



OCA

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

Established in 1987, the OCA San Mateo Chapter is one of the four chapters in the Bay Area and one of the seven chapters in California. OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) is a national nonprofit nonpartisan, civil rights advocacy and educational organization dedicated to embracing the hopes and aspirations and advancing the social, political and economic well being of Americans of Chinese and Asian descent.

Chinese New Year's Dinner

By *Chloe Tsang*

Even the winter weather lent its way on the night of February 12th for our OCA members and guests as they arrived at the Grand Seafood Restaurant. On the second floor, Events Chair Chris Bush, Vice President Benjamin Yeung, and President Martin Jung greeted each guest with warm welcomes to the annual Chinese New Year's dinner. With everyone seated, President Martin Jung opened the celebration with a friendly commencement.

Dinner began with a bang! Traditional appetizers of jellyfish and meats generously filled the table, followed by pots of steaming hot soup. Crispy walnut shrimp, stir fried veggies mingled with tofu, marbled eggs



(left to right) OCA member Lynn Chou Jonas and Events Chair Chris Bush

knitted into bowls of rice, juicy rich chicken, and snow white fillets of fish satisfied everyone's tastes. Cheerful laughs and conversations continued ceaselessly throughout the evening.

As dessert was served, Events Chair Chris Bush announced a game of raffling. Two fateful children, Caroline and Katherine, reached into a deep bowl to draw out winners. After a light hearted game, Speak and Lead Director David Chai presented his insights into the program. He indicated that Speak and Lead is one

of OCA's most prominent programs, providing skills for youths to become future leaders of the community. Through a vigorous six-week course of public speaking, followed by a challenging contest, participants will have gained the confidence and eloquence their ideas.

With the conclusion of his speech, guest children's book author Oliver Chin was invited to share his life story and works. A graduate from Harvard and former teacher at Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep and DeAnza College Euphrat Museum's Youth Summer Program, Oliver Chin is now a father of two children and an author of a dozen contemporary Asian America books. His final presentation on his Chinese zodiac series appropriately brought the night to a close. Ending on this festive note, President Martin Jung thanked everyone for a wonderful dinner and extended his wishes of a prosperous new year.



(left to right) School Board Member; South San Francisco Unified School District Liza Normandy, Scholarship Chair Melodie Lew and Membership Chair Ivy Shen

Speak and Lead with Pride 2011

By Dr. David Chai

We have just concluded with our 7th year of teaching basic in public speaking and leadership skills to high school students with Asian heritage. We sent a flyer to all the school counselors in all the public and private high schools in San Mateo County. We followed through with these school counselors and some of the past teachers who had written recommendations letters for past students of the program. From these efforts, we received 16 highly qualified students from 6 local High Schools.

Our Speak and Lead is a six-week program that is held in a local community center for 6 Saturdays, each for two hours. It is based on the principle that learning to speak well in public requires practice and immediate

feedback. Hence, the program is designed to allow each student to practice speaking every week on a different subject, including one that is spontaneous, where the students are given the subject to prepare a speech within 5 minutes. In addition to delivering each

student's own speech, she/he is also asked to comment on her/his classmate's speech; hence requiring active listening as well as recognizing what makes a good speech, including researching on contents, organization of the contents into logical flow as well as delivery in confidence with voice projection that is appropriate with the room and audience

size. Through repeated speaking each week and receiving immediate comments from both the teachers and classmates, each will ultimately discover her/his own voice.

Our seven teaching staff are volunteers, who each has her/his professional career in technology, law or business, but more importantly, they all are or were elected public officials, including Mayor, Council members, School Board members and Judge. One class has 3 teachers while the other class has 4 teachers, bringing a diverse set of skills and personal perspective on the importance of public speaking in each class. At the end of the six weeks, each class holds a speech competition in front of three outside judges. The two best speakers from each class then go for a final speech

(left to right back row) Rod Hsiao, John Sasaki, Jeff Gee and Ken Fong
(left to right front row) Melodie Lew, Liz Lee, Liza Normandy, Gilbert Lim, Laura Liu, Marcus Niksa, Karen Chee, Raymond Tong, Carole Groom, David Chai and David Lim



competition in an open-forum environment, where the public is invited to attend. The best speaker receives an award of \$500 while the other finalists receive a \$100 award. We invited three community leaders, Dr. Ken Fong, an entrepreneur and philanthropist, Carole Groom, a San Mateo county Supervisor, and Jeff Gee, a Councilman of Redwood City to serve as the judges for this competition. We also had John Sasaki, a reporter for KTVU Channel 2 News as an inspirational speaker to share his public speaking experience as a TV reporter. This year, Raymond Tong, a junior from Mills High School won the final competition with a passionate speech on the need of better sex education in schools after learning his cousin was thrown out of her house when her father discovered that she was pregnant. The entire finalist received Certificates of Recognition from Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Assembly member Jerry Hill.

Japan Fund Raising

"The day that the Japanese earthquake and tsunami terrorized the nation and the world, my fellow YOCA officers immediately put our heads together to find a way that YOCA as a group could contribute to the disaster relief effort. We've hosted fundraisers in the past to collect money for

the aftermath victimization caused by natural disasters, but this time, we felt that YOCA could truly make a difference. With YOCA currently expanding tremendously to host the biggest group of volunteers we've ever had, we felt that the network we had built among YOCA members would be enough for a widespread collection effort across the entire Bay Area. And this we accomplished. By selling nearly 2000 wristbands and collecting donations funds in nearly 15 collection spots- schools, malls- across the Bay, we were able to raise thousands of dollars that were directly contributed to the American Red Cross program for Japan disaster relief. The most touching aspect of the entire experience was the enthusiasm and eagerness of people, many strangers, to contribute and donate to our fundraiser collection. The support and popularity that this wristband fundraiser received among the general public was overwhelmingly positive, and we as YOCA are so proud to have been able to host such a successful event that we know could change the lives of thousands of Japanese victims. Pray for Japan!"

- Rebecca Hu
Aragon High School



Mrs Tajima

"Upon hearing of the disaster in Japan, I felt sad and sympathetic, but I wanted to feel more than just that. I wanted to know that I was doing something to help. When YOCA started organizing our wristband fundraiser, I was gratified to know that I was actively doing something to relieve the situation. It was heartwarming to see the way our community responded so generously, from students offering to sell wristbands to those who wished to buy them and donate extra money. Our fundraiser has been very successful, and I'm proud of my fellow YOCA members for the work we've done to raise money for Japan."

- Katharine Pong
Mills High School

"To sum it up, the YOCA really impressed me with their energy and enthusiasm to move their projects forward. In less than a couple weeks, they raised over \$3,500. SM-OCA Board Member Benjamin Yeung helped us count the money re-

ceived. The funds were donated to the American Red Cross Japan Earthquake Pacific Tsunami Fund on 4/14/2011. Since then, we obtained new white and red wristbands and the future raised funds will be donated to JCCNC (Japanese Culture and Community Center of Northern California). With the good news of our fund raising result, Walter Chao invited us to sell the new wristbands at his company's business mixer. David Chai and Elsa Lee helped at the mixer and raised \$450. It is quite amazing with all the help we received. We are close to a total of \$1000 received for the new wristbands without even started our school campaign yet. We have more than ten high schools and a few dozen of students involved. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of them. I apologize that I cannot name all of the students that helped. At the minimum, I would like to express our thanks to the students of the following schools which participated in our first campaign: Carlmont High School, Palo Alto High School (with support of

YOCA members Alex Yang and Aaron Arima



the Town and Country shopping center), San Mateo High School, Westmoor High School, TM High School, Aragon High School, San Mateo Youth Activities Council, Mills High School, JLS Middle School, Gunn High School and Hillsdale High School. These children are the leaders of our future."

*-Monica Yeung Arima
Advisor of YOCA*

Easter Egg Hunt

By Emily Lin

On April 22, 2011, members of YOCA gathered together at the Elsa Segovia Center (a shelter home) for Easter Eggs Hunt. Monica, our advisor of YOCA, provided the Easter Eggs, brown paper bags, some fresh cut flowers, some snacks and a few gifts as prizes for the best art design.

YOCA members were divided to three groups. The first group of YOCA planted the Easter Eggs at the playground, while the second group helped children to design their art work on the paper bags. The third group helped to warm up the food and set up the dinner tables. Children had fun with YOCA members. They chased after each others and competed in finding the most Easter Eggs during

the Easter Egg Hunt. The children's parents felt happy when they heard so much laughter from their children. Later, Monica brought out the brownies she baked for the children and their parents. The children were pleased with this treat. Most exciting of the hunt was the raffle ticket drawing. YOCA members announced the lucky recipients of the awards. The children were happy when they received special gifts, of which Monica made sure everyone had at least one.

Then YOCA members helped clean up the rooms at the end of the event. When they left the center, they felt great in bringing so much happiness to the children and other people living at the Elsa Segovia Center. The members saw how their visit and the special event they arranged for the community had brought so much joy and strength. Personally, this made me feel good that I can make a difference.

Scholarship Luncheon

By Melodie Lew

On Sunday, the 01 May, San Mateo OCA presented and honoured 8 recipients with \$1000 scholarships each. Mengqian Emily Lin (UC Berkeley) and Betty Shen (UCLA) received the Newsy Yan scholarships for exceptional work under difficult



Judge Franklin Kang, OCA Board member

circumstances and being outstanding girls who possess attributes similar to Newsy Yan, our long admired past president. Veronica Shum captured the Adrian and Monica Arima academic excellence award. She will be attending UCLA in the fall. Other winners include Yen-yun Grace Chen (UC Berkeley), Catherine Tadina (Stanford University), Andres Soohoo (UC Davis), Ariel Jao (UCLA), and Carena Leung (UC Davis). We congratulate all the recipients and wish them the best in their collegiate career and beyond.

The Honourable Jeff Gee, Redwood City Councilman, offered inspirational remarks to the graduates and honourees. He focused on Never Saying No Too Quickly, Always Be True to Who You Are (you have already acquired good values), and Making a Difference (making a positive change in whatever one is doing).

Crouching Tiger Restaurant (Redwood City) provided food at a discounted price, and Chris

Bush, Bill and Arlene Chang, Ben Yeung, Franklin Kang, Alden Soohoo, Honourable Elizabeth Lee, David and Audrey Chai, and Melodie Lew assisted with planning and preparation. Ben Yeung, Armand Chau, and David Chai served on the Scholarship Committee and read the applications. Franklin Kang emceed the celebratory event and David Chai

presented the awards with a memorable remembrance of his early days coming to the United States to study at Purdue University. San Mateo OCA looks forward to supporting many more upcoming scholars in their pursuit of higher education and academic excellence.

2011 JACL and OCA Leadership Summit

The Conference was designed to introduce OCA and JACL leaders to the political process by having them meet with members of Congress, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Administration officials, government agencies, as well as with OCA's and JACL's colleagues in the Washington, DC social justice community.

Thirty-one attendees were present, with thirteen from JACL, fifteen from OCA, two from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and one from SALDEF (Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund).

Most people attending were of young age (recent college graduates), and with a lot of ideas and enthusiasm. I was encouraged to see young people getting involved.

I'd like to thank the JACL and OCA staff for their very nice work organizing and scheduling the different events.

Several presentations were given over the course of the four days. On the **first day**, Alan Kumamoto of LEAP spoke to OCA attendees on the roles and responsibilities of nonprofit boards.

On the **second day**, Linda Akutagawa, LEAP's Sr. Vice-President of Resource and Business Development, spoke to all

Jeff Gee (Keynote Speaker), Redwood City Council member.





Ivy Shen, OCA Membership Chair

attendees on the topic of effective work and communication styles. This presentation was held in the JACL office. During lunch, discussion groups were formed around the issue of bullying and its effect on Asian Pacific Americans. Immediately after lunch, three representatives from State Farm gave a talk entitled Congressional Insights Simulation, as well as a presentation of State Farm. Dinner was with Former Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta. He told us the incredible story of the day of 9/11. The Federal Aviation Administration declared all planes must be grounded, an order that had never before been implemented. 5,000 commercial flights were grounded within three hours with an estimated one million passengers.

On the **third day**, we all attended a White House briefing in the morning. Speakers included the following members of the White House Office of Public Engagement: Jon Carson, Director, Bryan Jung, Director of Special Projects, and William Jawando, Associate Director, Ronnie Chatterji, Senior Economist from the White House Council on Eco-

nomics Advisors, and Shin Inouye, Director of Specialty Media from the White House Office of Communications. The afternoon presentation was entitled “Responding to Bias, Bullies, and Mean Girls: New Technology and New Tactics.” Speakers included Amy Berman from the Department of Justice, Michael Lieberman with the Anti-Defamation League, and Mou Khan from South Asian Americans Leading Together. In the late afternoon we visited the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. Dinner was with Miya Saika Chen, Advisor on Community Engagement with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI).

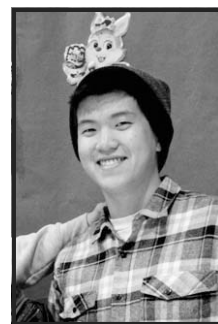
Our fourth and **final day** together included a meeting with members of Congress. I was team up with other OCA and JACL members from California to meet with Congressman Jim Costa from District 20 in California. (Mr. Jim Costa was not in the office, so we met his Rep. Mr. Nishioki.) Our mission was to bring a few other issues that OCA and JACL focus on. They are Immigration and End to Racial Profiling Act of 2010. In May 2007 Jim Costa voted Yes on the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and in April 2009 he voted Yes on expanding the definition of hate crimes and strengthening enforcement of hate crime laws. He also voted Yes on the DREAM Act in December 2010.

I really appreciated the opportunity to attend this conference. These 4 days of meetings have given me a deep understanding of the value of OCA and the importance of what OCA does for Asian Pacific Americans in the USA.

“Where are they now?”

“I’m currently a Biology major at the University of California, Los Angeles. The classes are strenuous and time management is difficult, but this last quarter and a half of college has been an incredibly rewarding experience. It’s hard to believe that I’m already 1/12 finished with my college career (hopefully!)”

-Mark Chong, Intern 2008



“I am attending University of California Riverside majoring in Business Administration and minoring in journalism. I plan to graduate in two semesters. My current projects coming



up in May that I am extremely stoked for is working with Luke who styled celebrities such as Kanye West, Kim Kardashian, Pink and etc. to name a few. He will teach me and a few others the business side of the fashion industry. I wake up early to learn new things everyday. My mind is like a sponge. I try to soak up every little bit of information because you never know when you'd need it. College is the best thing that's ever happened to me."

-Tori Souttaphonh, Intern 2008



"I am a junior at Stanford University studying economics. I took fall quarter off from school to work

in Shanghai at the World Expo. In the summer, I will be consulting with PwC Advisory. College has been a challenging and wondrous time of my life. I have pushed myself to have moral imagination and moral courage to invent my own life. Courage, I realize, fluctuates, but I have learned always to remember that it can be rediscovered."

*-Jasmine Nachtigall,
Scholarship winner 2008*

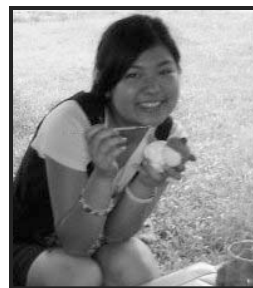
"I am currently a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Major at



University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). So far, college has had it's twists and turns. It's exciting and stressful at the same time. In the end, I love it because it gives you insight of what you could be doing as your career."

*-Judy Viduya,
Scholarship winner 2009*

"I am a second-year student studying Integrative Biology at University of California, Berkeley. Other than taking many science classes, my extracurricular activity includes volunteering at the University Health Care center since I am a pre-medical student. I hope to graduate in



Spring 2013 and take the MCAT to pursue my goal of becoming a physician."

*-Swe Tun,
Scholarship winner 2009*

"I am currently in my second year at SDSU, majoring in Accounting. I joined a national service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega which has allowed me to grow even more as a person and be a

leader on campus and in the community. I'm loving my experience at SDSU and everything that they have to offer!"

*-Lindsay Owyang,
Scholarship winner 2009*



"My name is David and I'm a sophomore studying Earth & Environmental Engineering at Columbia University School of Engineering & Applied Sciences. College has been really exciting so far, learning a lot from lectures but I think more importantly from peers and various events for this intellectual community that college life provides in order to enrich our education. The resources and opportunities that lie before you in college is really quite astounding and I really wish I had more than four years to try out all those opportunities. If I had one advice for incoming students, it's to try out everything and experience the world you couldn't have seen back in high school."

*-David Oh,
Scholarship winner 2009*



OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Email _____ Occupation _____

Membership ___ Family, \$50 ___ Individual, \$40 ___ Student, \$25

I am interested in helping in the following areas:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| ___ Activities | ___ Public Affairs | ___ Membership |
| ___ Newsletter | ___ Fundraising | ___ Other |

Please submit a completed application to the address below

Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc.
Peninsula Chapter of San Mateo County
P.O. Box 218
San Mateo, CA 94401

TO: