



The Orange Coast Optimist Club  
of  
Garden Grove  
***Rak Kan News***

Editor - Stacey Yoshinaga

December 2002

P.O. Box 28802 • Santa Ana • CA • 92799

## ***Greetings from the President . . .***

First off, I must apologize to everyone for slacking off! I have been asked by our newsletter editor, Stacey Yoshinaga, for the past several weeks for an article so that she can publish a newsletter. I procrastinated, procrastinated, and procrastinated!

I knew that this would be a difficult article to write because of the passing of our dear friend and member Linda Kimoto. No words can express the loss that we all feel from this sudden tragedy; no words can make it understandable or better. But many words can describe what we have all gained by having Linda in our lives for the time that we did. We can feel honored to have known such a great and giving person. Linda was a wonderful role model for our children and us all. Her selflessness and dedication to everything she was involved with was more than anyone could ask for. Linda Kimoto was an outstanding citizen within our community, outstanding Optimist member and an outstanding friend.  
***She will be dearly missed by us all.***

There is a favor I would like to ask all of you . . . and that is to please bear with us while we try to smooth things out with all the details that Linda handled . . . and we all know how much she did. I want to thank all of you who "stepped up to the plate" during this difficult time. I get goose bumps when I think of all the calls and e-mails that I received with concerns of Linda or asking if I need help with anything. It was astounding! What a great family OCO is!

Happy Holidays to everyone!!!

Judy James

## ***Basketball Practice***

Thanks to all of you for putting up with the practice schedule fluctuations! There has been a lot of rescheduling and we know it's very difficult to plan weekend activities...we appreciate your understanding. There will be no practice for OCO/SEYO teams on December 21 and 28. Practices will resume on January 4, with the normal schedule.

## ***Picture Day***

Picture Day for OCO basketball teams will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2003. Your teams will be assigned a time to be "camera ready!" Be sure to attend practice on this day so your children's faces will be in the SEYO yearbook!!!

# **OCO Youth Clubs and more**

## **Octagons**

The Orange Coast Octagon's delivered wonderful Thanksgiving food baskets to 40 families on Sunday, November 24! They all met in the parking lot of Albertson's in Huntington Beach. Albertson's was gracious enough to allow us to use the lot to assemble the baskets. Thanks to all the members who brought in the canned food. Thanks, also, to Jimmy Otsuka for donating the potatoes, celery, and carrots. We also greatly appreciate the following coaches/parents who donated \$20 each to the "Turkey Fund." This money allowed the Octagons to purchase the turkeys and other goodies for the baskets: Tim Shimasaki, Wendy Omura, John Martino, Caryn Ito, Ted Nuguid, Warren Kusumoto, Dwayne Yoshinaga, Howard Kunihiro, Diane Otsuka, Karl Hill, Rod Nakamoto, Dean Ozawa, Kevin Quan, Jon Jinkawa, Davy Nakada, Jim Hitchcock, Nori Nishida, Wallace Chan, Mitch Okuda, Clay Sakurao, Michael Lowe, Robert Kamafuji, Tom Uyematsu, Neddie Bokosky, Alvin Hagino, Todd Hoida, Bob Kubo, Justin Yamasaki, Dave Tanabe, Marc Harrison, Michael Shimokaji, Eric Hamamoto, Ron Shimoide, Vincent Hamasaki, Randy Tsuruta, Mark Sugamura, Chris Kato, Robert Quon, David Lee, Danny Tanaka, Renee Kimoto, Ken Fukushima, Todd Auerbach, George Hinzo, Jesse James.

The Hyland home event went really smooth this year. Thanks to Mitch Okuda for organizing a great event.

Doc Kunihiro  
*OCO Octagon Advisor*

## **OCO Night at Chapman**

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, January 25, for an exciting Chapman Men's Basketball game. The most exciting part is that our OCO kids get to be the half time entertainment! They get to "strut their stuff" on the court. Free admission to OCO families. More info will follow next month.

## **Junior Optimists**

The OCO Halloween Party was a fun time for all. The Junior Optimists provided crafts by Jamie Nakatani, games by Bryce Kubo, polaroid pictures by Kimberly Goss, and decorations by Meaghan Osaki. We also did something new this year..."Haunted Acres" for the five and under crowd. There was a maze, a graveyard, and a haunted forest. Special thanks to Ellen Natsume, Eileen and Chris Kato, and Ed Grier.

November was a sad month. We said good bye to a very special friend to OCO Junior Optimists...that was Linda Kimoto. Our Presidents, Kimberly Goss and Bryce Kubo were one of many who paid a special floral tribute to Linda. We miss her tremendously, but her spirit will always be with us.

Bob Kubo  
*OCO Junior Optimist Advisor*

## **Casino Night Update**

A huge round of applause for our first three sponsors!!!

gem \* Ozawa Farms \* Dr. Brent Lew

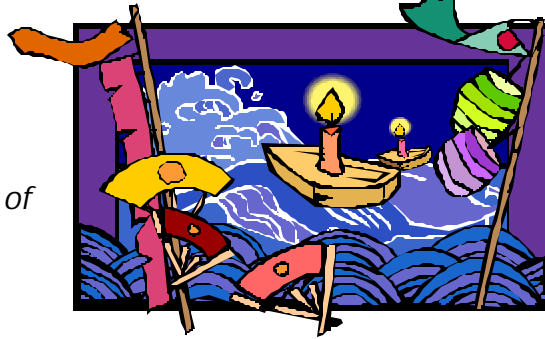
Each sponsor receives:  
Two Casino Night tickets  
100 gaming chips  
Sponsor Sign-On gaming table  
Listing in Donor Program  
Announcement of sponsors throughout the evening

Please contact Karl Hill at  
[karlh@ch.ci.garden-grove.ca.us](mailto:karlh@ch.ci.garden-grove.ca.us)  
or (562) 926-4963  
if you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor.

## Other OCO Happenings

### **Mochi Tsuki**

Join us for the traditional making of  
mochi (Japanese rice cakes)



**Sunday December 29**

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Otsuka Farms

802 N. Fairview, Santa Ana

(where Civic Center Drive & Fairview meet)

Please bring a main dish, **plus**:  
(last name ending in...)

**A to G** desserts

**H to M** appetizers, chips/dips, etc.

**N to R** rice dishes, sushi, etc.

**S to Z** salads, veggies

## **Visions Program**

### **“I’m really happy when . . .”**

“Visions” is a program sponsored by OCO to provide an opportunity for students affiliated with OCO to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works.

Using the theme, “I’m really happy when...,” participants can submit as many entries in the following categories:

**Literature** - Poems, short stories or essays: fiction or non-fiction.

**Visual Arts** - Paintings, drawings, collages, photographs.

*Tinkos (K-1) can only submit paintings, drawings and collages.*

All participants will be recognized for entering the contest. Awards will be presented by divisions in the literature and visual arts categories. The four divisions are: Tinkos (K-1), 2nd-4th grades, 5th-7th grades, and 8th-12th grades.

**Entries are due January 25, 2003**

Work on your creation at a Visions workshop:  
January 4 and January 11, 2003  
in the Rancho Alamitos Cafeteria

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## ***Upcoming Events***

### ***December -***

29 - Mochi Tsuki

### ***January -***

4 - Basketball practice resumes

11 - Picture day

25 - Chapman Basketball game

### ***February -***

Tri-Star Competition

15 - OCO Casino Night Fundraiser

### ***May -***

Scholarship Banquet

### ***June -***

Steak Dinner

Orange Coast Optimist is affiliated with Optimist International, a world-renowned organization. Optimist clubs throughout the world are dedicated to the scholastic, physical, moral, and civic development of the youths in every community.

Be sure to check the OCO Website -  
[www.ocoyouth.org](http://www.ocoyouth.org)