

OCA SAN MATEO COUNTY CHAPTER

Embracing the hopes and aspirations of Chinese and Asian Pacific Americans

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

(650) 533-3065 www.ocasanmateo.org

President's Message

By Chris Bush

Greetings – It's 2018 and the New Year started with a bang! 2018 is the year of the Dog and on February 3rd our traditional Lunar New Year holiday dinner celebration was at Crouching Tiger in Redwood City, a sold out event. We welcomed new and returning members. Golden State Warriors t-shirts were given out as door prizes and the food was exceptional as always.



OCA had a tent at the Redwood City Lunar New Year celebration on February 24th. Families with their children in traditional Chinese costumes roamed the street taking in the music, food and entertainment. Traditional Chinese red trinkets were given out to help celebrate. The excitement continued as we moved into another year of Speak and Lead with Pride.

Speak & Lead with Pride had its final speech competition on March 6th at the Burlingame Library. Our lead instructor for the past 10 years, Dr. David Chai, is stepping down and will be succeeded by a program alumnus. Dr. Chai was ecstatic that the program will be in such good hands.

We were pleased to honor 10 graduating seniors with scholarships based on financial need,

academic excellence and community service. Family and friends were on hand for the awards and luncheon.

Mark your calendars, our next event will be the annual picnic in San Mateo at Central Park on August 25th. Everyone is welcome and the first 50 to RSVP will be free! On October 21st comes our gala fundraiser dinner. This year we will be celebrating OCA San Mateo's 30th anniversary at Dominic's at Oyster Point. This is our biggest event of the year and helps us generate funds for our youth programs. We look forward to seeing you.

Hope everyone will have a fun summer and be safe.

-Chris Bush

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San Mateo OCA Scholarship Recipient Recognition Luncheon Recap

By Jacqueline Kao

The OCA San Mateo Chapter (SMOCA) held its annual Scholarship Luncheon at the San Mateo Senior Center on April 29th. Ten high school seniors were recognized for their community service, academic and public service achievements, and goals for the future. Scholarships included the Adrian and Monica Arima Community Service Scholarship, the Mai-Sie & Mai-King Chan Academic Scholarship, the Lew Family Foundation Scholarship, the San Mateo OCA Scholarship, and the Philip & Louise Wang Scholarships.



thank you to all of the SMOCA members who helped to organize and make this event possible! Congratulations to the award recipients and all the best to you in college and in your future endeavors.

The luncheon began with a welcome speech by former Chapter President Franklin Kang, and proceeded by inspirational guest speaker remarks by Audrey Ng, President of the San Mateo Foster

City School District Board of Trustees, and SMOCA President, Chris Bush. After enjoying a delicious lunch provided by the



Crouching Tiger restaurant and Tonia Yeh, the scholarship recipients were individually invited up to the podium by Dr. David Chai to give a brief speech about themselves and their ambitions.

The event closed with Franklin Kang giving his closing remarks and cake for everyone. A big

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

(Luna) Hur Teoh

Austin Soohoo

Rachel Lam

Angelique Grace Gomez

Emily Chee

Jennifer Tan

Annie Lu

Madeline Wang

Kelsey Lew-Andrews

Jacqueline Kao

JACL/OCA Summit

By David Latt and Raymond Tong

Attending the JACL/OCA Summit in Washington DC was an incredible experience for the both of us. We learned a great deal about OCA's national level work and new advocacy techniques; met many

inspiring inter-generational leaders and advocates across the country; and rediscovered the rich and powerful history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

This joint experience with JACL participants supplemented this and gave us a unique look into the work and goals of another Asian American organization as well.

Our favorite part of the summit was Lobby Day, where summit attendees split into groups and headed to Capitol Hill. One of our groups visited 7 congressional offices - including our own Congresswoman Jackie Speier - to advocate for open immigration policies. Two other groups lobbied other issues surrounding such topics as education and the census. These efforts aside, a focal point

of the summit was to bring home helpful skills to expand local advocacy initiatives. The impressive syllabus of extensive training and practice certainly achieved this. From the many panels, we saw the

incredible solidarity and dedication that exists between JACL, OCA, and other major non-AAPI civil rights organizations.

During the summit, we also met many others: we sat with a panel including Holly Holm, the Executive Director of White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders also known as WHIAAPI. We had a difficult

but necessary conversation with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Department of Homeland Security, moderated by David Inoue, the Executive

Director of JACL. And we heard from leaders of many other key advocacy groups such as the Anti-Defamation League, NAACP, and P-Flag.

Post-summit, we're more re-energized and prepared than ever to continue working alongside our newly expanded JACL/OCA family.



Meet the Interns - By Jacqueline Kao

Jacqueline Kao is currently an intern for OCA. She has been active in service clubs and organizations since the sixth grade and is

passionate about community service. She has been a member of her city's Youth Advisory Committee and is the



current president. The Committee works to encourage youth involvement in the community and in philanthropic events. She was also the president of the Acts of Random Kindness Club at her high school. She is especially proud to have been awarded the Jefferson Award and selected as her high school's Daughters of the American Revolution

Good Citizen.

Jacqueline enjoys dance, and was involved in tap and jazz when she was growing up but was later drawn toward hip-hop dance. She was a member of her high school's hip-hop team for three years, which performed at school rallies and during half time at football and basketball games. She is also a member of a competitive hip-hop team outside of school.

Jacqueline also enjoys cultural dance.

She has been a member of the Foster City Chinese Club fan and ribbon dance troupe for the past eight

dance troupe for the past eight years and has performed in the annual San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade each year. Being a part of the troupe has been rewarding because she was able to learn about her Chinese culture and share it with so many people through traditional dance.

In April of this year, Jacqueline was honored to have been selected Outstanding Teen Chinatown at the 48th Annual Teen Chinatown Scholarship Gala (formally known as Miss Teen Chinatown) sponsored the San Francisco Chinatown Lions Club and Vision Care Service Foundation. The name of the scholarship gala was changed a few years ago to include males as participants. The program allowed for youth participants to showcase their academics, personal talents, community service achievements and leadership abilities of today's Chinese American youth. Jacqueline was especially happy because as part of her scholarship, her high school was awarded a generous donation. Jacqueline was glad to have



met the other participants who shared interest in community service.

Jacqueline will be going to college in the fall and is excited to become more independent, take on new challenges and

learn from the different experiences.

Meet the Interns - By Albert Hao

Albert Hao is a sophomore at Aragon High School. He is passionate about speech and parliamentary debate. He is the president of the Speech and Debate Club at Aragon, and teaches public speaking and parliamentary debate during club

meetings for over 1.5 years. He also goes out of his way to teach speech, debate and history classes to local middle and high school students for fundraising and charity projects. In addition, he competes as a parliamentary debater and achieved top 16 at the National Tournament of Champions in April, 2018.

Albert is interested in business and entrepreneurship, and is the president of the Silicon Valley MIT Launch Club, where he holds open discussions with his club members to develop innovative solutions and designs. He is a cofounder of Entredev, which is short for entrepreneurship development. It centers around a mobile and a web-based application to connect entrepreneurs to other people in the business for their startup endeavors, and streamlines business project development. Entredev app won the Third Place in Model Entrepreneur Competition 2018 hosted by Columbia Business School.



He enjoys playing competitive volleyball for his school's boys' Varsity volleyball team.

He is one of two interns at the Organization of Chinese Americans in San Mateo. He was also the

champion of the "Speak and Lead with Pride" competition administered by the OCA in 2017. He participated in the OCA annual meeting, the annual summer picnic party, volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank, and wrote articles and created the Winter

newsletter for 2017-18. He worked with his younger sister Amanda to completely redesign and reformat the OCA website in order to make the organization more accessible for a new generation of Asian Americans.

In his free time, Albert likes to read, debate, catch up on news, and exercise.

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