



August 2000 Newsletter

Organization of Chinese Americans San Mateo County Announces Scholarship Winners

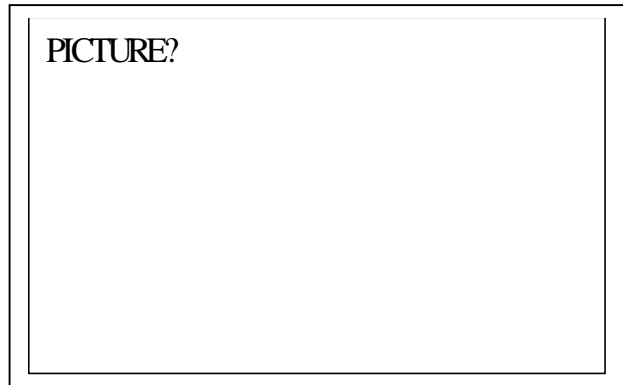
By Alden Soohoo

Dr. Alden Soohoo, Chairman of the OCA Scholarship Committee proudly announces the year 2000 winners of the PHILIP & LOUISE WANG Scholarship, the MONICA & ADRIAN ARIMA Scholarship, the SING FOUNDATION Scholarship, the FABIO FRANCIS & ANNIE SULAIMAN Scholarship, the PACIFIC BELL-OCA SAN MATEO Scholarship, and the WELLS FARGO-OCA SAN MATEO Scholarship. The eleven winners, selected from 128 applicants representing the 22 high schools of San Mateo County, were honored at our Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony on May 21, at Crystal Springs Uplands School in Hillsborough.

- 3) ARTHUR KAO from Menlo Atherton HS will be attending Yale University in the Fall.
- 4) DAISY TAM from South San Francisco HS plans to study computer sciences at UC Santa Cruz in the Fall.
- 5) MELANIE WANG is from Hillsdale HS. She will be attending UC Berkeley in the Fall. She will pursue a career in physical therapy.

The MONICA & ADRIAN ARIMA Scholarship consists of two \$500 scholarships donated by OCA San Mateo County members Monica & Adrian Arima. The scholarship is awarded primarily for Outstanding Community Service. The year 2000 recipients are:

- 1) KATHERINE DODGE of Hillsdale HS will be majoring in business and psychology in the Fall at UCLA.
- 2) ANDREW LEE, also hailing from Hillsdale HS, plans to attend UC Berkeley in the Fall where he will study chemistry.



The PHILIP & LOUISE WANG Scholarship consists of five \$1,000 scholarships donated by Philip & Louise Wang, charter members of OCA. The scholarship is awarded based on academic excellence and extracurricular activities. The five scholarship recipients are:

- 1) RICHIE CAI of Jefferson HS will be attending San Jose State University in the Fall. He intends to pursue a career in Computer Science.
- 2) JESSICA CHANG from Hillsdale HS, inspired by personal experience, intends to pursue a career in medicine/neuroscience. Jessica will be attending the University of Rochester in New York.

The OCA scholarship fund continues to grow thanks to a generous \$1000 donation from the Sing Foundation. The Sing Foundation honors Sing Kwok, a pioneer in the 1920's in the field of boxcar refrigeration. He was the first successful individual to transport produce from the Salinas Valley to the East Coast in the 1920's. The SING FOUNDATION Scholarship is awarded for community service and financial need.

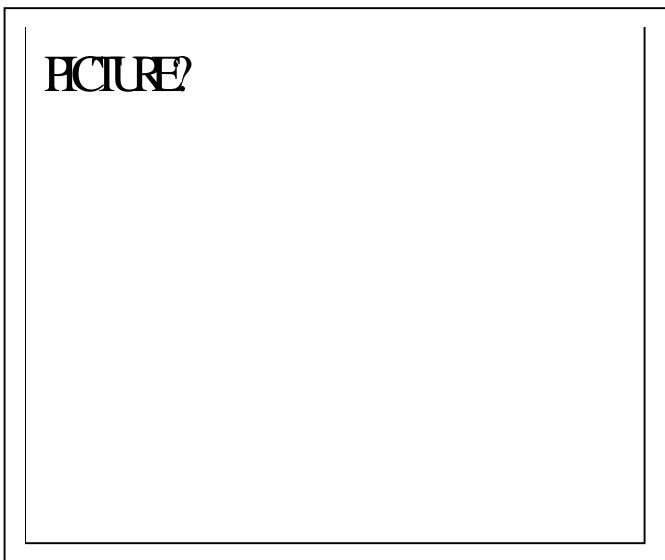
The first winner of the SING FOUNDATION Scholarship is GEORGE LEE JR. of Aragon HS. George scored a perfect 1600 on the SAT and will graduate at the top of his class. He plans a career in math or as a teacher and will be attending Harvard in the Fall.

Also adding to our scholarship fund this year is the generous \$1000 donation from Fabio Francis & Annie Sulaiman. This scholarship is also based on financial need and academic achievement. Our first winner for THE FABIO FRANCIS & ANNIE SULAIMAN Scholarship is JIAJING YI from Aragon HS. She will be attending UCLA and pursuing a career as a teacher.

The winner of the PACIFIC BELL-OCA SAN MATEO SCHOLARSHIP is JULIE MAA from Capuchino HS. This is a \$1000 scholarship awarded to a student excelling in extracurricular activities. Julie will be attending UCLA in the Fall.

The WELLS FARGO-OCA SAN MATEO Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a student excelling in academia, community service, and exhibiting significant leadership abilities. The year 2000 winner of the WELLS FARGO-OCA SAN MATEO Scholarship is MARK CHEN of Mills HS. He has received many distinctive awards including the White House "Presidential Scholars" National Merit Commended Scholar, Bank of America school plaque winner and the Peninsula Athletic league goalie of the year. He ranks first in his class with a 4.0 GPA and a perfect score of 1600 on his SAT. Mark would like to study chemistry at Harvard in the Fall.

OCA San Mateo wishes all of our scholarship winners and applicants prosperity and continued success.



ANNUAL RECOGNITION DINNER

Please mark and save Wednesday evening, October 11, 2000 for our OCA San Mateo 12th Annual Asian American Awards Gala. This important fundraiser at the Sheraton Gateway in Burlingame will be inspiring and fun for all. This year's honorees will be successful Asian-American leaders in the field of high technology.

About OCA

OCA is the Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc., a national non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. OCA is comprised of 45 chapters around the U.S. and has 5,000 members. This newsletter is published by the Peninsula Chapter of San Mateo County, which was founded in 1987.

The chapter's website is at www.ocasanmateo.org.

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President's Letter

By Yvonne Chen

With Herculean efforts from your OCA Board members and especially Wade Loo and Karen Lee, February was a banner month with successful events such as:

- Year of the Dragon Chinese New Year's Banquet
- OCA College Leadership Conference Reception
- "A Community Commemoration of the Day of Remembrance," sponsored by JACL
- "We served with Pride: the Chinese American Experience in WWII" program

For several years, the Board has been concerned with developing leadership from our members in the next generation, so that our chapter will remain vibrant and relevant in a time of great demographic change in California and across the nation. That is why we encouraged and nurtured the Young Professionals. We were so proud of Johnny Ng when he was selected as one of 15 people to attend the joint JACL/OCA Conference in Washington D.C. He came back energized, with lots of enthusiasm and ideas as a result of interacting with political leaders and other young members across the country. Our Vice-President Alden Soohoo, a proud parent of two active children, is taking time from his busy schedule to attend the OCA National Conference in Denver, along with Wade Loo.

During March, Wade Loo spearheaded the membership drive and we submitted dues to OCA National for over 200 paid members. We will now have the maximum three votes on crucial decisions made at the national conferences.

Upcoming events include the Scholarship Dinner; a joint picnic for children and families on May 6 to celebrate the Asian Heritage Month; and our annual Asian American Achievement Gala.

The events surrounding the Elian Gonzales case in Miami caused me to appreciate the carefully thought-out role and mission of our organization. Many people perceived that the Cuban Americans in Miami were lobbying for special foreign interest causes rather than advancing the status of Cuban Americans in the US. We need to be ever vigilant that OCA is not perceived or marginalized as an instrument of special interest groups

advancing the causes relating to another country rather than events occurring in this country.

PICTURE?

OCA San Mateo Chapter Report

By Wade Loo

After a very busy February, our chapter took a well-deserved breather and concentrated our energies in a few large events.

We joined JACL in celebrating Asia Pacific Heritage month by highlighting "family ties" with a picnic and load of activities for kids. Close to 150 adults and children had great fun despite the chilly weather on May 6.

Dr. Alden Soohoo, Vice President and the Chair of our Scholarship Committee, presented scholarships to eleven achievers from the 22 high schools of San Mateo County. Our Chapter is extremely fortunate to have so many sponsors. They are: the PHILIP & LOUISE WANG Scholarship, the MONICA & ADRIAN ARIMA Scholarship, the SING FOUNDATION Scholarship, the FABIO FRANCIS & ANNIE SULAIMAN Scholarship, the PACIFIC BELL-OCA SAN MATEO Scholarship, and the WELLS FARGO-OCA SAN MATEO Scholarship. The Scholarship Luncheon was well attended by scholars and their parents and friends, despite sweltering heat on May 21.

As chair of the Membership Committee, Wade Loo has been tireless in recruiting new members and we now had over 219 paid members in May. Due to our chapter's interest in young people, there has been a rejuvenation of Young OCA activities, and 12 new teen members signed up as new members in June.

We Must Continue to Be Vigilant and Protest the Negative Portrayal of Asian Americans in the Media

By George Ong

Icebox, Inc. - the parent company of www.icebox.com - currently runs a weekly program on their website entitled "Mr. Wong" which features a stereotypical Chinese American man who serves as a butler for a rich White American socialite named Miss Pam. The portrayal of this Asian Pacific American character is stereotypical in every way. He speaks with an unrealistic accent and has no pride, allowing his boss to step all over him.

OCA urges you to write letters to the following people, protesting the blatant racism and insensitivity:

- Steve Stanford, CEO and Co-Founder, Icebox, Inc.
- Jonathan Collier, Co-Founder and Co-President of Production, Icebox, Inc.
- Howard Gordon, Co-Founder and Co-President of Production, Icebox, Inc.
- Rob LaZebnik, Co-Founder and Co-President of Production, Icebox, Inc.
- Gary Levine, President, Icebox, Inc.
- Pam Brady, Creator, Mr. Wong
- Kyle McCulloch, Creator, Mr. Wong

Icebox, Inc.
3453 S. La Cienega Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Please see the sample letter by OCA National President, George Ong, in next column.

Dear Mr. Stanford:

It has recently come to the attention of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), a national Asian Pacific American (APAs) civil rights organization, that your animation website - www.icebox.com - proudly features a weekly animation series entitled "Mr. Wong." The series features a Chinese American houseboy who dutifully obeys his Miss Pam, his white American employer- no matter how absurd her requests.

The character of Mr. Wong is a conglomeration of stereotypes – not really a character at all. His buckteeth, slanted eyes, exaggerated accent, slight stature, and submissive personality are all typical of an anti-Asian mindset. The fact that Icebox, Inc. treats racism as comedy is both offensive and baffling.

Fans of the series may argue that the unflattering portrayal of Miss Pam negates the negative depiction of Mr. Wong. White Americans, however, are ubiquitous in American media outlets; Chinese Americans and APAs have very little representation. Miss Pam is clearly not a representation of all white Americans; Mr. Wong, however, is the embodiment of every popular stereotype of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. These attempts by Icebox, Inc. to pass off sweeping generalizations as entertainment are deplorable. "Mr. Wong" is infused with ignorance from beginning - when Mr. Wong informs the audience that the episode is "rroading" - to end - when the theme song reports how he is less a man than he is a piece of property because he "came with the estate."

"Mr. Wong" is nothing more than a modern-day "Amos 'n Andy" – lacking any trace of either sensitivity or humor. OCA strongly suggests Icebox, Inc. pull "Mr. Wong" from the website immediately.

Sincerely,

George M. Ong
OCA National President

OCA Letter to the Tonight Show

By George Ong

June 30, 2000

Dear Producer of the Tonight Show:

The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), a national civil rights advocacy organization, is appalled by the Tonight Show's Monday, June 19, 2000 segment making fun of the lax security at the Los Alamos Lab. While Mr. Leno was talking to the actor playing the character of the amateur security chief, an Asian man was shown in the background sneaking out with a computer, and then returning to steal a box of documents marked "Secret."

Your decision to include this kind of mockery is most unfortunate and caused great pain to the Asian American community. At a time in which we are fighting against racial profiling and scapegoating, as well as for equal treatment and justice for Dr. Wen Ho Lee, your insensitivity toward this matter and your deliberate provocation of the matter further serves to promote the myth that Asian Americans are foreign menaces and not to be trusted. On June 20th, President Clinton honored 22 Asian Americans with this nation's coveted Medal of Honor for gallantry during World War II. They fought for our country with outstanding bravery and loyalty. Just when, after 55 years of waiting, Asian Americans were being recognized for what they truly deserved, your program set back the depiction of us once more.

There has been no evidence that Asian Americans have been involved in the disappearance or the reappearance of the Los Alamos hard drives. Your presumption that an Asian was involved was not only misleading, but it also defies logic and reason. Swaying public opinion against an entire group of people serves no purpose but to create greater tension and distrust. The entertainment media should certainly not refrain from satirizing issues such as lax security, but to use an Asian, in particular, is totally unnecessary, and can only promote the stereotype against Asian Americans. There are so many other ways to depict this issue.

More security at the National Laboratories should be a top national priority. Asian American scientists and engineers compose close to 20% of our defense research; they could be earning greater salaries or bonuses outside of the lab, but instead they are working hard and long to improve our defense research and development. They are our nation's other unsung heroes who produce the technology and guard our country so that we can all sleep in peace at night.

I believe you should issue a formal apology to all Asian Americans and especially the hardworking scientists at the defense labs for your witless, offensive show.

Sincerely,

George M. Ong
OCA National President

Organization of Chinese Americans
1001 Connecticut Ave., NW #601
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-223-5500 Fax: 202-296-0540
E-mail: oca@ocanatl.org
Web: www.ocanatl.org

Now 231 Paid Members and Growing

By Wade Loo

In 1999, we went over the 200 member mark. Now, in the new Millennium year of 2000, we already have 231 paid members. This was largely due to the tremendous job of recruiting by Doreen Soohoo and Elizabeth Tsai, who each recruited 15 new members. Also, the revival of the YOCA has resulted in 14 new members, and the start of GEN APA (Young Professionals) has brought in additional new members.

The following lists those members who joined in 1999: Arlene & Bill Chang, Agnes Poon, Norman & Susan Gok, Frank Jang, Michael & Lucille Yee, Tak Tsui, Hon Jackie Speier, William & Jennifer Fong, Candy Cheun, Matthew Kwan, Laura & Albert Wong, David Weng, Kathryn & Kirby Ho, Robert & May Ho, Yolanda Lee Schmidt, Hon. Ira Ruskin, Victoria Li, David Louie, Lily Wong, Linda Yang & Stanley Lau, Wilson Liu, Peggy Lew, Hoyt Tillman, Joyce Chan, Hugo Luke, Donna Tom, Kathy Nishizaki, Yoko Gates, Shiang-Shen (Rebecca) Chin, William & Lucille Lee, Arthur & Joanna Mar, Jeffrey Ow, Trevor Dare, Rusli Kurniawan, Wendall Soohoo, Cal & P.L. Gin, and Lee Davis.

The following lists those members who have joined so far, during the first half of 2000:

John Lee, Yushiang Chang, Kathy Gamo, Peter Lee, Heda Chu, David Lu, Nancy Chen, John & Sandra Tam, John Ng, Jack Liao, Tami Adachi, Stephen & Anita Pang, Thomas K. Wong, Janet Yao, Victor & Betsy Chen, Carolyn & Leslie Chau, Chun C. Chan, Chia Yu Ma, Xiaomei Zhao, Gorretti & Lawrence Lui, Seneca & Lawrence Chew, Alex Chan, Ching & Corrinna Wang, Tenny Tsai, Lynne A. Meier, Gisela M. Kruttein, Bai Cheng Lin, Rosanna Hung, Robert Chang, Loretta Huang, William Wong, Chern Shih, Janie Lee, Kay Chen, Andrew Lee & Lin Au, Loretta Huang, William Wong, Chern Shih, Janie Lee, Kay Chen, Andrew Lee & Lin Au, Louisa & Jack Liu, Shang Chao Zhang, Wilfred Chow, Eugene Tuan, Dora Wong, June Lee, Stanley & Julie Wang, Danny & Candice Deng, Kathy & David Chou, Elaine & Luther Nieh, Bernard & Kathy Ho, and David & Johanna Kung.

We sincerely welcome all of the above new members, because, we all know that people, governments, and organizations will pay more attention to the concerns of many voices as opposed to that of a single voice.

Highlights from the OCA National Board Meeting, April 28-30, 2000

Most of Saturday morning was spent on the Wen Ho Lee case. Alberta Lee, daughter of Wen Ho Lee was invited along with Brian Sun, one of Wen Ho's attorneys, and a public relations person, Stacy Cohen to present their side of the case, in order to give them equal time, because OCA had invited Sec. of Energy Bill Richardson to the January Nat. Bd. Mtg. Their presentation was emotional and effective in swaying the feelings of most of the attendees to vote for a proposal by Victor Hsi for OCA to join the Coalition Against Racial & Ethnic Scapegoating (CARES), which demands that: 1) Atty. Gen. Janet Reno release Wen Ho Lee from jail on bail; 2) The DOJ initiate an investigation into the circumstances leading to Dr. Lee's indictment and the use of racial profiling against Asian American employees; and 3) Federal Agencies take active measures to eliminate racial profiling and scapegoating against all of our communities. Also, a National Day of Action, on June 8, 2000, is to be organized to mark the six-month anniversary of Dr. Lee's incarceration without bail.

The Board approved the 2001 Convention site to be Seattle. New York, with 4 chapters, New York, Westchester, Long Island, & New Jersey, jointly hosting the event, also made a presentation for the 2001 Convention, but the National Board overwhelmingly chose Seattle over New York.

The Westchester Chapter donated \$2,500 to the National Internship Program, and Carlos Tiu, the Treasurer, personally donated \$3,000, of which \$2,500 will also go to the National Internship Program. The New York Chapter donated \$2,000 to the Endowment Fund. Ariel Lui, the VP for Education and Culture personally raised \$22,000 for a new endowment fund for OCA educational programs.

How to contact National OCA:

Organization of Chinese Americans
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 707
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 223-5500
fax: (202) 296-0540
email: oca@ocanatl.org
<http://www.ocanatl.org>

We wish to thank

PACIFIC BELL

for sponsoring the printing of the
OCA - San Mateo County
newsletter in the year 2000.

We also wish to thank the following corporations
for their sponsorships of our 11th Annual Asian
American Achievement Gala:

Wells Fargo Bank -Title Sponsor

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OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Family, \$40

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I am interested in helping in the following areas:

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Send application to: OCA Peninsula Chapter, P.O. Box 218, San Mateo, CA 94001

ORGANIZATON OF CHINESE AMERICANS
Peninsula Chapter of San Mateo County
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San Mateo, CA 94401
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