



# 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](http://www.ocasanmateo.org) October 2009

### **OCA National Convention**

**By Melodie Lew**

The remodeled San Francisco City Hall rotunda was a spectacular setting for OCA National's recognition and reception of local Bay Area elected and appointed officials. Mayor Gavin Newsom welcomed OCA National to San Francisco, stating that it had been ten years since the Organization has visited the City by the Bay, and asked OCA National not to stay away so long again. The Mayor made note of the fact that the seeds of the Chinese Exclusion Act began specifically in San Francisco and that the City has worked hard to ensure that exclusion or other acts of prejudice against a group because of its race or ethnicity do not happen again. The San Francisco Asian Gay Men's Chorus sang the National Anthem and performed several beautiful songs.

SMOCA chapter members Karen Leong Clancy, Belmont-Redwood Shores School District member and one of this year's SMOCA honourees, and current president, Rod Hsaio, San Mateo County Board of Education, and Melodie Lew, former San Mateo Foster City School Board member and current San Mateo County Commission on Aging Commissioner attended. Former Holmdel New Jersey Mayor and City Councilman, Dr. David Chai also joined the festivities along with Ben Yeung, one of this year's OCA National's Unsung Heroes, SMOCA President Martin Jung, and Past President, NewsyYan. It was a good chance for locally elected and appointed officials to mingle and get to know each other, and several SMOCA members could be seen at the reception chatting with Oakland City Councilwoman Jean Quan, San Francisco Supervisor Eric Mar, and Board of Equalization president, Betty Quan.

**By Martin Jung**

The unifying idea for this year's OCA National Convention in San Francisco during August 6-9 was, Call to Action Empowering

Asian Pacific American Voices. What actions we can take as a group and as individuals to shape our future. It has been ten years since the last one took place in the Bay Area. The San Francisco Chapter took the lead as the San Mateo, East Bay and Silicon Valley chapters supported the effort to host the event. To host a convention of this size takes attention to detail and much



left to right: Joan S. Jia (Westchester & Hudson Valley Chapter), Ben Yeung (San Mateo Chapter), Anna Wong (Wisconsin Chapter) and Ian C. Lim (Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter)

planning. The convention schedule included diverse subjects such as College Leadership Training, Corporate Exhibits/Job Fair, Advocating for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Fighting for Equal Rights. The Chapter Awards Luncheon was sponsored by Allstate, OCA recognized OCA Chapters across the country for their service within the community. The San Mateo Chapter was awarded the "Rising Star" Award for their dedication to its youth program, Speak and Lead with Pride, spearheaded by Dr. David Chai, whose unfaltering efforts teaches High School students the skills necessary to become confident public speakers. Our very own Ben Yeung was selected among the many OCA chapter applicants as he was presented the OCA-GM Unsung Hero Award. An honor given to those individuals not expecting acknowledgement or praise just doing what is in the best interests of OCA and the chapter. Being a positive asset for their chapter and is interested in supporting the goals of OCA giving back to the

community. In addition to promoting what OCA is, what it has to offer to others. We congratulate Ben for his attitude and spirit.

**By Newsy Yan**

It was certainly great to see the big OCA family again. I attended as many workshops as my schedule allowed. Cecil Williams spoke at Empowering Our Voice and Defining Our Future event; Ken Lee was part of the panel to Social Responsibility workshop; Maggie Mui, our last year honoree from Wells Fargo and Jan Yanehiro, who hosted the Evening Magazine at KPIX, were two of the panelists at the Women: Dream Big, Move on, Move Up workshop. They spoke from their heart about our family, our education and our voice being heard collectively as a group. That is what OCA is about.

**By Chris Bush**

OCA National Gala Awards Banquet was held this year at the Westin St Francis in San Francisco on August 9, 2009. You could feel the hustle and bustle of energy in the cool evening air as we approached the beautiful lobby. OCA stationed an intern at every turn guiding the crowd from the lobby to registration table to the reception room and later through a wedding into a distant ballroom for dinner. Everyone was having a fabulous time meeting old friends and other OCA members during the reception and enjoying Beer from Anheuser and cocktails. Master and Mistress of Ceremony David Louie and Thuy Vu did a fantastic job introducing the speakers and keeping us entertained. This year's recipients of the OCA Pioneer Awards were famed fashion designer Anna Sui and YouTube co-founder Steve Chen. The OCA Outstanding Citizen recipients were Congressman Mike Honda and historians Phil Choy and Him Mark Lai. Kraft Foods, Inc. was the recipient of OCA's 2009 Corporate Partner Award. Ben Yeung from OCA San Mateo was the recipient of the Unsung Hero award at the Gala banquet.

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**President's Message, Sept. 2009**

The Recession has presented a new challenge as our Gala committee planned our annual Fundraiser. Companies were forced to cut back funding and due to a limited budget less money was given out to local non-profit organizations. As a result, it was necessary to explore new opportunities. We are fortunate to present our Gala dinner and major fundraiser.



The Asian American Achievement Awards Gala is the leading and most essential event of the OCA San Mateo County Chapter. This year's gala theme is "Making A Difference Today For A Brighter Tomorrow." The gala will take place on Saturday, September 26th, 2009, at 6:00pm at the South San Francisco Convention Center, 255 South Airport Boulevard, South San Francisco, California. The fundraiser helps to raise money for our Scholarship Program, OCA National Internship Program, and our Speak & Lead with Pride, a program designed to improve local high school students' public speaking skills. Achievement awards will be given to the outstanding members of the APA Community. This year we are very proud to honor Karen Clancy, a member of the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District Board of Trustees, Nancy Lim-Yee, Executive Director of San Francisco's Chinatown Child Development Center and State Controller John Chiang.

Frances Dinglasan and David Louie, television personalities with KGO Channel 7 News, will host the celebration. Fundraising events include raffle drawings and a silent auction.

Juliet Fernandez will entertain our guests with her beautiful singing along with the California Youth Chinese Symphony.

We hope to see you there!

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**OCA National Convention**

Dinner was a mixed salad, fillet mignon with prawns and dessert of either chocolate or vanilla mousse topped with a chocolate wafer and coffee. A Pro DJ led the youngsters and the young at heart to a night of dancing.

**By David Chai**

I participated over the entire Conference. Below are some of my impressions on three events:

1. Youth Leadership Training Day on August 6, 2009 – There were about 50 High School students who came to learn leadership skills. Basically the training Team went thru a self-esteem exercise, followed by self-identity, working with our community and finding the various styles of leadership to fit into the identity of the individual. I volunteered as a trainer to assist in matching the various leadership styles to the newly discovered self-esteem and the identity of the individual within the Asian American community.
2. Call to Action: In Pursuit of Healthcare Reform – This was a well organized workshop panel of various experts to discuss the current status of US Healthcare Reform, which is going on right now. There was unanimous consensus that some kind of healthcare reform is necessary, as the current system will likely lead to bankruptcy of the individual, the corporations offering healthcare benefits and the country as a whole. All the panelists agree that the current Healthcare Reform bills are very complex, given that there are three versions, two from the Senate and one from the House. Each is hundreds of pages, and most people would cherry-pick the sections to advance their perspective, either for or against the bill. This is exactly what is happening during August when the members of Congress are back in their home District to explain the Healthcare Reform bill(s). I went away with a somewhat optimistic view that a Healthcare Reform bill will be passed this year, and that the bill will address universal and affordable coverage – I surely hope so.
3. I was given 5 minutes to describe our

Chapter's premier Community Outreach program, called the Speak & Lead with Pride, to the OCA National Board. The purpose was to explain the program to the different chapters and to make the program available as a sort-of technology transfer to other chapters for their adoption. Our chapter will retain authorship of the Course Syllabus, while making it readily available either directly to other interested chapters, or through the OCA National Office.

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## Angel Island Immigration Station

By Martin Jung

On Saturday, August 1, members of the San Mateo Chapter took a trip to the Angel Island Immigration Station. The docent shared with us the Asian Journey to America. Wars and poverty forced many young men to leave. For generations families struggled in China trying to save money hoping to send young men to the United States with a dream for a better life. The Chinese immigrants left their homeland to come live in the United States with an op-



(left to right)  
Wade Loo, Martin Jung, Ben Yeung, Jacob Chu, Lisa La, Arlene Chang, Newsy Yan, Chris Bush, Mark Chong & Eric Tsang

portunity to find work to support their families in China. Discrimination prevented the Chinese from fulfilling their dreams. The Chinese started to come to the United States around 1848, when gold was discovered in California. They hoped to strike it rich and send money home to their families whenever they could. Unfortunately, very few made a fortune as they were only allowed to work in sites that white miners had abandoned. In 1851, another wave of Chinese workers started to arrive in the U.S. These immigrants came to California to build the western half of the transcontinental railroad. After the railroad was finished in 1869, the Chinese immigrants who settled in the San Francisco Bay Area opened laundries, restaurants and grocery stores.

The Chinese were welcomed when they first settled in the U.S. They took jobs that no one else wanted and were willing to work for low pay and long hours. The feelings toward the Chinese had changed when businesses began hiring Chinese workers for jobs the Americans wanted. The Chinese were attacked because some believed that the Chinese were taking away their jobs.

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Homes and businesses were destroyed and riots began to break out. The U.S. government decided to pass laws to stop Chinese from coming to the U.S.

From 1910-1940, Angel Island's Immigration station served as the point of entry into the United States for thousands of Asian Immigrants. California was called Gum Sann-the Land of the Golden Mountains. Most were sent to Angel Island Immigration Station where they were questioned about family histories and their Chinese villages for extended periods of time that U.S. officials hoped would have trouble answering in order to deport them. Immigration officials detained mostly the Chinese who they hoped to keep out of the United States. Thousands of Chinese immigrants shared a similar experience as they were detained on Angel Island. Many of them carved poems into the barracks walls which were on display.

Hopefully with the re-opening of the Angel Island Immigration Station, visitors from across the country will learn about its history. To discover what had happened gives one the appreciation what our ancestors had to experience. Immigrants traveled to America on sailing ships that would take anywhere from 50 to 100 days depending on the wind. As steamships replaced sailing ships, the journey took a few weeks. The list of many questions that were studied beforehand in order to be allowed entry into the U.S. The 1882 Exclusion Law was passed by Congress to keep Chinese from entering the U.S. which continued to be renewed until the 1940s.



Ben Yeung



Arlene Chang with Grandkids, Chloe and Evan Chang



## Asian Pacific American Heritage Month By Mark Chong

San Mateo kicked off Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with the 9th Annual



California Youth Chinese Symphony

Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration. On May 9th, both young and old convened to San Mateo's Central Park for a day of entertainment, history, food, raffles, and festivities. The festivities could not have happened without the efforts of the Asian American Curriculum Project, San Mateo's OCA Chapter, San Mateo's JACL Chapter, and the Downtown San Mateo Association (DSMA).

We were lucky enough to feature exhibits from Brush Painting Circle (brush work art by Amy Da-Peng King), Beautiful Things (handmade items), Bunka Art, IB Character Asian Calligraphy, Kayako Design (jewelry),



Filipino-American Association of Foster City Choir

Pomegranate Designs (creative art), Tuicom (Pan Pacific shopping), Waka Ozawa (clothing), Yao-Pi Hsu Photography, and author Eve Kushner.

Nonprofit and other Community Groups included were Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, Asian Pacific Fund's Growing Up Asian In America Contest dis-

play, College of San Mateo Ethnic Studies department, Family Service Agency of San Mateo County, HICAP of San Mateo, Hyphen Magazine, National Archive and Record Administration-Pacific Region (SF), San Mateo Elections Office, San Mateo Historical Museum, San Mateo Police department and Self Help For the Elderly.

The event, hosted by nbc11 News's Kimberly Tere and Lloyd LaCuesta of KNTV2, enlisted a plethora of entertainers. The morning began with Project Garuda, a group that performed various genres of Indonesian music, and continued with performers like Ann Bowler; an interactive story book reader who read her book regarding China's sea travels, the California Youth Chinese Symphony (CYCS); a small group of musicians who demonstrated some traditional Chinese music and instruments, Thia Konda; a professional shamisen player, Charlie Chin; a historian who gave the audience a taste of Chinese immigration in the character of Uncle Toisan, the Filipino-American Association of Foster City Choir; a group that sang a few songs in Tagalog for the audience, and last but not least, Uri-



Kimberly Tere, from NBC 11 News

sawe; who depicted some traditional Korean performing arts in their Suljangu and Samulnori musics.

In addition to the multitude of presenters and entertainers, we would like to thank Borel Private Bank & Trust Company, Pancho Villa Taqueria, United Commercial Bank, The Daily Journal, World Journal, KTSF Channel 26, and KTVU Channel 2 for sponsoring the event as well as Copyman Copying & Printing, Internet Dimensions, B Street Music & Recording, e21, and Austin Djang for donating their services.

### Mark Chong



Over the past year, I performed duties for the OCA San Mateo Chapter as its Public Relations intern. As the Public Relations intern, I would make an appearance at each and every event as well as follow up each event with an article for the newsletter. Though it may seem like I was responsible for a somewhat simple task, the position has really helped me better myself in many ways. I've gained better people skills, become more punctual, and improved my photography, just to name a few.

As an individual who was born in Hong Kong, I always thought of myself as rather knowledgeable of the Chinese culture of the Bay Area. However, this year as an intern for the OCA has really broadened my view. Through this internship, I learned the true kinds of hardships that Asian Americans face, I met various prominent Asian American figures in my community, and I saw what it's like running a nonprofit organization. I would really like to thank the OCA for this amazing opportunity.

### Kelvin Chen



Working for the OCA San Mateo Chapter as the technology intern has been both a meaningful and gratifying experience. My main duty involved the maintenance and updating of the Chapter website, and while at first it seemed like a small task, I soon realized it was nonetheless a crucial and challenging one. I learned that the website served as the primary link between the chapter and its members, and its maintenance required a fair amount of webpage editing knowledge that I would quickly attain and put to good use. On a regular day, I would receive various files, newsletters, articles or photos from the board members to upload onto the website.

As one of three interns, my role within the OCA went far beyond myself. Since the day I was chosen for the position, I learned to develop a professional working relationship with the board members, whom

mentored and showed me the inner workings of the organization in the monthly board meetings. Additionally, I regularly kept in close contact with my fellow interns working in publications and public relations. Although we would maintain a sense of formality in regard to our duties, we had our share of fun moments as we worked together to promote the organization's cause and make the most of our experience as interns. I am happy to say I have gained much during my time as an intern, and I will go to college with not only an understanding of webpage editing, but also with the experience of working in a responsible, professional environment, an experience I have found to be invaluable.

### Eric Tsang



As Publications Intern, I soon found myself responsible for the task of creating flyers for all the OCA Events throughout the year. I could not have worked with a better group than the board members. Always supportive, eager to provide positive feedback, challenging but not burdening, and understanding, the board members are living proof that OCA is not simply an organization, dedicated to improving Asian political and social standing but also a human organization, brought together by the mutual passion and cordiality of all its members. From this fostering environment, I have acquired and honed interpersonal communication skills, skills that I will bring along to UC Berkeley this coming fall. Through coordination with the members, I gained valuable experience in organization, time management, and simple yet effective communication. For all this, I am grateful for OCA for first of all, choosing me as an intern and then, developing me. In the future, when I get the chance, I will continue working with OCA, maybe in coordination with another club on campus or as an OCA member. But in the meantime, thank you, and I wish every member in OCA the best of luck, a road of success, and a lifetime of happiness.

## OCA Picnic Emily Lin

The annual Picnic, sponsored by OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) San Mateo, was held on August 30, 2009 in San Mateo Central Park.

This year, not surprisingly, OCA members once again expressed their hospitality to



Sam McCollum and Jacob Chu

everyone who came to the picnic. Food was provided, such as grilled chicken, chips, chocolate chip cook-

ies, burgers, hot dogs, watermelon, etc. Nearly everything you could think of was seen on the picnic table. The strikingly colorful, beautiful sets and adorable balloon brought enjoyment to the festivities. Anne, a local Girl Scout made balloons of different shapes. She volunteered for the picnic, wearing her typical Scout uniform, which has a very military appearance, consisting of a khaki button-up shirt. Children who came with their parents happily wore the balloons. Their parents appreciated what OCA brought them. It was a rare and delightful opportunity for families to get together and relieve their stress. Her Brother Sam, a Boy Scout, explained how to tie a rope. He also taught people how to improve throwing at a distance by adding weight to the end of the rope.

Thomas Yeh, a high school student from Carlmont High School, learned how to tie a rope, expressed his admiration to what he had learned. "It was amazing to learn these skills which may be used in the future to protect myself" said Thomas, "I learned a lot, making a lot of new friends."

The picnic lasted for three hours. At the end of the picnic, Squeegie the magician, performed mesmerizing magic shows, making many children laugh. The chapter President, Martin Jung, was dedicated to serving the Asian community and bringing fun to the children.

Sally Gu, a Chinese girl, has been in the United States for only four months. She ap-

preciated that OCA not only took care of her but also gave her a chance to make new friends since she was a new immigrant. "I am thankful for what OCA has done for me. Their activities help me to make more friends and drive the loneliness and homesickness away from me" said Sally.

This annual picnic brought us a lot of fun. We appreciate what OCA has done for us. They created an opportunity for us to make new friends and take a break from our busy lives.

## Bowling Event By Emily Lin

Members of OCA, an organization which aims to serve the Asian community, congregated at Bel Mateo Bowl for a delightful get-together in the afternoon of June 23rd.

For many, bowling is not only an enjoyable activity but also a way to relax after a week of hard work. The OCA President, Martin Jung, expressed his hope of helping the group relieve their stress and promote team cooperation through this rare opportunity. "I



Chris Bush

hope that everyone enjoys this game" said

Martin. There were many members of OCA who joined this fun game including Chris Bush, Lehman Bush, Ted Thayer, Jacob Chu, Mr. and Mrs. Chu, Lisa La, Amy Yu, Ben Yeung and Martin. The players wore their OCA T-shirts and the required bowling shoes. The game was divided into ten rounds. Every player was given two chances to knock down the pins.

"It is the first time I have come to the OCA's activity, and I really enjoy playing the game of ten-pin bowling" stated Amy Yu, a guest to this event.

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**Continued from page seven**  
**Bowling Event**

The gathering was not just a game of ten pin bowling, but also an opportunity to catch up with the old friends, meet the new buddies, and have a good summer time.



As for the President of the club, Martin Jung, he kept himself busy by taking pictures and introducing the members of the OCA to other new members. Lisa La, the Vice President of OCA, who knocked down all the pins in the first frame, couldn't stop



laughing because she did a really good job in this game. After the automatic pin machine picked up

the pins, Amy couldn't wait to go up to take her turn. Some players used both hands to swing the bowling balls forward, between their legs. Other people either watched the score or waited to play while socializing with their friends. Everyone was glad for having the opportunity to get to know each other better.

**OCA Gala**  
**By Meagan Chan**

A major effort of the OCA San Mateo Chapter is to provide educational and training programs to develop leadership for the youth of our community. They created the Speak and Lead with Pride program which I participated in earlier this

year. I was fortunate to have kept in contact with program judge and OCA Vice President, Lisa La, who encouraged me and other participants of the program in reviving YOCA, the Youth Organization of Chinese Americans. I work with other youth in promoting active involvement in our community affairs. So far, YOCA has helped fundraise for both OCA and YOCA at the OCA Gala this past September selling raffle tickets and also the OCA live auction which earned

YOCA \$300. YOCA plans to give back to our community. YOCA's volunteer work and fundraising will all be a part in bringing out community awareness and in giving back to all the community has done for us. YOCA and OCA members worked together to volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank where our lively energy was put into good use in sorting cans for needy families. YOCA is finding all different opportunities in helping our community; we are planning on visiting nursing homes for the holidays, fashion shows, car washes,

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 c o m m u n i t y .



Front (left to right): Eric Tsang, Emily Lin, Katharine Pong, Leslie Chiang,

David Louie, Meagan Chan, Julia Hu, Molly Magee, Harrison Kwan

Back (left to right) : Mark Chong, Lisa La, Dustin Chan, Frances Dinglasan,

Garrett Chan, Kevin Leong, Zuri Wong

We encourage young teens to join the great fun and opportunity YOCA has to offer. Activity plans are made during meetings which YOCA hosts every third Monday of each month at Lisa La's office in Burlingame. With such brilliant and



creative minds gathered together by YOCA, fun and productive ideas help contribute to bring out the YOCA name in our community. YOCA follows the steps of the OCA in advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Americans of Chinese, Asian, and Pacific Islander descent but in a whole new light.

### **2009 Officers & Directors**

Martin Jung, *President*  
 Lisa La, *Vice President*  
 Jacob Chu, *Treasurer*  
 Melodie Lew, *Secretary*

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

David Chai, *Speak & Lead Program*  
 Hayden Lee, *Newsletter*  
 Ben Yeung, *Website*  
 Chris Bush, *Events/Membership*  
 Lisa La, *Interns/YOCA*  
 Alden Soohoo, *Co-Chair Scholarship*  
 Melodie Lew, *Co-Chair Scholarship*

#### **ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS**

Walter Chao, Arlene Chang, Franklin Kang,  
 Chris Bush, Lisa La, and Newsy Yan, Ben  
 Yeung

### **2009 ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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**OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(please include all names if family membership)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Night) \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ 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:**

**2009 Event**

**Natl Corporate Achievement Awards,  
Washington, DC (Oct. 24)  
Second Harvest Food Sort (October 24)  
Wine Tour (December 6)  
\*Holiday Party - date to be determined**