



The Orange Coast Optimist Club
of
Garden Grove
Rak Kan News

Editor - Stacey Yoshinaga

December 2001

P.O. Box 28802•Santa Ana•CA•92799

Message from the President . . .

For the past several years I was the editor of the *Rak Kan News*. Now, thanks to my dear friend Stacey Yoshinaga, I no longer have that title. I cannot stress how thankful I am to her for taking on this task . . . it's not an easy one!!! As the editor I used to constantly bother the Presidents about the status of their President's message. . . "Where is it?," "I need it!," etc. Now the table is turned . . . "What in the world am I supposed to write about?!!" I have been postponing this task for a week now, delaying Stacey and the *Rak Kan News*! I apologize to Glenn, Howard, and Bob for all those months I hassled you!!!

As the holidays are approaching fast, and I mean fast, we at OCO are also moving fast!!! We are in full swing with the basketball season beginning on December 2, the Hylond Home Christmas Party on December 9, and Mochi Tsuki on December 30, not to mention our General Meeting on November 30th! "Wow," you say, "We can't do it all!!!" There's the Christmas shopping, Christmas office parties, etc. No, you can't do it all, BUT, you can try!! That's what Optimism is all about!! "Look at the sunny side of everything" . . . think of what great experience your children will gain at the Hylond Home Christmas party . . . think of what great cultural experience you and your family will gain at Mochi-Tsuki . . . and it only takes a couple of hours of your time!! I invite all of our members to TRY to get a taste of OCO other than through the basketball program! We offer so much more, but so little try it out!! During the year, I challenge each and every one of you to attend an event that you have never attended before! You may be very surprised on what you experience!! So take a deep breath, go shopping, go partying and go OCO-ing! You won't regret it!!!

OCO General Meeting

There will be an OCO General Meeting at the Tanaka Farms on Friday, Nov. 30th.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided; members can bring desserts and side dishes. The meeting will begin at approximately 8 p.m. All new members attending will be inducted!! This will be a

great opportunity for you to also buy your Christmas tree! Please RSVP to Vince Hamasaki @ (949)367-0610 or e-mail at vh000700@student.fullerton.edu by November 28th.

Tanaka Farms is located on University Dr. and Strawberry Farms Rd. in Irvine.

Octagon Food Basket Delivery

Brrr...it was cold outside but at 7 a.m Saturday morning, November 18, a few brave men (*Brandon Nishimura, Ed, Darin, and Stephen Kamiyama*) met at Albertson's in Huntington Beach (Edinger/Golden West). Men at the market that early? We met to buy food for the food baskets and to pick up the turkeys that were sold to us at a discount. Much appreciation to Albertson's for their support and for allowing us to deplete their shelves. We bought all the oranges they had for \$.25/lb. The shoppers asked us why we were buying so much?

On Sunday at 7 a.m., 36 Octagons, parents, and OCNCC Queen Nori Nakase gathered at Otsuka Farms to sort the hundreds of canned and packaged goods donated by *you*. With the planning and organizing of our chairmen *Stephen Kamiyama and Brandon Nishimura*, the Octagons did all the sorting in 30 minutes. Now came the task of assembling the baskets for the 36 families. The Garden Grove Social Services as well as the American Indian Federation referred these families. Each family received a box load or two of canned goods, cereal, soda, oranges, rolls, a pie and a turkey.

By 8:30 a.m. our caravans were ready to roll. We thank the following for driving: *Alvin Hagino, Vivian Hirata, Renee Kimoto, Robert Kubo, Elise Kunihiro, Steve Nishimura, Jimmy Otsuka, Sylvia Quan, Natalie Shitara, Wayne Siu, Ken Tanaka, and Marsha Young*. One of our caravans had a map savvy navigator, *Doug Hachiya*, so they delivered their baskets to their four or five families in no time. While another navigator, *Stacy Shiomi*, led her caravan around the city sights! Hee hee. It took them a while to deliver their baskets to their eight families, but they got it done with lots of fun and laughter.

This year, our Octagons felt the families were very appreciative and deserving of your generosity. In one situation, three families lived in a two-bedroom house. There was another recipient who asked our kids and Jimmy to share his "bounty" with a friend who lived down the street. This friend was a woman who was deaf and mute. Another family had nine children with another on the way.

This Thanksgiving will be especially rewarding to all of them and our Octagons. We would like to thank the following for their generous monetary donations: *Mark Arakawa, John Bartlett, Neddie Bokosky, Wallace Chan, Richard Dang, Cindy Goss, Eric Hamamoto, Vincent Hamasaki, Karl Hill, Jesse James, Ann Joyce, Robert Kamifuji, Howard Kamo, Chris Kato, Linda Kimoto, Wayne Koga, Robert Kubo, Warren Kusumoto, David Lee, Michael Lowe, Nori Nishida, Mitch Okuda, Dean Ozawa, Ramon Pacion, Robert Quon, Mark Sakakura, Clay Sakurao, Tim Shimasaki, Jon Shimazaki, Ron Shimoide, Curtis Siu, Mark Sugamura, and Danny Tanaka*.

A great big THANK You to all our Optimist families and Octagons for making this another rewarding project.

Happy Holidays!!!

Linda Kimoto
Octagon Advisor

OCO Hyland Home Christmas Party

Sunday, December 9
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Hylond Home is a residential home for 150 people who are physically and mentally impaired. Every year, OCO throws the residents a huge Christmas party. This year, OCO will be providing the funds to purchase gifts for the residents. Their wish lists were made available at basketball practice on November 17; your team reps have the specifics.

At the party, 30 residents will be treated to a pizza and Bingo party. The Octagons and Jr. Optimist members help out with

the games and food. We even get a surprise visit from Santa and his elves!!!

All gifts should be purchased by Saturday, December 2 and be brought back to the Rancho cafeteria for a gift wrapping party. (Bring scissors, tape, paper, ribbon, etc.)

Bring Christmas cheer to Hylond Home!! All members are welcome to attend. Parking is limited...Hylond Home is located at 9861 W. 11th Street in Garden Grove.

Mochi-Tsuki

This year the OCO Mochi-Tsuki will be held on Sunday, December 30th at the Otsuka Farm! For those who are unfamiliar with this event, "mochi" is rice cake, and "Mochi-Tsuki" is the making of rice cake. Mochi was made as a Japanese tradition for the New Year! OCO continues this tradition every year!

This event begins at 9 a.m., but for those who like to get there early to help with the steaming of the rice, come around 7 a.m.!!! Otsuka Farm is located at 802 N. Fairview in Santa Ana.

The Mochi-Tsuki is followed by a pot luck using the following schedule: Everyone brings a main dish (enough to serve eight) plus:

Last name begins with:	
A-F	Salads
G-L	Desserts
M-S	Appetizers, chips, etc.
T-Z	Rice dishes, etc.

For further information, please call Jesse @ (714)531-1875 or e-mail jessedjames@ocoyouth.org.

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Newsletter
P.O. Box 28802
Santa Ana, CA 92799

Upcoming Events

November 30 -
General meeting at Tanaka Farms

December 2 -
First SEYO basketball game

December 30 -
Moshi-Tsuki at Otsuka Farms

January 12 -
OCO basketball picture day

WEB Sites

OCO www.ocoyouth.org
SEYO www.seyo.org

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

Have anything to contribute to the *Rak Kan News*? Contact Stacey Yoshinaga at AllyAmy@worldnet.att.net

Happy Holidays!