



The Orange Coast Optimist Club
of
Garden Grove
Rak Kan News

Editor - Stacey Yoshinaga

March/April 2002

P.O. Box 28802•Santa Ana•CA•92799

Message from the President . . .

AWESOME! That's the word that comes to my mind when I think about how **OUR** Casino Night went! Notice the emphasis on **OUR** . . ., that's because it took each and every one of you to make it as successful as it was! Thanks to all the members who supported the event! I have heard, through the grapevine, that everyone who attended the Casino Night had a great time! That's something to be really proud of! And I'm really proud of our club, our membership and our committee that spearheaded this event! Please take a moment to look at the list of committee members so they can be individually recognized for the great amount of time and hard work they devoted to this event. Thank you to **everyone!**

Now that basketball season has come to an end for some of us . . . you must remember that **OCO** has **NOT** come to an end!! There are many events in store for each and every one of you! The OCO Easter Party, Baseball clinics and season, Scholarship Banquet, Steak Dinner, General Meetings, Fishing Derbies, OCO Basketball Camp and the Nikkei Games are all coming up and waiting for you! So please, read your e-mails, read the newsletters and pass the word on to keep current with OCO!! I look forward to seeing you all!

Casino Night Committee

Chairman - Glenn Tanaka
Shirley Asao
Neddie Bokosky
Cindy Goss
Calvin Hagino
Eric Hamamoto
Marsha Hamamoto
Vince Hamasaki
Karl Hill
Karole Holland
Judy James
Eileen Kato

Linda Kimoto
Moshi Kumura
Irene Koga
Bob Kubo
Howard Kunihiro
Judi Kusumoto
Teddy Matsumoto
Mitch Okuda
Diane Otsuka
Jimmy Otsuka
Ellen Natsume
Gail Sugamura

Casino Night **Aloha, OCO Style!**

The first annual OCO Casino Night, "Aloha, OCO Style" was held on Saturday, February 16, at the Orange County Buddhist Church. Organized by the ever-so-hard-working committee, this event was a blast! With approximately 700 people in attendance, OCO reached their goal and went way beyond! Our initial goal was to profit \$8,000 . . . we far exceeded that amount and made approximately \$22,000!! WOW!! There are just way too many people to personally mention to thank, so OCO would like to thank everyone, especially the Casino Night Committee, the Sponsors and the OCO teams that made all the terrific baskets for the silent auction! We had sooo much fun, we're thinking of trying to do a repeat for next year! Thanks again for all your support!

Adamas I/g.e.m. - Danny Tanaka	M and M Farms - Paul and Yvonne Murai
AHTKY Insurance - Dean Tofukuji	Manufacturers Bank
B and E Farms - Bill and Eddie Ito	Magarro Farms - John Magarro
Bell Tower Florist and Gifts - Linda Shimokaji	Nth Insurance - Nori Nishida
Berth 55 Seafood - Patrick Maehara	Ono Design Works - Russell Ono
Brent Lew, D.D.S.	Otsuka Farms - Jimmy Otsuka
Chicago Title - Kim Cosenza	Ozawa Family - Pam and Steve Ozawa
Children's Orchard - Shannon Braesch	Paint Boy - Jereme James
Crouse/Beers and Associates - Douglas Crouse	Rafu Shimpo - Michael Komai
Deta Inc. - Dave Iwata	Randy Ito Empire - Randy Ito
Eugene N. Triff D.D.S.	ResCare - Michael Cutchshaw
Hiramatsu Farms - Steve Hiramatsu	Risennet Communications - Chris Kato
James Family - Judy and Jesse James	Super Smog - Mike Hembree
Japanese American National Museum	Tanaka Farms - Glenn Tanaka
Joyce Family - Ann and Todd Joyce	The Keith Companies
Kamifuji Family - Robert, Jody, Bryson, and Leigh Ann	Tiempo Escrow II - Aimee Whitaker
Kawamura Family - Jeana and Matt Kawamura	Todd Auerbach, D. D. S.
Kimura Family - Moshi and Greg Kimura	Union Bank - George Tanaka, Cerritos Center
Kirin Brewery of America	Western Bureau of Marine Surveying - Mitch Okuda
Kunihiro Family - Andrea and Howard Kunihiro	Yamada Chiropractic - Jon Yamada
Lai Lai Ken - Charlie Chou	Yamasaki Enterprises - Ron Yamasaki

Basketball Awards

A big THANK YOU to those who assisted with the setup in preparation for the Winter Basketball Awards presentations. And a special thank you to the younger generation for mopping the cafeteria after our dinners.

Results of the coaches vs. coaches games were:

Peewee Girls 56 vs. Peewee Boys 45
Midget Teams 65 vs. Junior Teams 55

Top scorers were John Martino, Jon Shimasaki, Todd Hoida, Robert Quon.

Octagons

Wearing "old" clothes, the Octagons helped the Garden Grove Public Works department help paint out graffiti in January and March. We caravanned to different sites in the city, not only painting walls, but some of us painted each other.

Thanks to the parents and Octagon members for driving!

SEYO dance is April 6, 8 p.m. - midnight at the OC Buddhist Church Social Hall. Open to all spring SEYO players and their guests. Cost is \$5.

Baseball and Softball Clinics

Baseball and softball season is just around the corner. Interested players are encouraged to take part in the OCO baseball and softball clinics which begin April 7 at Rancho Alamitos High School, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Clinics are for children ages 7 and up. Clinics will continue every Sunday thereafter through May 26.

Baseball games will take place on Sundays at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley, June through mid-August.

T-ball clinic and games begin June 2 through July 28. The clinic is held at Northcutt Elementary School, 11303 Sandstone, Fountain Valley. (Off Warner between Euclid and Newhope)

All sign-ups will take place at the clinics. Fees are:

T-ball - \$40/player (includes T-shirt and trophy)
Peewee and Midgets - \$40/player (Uniforms not included in fee)
Junior/Seniors - \$500/team

Visions 2002

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's Visions program. This is an art recognition and achievement program which provides an opportunity for players affiliated with OCO to use their creative talents to express themselves. This year's theme was "I hold in my hand..." The following individuals received awards:

Visual Arts

Tinkos:

First - Amanda Braesch
Second - Connor Kunihiro
Third - Kianna Lee

Grade 2 - 4

First - Chelsea Braesch
Second - Justin Kamiya
Third - JJ James

Grade 5 - 6

First - Michelle Yamasaki
Second - Andrew Sakakura
Third - Bryan Yoshinaga

Grade 7 - 8

First - John Grier
Second - Michael Yoshinaga
Third - Scott Sakakura

Literature

Grade 2 - 4

First - Casey Beard
Second - Olivia Hill
Third - Dylan Houle

Grade 5 - 6

First - Stephan Robb
Second - Loren Robb
Third - Erika Braesch

Grade 7 - 8

First - Danielle Hontz
Second - Alan Hong
Third - Patricia Lee

Photography

Grade 2 - 4

First - Jared Fukushima
Second - Drew Hontz
Third - Michael Chan

Grade 5 - 6

First - Jonathen Lew

Grade 7 - 8

First - Rober Lew

Pasadena Cherry Blossom Parade

The annual Cherry Blossom Festival takes place April 5 - 7, at the Pasadena Exhibition Center. This is a cross-cultural celebration of spring by way of unique experiences into Japanese culture through performances, exhibits, and activities.

OCO has been invited to participate in the parade on April 6, representing the Nikkei Games. Those interested in participating need to contact Judy (judyjames@socal.rr.com) as soon as possible.

Basketball Camp

Reminder...register by June 30. Applications are available on the OCO website or call Linda Kimoto for information (714)842-7822.

ORANGECOASTOPTIMISTCLUB
Newsletter
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Upcoming Events

March 30 - Easter Party

April 6 - Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

7 - Baseball and softball clinics
begin

20 - Volleyball begins

June -

Steak Dinner

July -

Jr. Golf begins
29 - First session of Basketball
Camp begins

August -

5 - Second session of Basketball
Camp begins
Nikkei Games

OCO 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.

It's COOL!
If you haven't done so yet...
*check out the **OCO Website:***
www.ocoyouth.org

Have something to contribute to the Rak Kan News? We'll be glad to include it...contact Stacey Yoshinaga at AllyAmy@worldnet.att.net

Winner of the OCO Essay contest...

“My Place in a Changing World”

Octagon, Evan Young

A single white cloud passes overhead, trying in vain to block out the sun.

I turn, the gray screen of the television comes to life flashing colors, blaring and convincing watchers of what is real and popular. Again I turn, a plane, shimmering and reflecting the sun flies straight into a building killing all within. I keep turning, each item to face a new scene; females indulging in illicit erotica, sounds of gunfire erupting within a schoolyard. I turn faster, spinning, whirling around until everything is a blur. As I spin I see and hear many things, but mostly, feel many things. Finally I am still and I am alone, with a single white cloud overhead, trying in vain to block out the sun.

As I pause to reflect upon the myriad of sights and sounds, I take a deeper look at myself as well, an eighteen-year-old male in the middle of America’s massive suburbs. Here I stand, upon adulthood, facing a brave new world as if I were once more an infant. In this changing world, I have no place. I am an untouched block of marble, waiting to be sculpted. Each different scene I see, each sound I hear or each experience I feel slowly chips away at the block of marble and forms who I am. Yet with everything happening so quickly and with such ferocity all I end up with is confusion about what to do. How should I react to all the changes and inexplicable actions that have fallen upon the world and me? And after all of these experiences, I still have no place; I am here simply to learn and observe it is not my time to be a catalyst for the world. Perhaps, this is my place in the world, to learn and observe. My role is to become me, so when the time comes, whether tomorrow or ten years from now, I will be certain about myself and my beliefs, confident that I will change the world.

Now as I understand what my place is, I think about the future. What will I do and how will I alter the world? Will I become the next Alan Greenspan with his crystal ball controlling our economic future or will I be a wrestler in the WWF bringing entertainment to the masses? I do not know, but for now I realize what needs to be done in this changing world. I will take a chisel in hand and shape myself into the best that I can be, hoping that when it is time for me to take my chosen place in the world, I will be ready to deal with the problems the world encounters.

SMACK! The explosion of pain in my head knocks me to the floor reeling. As the chorus of laughter erupts from my teammates and I try to rub the imprint of “Spalding” from my forehead, I realize one thing: that I need to pay more attention while playing basketball. As I look up into the sky while I get up, a single white cloud passes overhead, trying in vain to block out the sun, and I smile.