

***President's Message –
Spring 2019 SMOCA Newsletter***

Gung Hay Fat Choy – Happy New Year! A lot has happened with OCA San Mateo since our last newsletter.

We enjoyed our annual summer picnic at San Mateo Central Park in August with great food thanks to our volunteers and the terrific BBQ from our new pit boss Daniel Young. Everyone enjoyed the perfectly prepared hamburgers and hot dogs in the beautiful summer weather. I was happy to see both old friends and new members getting together.



We launched our newest Young OCA event in September at UC Berkeley. Build, Breakthrough, & Believe (B3) creates a bridge between those transitioning from education and moving on to careers, by hearing from young adults who have recently faced those challenges. David Latt, Raymond Tong, Jennifer Kao, Ashley Wu, Richard So, and Edmond Liang were part of our team that led a very successful event with a big turnout from surrounding high schools, community colleges, and universities. Students were eager to hear stories of how others navigated difficult educational and career choices, and how unexplored paths could be important.

Our fundraising gala was successful once again. Our honorees Jennie Lew and Cary Fong have devoted their lives to building community and continue as outstanding community leads. I'd like to thank David Louie of ABC7 News and Malissa Netane-Jones of the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, and all our volunteers for making putting some fun in the fundraising. Thanks to our members' generosity, we received generous support for our local youth programs.

Our next event is the Scholarship Awards Luncheon on April 28, 2019 where we give our annual awards to local graduating high school seniors whom we recognize for their academic excellence, community service and financial need. We hope you can join us.

We'll keep you posted on the details of our annual summer picnic and other events and we are happy to welcome new members, thank our Board, volunteers and faithful members.

Chris Bush

San Mateo OCA Annual Picnic

By Carrie Ho

The OCA San Mateo County Chapter (SMOCA) held its annual picnic on August 25, 2018 at San Mateo Central Park. Over thirty members joined the gathering to enjoy the good food and great company on a hot day. The event started with opening remarks from our Chapter President Chris Bush, who announced the launch of the “B3” program and new plans for the chapter this year.

SMOCA was proud to have David Latt introduce the Build, Breakthrough & Believe (B3) program for aspiring Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) professionals, interested in taking their personal and professional goals to the next level through leadership development and networking.

The first B3 event was held at University of California, Berkeley, Dwinelle Hall. The goal of this program is to provide relevant professional development, peer networking, and mentoring to aspiring AAPI professionals.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Bush about the need for increased membership and an overview of upcoming events. A big thanks to all that came to the picnic and the SMOCA members and volunteers that prepared and organized this day!



OCA's B3: Build, Breakthrough, and Believe

By: Carrie Ho

OCA- Bay Area B3 held its first seminar at the University of California, Berkeley, Dwinelle Hall. Initially launched in 2009, Build, Breakthrough & Believe (B3) is a professional and leadership program for aspiring Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) professionals interested in taking their personal and professional goals to the next level through leadership development and networking.



The goal of this program is to provide professional development, peer networking, and mentoring to aspiring AAPI professionals. Build, Breakthrough & Believe is the three-word mantra of the B3 program and these words are used as building blocks for the event agenda. Workshops and seminar topics ranged from personal branding to corporate success tactics and strategies.



The event also featured many guest speakers. Alan Wang, the founder of Newsworthy Media, shared his knowledge and experiences about being new to the industry. Assembly Member Rob Bonta also shared his story, speaking about his life and career, and the importance of strong networking skills. OCA member Richard So also gave a keynote speech about the importance of developing and maintaining well established networks throughout our lives. He noted that the easiest way to expand your network is to build relationships with people you already know, including family, friends, classmates, colleagues, and acquaintances. Doing so may pay you back throughout the course of your career. He emphasized that networking will help you develop and improve your skill set, stay on top of the latest trends in your industry, keep a pulse on the job market, meet prospective mentors and clients, and gain access to necessary resources that will foster your career development.



The OCA B3 Planning Committee, which included the San Mateo, San Francisco, and East Bay Chapters, organized and planned the event. Thank you to all the organizers, and participants for coming!

OCA Annual Gala

By: Lilian Chang

OCA San Mateo held its 30th Annual Awards Gala and Fundraiser at *Dominic's at Oyster Point*. This annual event is the OCA San Mateo's biggest fundraising event. Proceeds from the Gala enable programs such as Speak and Lead with Pride, as well as other projects that give back to the community. Over 100 guests attended, including honorees Jenny Lew and Carry Fong. Past scholarship recipients, past Speak and Lead participants, and past presidents were also recognized at the Gala. With this year's theme "Individuals Who Inspire" in mind, the venue was decorated with white and gold all around.

Guests mingled with one another as they arrived, and had ample time to renew ties before taking their seats for the program. Interns collected donations and distributed tickets for chances to win a variety of door prizes. Guests eagerly visited the silent auction tables to bid on Monster headphones, Bluetooth speakers, a variety of books, a Warrior's jersey, jewelry, a bottle of Riesling, tickets to the Chinese Historical Society, and many other displayed items. Bidders competed with one another throughout the evening, until the winners were announced at the end of the gala.

Once everyone settled at their assigned tables, the evening began with opening remarks by Chapter President Chris Bush. Thereafter, longtime supporter, ABC7 News Reporter David Louie and Malissa Netane-Jones of the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center expertly emceed the evening. Special guests for the evening included San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Lee, San Mateo County Supervisors David J. Canepa, Redwood City Councilman Jeff Gee, a Field Representative to State Senator Jerry Hill, past presidents, and past honorees. Dinner was set and displayed buffet style. Guests enjoyed a variety of items expertly prepared by the chef. During dinner, additional door prizes were drawn by the interns. Door prizes such as handmade soaps, headphones, and gift cards were awarded throughout the evening.

Speak and Lead alumni also gave special recognition to David Chai, for his guidance and dedication to the program. Dr. Chai recently retired as the Lead Teacher. As the evening continued, the 2018 honorees were welcomed to the stage. Jennie Lew was recognized for her video production workshops for non-profit organizations and teenagers. Her work includes a documentary that focused attention on the fight for affirmative action in Boston's construction industry and *Separate Lives, Broken Dreams*, a saga of Chinese immigration. The second recipient, Cary Fong, volunteered at Asian Inc., advising minority entrepreneurs. He also organized and trained minorities for construction jobs. Upon returning to San Francisco, he became Legislative Assistant to San Francisco's first elected Chinese-American Supervisor Gordon Lau, then served as Treasurer of the San Francisco Telecommunication Commission, and as a member of the Finance Committee for Self Help for the Elderly.

One of the most anticipated parts of the evening, the live auction, commenced after dinner. The highest donor was awarded an exclusive tour of the ABC7 News studio. Thank you to all the volunteers and members who have contributed to planning the event!

