

Rak

Kan



Orange Coast
Optimist

October - 2005

Message from the President

Since this is my last message as President of Orange Coast Optimist Club I wanted to choose my words, and what I had to say, very carefully. As I was “brainstorming” for an inspiration, one word came to me as if I were learning it for the first time. With this word I knew I had found the one word that would say it all from me to you: **Aloha!** ...not the “Aloha” that tourists such as I use for a greeting, but instead the **Aloha** the locals use that means both “hello” and “goodbye.” More important, I learned that there was this thing called the “Aloha Spirit” that is exchanged when saying “Aloha”...kind of blessing someone. If you understand the true meaning, it is powerful stuff! I also learned the translation for Aloha:

“the joyful (oha) sharing (alo) of life energy (ha) in the present (alo).”

At this moment it came to me that what OCO has is...**Aloha Spirit** - because our members have the **Aloha Spirit!**

As I say *goodbye* to serving as your President these past two years, I say *hello* at the same time for what I remain: a member who was given the opportunity to serve an organization which has provided my family with an environment to live, love, and laugh. Having the **Aloha Spirit** makes OCO a great place for our children to play, to grow, and to become a better persons As a parents, we are able to enjoy being with our children and spend quality time as a family (at the many OCO events), plus gain great friendships as we share a common denominator: *wanting to bring out the best in our kids!*

Thank you to my wonderful board members who gave countless hours (and I am just referring to the board meetings) and the awesome members, chairpersons, Octagons and Junior Optimists who contributed large and small to all of our events and community programs. This combined effort makes OCO a great place for families to “hang ten” and catch some **OCO Aloha Spirit!**

Aloha and Mahalo,

Neddie Bokosky

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Octagons

This past year has been a very successful one for the Octagons. We did all of our usual events: Haunted House, Canned Food Drive, etc. But due to many unfortunate events in the world, we also had two bake sales to provide funds to help support the victims of the Tsunami in Southeast Asia and Hurricane Katrina. I feel that we have helped a lot and it will be a hard year to follow.

However, this new year of 2005-2006, we know we can do last year with the help of a slew of new freshmen Octagons from Mr. Hamasaki. This year we plan to have a better turnout for all of our events, as well as more participation in all of our events. We want, as a club, to do as much service as possible for the community, whether it may be fundraisers or our participation in helpful events. We will look back on our past year with a pleasant goodbye and welcome in this new year with plenty of opportunity and hope.

We have just had our elections and this is the new board:

Lani Okuda - President-Elect
Jodi Matsumoto - Secretary
Trisha Asao - VP of Membership
Stephanie Masamitsu - VP of Activities
Trevor Carroll - Treasurer
Shannon Nishinaka - Historian

Bryce Kubo
OCO Octagon President

Junior Optimist

The JO's were fairly busy over the summer. We teamed with the Octagons and volunteered our time at OCBC's Obon festival and manned the snow cone booth on Saturday. It was a great experience working with the Octagons, and the evening crew got first-hand experience in successfully serving the long line of people following the Obon dancing, in spite of snow cone machine problems. JO's **Marie Kaneko**, **Kristen Minami**, **Dalton Doi**, **Kevin Ishizu**, **James Shinto**, **Jordan Hamasaki** and **Duane Murata**, along with advisors **Pat Doi** and **Vince Hamasaki**, participated in the odori. It was a good turnout for the first time, and we're hoping that we'll have more JO's dancing next year.

In August, the JO's helped out with scorekeeping on both Saturday and Sunday at the Nikkei basketball games. We were also able to squeeze in the always-popular broomball activity.

We welcomed in the new JO's at our first meeting that was held on September 18 at Rancho Alamitos High School. We briefly went over the expectations of the JO program and talked about the Halloween Party and elections for our next meeting on October 8. We also played a game that dealt with leadership and life skills.

I want to take this moment to wish the graduated 8th graders, now freshmen, the best of luck in high school. The past JO year did not turn out like I had hoped and as the advisor, I have to take responsibility for that. Therefore, I want to apologize to the graduated and current 8th graders for the somewhat dysfunctional year. I also want to thank **Donna Okuda**, **Donna Murata** and **Pat Doi** for their help with the JO's and to our officers: Presidents **Alyssa Ito** and **Tyler James**; Treasurer **Michael Kimura**; Activities **Jonathon Lew** and **Jackie Tambara**. They could only do as much as their leader lead them.

Vince Hamasaki
Junior Optimist Advisor

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OCO Halloween PARTY

*Do not be scared...but there is a
Halloween Party a-brewing!
It'll be on **Saturday, October 29,**
so etch that date on your tombstone.
It'll start at 6 p.m. and end at *the Witching Hour.**

Did you hear the news? There is a Halloween Party a coming . . . in the Rancho Alamitos High School cafeteria. Do not be late, because we are worried about head count. (Last year we ended up with too many heads and not enough bodies . . . 6 p.m. to the witching hour!)

For those new to this event, the Junior Goblins are conjuring up crafts and games. There will be door prizes and photos. And back by popular demand the Octagoons' haunted house!

There's a costume contest for all ages . . . so dress up to scare, charm, adore, and astonish the judges.

AND 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 be 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, moss from the underbelly of a toad
- I - M Appetizers, snacks, fried brain chips
- N - R Rice dishes, sushi with live unagi
- S - Z Cakes, cookies, pies, lady fingers

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

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.

Check out the OCO Website: www.ocoyouth.org

Jabber from the Editor

Fate is the force that some people believe controls events and decides what happens . . . I often see change as a force of fate! There is a reason why things happen the way they do, and that would be because it was meant to be. A way for us to learn something new, to experience something that we will in the end benefit more from, and something that we will end up accepting.

Lots of change is all around us . . . let's see!

Stacey Yoshinaga

Interested in contributing to the *Rak Kan Newsletter*?
Please contact Stacey at AllyAmy@worldnet.att.net.



Orange Coast Optimist Club

Newsletter
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