



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.



From left to right: Martin Jung, Ben Yeung, Lian Gouw, Leonard Chan, Vanessa Lee, Chris Bush, Marissa Mercado, Zachary Lim, Rachel Lang, Nicolette Lacson, Stephen Low, Shelby Barthold, Wesley Liang, Emily Lin and Priscilla Cheung

July 4th VA Hospital

The most common symbol for Independence Day is the American flag. As many people display the American flag on their homes or buildings to show their patriotism. It is a day of family celebrations with picnics and barbecues, and other family events are organized.

On July 4th, we gave thanks for the freedom and liberties fought by many of

today's Americans. What better way than to spend time with our Veterans who have sacrificed their lives for our independence? Members of the San Mateo Chapter, friends and supporters felt it was important to spend time with our Veterans at the Menlo Park Veterans Hospital, located on 795 Willow Road.

Our volunteers were eager to help, tasks included setting up, decorating and cleaning up. The highlight for the day was for each volunteer to be assigned a Veteran to escort from the hospital to the activities that included music,

activities and lunch. The Veterans had a chance to enjoy the sights, sounds and sunshine during the holiday celebration.

The Menlo Park Division is part of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Health Care Services include: Audiology, Diabetes, Physical Therapy, Podiatry, Radiology Services, Speech Pathology, Social Work Services, Substance Abuse and Vocational Rehabilitation. Hours of Operation are from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday.

The Speak & Lead with Pride Program was made possible by AT&T Foundation's and Dr Ken Fong's generous contributions.

My Experience with OCA's Speak & Lead with Pride Program

*By Jennifer Kao, Mills High
Freshman*

This spring, I participated in OCA San Mateo's six week Speak and Lead with Pride program. On the first

day of this program on February 20, 2010, I walked into class with a goal of improving my public speaking skills. What I didn't expect, was how many other doors would be opened to me as a result of taking this class. Speak and Lead gave me the opportunity to participate in OCA's National Convention. This program also gave me the motivation and confidence to apply for an intern position at Congresswoman Jackie Speier's district office.

That first day, the Speak and Lead teachers asked us what we wanted to accomplish in the six-week program. There were a variety of responses that included "overcoming shyness", "improving communication", and "developing leadership skills."

Each week, the class focused on a specific aspect in public speaking. A topic was assigned for students to prepare a three-minute speech that would allow them to exercise the newly learned skills. Students delivered their speeches and received valuable critiques from teachers and peers. I especially appreciated these workshops as they gave me two perspectives of public speaking: one as the speaker and another as part of the audience. OCA teachers challenged us with speech topics that included "Find and choose a prominent Asian American role model and explain why he or she has inspired you," and "Talk about an Asian Pacific Islander stereotype and tell why people should know about it". The intriguing speech topics made me take a closer look at the Asian American community, my own identity, as well as the issues that Asian Americans face today.

At the end of the program, a competition was held to allow students to put what they have learned to test. The topic for our speech was very general, which gave us the freedom to select a subject that

we were passionate about. We had to state a pressing issue in America and suggest ways we could solve it. On the night of the competition I spoke about the faltering public education system in America. I was impressed by the speeches delivered by my fellow Speak and Lead students; we had all accomplished our goal of improving our public speaking skills. Everyone was a winner that night. School board members, OCA members, Assemblyman Jerry Hill and representatives from Senator Leland Yee and Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office were among the many prominent community leaders that were in the audience.

In June, I was invited to attend the OCA National Convention where I was asked to present my speech. Over the course of four days, I met inspirational Asian American guest speakers which included students from South Philadelphia High School who had organized a protest against racial violence. There were seminars, book readings, convention booths, luncheons, and an event each night that allowed us to explore the Asian community in Houston. At the Youth Recognition Luncheon, I delivered my speech in front of an audience of around 500. When I stepped in front of the podium, the nerves and jitters I felt before all disappeared, and I put everything I had learned from Speak and Lead into use.

A month after the convention, I started a summer internship at Congresswoman Jackie Speier's district office. This experience was eye opening, challenging, and a valuable learning opportunity. At first, I felt overwhelmed by the huge amount of procedures that interns had to follow. However by the end of the first week, I was enjoying my job of answering constituent phone calls, recording opinions, scanning documents, uploading cases, and making files and certificates. Besides

learning practical office skills, I also became more knowledgeable of bills and proposals that our government is working on. The things I have learned from Speak and Lead have been extremely relevant to my job at Congresswoman Speier's office.

When I enrolled in OCA San Mateo's Speak and Lead, I never expected the generous fountain of opportunities that OCA would expose me to. I am thankful for OCA's admirable goal of educating the next generation of Asian American leaders. Inspired by my experience with OCA, I have made it my own initiative to embrace my identity as an Asian American, work hard, and start giving back to the community that has given me so much. I encourage fellow high school students to get involved with OCA, and Asian American community.

Scholarship Luncheon

Seven scholarships were awarded in 2010 by San Mateo OCA during a luncheon presentation held on Sunday, May 2nd. The festivities were emceed by Vice President, Ben Yeung. The Philip & Louise Wang Scholarships – our oldest Scholarships, highlight those who have excelled in academia and community service. Winners were:

- Derek Wun, Burlingame High School will attend UCLA and major in Biomedical Engineering.
- Mark Chong, Carlmont High School will attend UCLA and major in Biochemistry
- Priscilla Cheung, El Camino High School will attend UC Berkeley and major in Biomedical Research



July 4th VA Hospital
(left to right) Walt Ramseur and Mary Griffin

- Jennifer Tu, El Camino High School will attend UC Berkeley and major in

Business

- Victoria

Fakalata,

Menlo-

Atherton

High School

will attend

University of

Redlands and

major in

Business

Economics.

The Monica & Adrian Arima

Scholarship recognizes

those who have given much of

themselves to

volunteerism and community

service.

- Brendan Mok, Burlingame High

School will attend UC Berkeley

and major in Biomedical

Engineering

Newsy Yan Memorial Scholarship

recognizes a woman who displays

strength in coming to terms with

conflicting roles of API women in

the modern world, struggling to

honor the cultural traditions,

while succeeding in a fast

changing professional world -

Marissa Mercado, Alma Heights



(left to right) Marissa Mercado, Brendan Mok, Jennifer Tu, Priscilla Cheung, Mark Chong, Derek Wun, and Victoria Fakalata

Christian School will attend University of Oklahoma and major

in Petroleum &

Natural Gas

Engineering

San

Mateo OCA

also thanks

members

Frank and

Ellen Ong for

providing and

preparing

lunch for all

scholarship winners, their families

and friends. The scholarship

recipients expressed gratitude to

OCA San Mateo and their

Benefactors for the scholarships, as

well as delivering thoughts of

encouragement to their peers.

OCA San Mateo congratulates our

2010 Scholarship winners and

wishes them well in their bright

futures.

OCA Heritage Celebration

By Emily Lin

In honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the first Asian Pacific American



Rebecca Hu, YOCA

Heritage Authors Celebration was held in the Foster City Library on Saturday, May 22nd, 2010.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month began in May 1979. The purpose of this event was to honor those distinguished authors and recognize their contribution to our society. Their influence on helping people know more about the rich heritage and history of Asian America is enormous.

Cynthia Chin-Lee was the first speaker. She talked about her work as well as her experience. She graduated from Harvard and wrote many children's books such as *Almond Cookies*, *Dragon Well Tea*, *Amelia to Zora* and *A Is for Asia*, which was named one of the Best 100 American Children's Books of the Century by Ruminator Review.

Jack Matsuoka recounted the story of his experience of interning in the Poston relocation camp through cartoon. Emi Young, his daughter read from his ground breaking cartoon book *Poston Camp II*.

Ann Bowler was a nature and children's author. She talked about her book *Adventures of the Treasure Fleet: China Discovers the*

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Children's book author, Cynthia Chin-Lee



George Louzensky and Charlie Chin, aka Plink and Plunk



(left to right) Philip Chin, Shirley Fong-Torres and Sharon Chin cbs5 TV personality

World and was accompanied by a special Chinese language presentation of the book.

The duo, "Plink and Plunk", made up of retired school teacher, George Louzensky and writer, Charlie Chin, played banjos and accordion, offered a selection of sing-along-songs and folk song in their presentation. They brought a lot of fun to the audience of all ages.

Margo King Lenson, author and editor of *Pacific Voices: Talk Story v1-4*, presented stories through oral histories.

Hiroshi Kashiwagi is a Nisei poet, playwright, author, actor and librarian. His book, *Swimming in the American: a Memoir and Selected Writings*, was awarded the American Book Award 2005 by the Before Columbus Foundation. He performed his play *The Betrayed* with Sue Asano and read a short

poetry reading of his internment camp experience.

Rick Rocamora was a documentary photographer and author of *American's Second-Class Veterans*. He used historical anecdotes and chronology to talk about his experience of being a photographer

during his experiences. He talked about his books *Chinatown Kid*, *Texas Cowboy* and *Prisoner of War* and his engaging experience: he grew up in Chinatown and joined the Army only to become the sole Chinese American soldier. After he was captured by the Japanese during the World War II, he managed to survive through working as a slave laborer on the infamous Burma Railroad. Eddie's wife, Judy Yung was also one of the speakers in this event.

Judy Yung specializes in oral history, women's history and Chinese American and Asian

American history. She talked about her books including *Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940* and *Unbound Feet:*

A. Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco. Her upcoming book is titled *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*.

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Author Judy Yung and Cynthia Rider, Foster City Public Service Librarian

Filipino WWII for 18 years. He also showed a lot of pictures he took and explained his point about and American veterans' struggle for recognition and equity in the United States.

Eddie Fung was in conversation with Margo King Lenson, publisher and editor of *Pacific Voices* about his engaging



Children's book Author Ann Bowler and Sophie Wong



clockwise left to right-President Martin Jung, Speak and Lead Chair David Chai, Events Chair Chris Bush, Vice President Ben Yeung, and author Lian Gouw



Membership Chair Ivy Shen

OCA Picnic

By Chris Bush and Martin Jung

What better way than relax outside in the warm sunshine and fresh air. An enjoyable way to spend the afternoon. It was picnic time on Sunday, August 22nd, as OCA San Mateo hosted it annual picnic at the local San Mateo Central Park. Smell of food grilling filled the air. Friends talking and laughing among one another. Kids were heard in the background playing. The food included chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs, fruit, chips, cookies and soft drinks. There was plenty of food for everyone.

Children present were able to play by hitting the pinata to end the get together.

The attendees enjoyed themselves. Among our OCA supporters were, Rod Hsiao, Trustee San Mateo

School District, Judge Liz Lee, Randy Okamura of at&t, Gina Papan, Millbrae City Council and Sherman Tang, OCA San Francisco President. Volunteer, Author Lian Gouw, checked in and greeted guests with ease. We truly appreciate Conrad Lee and Nancy Lee for their help and thank Chris Bush for organizing the event, our members, family and friends for coming. Until next year.



Jennifer Kao





(left to right) Ivy Shen, Chris Bush, James and Lynn Jonas

This event was planned by AACP (Asian American Curriculum Project), San Mateo OCA, JACL (San Mateo Japanese American Citizens League). The goal of the organizers was to promote the historical and cultural understanding of Asian culture. It is the best experience for us to know the efforts of these authors through their lectures and their award-winning work.

Filoli Garden Stroll

By Chris Bush

OCA San Mateo Chapter enjoyed a Garden Stroll at Filoli Gardens in Woodside on June 12, 2010. Mr. William Bowers Bourn, a well known San Franciscan businessman, came up with the unique name Filoli by combining the first two letters from the catchwords of his personal belief: "Fight for a just cause; Love your fellow man; Live a good life."

It was a great turnout with the sun shining, flowers blooming, birds chirping and to top it off, good company. There were fields filled with colorful flowers, fruit trees and even a pool. We toured the



Anna and James Ow

mansion which the owner of Filoli once lived with rooms still filled with antiques and the kitchen and pantry equipped to prepare food for grand parties once held at Filoli. There was a ballroom with a pianist playing soothing music that complimented the beautifully painted murals giving you the feeling of opulence. Going through the mansion from room to room and from corridor to corridor were flower arrangements at every turn. The beautiful and peaceful atmosphere took you back to an earlier time.

The expansive estate is a California State Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The display of early twentieth-century architecture and garden design is to be enjoyed by the public throughout the year.

Following the event we migrated to a Mexican restaurant in Redwood City, Azteca, for a tasty lunch combined with lively



Maureen and Dave Landeck

conversation and continued the fun.



Terri Chen and Ko-Fang Chang

OCA Picnic

By Chris Bush and Martin Jung

Our Interns' Testimonials

Chris Wong - Technology



Over the past year as the technology intern, my duties involved creating newsletters and stationary, redesigning and renovating the chapter website, as well as collaborating with the other interns and board members on other projects. Undertaking such a momentous task as building the OCA website from scratch was a challenge. However, with the help of the board members' constructive criticism and constant support, we were able to produce a final product that not only I was proud of, but also all those who were involved.

As I worked with the Chapter, I realized that the OCA is not only dedicated to Asian American outreach but also the idea of collaborative tasks in which teamwork is key. Through these projects, I was able to develop skills such as effective communication, time management, teamwork, and creative web design. Working with the Chapter and the board members has been a delight and through this internship, I was not only able to develop professional relationships with the board members but also got to know them as friends. Thank you OCA, for this amazing opportunity and all the valuable skills and friendships I have acquired this past year, and I hope to continue to work with the Chapter in the future.

Thomas Yeh - Public Relations



This year, I was honored enough to hold the position of Publications intern in San Mateo's very own OCA. In this role, I was in charge of making flyers and promoting the many events throughout my time there. Now that my responsibility has ended, I would like to say that the organization was extremely supportive, caring and overall, made my experience with them a memorable one. This group strives to improve Asian relations and standing with the rest of the community and is a very organized, yet free-thinking battalion of dedicated members.

I have learned quite a lot of communication skills from OCA, whether it'd be cooperating with other members and board members on flyers or participating in the board meetings, and they are skills that I will bring with me as I go on in my final year of high school and throughout college.

Though I will not be continuing my term, I'd like to thank OCA for choosing me as an intern and helping me develop my newfound skills. I wish this organization the best, and hope it continues to achieve its goals while at the same time, helping the new generation, such as myself, towards their own.

Emily Lin - Publications



As a Publication Intern at OCA, I am responsible for writing newsletters articles. I attended and volunteered at OCA- sponsored events throughout the year. Through these events, I have learned to step out of my comfort zone and take initiative. I have become a more outgoing person who is not afraid to voice my opinion and discuss upcoming events such as Gala committee meeting with other board members during the board meeting every month. In the past one year with OCA, I have not only improved my communication skills and writing skills, but also time management and team cooperation. OCA has become my second family, giving passion and zeal to all the members.

I appreciate that OCA choose me as one of the interns. Their dedication to help Chinese community encourages me to stay in OCA and continue to be their intern for next year. I believe that those invaluable experiences will assist me in the future and I will, contribute my hardworking ability to enhance the success of OCA. Thank you, OCA.

2010 Officers & Directors

Martin Jung, *President*

Ben Yeung, *Vice President*

Jacob Chu, *Treasurer*

Melodie Lew, *Secretary*

Committee Chairs

Joanne Tong, *attending Grad School*

Lisa La, *YOCA*

David Chai, *Speak & Lead Program*

Chris Bush, *Events*

Ivy Shen, *Membership*

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

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: