



OCA

EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF CHINESE AND ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICANS

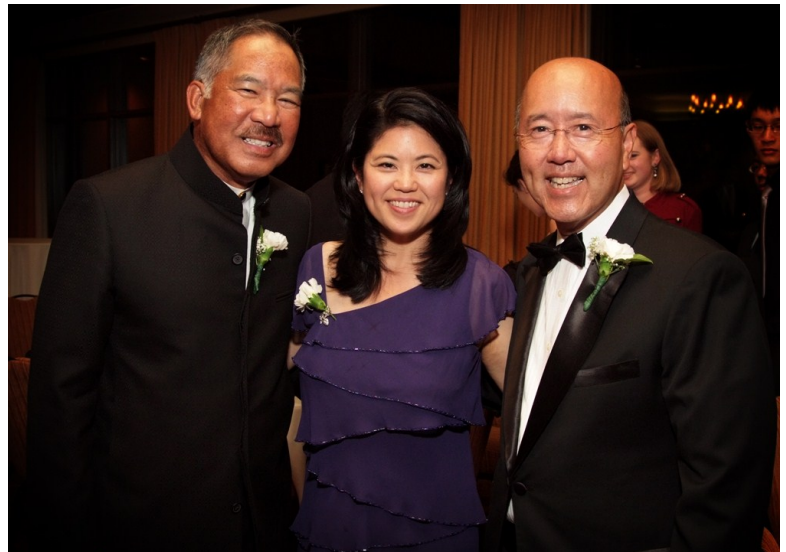
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25th Annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala

By Jane Sun

On September 8, 2012, the San Mateo County Chapter of OCA (SMOCA) hosted its 25th Annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala at the Green Hills Country Club in Millbrae. Consistent with this year's theme, *Pioneers, Inspiration for the Next Era*, SMOCA recognized USTA Northern California Hall of Fame Member Peanut Louie Harper; former Senior Counselor to the White House National Economic Council Ginger Lew; and former South Bay Bureau Chief for KTVU Channel 2 News Lloyd LaCuesta.

Above: Gala honoree Lloyd LaCuesta and evening hosts, Jana Katsuyama and David Louie. Below: The members of YOCA and SMOCA, Chapter Interns, with David Louie, Monica Arima, and Daphne Kwok.



The black tie optional event was festive, buoyed by the entertaining emceeing of David Louie and Jana Katsuyama. Members and guests enjoyed the evening's activities and entertainment, including a traditional Chinese erhu and pipa performance by Vivace Music, live auction for a special tour of Angel Island, silent auction, and raffle prizes for the new iPad. The evening began with cocktail hour, followed by an elegant meal and speeches from various prominent members of the San Mateo and OCA community. The local honorees recognized that evening serve as incredible role models for the Asian Pacific American community.

California State Senator Jerry Hill presented a special honor to commemorate the 25th annual event and SMOCA's continuing service to the community, then joined the Chapter in recognizing the service of its past





Top: Alden Soohoo, Ben Yeung, PoYee Ung, Arlene Chang, Laurie Soohoo, Ashley Lee, Wade Loo, Ken Lee, with guests. Bottom: Audry Chai and YOCA volunteers.

president Martin Jung. Guests for the evening were also introduced to participants of SMOCA's signature Speak and Lead with Pride program; the program teaches valuable public speaking skills to San Mateo County high school students.

The 25th Annual Fundraiser and Awards Gala was a well-attended success, both recognizing role models with the Bay Area Asian Pacific American community, and raising valuable funds to support the educational and community endeavors of SMOCA, including its college scholarship program, high school intern program, and various community service programs. SMOCA would like to thank all members that attended this wonderful event.



Top: Daphne Kwok and Honoree Peanut Louie Harper. Bottom: Melodie Lew and Honoree Ginger Lew.



Top: Immediate Past President Martin Jung with SMOCA Directors and Members. Bottom: Redwood City Councilman Jeff Gee with Foster City Councilman Steve Okamoto.

Below: Chris Bush and Franklin Kang.



Message from the President, Melodie Lew



I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year! As we review San Mateo OCA's events of 2012, several highlights come to mind. Dr. David Chai and his co-teacher, Liza Normandy, led another very successful cohort of students through our Speak & Lead Program last spring. I was also asked to present the Program at the April 2012 OCA National Board of Directors' meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where it was very warmly received, and led to several other Chapters planning on replicating the Program in their own communities. In addition, the Sacramento and San Mateo Chapters jointly applied for and received in December 2012, a

twenty-five thousand dollar grant from Comcast to work together and expand the Speak & Lead Program. Dr. Chai and Sacramento will certainly be busy!

Ten scholarships, each for one thousand dollars, were donated and distributed to outstanding high school seniors this past spring. Students are attending colleges and universities from Harvard and Scripps to UC Berkeley and UCLA. Monica Arima continues to provide guidance to YOCA which hosted several very successful events. Please see the articles on YOCA activities for 2012 in this Newsletter.

In November, the Chapter's interns were fortunate enough to hear a panel discuss challenges and issues of interest to today's women. *Insights for Tomorrow's Women Leaders* was moderated by Dinah Lin, former senior executive of Fortune 500 companies; the panel consisted of Michelle Lew, President and CEO of Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI); Charlene Low, President and Founder of OMNI Mortgage Company, Inc. and Low Financial Group, Campbell; and Lindsay Yee, doctoral candidate in environmental science and engineering, California Institute of Technology.

2012 was also highlighted by San Mateo OCA's twenty-fifth annual gala and fundraiser celebration held at the Green Hills Country Club in Millbrae. Honorees included Peanut Harper, former nationally ranked juniors tennis player; Lloyd LaCuesta, recently retired South Bay bureau chief and KTVU newscaster; and Ginger Lew, former Senior Counselor to the White House National Economic Council and SBA Deputy Administrator.

In 2013, we look forward to hosting our Lunar New Year dinner at the Grand Palace Seafood Restaurant in South San Francisco on the 23 February. The food was so delicious, that our Board unanimously decided to return to the restaurant. Please plan on joining us then for great food and warm company as we welcome the year of the Snake! Speak & Lead will also kick off its 2013 classes on the same day. San Mateo OCA also looks forward to hosting a new class of interns; awarding scholarships to outstanding high school seniors; the twenty-sixth annual gala and fundraiser on the 14 September at Green Hills Country Club; and future mixers and other social events which will be announced to members and friends of San Mateo OCA. We welcome you to all our activities and look forward to your active participation.

Annual Picnic

by Jane Sun

On August 12th, SMOCA members and their friends and family convened in San Mateo's Central Park for a sunny afternoon of food and fun. It was a fair day in San Mateo, and hamburgers and hot dogs were grilled up on the barbeque. Everyone had a great time catching up after a summer full of activities. As members and families chatted with each other, their children played around Central Park and the atmosphere was joyous and lighthearted. Much thanks to all who provided food and assistance to make this picnic such a fun success.



Annual SMOCA picnic with members and friends including State Senator Leland Yee, Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Lee, and San Mateo County Board of Education Trustee Rod Hsaio.

YOCA 2nd Annual Gala

by Michelle Guan

On Saturday July 21, YOCA held their second annual gala as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Many OCA members and YOCA family members were kind enough to attend the event to support OCA's youth group. The event was located at the Arima residence in Palo Alto. At around 6:30, people started arriving dressed for the gala's tropical theme. Everyone was also given Hawaiian leis to match the gala's theme. The gala started off with dinner and conversation between members. The dinner included a variety of finger foods including honeydew melon prosciutto, sushi, and spam musubi. YOCA members also went around to sell raffle tickets, with proceeds benefitting the American Cancer Society. After dinner, YOCA Board members presented awards to their graduating seniors as well as their two OCA honorees, Chris Bush and Wade Loo. Each senior was presented a personalized hand-made mask and a certificate. The OCA honorees also received beautiful hand-made awards made by a YOCA member. After the awards, the attendees moved on to play casino games including poker and mah jong. The gala was ended with a drawing for prizes. Most attendees participated in the drawing for prizes, and every family went home with a prize. The gala was very entertaining and a great way to meet new friends. Thank you OCA members for making YOCA's gala a success.

OCA National Updates

As you may already know, OCA is a national organization dedicated to advancing the political, social, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) with its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

OCA National Convention

OCA National chose to bring their 2012 Annual National Convention to the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, from Thursday, August 2 through Sunday, August 5. The theme of this year's convention was "Get Out to Vegas, Get Out the Vote" (GOTV²). The convention was geared to focus on ensuring that the voices of APAs are heard through electoral participation, as well as offering workshops and resources for educational, cultural, and networking purposes. The annual convention drew hundreds of APAs from around the country and gave them the

YOCA members with graduating seniors at the YOCA 2nd Annual Gala.



skills and resources to return home and promote election registration in such a pivotal election year.

OCA National Gala Awardees

These awards were presented at this year's National Convention in Las Vegas, August 2-5th. OCA National President Ken Lee had this to say about this year's honorees: "We are proud to honor a diverse and legendary group of APA leaders who have made impactful contributions to the community and their respective fields...their courage and leadership have paved the way for countless APAs in the arts, education, military, and civil rights."

Pioneer Awards Honorees:

Major Kurt Chew- Een Lee, USMC, Ret. and author Maxine Hong Kingston.

Outstanding Citizen Achievement Awards Honorees:

J.D. Hokoyama, retired president and CEO of Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc., Floyd Mori, former National President of the JAACL, and Karen Narasaki, former President and Executive Director of the Asian American Justice Center.

For more information on OCA National, please visit: www.ocanational.org

Gold Rush to Silicon Valley

By Ashley Kwak

On June 26, David Chai shared an eye-opening presentation about the contributions of Chinese Americans despite the struggles they have faced. He introduced three waves of Chinese immigration to the United States and the events that led to those waves. As history was covered, Dr. Chai unveiled several Chinese Americans who have influenced and advanced America in politics, business, media, science, literature, and many other areas. As the presentation came to an end, the audience had an opportunity to ask questions, comment, and share information. Although very informative, the presentation maintained a comfortable atmosphere and everyone left with a greater knowledge and appreciation for the contributions of Chinese Americans.



Rod Hsiao, San Mateo County Board of Education, Melodie Lew, OCA Chapter President and Dr. David Chai, Speak and Lead Chair

Vegetarian Dinner with David Louie

By Kayla Chun

Preparations began early on October 27th for a team of six YOCA volunteers. The kitchen of the Arima Residence came to life around three in the afternoon as the crew went about rolling, stirring, and frying their way to a fabulous meal. Soon it was six thirty and guests had begun to arrive. Greeted by the bright faces of YOCA members, guests went inside to a plethora of appetizers and beverages. The YOCA volunteers served vegetarian appetizers that ranged from samosas to spring rolls. Once the crowd was served and socializing continued on until dinner was served. The table was set and the dining room was full of wonderful aromas. It was quite the experience for the guests, getting to explore the tastes of vegetarian cuisine. The table was filled with a variety of dishes from vegetable green curry to imitation sea cucumber. After a word from the guest of honor, David Louie from ABC 7 news, and an explanation of the dishes by YOCA advisor, Monica Yeung Arima, everyone started to dig in to the vegetarian feast.

The night went by quickly in the warmth of good company, conversing with old friends and meeting new ones. And in the end, the dinner was all for a good cause. All of the proceeds of the fundraiser will go towards funding a scholarship for a deserving student. Thank you to all of those who came, for your great company and for supporting the YOCA.



White House Initiative on AAPI Affairs Chair Daphne Kwok, SMOCA Board Member Monica Arima, and ABC7 News Reporter David Louie with YOCA members.

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Arlene Chang, *Vice President*
Jacob Chu, *Treasurer*
Liza Normandy, *Secretary*

Committee Chairs

Liza Normandy, *Membership*
David Chai, *Speak & Lead Program*
Chris Bush, *Events*
Melodie Lew, *Scholarship*
Leonard Chan, *Website*
Monica Yeung Arima, *YOCA*

Additional Directors

Chris Bush, Walter Chao, Immediate Past President Martin Jung, Franklin Kang, Monica Yeung Arima, and Ben Yeung

2013 Advisory Council

Dr. David Shen - Orthodontist, Chairman
Monica Yeung Arima - Real Estate Broker
Dr. Samuel Chan - Cardiologist
Dr. Shu-Wing Chan - Cardiologist
Hon. Jerry Hill - California State Senator
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

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