

Rak Kan

October 2004



Orange Coast
Optimist

Message from the President

With *Optimist International* the month of October represents the end of one year and the beginning of another. Last Friday **Orange Coast Optimist** celebrated the end of its year with an installation dinner at Fountain Valley Golf Club. It was a special time to honor the outgoing board members and to install the incoming board members. For me it was an opportunity to express my appreciation for the hard work and endless hours these individuals gave to our club for the past twelve months. Most of the board members stayed on because they have another year left of their two-year term. **Nancy Sakakura** is one of the board members who finished her term. Nancy not only helped out on every activity we sponsored, but because of Nancy, *Orange Coast Optimist* became more involved with "Asians For Miracle Marrow Matches" and their mission to have everyone registered for the blood marrow donor program. Since the odds of finding a potential donor match is one in a million, every person really does matter. Even though Nancy is no longer on the board, she will continue to help our club's efforts in supporting A3M, Nancy herself is looking for a marrow donor, so, again, every person matters.



During the Installation Dinner **Ellen Natsume** was presented with the "Optimist of the Year" award for her dedication and never-ending support of our club and its many activities. With three active boys and a very active husband, you would think Ellen just couldn't find much extra time for volunteerism, but actually I cannot think of any programs that Ellen was not somehow involved with - thank you for your inspiration, Ellen!

That same night **Judy James** was presented with a "Lifetime Membership" award. In the 1930s Optimist International looked for a way to ensure the future of optimism by honoring a deserving member for his or her commitment to the ideals of *being a friend to youth* and *addressing the needs of the communities*.

Judy was honored for her amazing dedication to continuing these ideals, for her hard work in keeping our club running smoothly, and the hope of ensuring *optimism* for Orange Coast Optimist and its membership, now and in the future - thank you, Judy!



Orange Coast Optimist has a policy of having their presidents serve two consecutive terms. That means that I too will be serving my second term. I believe the club benefits from this "two-term" policy in the obvious ways. I believe I benefit because I have an opportunity to try to do things BETTER the second time around!

With **OCO** the month of October represents the beginning of Basketball and the beginning of a new year for us too! I hope you are as eager to begin this new season as I am. We have so many events planned for the year, I hope you will make a point to get more involved and to participate in all the programs that are coming up! In addition to the start of basketball practices, the month of October means the annual OCO Halloween Party - fun for the whole family! Then in November there is a canned food drive to provide food for families in need during the Thanksgiving holidays. Read Judy's "Updates" to stay posted on all OCO happenings - oh, and ... *have fun, learn something new, get out and meet interesting people, take risks, and don't forget to dream!*

Neddie Bokosky

Octagons



The new 2004-05 Octagon Officers: Treasurer Stefanie Kato, President Marci Asao, President-Elect Bryce Kubo, Secretary Shannon Nishinaka, VP of Activity Kasey Matsumoto. Missing: VP of Memership Trevor Carroll.



2003-04 Officers - Secretary Kasey Matsumoto, VP of Memership Stefanie Kato, Treasurer Brent Hashizu, President Dean Otsuka, President-Elect Marci Asao. Missing was VP of Activity Whitney Itano.

Junior Optimist

The first JO meeting was held on October 9. Elections, Halloween Party planning, and a life skill exercise made our first meeting a busy one and hopefully one that will kick off an exciting year for our JO's.

We wish the very best to the outgoing 8th graders, who are now freshmen in high school. We thank them all for their help in making our first year as advisors a wonderful learning experience. Presidents **Lani Okuda** and **Garrett James** were outstanding leaders. We also acknowledge **Jodi Matsumoto, Trisha Asao, Sara Seto, Erika Braesch, Elle Takeuchi, Sapphira Chung** and **Kyle Chan** for taking leadership in some various events.

We especially thank **Eileen Kato**, an extraordinary woman who helped Pat, Donna, and me, providing us with some added insight and great advice. Throughout this past year, she showed the love and concern she has for the JO program and all the kids in general.

There were many parents who stepped in and provided assistance this past year. **Eric Hamamoto** provided us with meeting space and lent us his activities room for our Orangewood Home Christmas Project and arranged the use of the gymnasium for our 3 on 3 Fundraiser for the Moonridge Zoo. **John Nakamoto** helped out by manning the BBQ at the 3 on 3 Fundraiser and officiating at our broomball event. **Francine** and **Mark Kimura, Carolyn** and **Alan Kobayashi, Eileen Minami, Judy James, Rosalee** and **Ron Lowe, Mark Sakakura, Mike Mc Donald, Wallace Chan, Stacey Yoshinaga, Chris Kato, Bruce Shinto, Ron Shimoide, Susan Hamasaki, Dennis Doi, Robert Murata** and a bunch of others I probably missed...thank you for ALL your help.

Lastly, thank you to the OCO Board and President **Neddie Bokosky** for giving us the latitude to try different things. We appreciate your confidence in us because our goal is to make JO a place where members feel comfortable, willing to try different ideas to help make them better citizens.

Vince Hamasaki, Donna Murata, Pat Doi
Junior Optimist Advisors

☼☼☼ Halloween PARTY

*Do not be scared...but there is a
Halloween Party a-brewing!
It'll be on **Saturday, October 30**,
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 *Octagoon's* 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 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, 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.

Vendors Needed for Holiday Boutique

The OCO Holiday Boutique will be on Saturday, December 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the Rancho Alamitos High School cafeteria.

If you are interested in reserving a booth at the boutique, please contact Stacey Yoshinaga at (714)963-9366.

An Inspiration

Featured in a recent edition of the *A3M Marrow Miracles* newsletter...

While other 14-year-olds are saving up money to buy an Ipod, CDs, or the latest video game, **Michael Auerbach** and **Kevin Joyce** have other things in mind - like donating their very first paycheck to A3M! Michael and Kevin both worked as camp counselors for the first time at OCO's Youth Summer Basketball Camp. Their generous donations help A3M serve patients like JTF Focus Patient **Nancy Sakakura**, who is an OCO Board Member and mother of their friend, **Andrew**.

A3M commends these stellar Esperanza High School freshmen for their selfless gift. What a great reminder that each of us can really make a difference! Michael and Kevin, THANK YOU!

2004 - 05 OCO Board Members

President - **Neddie Bokosky**
President-Elect - **Nori Nishida**
First Vice President - **Ann Joyce**
Second Vice President - **Ellen Natsume**
Treasurer - **Wallace Chan**
Secretary - **Stacey Yoshinaga**
Fundraising - **Glenn Tanaka**
Past President - **Judy James**
Directors - **Alvin Hagino, Caryn Ito, Eileen Kato, Debi Lew, Teddy Matsumoto, Clay Sakurao, Mark Sugamura, Justin Yamasaki, Dwayne Yoshinaga**
Sergeant of Arms - **Mitch Okuda**
SEYO Reps - **Marsha Hamamoto, Bob Kubo**
OCNCC Rep - **Jesse James**
Jr. Optimist Advisor - **Vince Hamasaki**
OC Octagon Advisor - **Bob Kubo, Howard Kunihiro**
Rancho Octagon Advisor - **Eric Hamamoto**
OCO Webmaster - **Chris Kato**
Rak Kan Newsletter - **Stacey Yoshinaga**

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

We continue to evaluate the best method to communicate and report on what our club has been involved in. I often question...does anyone read the *Rak Kan Newsletter*? Is it working to distribute the newsletter via email or is it more effective if we mail it? Your thoughts would be appreciated.

Stacey Yoshinaga

Photographs provided by **Bob Kubo and Teddy Matsumoto**.

Upcoming Events -

October 30 - Halloween Party

December 4 - OCO Basketball Picture Day,
OCO Holiday Boutique

December 7 - OCO Golf Tournament

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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