



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.



JACL President Steve Okamoto and Margo Grant Census
Coordinator, County of San Mateo

Census 2010

By Margo Grant

Census Day is April 1. The Census is the method the federal government uses to count each resident in the country. The Federal Government allocates 400 billion dollars each year using Census data. Because a population count only occurs every ten years, there is a lot at stake if Brisbane or San Mateo County is under represented in the 2010 Census. According a report compiled by Price Waterhouse Coopers, an

undercount in the 2000 census is estimated to have cost California \$1.5 billion from 2002 to 2012.

The Census 2010 message is simple: It's Easy, It's Safe, Its Important!

It's Easy: Being counted is easy because the form is mailed to every home and residents will have the choice of English, Spanish or several Asian language forms. It takes only 10 minutes to complete. Please fill out the questionnaire and send it back in the postage-paid envelope.

It's Safe: Being counted is safe because personal information provided on the census form is **confidential** and can't be shared with any other agency.

It's Important: All residents, from children to seniors, regardless of citizenship or immigration status should be counted in the census. When people are not counted, our community loses funding for important programs. Being counted is important because it brings federal and state dollars to our community and lets our community leaders know who they serve.

Please help work toward a complete count in 2010 by taking the time to fill out your Census Questionnaire, scheduled to arrive in your mailbox in March. Make yourself count 2010!

For more information please visit our county website:

www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/census



JACL members: Tami Hom, Kate Motoyama and Diana Okamoto (Left to Right)



OCA members Lee Farinas and Armand Chau



Shaun Naidu, Dan Lieberman, and David Lim

Spices Mixer

By Martin Jung

Members of the OCA San Mateo chapter welcomed in the New Year at Spices on Wednesday, January 27. The restaurant is located within the Edgewater Place Shopping Mall in Foster City. It is owned by Jack Wang and his lovely wife, Linchi Chong Kuan. Linchi was a very gracious host making sure we were happy and catered to our needs. Everyone enjoyed the tasty appetizers. The atmosphere was nice and cozy.

The evening gave the guests a chance to meet members, friends, and supporters. This also created an opportunity for networking and making social connections. President Martin Jung, Vice President Ben Yeung and Membership Chair Ivy Shen greeted all.

Guests included: San Mateo Police Chief Susan Manheimer, Jeff Gee, Redwood City Council, David Lim, San Mateo City Council, Kimberly Rumsey, Vice President, Branch Manager HSBC, Randy Okamura, at&t, Dan Lieberman, Representative for Senator Leland

Yee, Shaun Naidu, Representative for Assemblyman Jerry Hill and Margot Grant, San Mateo Census Coordinator.

Speak and Lead

By Dr. David Chai

The 2009 Speak and Lead Program concluded with a final speech competition on March 12, 2009 that was open to the public. We received accolades from our communities for offering such a wonderful public speaking and leadership service for our young people. However, with the financial crisis at its peak, we were concerned about the ability to continue with the program without new funding resources. Rising to the challenge, our Board members reached out to their contacts and worked throughout the summer months to secure grants and personal contributions. To this end, we were very fortunate and grateful for an immediate personal contribution from Dr. Kenneth Fong, and a successful grant application through the AT&T Foundation. These generous responses allowed us to continue with our Speak and Lead Program for 2010.

During the fall of 2009, we began preparations for our 6th season of the Speak and Lead Program, by sending flyers to approximately 30 private and public High Schools in San Mateo County. We then followed up with visits and phone calls to the various school counselors. By Dec. 11th, we received 16 well qualified students, consisting of 14 females and four males, from five high schools, both public and private, representing freshman through senior classes. We immediately recruited additional volunteers who are great at public speakers with a passion for reaching out to and teaching young people. This allowed us to form two "Teacher-Teams," with at least two on each team, so that they can support each other as well as to provide feedback to students' speeches from different personal/ professional perspectives. We then divided the students into two classes, as evenly as possible with girl/boy ratio, school and grade-level distributions.

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April Newsletter



OCA Events Chair Chris Bush and OCA member Sandy Wu



Assemblywoman Fiona Ma and OCA friend Marilyn Luong



(left to right) Speak and Lead winner Jennifer Kao, Wynn Kwan, Katharine Pong and Jasmine Kusumowidagdo

This year, we continued the practice of having a final speech competition with two finalists from each of the two classes. Each of the finalists came from the class speech competition on the last day of the Program, with judges from either the Board of Directors of OCA-San Mateo or other community leaders. Their speech topic was "What pressing issue concerns you most about America?" The winners of the class competition were: sophomore Jasmine Kusumowidagdo from Chrystal Springs Uplands School; and junior Wynn Kwan, sophomore Katharine Pong, , and freshman Jennifer Kao from Mills High School. The judges were Dr. Kenneth Fong, a member of Committee-100 and CEO of Kenson Ventures, LLC; Randal Okamura of AT&T External Affairs; and Karen Clancy, former member of the Board of Trustees of the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District. In addition, we

had the City of San Mateo Chief of Police Susan Manheimer address our finalists as an inspirational speaker.

The winner of the speech competition was Jennifer Kao, who spoke passionately on the problems and possible solutions for "America's Public Education System;" she received a \$500 award from OCA-San Mateo chapter. The other three finalists each received \$100 awards from the OCA-San Mateo Chapter. In addition, all the finalists received Certificates of Recognition from their political Representatives: State Assemblyman Jerry Hill, State Senator Leland Yee; and Congresswoman Jackie Speier. In addition, Assemblyman Hill said: "I was honored to participate in this year's Speak and Lead competition. The ability for people to express their views and opinions in a public forum is an essential part of our democracy. That is why I support the

Organization of Chinese Americans' Speak and Lead Program, which promotes community leadership and helps our youth learn the skills necessary for effective public speaking." It was a great evening to finish another year of our Speak and Lead Program.

2010 OCA Lunar New Year Dinner

By Martin Jung and Emily Lin

OCA San Mateo members celebrated their Chinese New Year dinner at the Hong Kong Flower Lounge on Sunday, February 28, 2010, with family and friends. At 6:30 in the evening, the festivities started. Chinese New Year is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. This year OCA San Mateo welcomed the Year of the Tiger. For Chinese Americans, it was a great chance to express gratitude to their ancestors, to reunite with their family and wish peace and happiness for everyone.

A red envelope was placed on the plate in front of every place setting to symbolize good luck for

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(left to right-front row) Steve Okamoto President JACL, Melodie Lew OCA Secretary, Liza Normandy South San Francisco Unified School District Board President, Karen Clancy, Belmont-Redwood Shores School District Board member Jennifer Kao, Jasmine Kusumowidagdo, Wynn Kwan, Katharine Pong, Rod Hsiao Trustee, San Mateo Board of Education, Dan Lieberman Representative for Senator Leland Yee, Mark Nagales Representative for Congresswoman Jackie Speier and David Chai Speak and Lead With Pride Chair (left to right-back row) David Lim San Mateo City Council, Ken Fong Chairman of Kenson Ventures, LLC, Randy Okamura at&t External Affairs and Assemblyman Jerry Hill

the coming year. Martin Jung, OCA San Mateo President, welcomed everyone to the dinner. He introduced the guests that included Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, Supervisor Carole Groom, David Lim San Mateo City Council, Robert Ross San Mateo Council member, Edwin Chan Representative for Supervisor Mark Church, Jorge Jaramillo San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Rod Hsiao Trustee San Mateo County Board of Education, Juliet Fernandez Office of Warren Slocum, Dave Pine School Board President San Mateo Union High School, Steve Okamoto President of JACL San Mateo, Keith Young NAACP, Daphne Kwok Asians and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California, David Louie KGO channel 7 TV personality, Florence Hongo Asian American Curriculum Project, TehShan Lee Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum and Wayne Lee City of Millbrae Planning Commissioner. Attendees enjoyed

this precious time to communicate with each other, having a break after the busy work week. The tasty meal consisted of a Barbecued platter, Chicken with Sweet Corn Soup, Sautéed Calamari, Mongolian Beef, Roasted Chicken, Vegetable with Black Mushrooms, Fried Rice and Fried Noodle with Seafood was delicious. Fish was not eaten completely since it symbolized “may there be surpluses every year”.

Although some local Chinese Americans were not able to have dinner with their families who are back in China, they were moved to make new friends in a different country and have a great time with them. Everyone looked forward to the next event that the OCA San Mateo Chapter would offer.

Three Sister’s Nursing Home

By Lisa La

On December 19th, the Young

OCA went to the Three Sisters Care Home in San Mateo. We arrived in the early afternoon to the care home, which has about nine residents. The staff greeted us warmly and generously. We met the residents in their beautiful living room, complete with a festive Christmas tree, and began to sing. We sang a total of six songs, including “Winter Wonderland” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”. One of the most heartwarming moments of the day was when one of the residents, Janice, began singing along with us as we performed the classic “Jingle Bells”. Janice suffers from dementia, but the familiar song triggered her memory and she recognized the tune. After going through our program, we gave each of the residents and staff a fleece scarf. YOCA left shortly after spending a little more time socializing and enjoying some snacks with everyone at the care home. Both the residents and staff were very grateful for our time spent with them, and treated us

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with profuse amounts of appreciation. It was a very gratifying experience that left all participating YOCA members with the feeling of satisfaction that comes from giving back to the community.

JACL/OCA Leadership Conference

by Melodie Lew

The State Farm sponsored JACL/OCA National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. in early March was a wonderful experience. The 4 day training involved didactic, small group, and experiential events. J.D. Hokoyama, Director of LEAP, provided valuable leadership training, focusing on key elements and qualities of a leader, relationships, and the importance and the interrelatedness between perceptions, behaviours, and values.

We met and listened to Asian Americans who worked in the White House, and felt their

energy and commitment to the President. We learned to lobby “on the Hill,” and met with either representatives or members of Congress. We listened to those Asian Americans in Congress and heard their perspectives on what was happening in Washington, D.C. We developed insight into the intricacies of national politics.

An important highlight was meeting the many JACL and OCA representatives from throughout the United States. One was able to learn about their chapters, what they were doing, and share what is happening in San Mateo OCA with them. We were able to have dinner with several Asian American Icons—Rep. Mike Honda and former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. Dr. Warren Minami gave us a heart felt tour of the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. His stories and insights into the Japanese Internment experience gave extra meaning to the visit. Anyone who has the opportunity to attend this Conference should take

advantage of the time to learn and grow.

2010 Officers & Directors

Martin Jung, *President*

Ben Yeung, *Vice President*

Jacob Chu, *Treasurer*

Melodie Lew, *Secretary*

Committee Chairs

Joanne Tong, *YOCA*

David Chai, *Speak & Lead Program*

Chris Bush, *Events*

Ivy Shen, *Membership*

Aiden Soohoo, *Co-Chair Scholarship*

Melodie Lew, *Co-Chair Scholarship*

Chris Wong, *Newsletter*

Leonard Chan, *Website*

Additional Directors

Walter Chao, Arlene Chang, Franklin Kang, Chris Bush, and Ben Yeung

2010 Advisory Council

Dr. David Shen, DMD - Orthodontist, Chairman

Monica Yeung Arima - Real Estate Broker

Dr. Samuel Chan - Cardiologist

Dr. Shu-Wing Chan - Cardiologist

Hon. Jerry Hill - S.M. County Supervisor

David Louie - KGO-TV Reporter

Wade Loo - Real Estate Broker

Elizabeth Tsai - Best Western/ Los Prados Inn

Martin Yan - Yan Can Cook Show

Doris Morse - Sister Cities Int'l

Maggie Mui - Sr. V.P. Wells Fargo

Philip Wang - Publisher



in front of the Eisenhower office bldg

OCAMEMBERSHIPAPPLICATION

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Night) _____

Email _____ Occupation _____

Family, \$50

Individual, \$40

Student, \$25

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

TO: