



The Orange Coast Optimist Club  
of  
Garden Grove  
***Rak Kan News***

Editor - Stacey Yoshinaga

September/October 2002

P.O. Box 28802 • Santa Ana • CA • 92799

## ***Greetings from the President . . .***

Hello, Everyone! Summer has come and gone, and, boy, did it go by fast!!? We kept busy through the summer with baseball, fishing, golf, OCO basketball camp and the Nikkei Games. Now we're starting our "OCO" year again with our basketball season! I know I'm not the only one, but I really miss seeing all those familiar faces week after week, and I'm very excited for our "season of OCO" to begin! Note that I said "season of OCO" and not basketball season. By that I mean the whole "OCO" experience that is available to all our members to enjoy, beginning with the Installation Banquet, then the Halloween Party, the Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Christmas Party, Mochi Tsuki...and the many events planned for 2003! I encourage all of you to take advantage of these programs!

So, "Welcome Back" to OCO! May the season begin!

Judy James

## ***OCO Board Nominations***

Nominations for the upcoming 2002-2003 OCO Board of Directors are currently being solicited. You can nominate any OCO member, including yourself, via the OCO website - [www.OCYouth.org](http://www.OCYouth.org) - or by sending in the enclosed nomination form to:

OCO - Nominations  
P.O. Box 28802  
Santa Ana, CA 92799

Nomination forms must be postmarked by September 21.

Elections will take place beginning September 27. Check the OCO website for voting information.

## ***Basketball Practice***

Basketball practice begins *Saturday, October 5*, Rancho Alamitos High School.

Coaches will be contacting players with practice times.

If you have not registered for basketball yet, it is not too late! Please contact Linda Kimoto at (714)842-7822 or email her at [LKimoto@aol.com](mailto:LKimoto@aol.com).

Our Tinko program is for 5-and-6 year-olds. Those who are 7 - 14 years of age as of December 2, 2002, are eligible to participate in the SEYO Winter League. (Freshmen in high school are eligible as long as they are not on their high school team.)

# **OCO Youth Clubs**

## **Octagons**

Hello! My name is Steven, if you didn't know. I'm the president of the OCO Octagon Club. Well, my mom told me I should write about us to you, so ummm . . . here it is. Oh and sorry for any incorrect grammar, i'm not used to typing correctly. I hope I will enthrall you with this letter. The words I used are legit. I looked them up in an SAT vocabulary book, but shhh. It's just between you and me.

The Octagon Club is for high schoolers to provide service to OCO and the community. Our services range from patrolling Rancho Alamitos High School to helping the disabled, the abused, and the less fortunate. Jesse James created the OCO Octagon on May 1, 1988. During the past years, we have ameliorated and been given approbation. This year, however, we plan to be even more assiduous.

The new 2002-2003 board is:

President - Steven Kimoto  
Co-President Elects - Andrew Kunihiro,  
Dean Otsuka  
Secretary - Whitney Itano  
Treasurer - Trent Holland  
VP of Activities - Christy Sakamoto  
VP of Membership - Nicole Nishinaka

Starting the second week of basketball practice, we will be collecting canned goods for a Thanksgiving project. To prevent vandalism at Rancho and to help maintain everyone's safety, every Saturday, a few members of our club will be patrolling Rancho during basketball practice. On October 26, we will be doing a Haunted House. If you have any surplus Halloween items, feel free to pass it our way.

If you know of anyone (9th -12th grade) who would like to be part of our club, contact our advisors, Linda Kimoto or Dr. Howard Kunihiro.

Steven

## **Junior Optimists**

This past month the Junior Optimists helped with the Nikkei Games. The first day helping was on the sixteenth of August. We bagged Nikkei Game T-shirts for the 3-on-3 teams. The next day, the seventeenth, we were runners, taking scores back to the head desk, or scorekeepers. Also for the track and field event, we sold snow cones, water, Gatorade, candy, and other types of snack food. Our earnings are going to Mrs. Bokosky, because she is in the Race for the Cure.

Junior Optimist is very fun because we help people and we go to the movies or just have fun.

Bryce Kubo  
OCO Junior Optimist  
Vice President, Activites

## **Nikkei Games**

Once again, the *Nikkei Games: Games for the Generations* was a huge success! OCO plays a vital part in the Nikkei Games. Without the many OCO volunteers, the Nikkei Games would not exist. Thank you to all for your dedication and commitment to the Nikkei community and our children!

## **Coaches' Clinic**

Coaches clinics for all new coaches and assistant coaches will be on October 12 and November 9. Times and location are still to be determined.

## **Coaches Needed**

Parents interested in coaching...please contact Linda Kimoto at (714)842-7822 or LKimoto@aol.com. It's a great way to spend time with your children!

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## ***Around the Community***

RYOMA is happy to announce the ***Autumn Festival*** - a joint project of the Aquarium of the Pacific and RYOMA, an organization founded to administer Japanese and Japanese American cultural events to bridge generations and expose mainstream population to the cultural arts.

the Autumn Festival will be held on November 9 and 10 at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. Blending the beauty of the Aquarium with the rich Japanese American/ Japanese cultures in a celebration of fall, the Autumn Festival will offer a weekend of diverse learning opportunities and family entertainment.

The Festival will feature children's crafts, music and performances, cultural art exhibits and demonstrations, artisans and other vendors displaying and selling their works, and educational lectures on the animals and conservation issues surrounding the coastal waters of Japan and much more!

"By hosting events such as the Autumn Festival, we wish to connect our diverse cultures to each other and to the ocean and serve as community forum for the sharing of issues and information relating to the Pacific Ocean and all people that depend upon it," said Aquarium President and CEO Jerry Schubel.

For sponsorships, entertainment, and vendor information, please email Event Producer - WOW! Productions, Wendy Fujihara Anderson at [wowproductions@earthlink.net](mailto:wowproductions@earthlink.net) or call (626)683-8243.

### ***Always and Forever***

Orange County Buddhist Church is hosting a fundraiser dance, "*Always and Forever*"

Saturday, October 12  
Orange County Buddhist Church gym  
7:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.  
Casual Dress

Dance to the music of "The Music Company," featuring Mariko and D.J. music. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, with a no host bar. Raffle prizes too!

Dance ticket donations are \$30 in advance, or \$35 at the door.

Call Sheri (714)996-6535 or  
Karen (949)661-9428.

Proceeds will benefit OCBC.

Mark your calendar...

### **Viva Las Vegas OCO Casino Night**

Saturday, February 15  
6 - 11 p.m.  
Orange County Buddhist Church  
(21 years and older)

Help support the OCO Youth programs!

**ORANGE COAST OPTIMIST CLUB**  
Newsletter  
P.O. Box 28802  
Santa Ana, CA 92799

## ***Upcoming Events***

### ***October -***

Installation Banquet  
26 - Halloween Party

### ***December -***

Hylond Home Christmas Party  
Mochi Tsuki

### ***February -***

Tri-Star Competition  
15 - OCO Casino Night Fundraiser

### ***May -***

Scholarship Banquet

### ***June -***

Steak Dinner

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.

Be sure to check the OCO Website - [www.ocoyouth.org](http://www.ocoyouth.org)