



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 July, 2007

Scholarships Awarded for 2007

Dr. Alden Soohoo, Chairman of the Chapter's Scholarship Committee, announced 11 scholarship winners for 2007. The Philip & Louise Wang Scholarship was awarded to students demonstrating Excellence in Academics and Community Service:

- Pin Yu Chen-San Mateo High School
- Ariel Chu-Aragon High School
- Joseph Lee-Mills High School
- Stanley Quan-San Mateo High School
- Jeffrey Shu-Aragon High School

The Monica & Adrian Arima Scholarship was awarded to students demonstrating high achievement in Community Service:

- Minh Oh-Mills High School

The Dr. Chen Chung Ho & Mei Ly Ho Scholarship was awarded to students demonstrating Excellence in Academics and Community Service.

- Yvonne Wen-Burlingame High School

The Elizabeth Tsai Scholarship was awarded to students demonstrating Excellence in Academics and Community Service.

- Derek Tam-El Camino High School

The Wells Fargo~OCA San Mateo Scholarship was awarded to students demonstrating Leadership and profound Excellence in Academics and Community Service:

- Justine Koo Drennan-Crystal Springs Uplands High School
- Louise Lao-Aragon High School
- Scott Wun-Burlingame High School

The students prevailed in a very competitive field of applicants and are heartily congratulated by OCA San Mateo County.



Scholarship Winners with Monica Arima, center, and Newsy Yan, right.

Upcoming Events

OCA July Business Mixer

Thursday, **July 19** at 5-7 PM
 Yeah! Bar and Chinese Cuisine
 246 Redwood Shores Blvd.

Redwood City, CA

Phone: (650) 987-6000

Meet people, mingle, munch!

OCA Summer Picnic

With the Hong Kong Schools Alumni Association

In San Mateo's Central Park
 50 E. 5th Avenue
 San Mateo, CA 94010

Sunday, August 12

12:00-3:00pm

Hawaiian style barbeque and soft drinks!
 Admission: Adults \$10, Kids 6 years old and younger: Free!

For more information, please call
 (650) 533-3065 for OCA or
 (415) 392-0645 for the Hong Kong Schools Alumni Association's Gayle Chan

Celebrating Our 20th Anniversary
 OCA San Mateo Chapter Presents

Achievement Awards Gala

Honoring Asian Pacific Americans
 Shaping the Future

Sat., Sept. 15, 2007. 6 p.m.

South San Francisco Conference Center
 255 S. Airport Blvd., South S.F., CA 94080

info: www.ocasanmateo.org

Black tie optional

20th Year!

by Newsy Yan

It is hard to believe that we are heading into the second half of 2007!

Since the well-attended Chinese New Year banquet in early March, the chapter concluded a series of successful programs and events—Speak and Lead Program in March, business mixer in April at Liquid Sushi, Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration in San Mateo Recreation Center, Scholarship Luncheon and Burlingame Centennial Parade. What a pleasure it has been for our chapter to congratulate the “Speak and Lead” winners, award 11 scholarships recipients and welcome 30 new family and individual members.

None of these would be possible without the support of our benefactors Phil & Louise Wang, Monica & Adrian Arima, Dr. Chen Chung Ho and Mei Ly Ho, Elizabeth Tsai and Wells Fargo Bank. Also, we truly appreciate the collaboration of other organizations like the San Mateo JACL, Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc., Asian American Books and Kei-Lun Martial Art.

Looking ahead, there will be book signing, picnic, another mixer and voter’s registration drive events. However, nothing tops the largest and most extravagant event of our chapter: The Annual APA Achievement Awards Gala set for September 15, 2007. This year, we are celebrating our 20th anniversary!

Have a wonderful summer and hope to see you at our Gala!



Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Vote

by Edwin Chan

2008 will be a busy election year since Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation to move the presidential primary to the coming February. In addition, there are other elections—congressional, state wide, and at local level—in June along with the final presidential election in November of 2008. As you see more political TV commercials and receives political mailers, ask yourself how these elected offices, state initiatives and local measures will impact you and your family. It doesn’t matter if you vote Democrat, Republican, Green, Libertarian or else. The important thing is that we, as Asian Pacific Americans, exercise our rights in a democracy and voice our opinions.

The general perception is that Asians don’t vote and are not active in the political spectrum. In 2005, 23.4% of the population in San Mateo County was counted as Asians. That is a quarter of the entire population of 705,499. Sadly enough, statistics show Asians have a low voter turnout. In order to change that, we have to encourage those in our community to not only register to vote, but to actually do it on Election Day. OCA San Mateo Chapter is willing to help. Feel free to contact us with your questions and concerns at ocasanmateo@yahoo.com, or visit the official election website of San Mateo County at <http://www.shapethefuture.org>

Now, here are the top ten reasons you should vote!

10. You get a cool sticker to show you voted
9. Gives you the right to complain
8. A break from your normal work day
7. Because California has the biggest electoral votes at 55
6. Every vote counts
5. Easy to register to vote and get absentee ballots
4. Special interests would prefer you didn’t vote
3. Ballots are bilingual in English and Chinese
2. Participate in democracy
1. Tear down the stereotype that Asians do not vote

Edwin Chan is on the staff of Congressman Tom Lantos.

OCA Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

by Martin Jung

This year OCA had the pleasure of co-hosting the Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration in San Mateo. Our goal was to let people know about OCA. Who we are, what we have done, and the qualities we have to offer the community. The Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration was the perfect opportunity to reach out and bring awareness to young, old, and various nationalities. The purpose was to educate and share the diversity of the Asian culture while at the same time offering entertainment, arts and crafts, Asian food and drinks, raffles, and promoting the local downtown San Mateo businesses.

It was a collaborative effort by our OCA San Mateo Chapter, Asian American Curriculum Project, Inc, (Asian American Books), San Mateo JACL, and the Downtown San Mateo Association. On Saturday, May 12th, from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., held at the San Mateo Recreation Center.



J-Town Hui Ukulele

Takahashi Market kept hungry stomachs filled and content. Eva Hsu, Reporter for Sing Tao Newspapers, gathered memorable quotes regarding the significance of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month began as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week in May 1979. Our Chapter's co-founder, Hayden Lee, was executive director of OCA then and was at the White House signing on Oct. 2, 1978, when President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution - public law 95-419. It became a permanent month-long event in May, 1993.

The purpose of the law was to honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans and to recognize their contributions to the U.S. May was selected because of two significant events in history: on May 7, 1843, Nakhama Manjiro (aka: John Mung or John Manjiro) became the first Japanese immigrant to arrive in the United States and on May 10, 1869, the transcontinental railroad was completed in large measure by Chinese laborers.

On the sunny day, the celebration began with Geraldine Golveo, a local businesswoman, singing the Star Spangled Banner. Steve Okamoto, San Mateo JACL's Co-President welcomed everyone. The introduction of our guest host, Frances Dinglasan, television personality of ABC7, did a fantastic job with her vivacious personality and smile. The Honorable Jack Matthews, Mayor of San Mateo, shared his thoughts with us. Next was Anthony Musich, President of

the Downtown San Mateo Association, and the best was saved for last as speeches were capped off with the Hon. Leland Yee, State Senator.

Boy Scouts fired off a canon and the San Mateo Buddhist Temple Taiko kept the emotions flowing with their drumbeat. Dan Chan the Magic Man delighted the audience and J-Town Hui with Ka'ala Carmack filled us with happiness with their ukuleles and singing. Musician and storyteller Charlie Chin captured our attention with his



Performer Charlie Chin

folktale performance. The South Bay Chinese Orchestra gave people an appreciation of Chinese Classical music. Hiyas Philippine Folk Dance Company presented Filipino folk dance music in its most traditional form.

Exhibits included Ami's Oriental Art-makers of quality calligraphy items made to order, Beautiful Things-handmade fabric jewelry designs by Juneko Sugihara, Big Sumo T-shirts, Kayoko Design-Yuzen-shi paper jewelry with stone and precious metals, Patricia Jeong-handmade fabric design crafts, Pomegranate Designs-by Michele Yamagama framed Asian Art, Sachiko Fashion Collection-brought her fashionable women's clothing designs, and Soo Ling Designs-custom designed jewelry. William Poy Lee, author of "The Eighth Promise," made a special guest appearance. Exhibits by the National Archives, The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, and the Police Cadets made sure everyone behaved themselves.

business card ad for liquid sushi
goes here

OCA National Convention

From Thursday, June 28, to Sunday, July 1, the annual OCA National Convention took place in the sunny city of Sacramento. The three 2006-07 interns ended their term by volunteering at the convention, while meeting with members of other chapters and attending educational courses regarding college. In addition, we went to the Chapter Awards luncheon and volunteered at the gala on Saturday night.

Louise Lao said “It was a great opportunity to meet other interns and various people involved with OCA. Between the convention’s many activities was the youth luncheon. Actor Roger Fan of Annapolis and Better Luck Tomorrow was the guest speaker. I enjoyed hearing about how he came to be an actor instead of following the career paths that had been imposed upon him since childhood. It was refreshing to hear a story about how someone could succeed doing what he enjoyed, regardless of risks or the expectations of others. Roger shared the success story of Justin Lin, a movie director who had insisted upon having more Asian Americans in his movies. I was glad to hear that there are many people fighting to have more Asian Americans in the media playing normal roles, not only those that portray them as stereotypes.”

Thinking back on the convention, publications intern, Ruby Chua said, “Being a part of the OCA National Convention made me more aware of the importance of the organization in its role of breaking negative Asian stereotypes. It was also a pleasant experience to be able to meet people of my age who shared the same interests and goals. Throughout the whole trip, helping out and attending the gala was a definite highlight.

auction before having various OCA members we listened to the invited theme of ‘Lighting the it’s important to work improving racial generation that will be learning from history. It everyone come together national interns were through their live collection was also

Technology intern, the exhibit hall, booths

were set up for the Job Fair. Companies and organizations booths lined across the room, presenting recruitment information for job seekers. These booths hosted a variety of organizations including insurance companies, the police force, intelligence organizations, postal services, and much more. While people were visiting the booths, there were events at the center of the room on a stage. These events ranged from traditional dances to raffles. At the College Day event, there was a presentation about the importance of voting in the Asian community. The speaker encouraged the attendees to represent their community by voting. The next speaker discussed the problem of the Asian American identity. He pointed out that grouping together politically is effective, but often the Asian American identity conflicts with the diverse cultures of different Asian races. He continues talking about affirmative action in colleges, which exclude

Asian Americans as a minority, without considering the minority Asian groups such as Pacific Islanders and Southeast Asian countries.” Interns Louise and Ruby also accompanied board members Newsy Yan, Martin Jung, and Alden Soohoo to the closing National Board meeting on Sunday after three packed days of informative sessions. It was an eye-opening experience to learn how the organization operated together as one board instead of individual chapters. Overall, the convention concluded pleasantly, leaving many excited for next year’s in Washington D.C.



Newsy Yan, left, receives a Chapter award at the Convention from National President Ginny Gong, 2nd from left.

Louise and I set up for the silent the chance of being introduced to across the nation. Later in the evening, speakers elaborate on the inspiring Torch for the Next Generation’. While towards preventing hate crimes and relationships, it truly is the next the ones keeping the peace and was amazing to see everything and that night. The immense support the able to generate from the crowd auction of Corky Lee’s unique photo impressive.”

Stephanie Kurniawan recounted: “In



Franklin Kang, Clarissa Kang, Newsy Yan, Lisa La, Jacob Chu, Louise Lao, Ruby Chua, Wade Loo, Alden Soohoo

Our Experiences After One Year

With three intern positions, OCA San Mateo has been offering high school students of the area with opportunities to give back to their community. This past year's interns included senior Louise Lao of Aragon High, junior Ruby Chua of Hillsdale High and sophomore Stephanie Kurniawan of Carlmont High. From attending monthly board meetings to volunteering at OCA-sponsored events, all three demonstrated their skills of working with others and were able to represent the organization with pride.

An intern for two years, Louise Lao said, "My experience with OCA this year was both rewarding and fun. From helping with community events such as the Wine Walk and the Burlingame Centennial Parade to doing typical intern duties, I have learned a great deal. I have really enjoyed being involved with OCA and I am happy to have served an organization that not only helps with Asian American issues, but with aspects of the Peninsula community as well, such as voter registration. OCA San Mateo is also an exceptional organization for its involvement with youth through its education through Speak and Lead and its scholarships, both of which I have received. I would like to thank OCA for the opportunity to be an intern and I look forward to being involved in the future."

Also an intern for two years, Ruby Chua said, "From my two years with OCA, I've learned how to work better with others and the importance of giving back to our community. My experience has helped me in other aspects of life, such as school and an internship with Senator Leland Yee. OCA has also given me the chance to be a part of YOCA and other events involving Asian Americans of the area. It has also made me more aware of occurrences in our society regarding racial discrimination and when it is necessary to speak up against such incidences. Being an intern gave me the chance to serve our community through helping at events such as the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration and Candidates' Night. I'm also thankful for participating in the Speak and Lead program that helped improve my presentation skills."



Ruby Chua

After a year as the technology intern, Stephanie Kurniawan said, "Being an intern for the OCA was a rewarding experience, as I learned new skills regarding website construction. As the technology intern, I was expected to be proficient in a wide range of technological skills, and often I found I did not know much. However this expectation of me encouraged me to work harder and acquire these skills. From personal trial

error, and help from OCA members and my parents, I have now gained more skills in that area. Outside of my responsibilities as an intern, I also learned much about the people behind the OCA and the work and effort put into it." All three interns would like to express their gratitude to the board for all the guidance and advice they have offered.

2007-08 Interns

As this year's OCA San Mateo internship concludes in July, the board is glad to welcome two new interns, seniors Charles Zhang and Victoria Souttaphonh of Carlmont High. Along with third-year intern senior Ruby Chua of Hillsdale High; they look forward to a year of teamwork and cooperation on various projects.

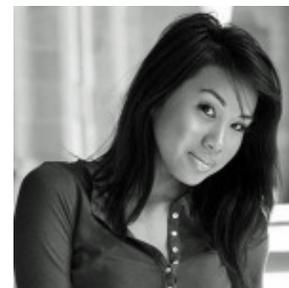
Charles Zhang is the technology intern and lives in Redwood Shores. He participates in various school activities such as Math Club, California Scholarship Federation, Quiz Team, and Varsity Badminton. He also founded the Military History Club, in which members learn about military history and watch war movies. In his free time, Charles enjoys reading about assorted topics, extending from science to history, meeting with friends, building models, playing badminton, and playing video games.



Charles Zhang

Publication intern Ruby Chua has interests in both journalism and fashion. She is the Editor-in-Chief for both her yearbook and newspaper staffs and dedicates a lot of her time to both. In addition to an internship with OCA San Mateo, Ruby also volunteer interns at State Senator Leland Yee's district office. When she isn't busy, Ruby enjoys shopping, going to the movies with friends, and reading the latest fashion magazines. She also presides over the Awareness Against Animal Abuse club in school in an effort to prevent animal cruelty.

Victoria Souttaphonh, public relations intern, is an average girl who grew up in a small and conventional town in California. She was raised by a conservative family who values traditions and witnessed her parents' hard struggle in life. It prompted her to set goals and feel confident to tackle any future obstacles that she may encounter. Having good work ethics, professionalism, intelligence, sophistication and a vivid personality is what she thinks each individual should attain to be successful. Victoria also takes problems as motivational factors to achieving her aspirations.



Victoria Souttaphonh

National OCA News: Hate Crimes Legislation Passed by House

House Passes Hate Crimes Prevention Legislation

May 4, 2007 - The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act yesterday. The legislation will extend protected classes under the existing law to include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and disability. It will also provide more resources to federal and state law enforcement officials to investigate hate crimes.

The bill still has many opponents in the Senate and White House, and the White House issued a statement earlier yesterday saying that if the bill were to be "presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill."

NY OCA Chapters Fight Offensive Programming

May 7, 2007 - New York area chapters of OCA led a coalition of organizations Friday to meet with representatives from CBS Radio and New York radio station WFNY 92.3 FM to express their concerns about a segment recently aired on that station's morning show, "The Dog House with JV and Elvis." The segment features a prank call made by station DJs JV and Elvis (Jeff Vandergrift and Dan Lay) to a Chinese restaurant on April 19 in which they make numerous comments that demean Asian Pacific Americans, women, and the gay community. During the six-minute segment, the DJs accost one woman on the phone, saying, "Should I come to your restaurant so that I can see you naked... that way I can see your hot Asian spicy ass." They tell another restaurant employee, "You are a very nice Chinese man... probably can't drive for shit, but who cares." The DJs also call one employee "faggy."

The numerous organizations demanded the termination of DJs Jeff Vandergrift and Dan Lay and the producer of "The Dog House with JV & Elvis." Since the initial outcry by Asian American communities over the radio segment, Jeff Vandergrift and Dan Lay have been suspended without pay. However, re-runs highlighted as "The Best of JV & Elvis: The Dog House" were still airing, adding fuel to the flame. CBS Radio pulled the highlights as of Monday, May 7.

Comments Vicki Shu Smolin, President, OCA-NY, "The meeting was productive. We are hopeful that CBS Radio will take action soon to address the community outcry. Our demands remain the same. We want the DJs and the producer fired." Petitions have been circulating across the country. OCA-Westchester President Jeannette Wang has collected over 1000 signatures in just two days. Representatives were from OCA-New York, OCA-New Jersey, OCA-Westchester/Hudson Valley, OCA-Long Island, Asian American Advertising Federation, Families with Children from China, Asian Americans for Equality, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Falloutcentral.com, Japanese American Citizens League, Korean American League for Civic Action, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Anti-Defamation League.

OCA Expresses Support for Virginia Tech Community

April 17, 2007 - National OCA expressed its support for Virginia Tech students, faculty, staff, friends, and family members in the wake of yesterday's tragic shootings. "The events at Virginia Tech were horrible and devastating, and OCA extends its support and sympathies to the entire grieving community," said Ginny Gong, OCA National President. "We hope that the healing process is swift and complete for all those affected." "We, like the rest of the country, are shocked at these murders," said Michael Lin, OCA Executive Director. "We trust that the administration and law enforcement authorities will do their utmost to ensure the health and safety of all students, faculty, and staff at Virginia Tech during this time of tragedy."

OCA Announces Allstate Hate Crimes Grants

May 16, 2007 - OCA announced the disbursement of five Hate Crime Initiative Conference Grants for 2007. The five chapter awardees are OCA-Detroit, OCA- New York, OCA-Columbus, OCA-Greater Philadelphia, and OCA-Long Island. Hate crimes are criminal acts committed against people or property that are motivated by the offender's bias against a race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability or national origin. In a hate crime, the offender intentionally targets a victim because of their personal characteristics. A hate incident is a non-criminal act where the perpetrator has the same motivations as a hate crime and should be treated as seriously as a criminal act.

OCA-Detroit will hold the Initiative Against Hate Crimes Conference on June 23, 2007, to memorialize the 25th anniversary of the Vincent Chin murder. OCA- New York is working with Chinatown Youth Initiatives and South Asian Youth Action to hold an art competition on the theme of combating hate crimes that will culminate on August 2nd, 2007 at the Asian American Arts Centre. OCA-Columbus is also focusing on youth hate crime education in a conference in October, working with diverse partners including the City of Columbus Youth Group and Community Relations, Ohio Civil Rights Commissions, Somali Women & Children Center, Chinese Schools of Columbus and United Way. OCA-Greater Philadelphia will be holding a day-long conference on October 13th, 2007 for leaders in the APA community with workshops focused on law enforcement and community training. OCA-Long Island is participating in and planning a series of conferences as well as producing multi-media resources to impact educators and administration in local schools. The first conference will be the 15th Annual Conference on Prejudice Reduction on October 22, 2007 in Melville, New York. A second conference "Situating Hate/Stopping Hate" will be planned for Asian American Month in April 2008 at the Charles B. Wang Asian American Center at Stony Brook University.

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Martin Jung, *Vice-President*
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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

2007 Events

Mark your calendar!

- April 26 Business Mixer
- May 12 Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration
- May 6 Scholarship luncheon
- June 2 Burlingame Centennial Parade
- July 19 Business Mixer
- Aug 12 Central Park Picnic
- Sept 15 20th Asian American Achievement Awards Gala
- December Holiday party

Other events:

- Candidates nights
- Speak and Lead with Pride
- Children book reading/book signing

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Scholarship Sponsors

Monica & Adrian Arima, Dr. Chen chung & Mei Ly Ho, Elizabeth Tsai, Philip & Louise Wang

OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Email _____ Occupation _____

Family, \$40 Single, \$30 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

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