

December 2000 Newsletter

OCA San Mateo Honors Asian American High Tech Trailblazers By Johnny Ng

Three successful Asian American high tech business leaders were honored at the annual OCA-San Mateo Chapter's Asian American Achievement Awards Gala on Wednesday, October 11, 2000.



From left to right: Master of Ceremonies Michael Ching, honorees David King; JoMei Chang, Phd; Guy Kawasaki, San Mateo OCA President Yvonne Chen, and National OCA President George Ong.

At the dinner, entitled "Powering High Tech Success through Inspiration and Innovation," OCA-San Mateo honored Dr. Jo Mei Chang, CEO and President of Vitria Technology; Guy Kawasaki, CEO of Garage.com; and David King, Chairman, CEO and President of Proxim. A fourth honoree, Dr. Henry C. Yuen, Chairman and CEO of Gemstar-TV Guide International, was unable to attend the dinner.

Michael Ching, VP for the Corporate Strategy and Research at Merrill Lynch, was the emcee of the event, which attracted close to 300 people and raised over \$16,000. Proceeds will benefit the OCA-San Mateo County Scholarship Fund and the OCA National Internship Program.

"This year's fundraiser is especially meaningful because it highlighted the achievements of

Asian Americans and their contributions to the success of our high tech economy," said Yvonne Chen, President of OCA-San Mateo Chapter.

Jeanne Batacan-Harper kicked off the dinner with a touching singing performance. Jeanne, a performer with the Peninsula Civic Light Opera, sang two songs from the play "Flower Drum Song."

All three honorees gave inspiring speeches after receiving their awards. Dr. Jo Mei Chang was soft-spoken yet presented a powerful recount of her challenges as a businesswoman and as an Asian American. Guy Kawasaki thrilled the crowd with his countless stories, most laced with humor and insight. David King spoke humbly about how his childhood helped to mold him for his future role as a CEO of a multi-million dollar company.

After the presentation to the honorees, Dr. Alden Soohoo, Vice President of OCA-San Mateo, made a special surprise presentation to Philip and Louise Wang. They were honored



San Mateo OCA President Yvonne Chen presents plaque to Philip and Louise Wang.

for their longtime commitment and support of the OCA-San Mateo County Scholarship Fund.



JoMai Chang, PhD, CEO and President, Vitria Technology Inc.

Scholarship Sponsors of the dinner were Wells Fargo Bank and Merrill Lynch. Other corporate sponsors included Bank of America, Franklin Templeton, Founders Investment Corporation, Mutual of America and Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

Guy Kawasaki, CEO, Garage.com

David King, CEO, Chairman and President, Proxim, Inc.

About OCA

OCA is the Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc., a national non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. OCA is comprised of 45 chapters around the U.S. and has 5,000 members. This newsletter is published by the Peninsula Chapter of San Mateo County, which was founded in 1987.

The chapter's website is at www.ocasanmateo.org.

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HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 3, 2000 Time: 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM Place: San Mateo Central Park Recreation Center, East 5th Avenue and El Camino Real Directions: From Highway 101 exit on 3rd Avenue. Turn left on Delaware Street. Turn right onto 5th Avenue. Additional parking is located under the tennis courts.

Message from the President By Yvonne Chen

Every year in January the OCA Board and interested members gather together to brainstorm, discuss, and plan the year's activities. It is important that we take time now to solicit your inputs and ideas, so that the Board can take into consideration the desires of the membership. With an all time high membership of over 250 members, it is crucial that we stay in touch with you outside of gatherings and events. Due to the frantic pace of Bay area living, many of you have a difficult time getting to our meetings. Each of us knows what San Mateo OCA mean to us and why we joined. If I were to have an individual conversation with you, here are some questions that I would ask:

Why did you join San Mateo OCA, and what is the "big picture" goal that you hope the organization can achieve?

In the past, our local chapter has placed a priority on community service. What does that mean to you? Is it about assistance for needy Asian-American Pacific Islander families? Should we collaborate with other organizations to assist the general needy population with housing, food, and clothing? Should we assist with the elderly or the very young? Are you interested in an event where you can be personally involved in helping the community?

We have a Public Affairs Committee, but it has been fairly inactive this past year. In the past, we have joined other organizations and agencies in bringing awareness to the hate crimes in Northern California. We have also encouraged people to sign petitions in the Wen Ho Lee case. Certainly, some of us were involved in helping to get Asian-Americans elected. We have also encouraged Asian-Americans to volunteer for local Boards and Commissions. There are also new Asian-American political organizations emerging every day. OCA is a non-partisan organization. Within that context, should we take a more aggressive non-partisan stance in getting our members involved in the political process?

Our chapter has placed a strong emphasis on developing the next generation of leaders. The annual national OCA conference purposely included concurrent programs for high school and college student. We have a strong scholarship program and this year, we supported two young interns for the national office. Our Young Professionals (20-30's) and Young OCA (teens) are only as strong and active as the leadership and continuous involvement of our Board members. Should we have more dedicated OCA programs for them? Should we strive to increase our scholarship programs?

We place a high priority on our newsletter and website, because we feel that it is important to keep abreast of national and local events that effect Asian-Americans. How can our newsletter and website be improved? Do you access the website or read the newsletter? How often do you read it? What do you expect from either one?

We have at least ten events every year. Have we covered your interests in our events? What would you like to see us do that we haven't done?

Please share your thoughts, opinions and ideas with us at our annual Board retreat in January, OR send your comments to: OCA, PO Box 218, San Mateo, CA 94401. Thank you!

OCA Congratulates Newly Elected APA Officials From OCA National

Washington, DC - The Organization of Chinese Americans, a national nonpartisan Asian Pacific American (APA) civil rights group, congratulates all APA public officials who were reelected yesterday and extends congratulations to the new APA politicians who won yesterday.

"OCA looks forward to continuing our relationship with APA officials and forming new friendships with those who have been elected for the first time," said George M. Ong, OCA National President. "OCA deeply admires their direct participation in the American political system. OCA has always encouraged APAs to get involved in the democratic process; these men and women are

inspirations to all of us. We are especially pleased that the U.S. Congress now has Mike Honda; there are now 7 out of 535 members who are APA. OCA also recognizes the many hard-working APA officials in the state government of Hawaii." "The 21st Century has started with an auspicious beginning as APAs continue to make inroads into elected office," stated Daphne Kwok, OCA Executive Director. "Political participation and elected office advancement is one more sign that APAs are fully contributing American citizens. OCA commends the candidates who have run as they have emboldened and educated our community about civic participation. It does not matter if the candidate won or lost; another cadre of politically aware APAs has been developed."

OCA National Board Meeting in Minneapolis By Alden Soohoo

The OCA National Board met in Minneapolis, Minnesota on October 27-29. Representing OCA San Mateo were Immediate Past President Karen Lee, Vice President Alden Soohoo, and Wade Loo. The highlight of this meeting was the election of **2001-2002** <u>National</u> Officers of OCA. The election results are as follows:

President: George Ong, San Francisco Vice President: Raymond Wong, Houston Sam Luk, Los Angeles Secretary: Carlos Tiu, Houston Treasurer: Vice President of Finance: Virginia Ng, New Jersey Vice President of Communications: David Namkoong, Northeast Ohio Vice President of Chapter Development: Ken Lee, Atlanta Vice President of Economic Development: Tim Wong, Las Vegas Vice President of Education and Culture: Jean Chang, Westchester Vice President of Membership Services: Michele Kee, North Virginia Vice resident of Public Affairs: Victor Hsi, San Francisco

In order to run for a National office, an OCA member must have served as either a President or Vice President of his or her chapter. All offices except for Treasurer were contested. All candidates are hardworking and dedicated individuals and deserve our congratulations for their commitment to OCA.

At the OCA Asian American Corporate Achievement Award Banquet, on Friday the 27th, OCA awarded The OCA Community Service Award to Angie Chen Button of Texas Instruments. Ms. Button is a member of OCA-Dallas/Ft. Worth and extremely involved in the community.

The final highlight of the National Board Meeting was the unanimous approval of the Philadelphia Chapter. With this approval, OCA is now 45 chapters strong nationwide The OCA-Greater Philadelphia chapter is the third OCA chapter in Pennsylvania, in addition to the Lehigh Valley and Pittsburgh chapters.

California Asian American Voting Results From 80-20 P.A.C.

OCA is a non-partisan organization. Once in a while, we include information from another organization for information. We are not endorsing one candidate over another.

80-20 is a political action committee registered with the federal Election commission. It is a Pan-Asian, non-partisan, national Organization aimed to empower ourselves politically. It uses e-mail and Web site to recruit supporters. In the 17 months since its inception, it has expanded its support base from 300 to 150,000 persons, while Communicating with them weekly through e-mail exit poll data have become available. How effective was 80-20? Read the data and judge it for yourself.

(A) Northern California: The SF poll was done by Chinese American Voters Education Committee (CAVEC) that has done polling in SF for many years. Help with ethnic language is available during polling in contrast to mainstream media polling. Sample size: 1,247; Chinese American = 192. Voting Gore/Bush/Others = 80%/18%/2%. Aware of 80-20: 41% (B) Southern California: The LA poll was done by Asian Am. Legal Center that also has done polling in LA for a few years. Help with ethnic language is available during polling. Sample size: 5000; Asian Pacific Americans = 2000. Voting Gore/Bush/Others = 62.6%/34.7%/3%. Aware of 80-20: 24%

Note: (1) Not being aware of 80-20 does not imply not being influenced by 80-20. AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) is without any doubt the most influential lobbying group in the nation, check out your Jewish American friends and find out how few have actually heard of AIPAC. (2) Note that the SF poll is Chinese-Americans only. The LA poll is all Asian-Americans; Vietnamese American population is about 1/3 of APA in LA. They are very pro-Republican.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP. Unity is power. The real good news, of course, is not that 80-20 has proven effectiveness, it is that Asian Americans will be having a political voice. If 80-20 can achieve so much in 2 years, imagine what it can do in another 4 years. http://www.80-20initiative.net

Gen X - Where are you? By Lee Siew Ha, Correspondent, *The Straits Times (Singapore)*, November 6, 2000, SECTION: World; Pg. 14

Thirty per cent of eligible voters in the Asia-Pacific community are in the 18 to 30 age group, but many of them cannot be bothered to vote. Groups of Asian-Americans are working hard to get them to the polls.

WASHINGTON -The five young men of Kai, an exuberant pop quintet from San Francisco, are persuading young Asian-Americans to vote in the United States election tomorrow. These entertainers are clearly ardent about extolling the power of the ballot and are taking this political message on their Unity concert tour across the land. Wherever this Generation X group performs, Asian-American activists set up booths to register voters, particularly those in the apolitical under-30 age group.

"Voting is a right that too many Asians our age do not take advantage of," said Chinese-American Leo Chan, a member of Kai, a Billboard Top 100 group. (To listen to the public service announcements produced by Kai, refer to **http://www.apiavote.org/Kai.html**). Added his friend, Filipino-American Errol Viray: "As a people we are not properly accounted for. "Encouraging our families,

Gen X -Where are you?

friends and fans to be counted will show that Asians are here and we aren't going anywhere." Meanwhile, in a little downtown Washington office, young Asian-Americans work the phone-bank in the final frenzied days of the polls, rallying their diverse community to vote. Volunteer Ben de Guzman, 28, who works at an Asia-Pacific legal consortium, told The Straits Times that a big segment of Asian-American voters are Generation X-ers. Many were born in the US after the discriminatory quotas for Asian immigrants were dropped. Indeed, 30 per cent of eligible voters in the Asia-Pacific community are in the 18 to 30 age group. These youthful voters are the hope of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote 2000, a group that wants to tap their energy and organizational drive, as it empowers the entire community for the polls.

This group has also hooked up with the national Youth Vote 2000, plus more youth activists such as MTV's Choose Or Lose and Rock The Vote. In the last week of the polls, this grassroots coalition has registered one million new young voters, and it is making one million get-out-the-vote calls to them. The political disengagement among young Asian-Americans echoes that of the youthful electorate. And their indifference in turn mirrors the wider US populace, which is alarmingly tuned out of this election that may produce a tremendous shift in power in the country.

Berkeley student Yuwynn Ho, 21, a Malaysian who received his US citizenship recently, attended both the Republican and Democratic conventions as a member of the Californian delegation. Describing the political vacation that many young Americans are taking, he told *The Straits Times*: "Back in the '60s, young people my age cared about the war and divisive issues that affected them. "Right now, the economy is doing very well. Their wallets are full." Apart from his passion for politics, he volunteers at a hospital and high school. The reality is that the level of volunteerism among young Americans is extraordinarily high. The untold story is that they are doing community service in record numbers.

Washington Post columnist Mary McGrory wrote: "They may be apolitical, but they are not apathetic." Politicians are figuring out how to create a vital link between this civic engagement and the political process in this special generation. Indeed, it can potentially become the Reform Generation. as distinctive and influential as The Greatest Generation that lived through two world wars and the Great Depression and built the US. Republican presidential hopeful John McCain, who called for a new Washington of clean campaigns, tapped into their youthful idealism. But Texas Governor George W. Bush and Vice-President Al Gore have not. They have been campaigning as though the US is devoid of young people, fixating instead on prescription drugs and tax cuts and other issues that engage their parents and grandparents.

Georgetown University student Vincente Bunuan, 21, a Filipino-American, said his friends care about abortion and are usually prochoice. He said: "For some, it is the solution for the open-minded. Young people are really into rights and free speech." The young Asian-Americans he knows appear to be even more disengaged than other youths, he felt. In his university, in the heart of Washington and unusually tuned into politics, there is no Asian-American profile among the activists petitioning for candidates or doing political work. They seem more muted in their approach; perhaps they discuss politics privately among themselves. At the same time, there are young Asian-Americans who care about the political process, such as the Kai music artistes. They have their work cut out for them

The Organization of Chinese Americans San Mateo County Chapter

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For their generous contribution to our Asian American Achievement Awards Gala

OCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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I am interested in helping in the following areas:					
	Activities	Public Affairs		Membership	
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Send application to: OCA Peninsula Chapter, P.O. Box 218, San Mateo, CA 94401.

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