Gala.

It was a collective effort as the event planning committee worked together to put on our annual gala: thanks to Alden Soohoo, Karen Gok



Young OCA members played a key role in making the dinner a success, shown here at their table during the dinner.

Lee, Wade Loo, Newsy Yan, Ben Yeung, Jacob Chu, Jeff Chien, Po Yee Ung, Lisa La, and Martin Jung.

San Francisco Conference Center, showed that our honorees were definitely role models for our theme, "Asian Americans Shaping the Future." We look forward to helping our youth and future generations.

Newsy Yan, Chapter President, remarked "OCA San Mateo had a successful fundraising gala. This is our 20th anniversary and three honorees were Jeff Adachi, Noel Lee and Yvonne Lee, which represented the legal, business and human right aspects of the organization in advancing the well-being of the Asian Pacific American nationwide. OCA San Mateo will continue to promote educational programs and stay involved with the community."



Newsy Yan gives MC David Louie an award.

The proceeds collected from the Dinner Gala go toward the OCA scholarship, internship and educational programs. The Speak and Lead with Pride program provides High School students an opportunity to practice their public speaking skills and develop their confidence.

Upcoming

Holiday Party

Sunday, Dec. 9, 12 noon-3:00 p.m.
 San Mateo Senior Center
 2645 Alameda De Las Pulgas
 San Mateo, CA

Watch for notices

20th Year!

by Newsy Yan

It was a fantastic evening, bringing together friends, honorees, and distinguished guests for OCA San Mateo County Chapter's 20th Annual Fundraiser and Asian Pacific American (APA) Achievement Awards Gala. With a theme of "Asian Pacific Americans Shaping the Future," our Chapter celebrated 20 years of giving back to the community, promoting educational and youth programs, while cultivating future leaders among APAs. United States Congressman Tom Lantos and California State Assemblymember Gene Mullin recognized our Chapter by presenting special certificates. I am grateful for the hard work of our Board members, corporate sponsors and supporters in making this year's Gala such a success. I am also grateful for their ongoing dedication to our other programs throughout the year.



We are now in our third year of Chapter's high school internship program; twelfth year of Young OCA; and fifteenth year of the Scholarship Program. This Spring, we brought back "Speak and Lead with Pride," an eight-week course designed to teach the art of public speaking and leadership to qualified local high school students. Our Board members are already working on next year's curriculum!

Looking ahead, OCA San Mateo will proudly serve the community by volunteering at the Second Harvest Food Bank, a program providing food to an average of approximately 163,500 individuals in need per month in the Bay Area. In December, our annual Holiday Party promises delicious food and a guaranteed fun time.

Last but not the least, OCA San Mateo encourages all APAs to register and vote in the upcoming elections. 2007 and 2008 are very important years for local, statewide, and presidential elections. I urge you to participate in THIS important democratic process and let our voice be heard; vote to shape the future.

ELECTION 2008 MADE EASY!

By Edwin Chan

The most common excuses people give as to why they didn't vote in the last election are: (1) they didn't register in time, or (2) they didn't have the time to go to the polling place.

2008 will be a historic year for California voters. Registered Californians will have the opportunity to vote three times in the upcoming year—for presidential nominees in February, for candidates and ballot measures in the California State primary in June and in the general election in November. Don't forget: the deadline to register to vote in California is 15 days before each local and statewide Election Day.

Registering to vote is easy! Just go to www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm and fill out the form. You can also register to vote at your local post office. Once you have registered, you don't have to register again unless you move, change your name, or change your political party affiliation. San Mateo County also provides the election website in Chinese. Please visit www.shapethefuture.org/voters/CHdefault.asp.

If you have a hectic schedule and do not have the time to go to your local polling places to vote, an alternative is to sign up for an Absentee Ballot. To receive an Absentee Ballot in the mail, go to www.shapethefuture.org/absentee/default.asp, sign up, and then use the absentee ballot to cast your vote from the comfort of your home, at a convenient time. You can either mail in your absentee ballot any time before Election Day or drop it off on Election Day at any polling place. Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

Deadlines to register for Absentee Ballots:

Election:

February - deadline is Jan. 29, 2008

June Election - deadline is May 27, 2008

November Election - deadline is Oct. 28, 2008

Correction: Last issue, we printed an article by Edwin Chan on why you should vote. Edwin, who is new to the Chapter's board, was mistakenly reported as being on the staff of Congressman Tom Lantos. Edwin is on the staff of County Supervisor Mark Church.

Business Mixer, Yeah!

By Victoria Souttaphonh and Martin Jung

After our most recent business mixer on July 19th at the **Yeah! Bar and Chinese Cuisine** in Redwood Shores, it's still clear why OCA-hosted mixers is the definite place to be when it comes to networking and meeting new people. From

your first step into the restaurant, a sea of smiles welcomes you. Our gracious host,



Tonia Yeh, made sure we had a variety of appetizers to eat, as well as drinks at the bar. People made their way around in hopes of introducing their company and business. The number of possibilities here were endless, where doors open with every new acquaintance.

It was nice to see familiar faces. For example,



At the Yeah! From left, Alden Soohoo, Peter Kim, Ariel Chiu, Frances Liu, Jack Tien, Martin Jung, and Wade Loo .

there was Jack Tien, who will be opening his new Archipelago for diners to try in the very near future, and Juliet Fernandez from the Office of Warren

Slocum. New faces included Victoria Chew of AT&T and Robert Wang, realtor for Prudential California Realty.

Everyone settled to chat and mingle. Chilled drinks were served at the bar and delicious appetizers were ordered to the table. Gorgeous pictures were taken of everyone, courtesy of OCA's very own photographer, Frank Jang. The goals of OCA that day were to increase the number of members in the San Mateo chapter and to express concerns for voting this year. The

interns--Ruby Chua, Charles Zhang, and myself--greeted guests and managed to get some people to register to vote on the spot. Any effort in helping was greatly appreciated by the board and members.

To cap the night off was the distribution of raffle tickets and prizes. Winners of the raffle went home with a gift certificate to a nice restaurant courtesy of Tonia and the restaurant. The prizes were handed out by Dr. Alden Soohoo. He, along with everyone from OCA, closed the night by thanking everyone for coming out and getting involved with the San Mateo chapter.

Picnic, Pinata and a Birthday

by Ruby Chua

On Sunday, August 12th, OCA San Mateo, along with the Hong Kong Schools Alumni Association (HKSAA), hosted its annual picnic in the San Mateo Central Park.

The food was sponsored by Takahashi supermarket and consisted of various types Hawaiian barbeque meats. Children present were able to play with



Yes, at our recent picnic, Gayle Chan, left, on the megaphone calls out moves to 3 city council members, to the right, Karyl Matsumoto of S. San Francisco, Gina Papan of Millbrae, and Jerry Hill of San Mateo.

hit the piñata towards the end for candy. Many attendees walked away with prizes from the raffle drawing. Everyone also helped celebrate Chapter Treasurer Jacob Chu's surprise birthday party.

Overall, the turnout was great and had most looking forward to next year's picnic. It was a pleasure collaborating with them and we enjoyed their company. Gayle Chan was very helpful and we appreciate her time and effort.

Asian Candidates Running Hard in County

By Hayden Lee

After Leland Yee's recent win to become a State Senator, at least six Asian candidates are running for local seats from Millbrae to Belmont. In Millbrae Paul Seto and Wayne Lee are running for city council. Huijun Ring is running for city council in Foster City and Bertha Sanchez, a Filipino American, is running for city council in San Mateo. Cathy Wright, who is Filipino and Irish, is running for re-election to the Belmont-Redwood Shores School Board and Gina Kuo is running for the Foster City/San Mateo School Board. In Millbrae, there has been a great deal of non-Asian support for the two candidates. Mary Griffin, a former county supervisor and Millbrae mayor/councilwoman herself, has endorsed both candidates. Also, the Examiner newspaper reported on October 15 that Millbrae incumbent school board member, John Lynch, who is 85 years old, "said he would not have run if he could have found an Asian-American community member to replace him. He believes the community is underrepresented on the City Council and school board — which have no Asian members — despite the fact that Asian-American students are the majority in the district." Perhaps Millbrae should be a model city in the County: Millbrae officials have for years tried to find Chinese and Asian Americans to get involved in local public affairs--our hats off to them! Here are the candidates in alphabetical order:



Gina Kuo, Foster City

Lew, who is stepping down from the school board this year and Foster City and San Mateo councilmembers past and present.

Wayne Lee is running for Millbrae City Council and has lived in Millbrae for 22 years. He currently sits on the Millbrae Planning Commission where he has to make tough decisions for the city. An chemical

engineer with his degree from Berkeley, Wayne lives in Millbrae with his wife and son. He is a neighborhood watch block captain. He has mediated disputes in neighborhood conflicts with satisfactory outcomes and overseen the approval of the renovation of the Clarion Hotel in Millbrae. "Millbrae has a population of more than 40% Asian, and the citizens of Millbrae have been encouraging and supportive of electing Asians to the city council. This is not the trend of one city. I see the need and support for more Asians in other cities on the Peninsula. I hope others will be interested and inspired by my and Paul Seto's campaign." Wayne's father, Arnold Lee, who is on the board of directors of the Lee Family Association, and his uncle, Ming Lee, who has been active in the Millbrae Lions, are helping Wayne and both are also longtime residents of Millbrae. Wayne has key endorsements from State Sen. Leland Yee, the Sierra Club, County Democratic Party, Millbrae Firefighters, Labor Council and the Realtors.



Wayne Lee, Millbrae

Dr. Huijun Ring, a geneticist and biotechnology manager and mother of two children, is running for Foster City City Council. Her endorsements include State Senator Leland Yee, State Assemblymember Gene Mullin, and County Supervisor Jerry Hill. She also has organizational endorsements like the Sierra Club, Democratic Party San Mateo County, San Mateo County Central Labor Council AFL-CIO, Filipino American



Huijun Ring, Foster City

Democratic Club, San Mateo County Association of Realtors, California Apartment Association-Tri-County Division, San Mateo County Times and San Mateo

Daily News. To quote Huijun, "I want to promote active involvement in city governance by people of all age and cultural background. There are many voices in our community. By tapping into the inspirations and talents of all of our people we will give rise to a strong and vibrant community spirit. It is this force that will best allow Foster City to meet the challenges ahead



Bertha Sanchez, San Mateo

and build for the future." **Bertha Sanchez** is a 60 year resident of San Mateo City. A long time community activist currently working as an emergency room nurse; she has just completed an 8 year term as a volunteer Planning Commissioner (1999-2007). She is also the first Asian American to run for a council seat in San Mateo. Bertha's maternal family moved to San Mateo in the 1920's. Bertha herself is of mixed heritage having been born in the Philippines of a Filipino father and Chinese mother. She is running for a Council seat because "I feel that the average resident has felt frustrated about the lack of communication with our city officials about major development and things happening in our city. The underlying concerns of residents about congestion, parking, safety, density, open space, responsible growth and preservation of our neighborhoods are of paramount importance and I will listen to these concerns. We need to preserve and enhance the quality of life, which includes the protection of the unique character of our neighborhoods. We need to develop a real partnership between residents and government so that people will not feel rejected ignored by our city officials. We need to protect our businesses which provide an important tax base for our city finances. Because of my deep roots in San Mateo, I have respect for our community values. I am the PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE and I ask for your support." Bertha has been endorsed by the Fil-Am and the San Mateo Daily News.

Paul Seto, also running for Millbrae City Council, has been serving Millbrae already as vice chair of the Millbrae Parks & Recreation Commission. He was raised in San Francisco, attended Lowell and U.C. Berkeley, and married Maurine Louie in 1993. He received his MBA from San Francisco State University in 2002 as a distinguished member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. He has worked for Security Pacific Bank, City National Bank, and is now with Borel Private Bank & Trust. He has 2 children, 11 and

9, in Millbrae schools. He has been a soccer coach and



Paul Seto, Millbrae

is a member of the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce, the Spring Valley/Taylor Middle School PTAs, and a former member of the Millbrae Asian Outreach Group. "Our Asian community needs to put aside our inhibitions," Paul believes, "whether as a result of our communication skills, our culture, our fear of public speaking or our lack of, or desire to get involved in our community and participate in a public platform, volunteering at school, reading to a child, or helping a senior. Chinese Americans are one of the more educated and successful ethnic group in the United States, a model minority, and it is apparent in the San Francisco Bay Area. All of us should contribute to the success of America, a country that needs our support."

Cathy Wright, an independent consultant with Southern Living At Home, is running for re-election to the Belmont-Redwood Shores School Board. She pledges to preserve the high quality of education our community expects and our children deserve. Cathy has a long history as an active volunteer. She is endorsed by Assembly members Gene Mullin and Ira Ruskin, former Assembly member Ted Lempert, County School Board Member Rod Hsiao, and San Mateo County School Boards Association President Melodie Lew----. Cathy is married to Scott Wright, a trader at Axa Rosenberg. They have three children, Ashley, 21, Kayla, 11 and Hannah 7. Both Kayla and Hannah attend local public elementary and middle schools. They have lived in Belmont for 10 years.

Cathy Wright, Belmont



Cathy Wright, Belmont

**“The Eighth Promise” by
William Poy Lee**

reported by Martin Jung

Author William Poy Lee, read from his first book, “The Eighth Promise,” to the community at the Foster City Public Library on Thursday, July 12th, 7:30pm. It was a pleasure to have the San Francisco Native share his interesting memoir told



William Poy Lee at the Foster City Library

from two perspectives, his mother’s and his own. A story about a strong mother and son bond, which he spent many hours interviewing.

It is a memoir of culture and tradition.

I would like to acknowledge Cynthia Rider, Public Service Librarian of the Foster City Library, for her collaboration with the OCA San Mateo Chapter to make the book talk/signing possible. We had local support from Florence and Mas Hongo, along with Leonard Chan of the Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc. as they supplied copies of his books for readers to have William sign afterwards. He read excerpts from various chapters to give the audience a feel for his mother’s thoughts and what it was like growing up in San Francisco during the 1960s and ‘70s.

**Jaynry Mak Liaison to Tom
Lantos**

Jaynry Mak is the Liaison to the Chinese Community for United States Congressman Tom Lantos, representing California’s 12th district. She has also worked as the Chief Legislative Deputy to Supervisor Fiona Ma in the City and County of San Francisco. In addition, she is an attorney at law and has held leadership positions in numerous local community organizations, including President of the Outer Sunset Merchants and Professional Association and Chairwoman of Community Youth Center in San Francisco.

As a child of immigrant parents, Jaynry experienced firsthand her parents’ difficulty in adjusting to a new life in a foreign country and of the need for a voice for the underrepresented. She has clerked with the highly respected Judges Lillian K. Sing and Kevin McCarthy. Later, Jaynry worked at a private law practice before she decided to start her own law office in the Sunset, where she frequently represented non-English speaking clients.

Born and raised in the Sunset District, Jaynry was educated at local schools — St. Stephen’s, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, University of San Francisco, and USF School of Law. Jaynry still lives in the Sunset District with her husband, Cliff and their son, Tanner.

Thanks to Young OCA!

The oca san mateo board wishes to thank all of the following young oca members and their friends who helped at the gala: Tommy ang, kim ehan, ruby chua, stephanie kurniawan, stephanie lam, louise leo, weather lee, victoria souttaphonh, johnathan uang, melinda wong and charles zhang.



From left., Charles Zhang, Victoria (Tori) Souttaphonh, and Ruby Chua.

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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!

- Nov. 7, Wed., 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Second Harvest Food Sort, 1051 Bing St., San Carlos, CA
- Dec. 9, Sun., Holiday Party, 12 noon-3:00 p.m., San Mateo Senior Center, 2645 Alameda De Las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA
- Book signing: in planning, with authors Lillian Gong-Guy and Gerrye Wong, "Chinese in San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley." No definite date yet.
- Party: Young OCA is working on an end of year party. It will be sometime in December.

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Family, \$40 Single, \$30 Student, \$20

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Send application to: OCA San Mateo Chapter, P.O. Box 218, San Mateo, CA 94401

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