



# OCA

Embracing the hopes and aspirations of Chinese and Asian Pacific Americans



## President's Message by Melodie Lew

Happy New Year! We hope the Lunar New Year of the Horse brings good fortune, strength, and good health to you and your families. San Mateo OCA has begun the new year with three events so far. We began the year with a dinner at the Grand Seafood Palace Restaurant and participated in Westfield Valley Fair Mall's February 8th Lunar New Year festivities. Our signature Speak and Lead Program also had its first meeting and is off to a good start.

These activities and others planned for this year do not magically occur—we need your help to make them happen. When the call goes out for assistance in these programs, please offer to lend a hand. It takes a large group of people to make our events successful. I look forward to seeing you at our Chapter activities during the 2014 year.

Enjoy this edition of our quarterly newsletter written by our local interns, Beverlyn Law

from Hillsdale High School and Melissa Wun from Burlingame High School. Your support of OCA San Mateo Chapter keeps our interns and other youth programs strong. Please renew your San Mateo Chapter OCA membership or join if you have not done so. Thank you.

Cheers!

Melodie Lew

## 26th Annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala

*By Beverlyn Law*

September 14, 2013 was a beautiful and grand evening when the San Mateo County Chapter of OCA (SMOCA) hosted its Annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala at the elegant



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Green Hills Country Club. SMOCA acknowledged and celebrated its supporters with this year's theme, Diverse Contributions, Lighting the Way. State Senator Jerry Hill, Charlie Chin, and Professor Bill Hing were recognized and honored for their efforts, contributions, and significant impact in the Asian Pacific American community.

The evening was full of delight and joy



with David Louie and Leyla Gulen emceeding the night. To begin the evening, cocktail and delicious hors d'œuvres were served. Members and guests enjoyed classical music performed by the Mills High School Cadet String Quartet, which was followed by an exquisite meal and passionate speeches given by members of San Mateo and OCA community. The night was eventful and exciting with a silent auction offering beautiful works of photography and art along with a suspenseful raffle offering a variety of prizes.

Guests at the gala were introduced to SMOCA's youth group, YOCA. A YOCA Officer gave a speech outlining the group's recent achievements in helping the community, from volunteering at a local food bank, to participating in cancer fundraising efforts, and promoting the Asian culture through its events. SMOCA's signature Speak and Lead with Pride program continued to impress guests and members with an update of achievements in preparing and inspiring tomorrow's leaders by teaching the youth valuable public speaking skills. Both these programs have made a huge impact in our community and also greatly impact the students' futures. (continued)





SMOCA's 26th Annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala was a well-attended and successful night. Everyone felt renewed passion for OCA's mission in inspiring the youth and helping the Asian Pacific American community. SMOCA cannot succeed alone; we need the continuing support of members, family, and friends not only through the good and joyous times but also through the challenging mo-

ments. SMOCA would like to thank everyone that attended this event and for their continuous support. Without your participation and financial support, YOCA, the college scholarship program, the high school internship program, Speak and Lead with Pride, and other community programs would not have been possible. Thank you all; we look forward to seeing you on October 5, 2014 for our 2014 Gala!



# A Day in the Life of The Honorable Jerry Hill

By *Melissa Wun*

On Friday, November 22, 2013, SMOCA's Publications intern, Beverlyn Law, and Public Relations intern, Melissa Wun, were given a great opportunity to get a glimpse of California State Senator Jerry Hill's typical day in life and past experiences. Senator Hill is an extremely busy man, between running from committee to committee to vote on bills in Sacramento, having meetings with the head superintendents of schools of the Silicon Valley, meeting with multiple rotary clubs, and attending receptions at night; he rarely has a moment to rest. During busy times he could schedule up to 18 to 19 meetings a day. Although he has little free time, Senator Hill still tries his best to do the things he loves, like spending time with his family, reading, exercising; he enjoys his 4 mile runs, and most of all, practicing his hobby of being a magician.

When asked to share some of his role models and inspirations that brought him to his current position, Senator Hill, expressed his gratitude towards his parents especially his father. He also shared what his favorite role model, Winston Churchill, taught him, and that was always to have courage.



Senator Hill also shared with the interns a few of his future goals and issues he would like to tackle. He has a great passion to improve education for children, and to preserve the health of children, and to prevent drunk driving. For the education portion of his goals, he is working to fund transitional kindergarten fully, with the hope that children adding an extra year early in their learning will become mentally and socially ready for kindergarten. Another issue that concerns Senator Hill is the flame retardants in furniture, which may cause cancer in young children while they play. He also worries about fire resistant components in the insulation from walls. Recalling the time when he learned of a car accident near San Mateo that involved the death of a young man, Senator Hill shared how this catastrophic event affected his decision to focus more on preventing drunk driving.

Senator Hill also spoke of lessons he learned in his transition from high school to college. He built an outstanding academic record at Balboa High School in San Francisco, where he was student body president and a member of the CSF honors society. He was accepted at UC Berkeley, where he planned to be pre-med, but he flunked his first year. He was encouraged to attend College of San Mateo and attempt to raise his GPA to 2.0 in one semester. When he petitioned UC Berkeley, the dean graciously allowed him two semesters to get his grades up. Through this ordeal, Senator Hill learned that plans can always change, and most important of all, never to give up.

## Annual Summer Picnic

*By Beverlyn Law*

OCA's annual summer picnic was yet another successful event! Families came to San Mateo Central Park to relax and catch up with each other about their summer adventures. August 10th was a delightful and warm sunny day with a crisp summer breeze. Hot dogs and hamburgers were grilled and were served along with an array of desserts and snacks. The children played in the park together. Not only did everyone enjoy the great food, but everyone had a wonderful time renewing ties with one another. Without a doubt, OCA's annual picnic was an entertaining and joyous event!



## Highlights of YOCA

*By Beverlyn Law*

The annual YOCA Gala was a successful night full of delicious food and fun games. YOCA has accomplished a lot in 2013, and we would like to give a special thanks to Monica Yeung Arima for a great year. We will miss you.

The first YOCA Club was established at Hillsdale High School, and there will be more volunteering events to be announced on the Facebook page soon! Our group has gained many new members in the past few months; let's continue to recruit more!



## Getting Into the Holiday Spirit

*By Beverlyn Law*

Although Saturday, December 7th was a cold winter day, it was filled with the happiness and joys of the holiday season. To start off the day, OCA and YOCA volunteers gathered at Second Harvest Food Bank in the morning to help with a holiday food sort. The volunteers were given the task of examining, packaging, and bagging the canned goods. A significant proportion of the people in our community receive food from Second Harvest and with that in mind, everyone felt happy that they were able to make a difference for the community. Thank you to all those who volunteered.



After a great day of volunteering came the holiday luncheon at Crouching Tiger. The holiday spirit was present as OCA members were happy to be reacquainted with each other. Members were served an array of delicious plates from pot stickers to spicy kung pao chicken to chow mein. However, it was not the wonderful food that made the luncheon unforgettable, it was the new friends and memories that were made.

## Researching and Finding Your Past

*By Leonard D. Chan*

In this article, I'll give you an idea about how to begin your family history research. Sometimes the person you set out to find leads to other interesting things that you may never have known. However, other times your search could lead to a dead end.

The National Archives ([archives.gov/research](http://archives.gov/research)) is your best starting point for figuring out how to conduct your research with the help of the National Archives' archivists and private researchers, like myself. The National Archives collects and preserves old records from federal government agencies. If members of your family had some dealing with the federal government, then there's a chance that some information can be found about them at the National Archives. Immigration, court, selective service, and census records are good sources of genealogical information that may be saved at the National Archives.

In doing your homework, pay particular attention to events and activities that could lead to a paper trail. For example, if the person that you are searching for immigrated to the United States, make notes on when he or she arrived and the place of entry. People that arrived by ship were usually listed in passenger lists. Some lists from the early 1800s have even been preserved. Passenger lists for Chinese arriving after the 1882 Exclusion Act (until its repeal in 1943) are well kept.

I've found my own family research to be rewarding. When we learned history in school, for most of us, it was hard to see how it related to us personally. Now that I have a better grasp of my own family's history, it's given me new found interest in knowing as much as I can about the past. Even though my ancestors may not have any connection to the American Civil War, I can now imagine where they were when it happened.

*To view the full article please visit [ocasanmateo.org](http://ocasanmateo.org)*

### **Membership Application / Renewal Form**

Membership is open to all U.S. citizens or permanent residents at least 18 years of age, except agents of foreign governments. Members pay annual dues, of which more than half of the members' dues go to OCA National for programs, etc. The balance of the dues remains in the Chapter and provides some of the funding to operate the Chapter and its activities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \$50; Single Membership \$40; Student Membership \$10

Please make your check payable to:

OCA- San Mateo PO Box 218 San Mateo, CA 94401

\*Contributions may be tax deductible as provided by law.

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