



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) 376-1019 www.ocasanmateo.org



Message from the President

Franklin M. Kang, President



OCA San Mateo has been hard at work for you! In addition to participating in the D.C., Phoenix and Boston national board meetings, we have awarded ten (10) scholarships to local college-bound students, authorized three (3) new local internships, sponsored a college internship through OCA

National Headquarters, participated in the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference and successfully resumed the OCA San Mateo Mixers for the first time in several years. In August, we held our Annual Chapter Picnic at San Mateo Central Park, sponsored our second food sorting at Second Harvest and plan to participate in the October Asian American Corporate Achievement Awards in San Francisco. And of course, the highlight of the year, the OCA San Mateo Asian American Awards Gala, will take place on September 11, 2004.

Asian American Achievements Awards Gala

The 2004 Awards Gala will take place at the South San Francisco Conference Center. The Awards Gala is the highlight of the year for our chapter, where we have the opportunity to honor prominent leaders in our community. Last year, SF Police Chief Heather Fong, Assembly Majority Leader Wilma Chan, COO of Lucasfilm Micheline Chau and President of Wells Fargo's Consumer Credit Group Doreen Woo Ho were among those honored. The 2004 Gala is also your opportunity to visit with fellow members, supporters and others, who are

working hard to enable the success of our civil rights and education mission.

New Board Members Appointed

During the first part of this year, several members were appointed to the Board of Directors. Maggie Mui, an executive with Wells Fargo; William Kwong, a partner at Minami Lew & Tamaki, LLP; Martin Jung, a professional with Franklin Templeton Investments; and Walter Chao, a financial services professional for New York Life, were appointed to serve new terms, and each started their respective terms with vigor. Maggie immediately volunteered for the Awards Gala committee, Walter took lead in organizing the Mixers and William will head the Speak and Lead with Pride program. Please join me in welcoming these talented individuals to the Board. On a personal note, I am now an Administrative Judge for the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board and expecting our second son in January.

We look forward to seeing you at our many upcoming events and thank you for your continued support through your membership.

2004 OCA San Mateo Chapter Scholarships Awarded

Franklin M. Kang, President

On June 6, 2004, the OCA San Mateo Chapter continued its mission of education and civil rights, by awarding ten (10) scholarships to graduating seniors from local high schools. The Scholarship Awards Ceremony was held at the San Mateo Senior Center, over a lunchtime ceremony. Board members Karen Gok Lee, Martin Jung, Po Yee Ung, Arlene Chang, Maggie Mui, Amy Chung, Alden Soohoo and Wade Loo worked with members including Conrad Lee and Nora Gok to ensure the success of this event. Board Member

Armand Chau and I presented each of the student recipients with their respective awards as well as certificates recognizing their achievements from Speaker pro Tempore of the State Assembly, Leland Y. Yee. We are grateful to Board Members William Kwong, Armand Chau and Newsy Yan, for their service as judges to this year's scholarship competition.

This year, Lily Nieh and Patricia Ho were the recipients of the prestigious Wells Fargo – OCA San Mateo County Scholarships. Lily is a recent graduate of Crystal Springs High School, planning to attend UC Berkeley, while Patricia, a graduate of Menlo High School, is on track to attend Stanford in the fall. Wei Hsuan Jessie Ho, of Aragon High School, was this year's recipient of the Elizabeth Tsai Scholarship, and plans to use the scholarship to help with expenses as she attends MIT. Andrea Alabastro, who also graduated from Aragon, was awarded the Monica and Adrian Arima Scholarship, and plans to attend UCLA in the fall. Theresa Yim of Terra Nova High School was this year's recipient of the Dr. Chen Chung Ho and Mei Ly Ho Scholarship, with plans to attend UC Davis.



Lily Nieh receiving her Wells Fargo – OCA San Mateo County Scholarship from Mr. Armand Chau.



Andrea Alabastro receiving her prestigious scholarship from the Arimas.



The 2004 OCA San Mateo Scholarship Award recipients.



Scholarship recipient Theresa Yim with Dr. Ho.

Christina Tang, Xiefeng Andrew Huang, Alyssa Lu, Bonnie Chow and Mallory Chin, were each awarded Philip & Louise Wang Scholarships for 2004. Christina, a Terra Nova graduate, and Andrew, who is a graduate of San Mateo High School, will both attend UC Berkeley. Alyssa, also a graduate of San Mateo, plans to attend Santa Clara University. Finally, Bonnie, a graduate of Terra Nova, and Mallory, of South San Francisco High School, both plan to attend UC San Diego in the fall.

The on-going generosity of Philip and Louise Wang, Dr. Chen Chung Ho and Mei Ly Ho, Monica and Adrian Arima, Elizabeth Tsai and Wells Fargo, enables OCA San Mateo Chapter to continue its mission of civil rights and education. Together, we will continue our goal of *Opening Minds, Opening Doors*. •

Speak and Lead with Pride

William Kwong, Board Member

In an effort to provide some leadership and public speaking training to those high school students who might otherwise not get the chance to learn those skills, the San Mateo Chapter of OCA will implement a pilot program entitled "Speak and Lead with Pride." This program was specifically conceived to reach those students who are interested in careers that require leadership and/or public speaking skills, but do not yet have sufficient skills to have been elected to leadership positions at their high schools or be invited to leadership camps. "There are many students who want to learn these skills but, because of their cultural or socioeconomic background, won't get the chance while they are still in high school," says Franklin M. Kang, President of OCA San Mateo. Wade Loo, Membership Chair & Past President" adds, "These skills are often crucial at that age because they



Janelle Lin receiving an OCA internship check from Mr. Franklin Kang.

might affect the credentials that can be listed on a college application or the presentation at a college interview."

Scheduled to begin in mid-September, the course will teach approximately 16 students various techniques to successfully create and deliver public speeches. The course consists of eight seminars, once per week for eight weeks. Each seminar will last approximately 1.5 hours and there will be at least two guest speakers, one who is currently in public office and one who is employed in broadcast media. The course will conclude with a final competition between the course participants for a \$500 cash prize.

The course will be taught by Board member, William C. Kwong, Partner at the law firm of Minami, Lew & Tamaki, LLP. Additional information, including when applications are due, can be obtained by contacting Mr. Kwong at williamk@mltsf.com. •

**We would like to thank the generous sponsors of our
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OCA/JACL Conference

Po Yee Ung, Board Member

Each year, JACL and OCA have joined together to organize this wonderful JACL/OCA Annual Leadership Conference, sponsored by State Farm Insurance Company. The purpose of the Conference, which takes place in Washington D.C. is to train and develop Asian Pacific Americans (APA) for leadership roles within its organization and community. The program was started by JACL in 1983, and it has been working successfully with OCA since 1994. The program included meetings with a variety of staffers and members of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate and the Executive Administration, as well as other advocacy groups and the media. I was honored to represent the OCA San Mateo County Chapter by participating in this event in April. The Conference had 30 participants with 15 from each organization. Although we came from different geographic areas and backgrounds, we successfully joined together and focused on the common subjects and concerns

affecting the future of the APA community. The Conference included topical seminars, which related specifically to the Asian Pacific American experience. Most of the speakers touched on the APA interests within the context of health care, immigration reform, community development, gender equality and civil liberties. In addition to the above, we learned how to handle some of the accompanying challenges by using practical, proven strategies, and were shown demonstrated techniques and resources available to enhance the process, such as charity lobbying, voter registration, grassroots mobilization, public relations management and coalition building. We also met with policy makers and administrators who told us how ideas are processed at the highest levels of government. For me, on the whole, such an experience was, indeed, a valuable one. I enjoyed chatting with other participants on personal experiences as well as discussing their active roles in local programs. I think that whoever has the time and opportunity should step forward and make this event their own experience. •

Convention 2004, July 15-18, 2004

Amy Chung, Secretary

Convention 2004 was one not to be missed. The theme for the 26th Annual Convention was "Education and Solidarity: the Road to Empowerment." The setting was in Boston, Massachusetts and you could feel the burst of energy and excitement in the city the week before the Democratic National Convention was set to meet. Among the events were cultural workshops, health forums and a job fair.

Our own San Mateo Chapter President, Franklin M. Kang, who was recently promoted to Major in the U.S. Army (Reserve) led a breakfast talk with Captain Bruce Yamashita. Captain Yamashita was a Georgetown University Law graduate who entered the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School Program in 1989, with aspirations to serve as Judge

Advocate (JAG) Officer. Upon entering, he was subject to a stream of racial taunting then disenrolled immediately prior to graduation. The real story came out years later as he persisted to bring the truth to light that there were issues of discrimination against minorities in the Officer Candidate School for years. In 1994 he was commissioned a Captain in the Marine Corps Reserves in the House Armed Services Committee Room on Capitol Hill. Most importantly the Marine Corps policy and procedures had been changed forever in regard to the treatment of minorities.

The Boston chapter honored two honorees to receive the Chinese American Pioneer Award and they were Betty Lee Sung and General John Fugh. Congratulations to these honorees! Betty Lee Sung -author, writer, and historian realized early on that there was a lack of information on Chinese Americans and when available, they were incorrect.

Her mission in her first book, *Mountain of Gold*, was to change the perception of Chinese Americans. Sung's book was the first of its kind to provide a historical perspective on the lives of Chinese Americans and is highly regarded as a classic in the field of Asian American Studies. She went on to publish seven other books on Chinese Americans and is very active in the Chinese American community. She once talked to KL Wong and convinced him to start OCA. In my opinion, Mrs. Sung can be regarded as the mother of OCA.

Major General John Fugh the other honoree, who served until 1993, and is the first Judge Advocate General in the U.S. Army, of Chinese descent. General Fugh has been active in promoting the full participation of Chinese American in all fields in American life. He is a vice chairman of the Committee of 100, a national, non-partisan group that brings a Chinese American perspective to issues concerning Asian American and U.S. relations with China. He is also on the Executive Committee and a director of the Atlantic Council of the United States. •

OCA New Board Members and New Activities

Wade Loo, Membership Chair

Maggie Muie, William Kwong, Walter Chao, and Martin Jung have recently joined the Board. Walter has been an invaluable addition, bringing with him new ideas and networking events. Walter has spearheaded the last two mixers. The first one was held in June at the Foster City Crowne Plaza hosted with other organizations including: Oriented, Chinese Historical Society Center, Man U Imports,

Washington Mutual and Wells Fargo. Another event was held in July at Fusion in San Mateo. This event was even better attended than the first. We are excited to have these events and hope you can make it to our next one. Please be on the lookout for future networking events. If you'd like to be added to our list please contact any of the Board Members. We look forward to seeing you at our next event! •

Attendees of the OCA San Mateo Mixer



Amy and Steven



Kitty and Shirley



Jeff, Kelly, and Christine



William, Jon, and Sunshine



John, Pai, Daphne, and Wade



FUSIA Owners Annette and Steve



Bill and Leo

OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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