



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 March, 2008

Chinese New Year Parade

In Millbrae

By Ruby Chua

On Sunday, February 10th, 2008, OCA participated in the Chinese New Year parade held in downtown Millbrae. Parade participants met in the early morning to get organized and, for some, to rehearse. The parade was carefully orchestrated by Wayne Lee of Millbrae to go through a few blocks of downtown Millbrae. OCA members held up the organization's banner while handing out fortune cookies to eager children and



Young OCA members hold up banner prior to the start of parade.

others watching the parade.

In addition, there were also lion and dragon dance performances held throughout the streets. Several local organizations and politicians also made appearances at the parade. The crowd was welcoming and jovial to celebrate the Year of the Rat. The parade was followed by speakers and performances on a stage. There were also many booths of bags and accessories for people to browse through, and vendors selling food for hungry participants.

Celebrating the Year of the Mouse

By Martin Jung

It was nice to see new and familiar faces as the OCA San Mateo Chapter rang in the Lunar New Year of the Mouse. We dined at the Grand Palace Restaurant in South San Francisco, 6:00pm, February 10th, 2008. The food was delicious and



Gerrye Wong, back row, gave a slide show on her book. With Wade Loo in back too, Jacob Chu and Lisa La in front.

the entrees consisted of: Sautéed Prawns, Stir-fried steak with mixed Mushrooms, Black

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Oca invites you to a..
BUSINESS MIXER

MARCH 27th, 2008
 6:00pm-8:00pm

Yeah Bar & Chinese Cuisine
 246 Redwood Shores Parkway
 Redwood City, CA 94065

Welcomes all to join us for our spring business mixer for networking, socializing and connecting with professionals.



For further information and RSVP
 Please contact OCA at (650) 533-3065
 www.ocasanmateo.org

Congressman Tom Lantos

by Martin Jung

The morning of February 11, 2008 began with the somber details as I heard over the morning news regarding the passing of Congressman Tom Lantos. The OCA San Mateo Chapter deeply feels saddened by the loss of a friend who was a staunch supporter and will truly be missed. He made the point to take time from his busy schedule to support OCA.

Last year, during our Achievement Awards gala, he shared his passion for Asian Pacific Americans with an eloquent speech. His presence was with dignity and grace. Another example of his commitment to the Asian community occurred as he offered to place a college intern to gain experience in his office during the summer. He also made it a practice to have a Chinese American staff person in his office which our chapter had a positive connection with. Jaynry Mak is currently that representative who is a pleasure to work with.

We all know about his humble beginnings and that he was a holocaust survivor who struggled to achieve his goal to serve in Congress. A remarkable story of courage that referred to himself as "an American by choice" provided an example of a role model to the community. Prior to his service in Congress, for three decades Tom Lantos was an economics professor, an international affairs analyst for television, a consultant to businesses, and served as a senior advisor to U. S. Senators.

Mr. Lantos was a well-known supporter of the environment. He was a Democrat member of the House of Representatives from 1981 until his death. He represented California's 12 congressional districts which included part of San Francisco and San Mateo counties, shared last month that he would not seek re-election due to esophageal cancer. He devoted his political career to speaking out human rights issues. He spoke out for Tibetans to be able to keep their culture and religion in Tibet and fought for Christians who wish to practice their faith in Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

His 27 year distinguished career in Congress, he had become chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Issues that he fought for included, in 2006 protesting the Sudanese government's role of carrying out genocide in the Darfur conflict, critical comments about the War in Iraq, and his stand to block a foreign aid package by President George W. Bush to Lebanon unless Beirut agreed to deploy international troops on the border with Syria.

Message from President

20th Year!

by Newsy Yan

Upon the successful celebration of our chapter's 20th anniversary, we are now proudly welcoming 2008 as one of OCA's longest existing and largest chapters. At National level, OCA now consists of 81 chapters and affiliates, and greeted another new member, Arkansas Chapter.

At the January Meeting, the National Board reemphasized the importance of fundraising and boosting membership, which are also foremost items on our agenda for the new year.

I am proud to report that our signature program, Speak and Lead with Pride, had a great turnout last year and the 2008 classes are well underway! YOCA's reenergized themselves and concluded 2007 with a fun filled fashion show event. Looking ahead, we project 2008 to be filled with community outreach programs, fundraising events, business mixers, voters registration drive and more participation at the National level. Hope to see all of our members at the events!



Holiday Party with a Clown

Santa knows who was naughty and nice. On Sunday December 9th, our annual Holiday party was held at the San Mateo Senior Center. The Holiday spirit brings together family and friends. It is also a moment for reflection how fortunate we are to have the basic necessities while giving to the needy that are less fortunate. Brunch included Turkey and the side dishes Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes, Turkey and Mushroom Gravy, Cranberry Salad, Pecan and Mushroom Stuffing, Creamed Corn, and of course dessert.

Skates the Clown who delighted the kid's with her friendly personality and made different kinds of balloons. Talented local musician Sumi Nagasawa played a variety of Christmas songs on the piano throughout the afternoon. Kids were delighted when Santa Claus dropped by to pay a special visit and were eager to line up as he handled out presents. Each child had a smile on her/his face after sitting with Santa and receiving a gift.

Young OCA Fashion Show Hiphops!

By: Ruby Chua

On Friday evening, December 21st 2007, the Young OCA of San Mateo chapter hosted their very first event. YOCA has always maintained a constant presence in the community by volunteering with OCA members at the Second Harvest food sort and also at OCA events, such as the annual gala and picnic. With the help of various OCA board members over the course of approximately half a year, YOCA held meetings



Mistresses of ceremony Melinda Lau, left, and Ruby Chua, right, interview model Stephanie Lam, middle.

outfits and followed up with a brief interview for each model on YOCA and OCA.

After the fashion show concluded, guests were encouraged to help themselves to the available food and drinks and professional photography. The DJ spun tracks while Y O C A members mingled and recruited interested individuals. Many guests made new friends and anticipate the next event YOCA will host.



Model Victoria Souttaphonh starts her walk.

and planned a fashion show social in order to promote its name and encourage youths of the San Mateo County to join the organization.

From food preparation to location set up, all YOCA members contributed to make the night a successful learning experience. OCA public relations intern and YOCA vice-president, V i c t o r i a S o u t t a p h o n h coached YOCA members in modeling while OCA publications intern and YOCA president, Ruby Chua, along with YOCA treasurer,



Model Kim Chan walks down the runway.

Melinda Wong, co-hosted the fashion show itself. The hostesses introduced and described models'

Speak and Lead with Pride

by David Chai

Once again, the San Mateo chapter of OCA will offer its premier program, "Speak and Lead with Pride" to San Mateo County High School students who identify themselves as Asian Pacific Americans. The program is a hands-on course designed to teach leadership and the art of public speaking. It is free to those who qualify based on her/his academic standing as well as recommendation from her/his teacher or school counselor. It is an 8-week program, running on Saturday mornings, starting on January 26, 2008. Specific information as well as application forms may be downloaded by visiting our web site: <http://www.ocasanmateo.org/speakandlead>

This program is part of OCA's primary objectives of "Providing education and training, including leadership development". It is also one of OCA San Mateo's Community Outreach programs. It is taught by Board members David Chai, Walter Chao, Jeff Chien and Alden Soohoo.

Holiday Mixer at Archipelago in Burlingame

Members of Chinese American Heroes, ORIENTED.COM and the Organization of Chinese Americans (San Mateo Chapter), celebrated the holidays Dec. 27 with a mixer at Archipelago Bistro, Burlingame's new Asian fusion restaurant. The evening gave the guests a chance to recuperate from Christmas and warm up for the New Year. "This was the perfect venue for all of us who wanted to have some fun and



Martin Jung, David Chai, Jack Tien, Roger Dong, Christy Dong, Christine Hsu

also do some networking for our projects next year," said Roger Dong, Chairman, Chinese American Heroes.

Archipelago Bistro
1107 Howard Ave.
Burlingame, CA

The Organization of Chinese Americans is a national society dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. Chinese American Heroes uses its mixed media Web site to highlight the contributions of Chinese Americans with personal stories that provide role models for young people. ORIENTED.COM creates opportunities for enjoyable and useful business and social connections.

New Year's Dinner, Continued from Page One

Mushrooms over tender greens, House special roasted Chicken, Steamed Flounder, Combination appetizer platter, Crab and Fish Maw soup, Fried Calamari, Braised noodles with Mushrooms, and dessert. The restaurant manager Tony Yu, catered to our every need. There was plenty of variety and no one went home hungry.

Our local Dignitaries included: Ira Ruskin (Assemblyman from the 21st District), Jerry Hill (Supervisor San Mateo County), Gina Pappan (Mayor of Millbrae), Mary Griffin (former San Mateo County Board of Supervisors), Christine Padilla (Representative for Congressman Tom Lantos), and Edwin Chan (Representative for Supervisor Mark Church).

We had a special treat as Gerrye Wong and Carol Fong, of the Chinese Historical & Cultural Project Santa Clara County. The Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP) is based in Santa Clara County, California. Founded in 1987, as a non-profit organization to promote and preserve Chinese American and Chinese history and culture through community outreach activities.

Ms. Wong presented and shared her book, "Chinese in San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley." and then we viewed a DVD. Chinese immigrants were seeking opportunity, but they encountered unforeseen struggles. During 1866 to 1931, there were five Chinatowns in San Jose, each one destroyed by fires or unfair laws. Early Chinese in the region persevered at building railroads and levees and labored as laundrymen, cooks, grocers, field hands, factory workers, and servants.



The Chinese New Year's Parade in Millbrae brought out Faith Lee of OCA taking pictures and Arlene Chang marching behind her.

2008 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
Melodie Lew

2008 Events

April 19-20, National Board Meeting, L.A.
April 29, Healthcare talk, Foster City Library
May 10, APAHC, San Mateo Recreation Center
May 18. Scholarship Luncheon
May 19. Ruthanne Lum McCunn, "God of Luck," San Mateo Library
June 12, Mixer
July 23. Voter Registration
Jul. 31-Aug. 3, Natl Convention, Wash., DC
August 10. Picnic
Sept. 11, Mixer
Sept. 27, Achievement Awards, S.S. Francisco
Oct. 19, Natl Corporate Achievement Awards, Salt Lake City
Nov. 19, Second Harvest Food Sort
Dec. 14, Holiday party

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OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____
(please include all names if family membership)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Email _____ Occupation _____

Family, \$45

Single, \$35

Student, \$20

I am interested in helping in the following areas:

Activities

Public Affairs

Membership

Newsletter

Fundraising

Other

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

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Peninsula Chapter of San Mateo County
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San Mateo, CA 94401**