



The Orange Coast Optimist Club
of
Garden Grove
Rak Kan News

Editor - Stacey Yoshinaga

January 2002

P.O. Box 28802•Santa Ana•CA•92799

Message from the President . . .

Happy New Year to everyone! Hope 2002 brings you all much happiness! But you better hold on because, boy o' boy, do we have a lot in store for you in 2002! For starters, we will be having a general meeting this month, but time and date are still in the works, so we'll contact you with further details. Our Visions Program will also be kicking off in January. In February, look for the all new Casino Night! Since the majority of OCO's functions are geared for the entire family the Casino Night will be one of the first functions just for adults! We adults have to have a little fun of our own! The Casino Night Committee has been working on this since August . . . and I mean working . . . there's already been many hours put into the planning of this special event. Please make it a point to put it on your calendar, sell your tickets, and make sure you don't miss this fun and exciting evening!!!

Basketball, basketball, basketball . . . can you get enough of it?? Well, hopefully you and your family are enjoying the SEYO season . . . we're half way through . . . but that doesn't mean basketball will be over for OCO! We will still be conducting clinics to prepare for the 3-on-3 tournament and the Nikkei Games!

If you would like to get involved and just haven't been asked, please don't hesitate to approach us. There are so many new members that we just can't get out there and touch each and everyone of you. BUT we would like to! Please feel free to ask any board member or myself . . . we would love to have you volunteer!! We can never have too many volunteers!!

Have a great January!!

P.S. Our annual Mochi-Tsuki was held on December 30 at the Otsuka Farms. We had a great turn out, but I'm sad to say, that was the last time our Mochi-Tsuki will be held at Otsuka Farms! Many thanks to the Otsuka family for their gracious hospitality in all the past years! I get a huge lump in my throat while writing this article. I cannot thank all those members who came year after year to make the Mochi-Tsuki such a great event. One member said, "We won't let you down . . . we'll make you look good, Prez . . . for your first Mochi-Tsuki!" WOW! Boy did they do that! I didn't even give Mochi-Tsuki a second thought as I knew it was always in great hands!! Our Chairperson, Les Ito, called me, and told me he took care of all the details, but unfortunately would not be there on

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Casino Night

Aloha, OCO Style!

Join the fun at the first annual OCO Casino Night fundraiser. Tickets are on sale for \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

This includes admission to the event, entry into the \$1000 raffle, \$100 in gaming tokens, delicious Hawaiian food, and much more! Contact any OCO member to purchase a ticket.

Don't forget, every team that sells a minimum of four tickets per family by January 19th will receive a pizza party for the team after practice on February 2! Turn in the complete ticket to your team parent with check/cash as soon as possible. The tickets will be numbered and returned to the team parents upon receipt of payment.

Three cheers to the following families! They have already sold their first four tickets:

Hisashi and Misako Ohta
Randy Tamura
Kristen Minami
Cathy and Curtis Siu
Suzanne and Howard Nakashioya
Stacey and William Shiomi

Contact Ellen Natsume @ (949)367-0757 or natsumechan@msn.com for more tickets or information.

Octagons

With over 50 Octagon members in attendance at the Hylond Home Christmas Party, the event was a success, and a fun day for both the kids helping out and the residents at the home. Playing Christmas bingo, singing carols, eating, and visiting with Santa made for a great morning.

Upcoming Octagon events include the January Service Project on *January 19*. At this event, the members will travel throughout Garden Grove painting over graffiti. On *February 9*, there will be a College Planning Seminar at the Rancho cafeteria. In *March*, the Octagons will be helping out with games at the annual OCO Easter Party.

A Note from Mitch Okuda

Christmas has come and gone . . . all of the hustle and bustle of shopping, wrapping, and preparing for the festivities are over. Even though the holidays are over, one feeling remains with me . . . feel the joy of receiving by giving!

Thanks to all of you who volunteered your time, generosity, and caring for those who are less fortunate than we are; the Hylond Home Christmas Party was a success with all of your help. You helped us to provide gifts and cheer to 149 residents at Hylond Home. This activity could not have been accomplished so easily without the great support from the OCO parents, kids, and Team Parents.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the following people who made my job as chairperson a lot easier. President, Judy (PJ), Marsha Hamamoto, Neddie Bokosky, and Alden Otsuka, who came in and handled the organizing and passing out of the gifts, Jesse for having the insight for such a wonderful project, Ellen Natsume-chan, OCO's Treasurer (taking care of the gift cards), our two Santas . . . Kurt Goss and Clay Sakurao and our two Mrs. Clauses . . . Lani Okuda and Carrie Kawamura, Linda, Renee, and Steven Kimoto, Howard and Andrea Kunihiro, Tim and Robin Shimasaki, Bob Kubo and his terrific group of Jr. Optimist members, Eric Hamamoto and his great gang of Octagons, and Nori Nakase (2001 Miss Nisei Queen) and her friend Sylvia for calling the Bingo game. I know there were many more of you who were there helping, that I haven't mentioned. Please accept my sincere thanks. The party wouldn't have been a success without your support!

2001 Visions Program

Calling all OCO players...*Are you ready to participate?*

"I hold in my hand..."

This is the theme ("I hold in my hand...") for the 2002 OCO Visions Program. This is an art recognition and achievement program. It provides an opportunity for players affiliated with OCO to use their creative talents and express themselves.

Players may enter in any of the following categories:

Literature (poems, short stories or essays - fiction or non-fiction)
Visual Arts (paintings, drawings, collages)
Photography (black and white, color)

All participants will receive recognition. Prizes are awarded in the three art categories by division: Tinkos (K-first grade), 2nd-4th grade, 5th-7th grade, and 8th-12th grade.

It's fun and easy...enter **as many** entries as you like!
Please see the program guidelines that will be available from your coach
at the January 5 basketball practice.

**Entries are due Saturday, February 2, 2002
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
at the Rancho Alamitos High School Gym**

Players may interpret the theme in any way they feel appropriate. The theme must be reflected in the work of art. Unless the work clearly relates to the theme, the theme must be used in the title or subtitle of the entry.

All entries are judged on creative ability and interpretation of the theme.

All entries must be the original design, artwork, or writing of an individual player. Parents and friends **MAY NOT** assist the player. Sorry, entries completed by two or more players together are *not* permitted.

For more information, please contact Stacey Yoshinaga at (714)963-9366 or by email stacey.yoshinaga@disney.com.

OCO General Meeting Recap

At the November 30 general meeting held at the Tanaka Farms, Chairpersons Vince and Susan Hamasaki did an outstanding job organizing this fun and festive event! Members were able to make creative picture ornaments with their families while sipping on hot cocoa under the shining stars and shop for their fresh Christmas trees! Glenn and Shirley Tanaka provided the yummy hamburgers and hot dogs!! New members Dennis Doi, Tim Wladyka, Emilie Oishi, Vernon Kimura, David Steele, George Hinzo, Kathy Grijanos, David Grosvenor, Tracy Lee and Don Nishikawa were officially installed! We also celebrated Howard Kunihiro's ???? birthday!! Many thanks to the Hamasaki's for organizing this event and to the Tanaka's for their hospitality!

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

Upcoming Events

January 5 -
OCO basketball practice resumes
January 12 -
Winter OCO team pictures
February 9 -
College Planning Seminar
presented by the Octagons
February 16 -
Casino Night

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.

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the day of the event. His son, Ryan, was in a tournament in Modesto. Of course, he had to be there to watch his son and I knew that if Les said he took care of the details, he took care of the details! But then, he drove all night, in the rain, to be there . . . thanks so much Les & Jayne! Jimmy and Glenn . . . no words can express my thanks for ALL that you do . . . just that big lump in my throat! Mrs. O. . . I think many members just go to Mochi-Tsuki so they can see her bubbly little face!! Thanks Mrs. O. for letting us infringe on your home! Teddy, Mitch, Clay, Alvin, Howard - thanks for being there and doing what you do!! Bob Kubo and his FANTASTIC Jr. Optimist's - thanks for being such a great advisor and getting your club there to help out! And thanks to all those members who came and lent support! Mochi-Tsuki is such a great family and cultural event. We will keep it up. We just have to find a new home for next year! Any suggestions??