



Greetings from the President

Wow . . . has time flown by! I can't believe I'm writing my LAST President's message. It didn't seem that long ago that I was sitting in front of my computer, struggling with my first President's Message. I still struggle, each month, as I am forced to sit down and try to write something "inspiring, yet interesting" for you all to read! It's especially hard for me, this time, because I have a lot of different emotions stirring inside of me. I'm thrilled that my term is over . . . don't get me wrong, it wasn't that bad. Yet there's a sense of responsibility that will be lifted . . . but on the other hand, I'm sad, because OCO really proved itself to be one great organization!

It's almost been one year since we lost our dear friend and mentor, **Linda Kimoto**. During that tragic time, so many of you showed your compassion and willingness to help, stepped up and were there for all of us! I was sooo impressed and touched, that it really proved to me that we're not just a club or a sports program, but we're a community of our own . . . we're one big huge family! It was then that I realized how important OCO really is to me and my family. I am proud to have been the President for the past two years. I am proud of the officers and board of directors that worked with me. Thank you all for the opportunity and support!

Now . . . let's give our new President, **Neddie Bokosky**, the same support! OCO will continue to grow and continue to put forth the wonderful programs that we have! Let's look forward to a great year . . . together!

Judy James

OCO Executive Board 2003 - 2004

President - **Neddie Bokosky**
President-Elect - **Nori Nishida**
VP of Programs- **Ellen Natsume**
VP of Membership - **Ann Joyce**
Secretary - **Stacey Yoshinaga**
Treasurer - **Wallace Chan**
Past President - **Judy James**

Board of Directors

One-Year Term

Nancy Sakakura
Dwayne Yoshinaga

Two-Year Term

Alvin Hagino
Caryn Ito
Eileen Kato
Teddy Matsumoto
Mitch Okuda

Sergeant of Arms - **Glenn Tanaka**

OCNCC Rep - **Jesse James**

SEYO Reps - **Marsha Hamamoto, Bob Kubo**

Webmaster - **Chris Kato**

Jr. Optimist Advisor - **Vince Hamasaki**

OCO Octagon Advisor - **Howard Kunihiro**

Rancho Octagon Advisor - **Eric Hamamoto**



Christina and Bryce want to thank our OCO family for supporting them in their YONSEI fundraising (all those T-shirts, raffle tickets, and Krispy Kreme Cards). Without your generosity, they would not have been able to travel to Japan, to play some HOOP, or to fulfill their YONSEI dream.

OCO must be doing something right . . . both Christina and Bryce were selected Captains. It must be those OCO leader role models that shine through.

A special thanks to our YONSEI Golf Tee Sponsors: Jesse and Judy James, Howard Kunihiro, Mitch Okuda, and Glenn Tanaka.

Again Thanks,
The Bartlett and Kubo Families.

Junior Optimist

For the past four years, I have been the OCO Junior Optimist Advisor. This year I am passing the reins to **Vince Hamasaki** and **Eileen Kato** and Friends. I am not abandoning them, just jumping ship to the Octagons. Out of the frying pan and into the fire. There is no fool like an old fool. A bird in the hand is worth more than two in the bush... As you can tell there is no saying or phrase that can express my leaving this group of "wannabe" young adults. It was a lot of fun and joy seeing them transform from little kids into young adults. I won't deny there were several times that I thought I was advising a kindergarten class. However, for the majority there was very little guidance. All I had to do was point and they naturally did the right thing. Congratulations to all your parents.

So, after many Graffiti Clean-ups, Halloween and Easter Parties, Hylond Home Christmas and Caroling, Nikkei Games, Christmas Wrapping, Book Drives, and of course "Movie Nite" watching all those great teen movies and "End-of-the-Summer" Knott's and Magic Mountain day, it is time to say good-bye and good luck to the GREATEST bunch of good-doers, OCO JUNIOR OPTIMIST.

Thanks!
Bob Kubo, Advisor

Octagons

The new year has begun for Octagons! This year's officers are Dean Otsuka as president, Marci Asao as president-elect, Whitney Itano as VP of Activities, Stefanie Kato as VP of Membership, Kasey Matsumoto as Secretary, and Brent Hashizu as Treasurer. Octagons will be putting on the annual Haunted House at the OCO Halloween Party and it's sure to be a fright! They will also be collecting canned food during the month of October and halfway through November during Saturday practices. The canned food will be delivered in Thanksgiving dinner baskets which the Octagons will be delivering to needy families before Thanksgiving. The Octagons will also be helping out at the Special Olympics on November 1 and 2. With all the energetic new freshmen, this year should be a great one for the Octagon Club!

Dean Otsuka
President



☉☉☉ Halloween PARTY

Do not be scared...but there is a Halloween party a-brewing!

*It'll be on **Saturday, October 25,**
so etch that date on your tombstone.*

It'll start at 6 p.m. and end at the Witching Hour.

We are converting Rancho High School into *Spooksville* with the cafeteria as the inner circle of fun. We will be surrounded by the *Octagoons' Haunted House* and the *Junior Ghoul's Haunted Acres*. We will have games and crafts with strange, glamorous, and scary creatures . . . plus some will be in costume.

Because there will be a costume contest for all -- kids and parents -- be sure to dress the part.

There will be the "Parade for Treats and Tricks," so *dig the night before, because fresh worms and grubs are always the tastiest.* (For those new to the Halloween party, please bring some treats for the trick-or-treaters at the party.)

Speaking of food, it will a POTLUCK affair. Please bring a Main Dish and an assigned Side Dish as noted below. *If not, management will not take responsibility for the zombies eating the guests!*

Side Dish Assignment: (last name ending in...)

A - H Salads, vegetables, swamp grass
I - M Appetizers, snacks, krabby patties
N - R Rice dishes, sushi with live unagi
S - Z Cakes, cookies, pies, brain pudding

If you want to lend a hand, foot, leg, or arm -- no body parts will be wasted -- please contact Head Caretaker of the OCO Insane, Boooooo Kubo at obukbo@yahoo.com.

Canned Food Drive

The Octagons are collecting canned food for a community service project - Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets for the less fortunate.

Bring in your cans during Saturday basketball practices. Look for the Octagons' collection area in the gym.

Holiday Boutique

We are looking for interested vendors to participate in our annual OCO Holiday Boutique. Date and time is still to be determined, however, it will definitely be before Christmas.

Interested vendors should contact Stacey Yoshinaga at (714)963-9366.

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.

If you know of someone not currently playing in our OCO program who would like to join, contact **Jesse James** @ essedjames@ocoyouth.org.

Jabber from the Editor

We have some friends who recently lost their son to cancer. He has again reminded us that life is too short, so we should enjoy every minute of it. I know that much of this depends on one's attitude toward life. As I read someplace, "Happiness is something you decide ahead of time." You can spend your life recounting difficulties, or you can be thankful for all that you have in life. Each day is a gift, so I encourage all to focus on each day and all the happy memories each day brings. Five "simple" rules to follow:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

Be happy and keep depositing a lot of happiness into your bank of memories!

Stacey Yoshinaga

Upcoming Events

October 25 - OCO Halloween Party

November 27 - Thanksgiving Day

December 7 - Basketball Season Starts



Orange Coast Optimist Club

Newsletter

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