



Orange Coast Optimist Rak Kan October 2007 - Issue 1



President's Message

On behalf of OCO and Optimist International, I would like to welcome you to the 2007-2008 year!

Our year always starts with the winter basketball season. We are expecting to have over 35 winter season teams and more than 300 children this year. To accommodate all these players, we have scheduled over 200 hours of gym time for practices and ball handling clinics. And due to the tremendous demand for our Tinkos program, we have once again extended invitations to 60 five- and six-year-old children. While it is great to have such a strong interest in our Tinkos program, it does present some logistical challenges. But we have opened our arms to embrace these kids and rise above those challenges. After all, isn't that what it is really about...the children!

It should be pointed out that for 7-year-olds and older, the majority of your \$80 basketball fee goes to SEYO for the league costs (referees, gyms, scorekeepers, etc.). What this means is the entire basketball program runs at a sizable deficit. That is why your support of our fundraising activities is so important. Our major fundraising event for the last six years has been Casino Night and that has been scheduled for Saturday,

February 9, 2008, at OCBC. The goal of this event is to raise monies to fund our basketball and other sports programs. Your active participation in our fundraising events is very critical to the fiscal well-being of OCO. I know we can count on you and your support when you are called upon as the events get closer.

Even though we start the year with basketball, you have heard it stated many times, "OCO is more than basketball." And I would be remiss if I did not share that with you again. As you know, we are affiliated with Optimist International, the world-renowned organization dedicated to the development of our youth. Their motto and ours is "Bringing Out the Best in Kids." Therefore, we are very active in community youth service projects. Just to name a few that you will be exposed to in the next 90 days, one is the Octagon Canned Food Drive where we collect food and prepare Thanksgiving food baskets for less fortunate families in the Garden Grove area. Another is the OCO Holiday Party where we purchase gifts and have a party for the residents of Hylond Home, a home for the mentally and physically disabled. A couple of OCO dads dress up as Santa Claus and bring a tremendous amount of holiday cheer to those needy residents. It is also beautiful to hear the Octagons sing Christmas Carols to them.

You will also hear about the OCO Easter Party in March where we throw a wonderful party for foster children and families in the community with arts and crafts, games, and of course a huge Easter egg hunt.

Octagons	2
Junior Optimists /	
Young Adult Optimists	3
Coaches' Corner	4
Spotlight	5
Optimist of the Year	
National Breast Cancer	

Continued on page 3

OCO Youth Groups

Octagons _____

With the new fiscal year upon us, a decision was made by our OCO Board to establish grade level High School Octagon Clubs. With a growing number of high school eligible kids this turned out to be a wise decision because our 9th grade club alone has over 50 members and we are continuing to add on new members each month! As with past Octagon Clubs, our club is open to anyone and will welcome all who want to give of themselves and help others in need. Our goals this year is to get all our members to appreciate the spirit of helping wherever they can, whenever they can, and to encourage their development of responsibility and leadership skills. With the number of members that have joined, we should be able to achieve quite a bit through our volunteer efforts. Not only will the club be involved at the OCO sponsored events, such as the Halloween Party, Mochi Tsuki, Easter Party, etc., the members will be involved in another 12-15 community service related events. We've already participated in three community related events, with the others scheduled throughout the year.

Club members or parents who have ideas or know of a community service event that could use Octagon participation are welcome to request their help. Please contact one of our Octagon Advisors, **Judy James**-Head Octagon Advisor, **Jesse James** (12 Grade), **Caryn Ito** (11 Grade), **Neddie Bokosky / Ann Joyce** (10 Grade), **Jameson Lee** (9 Grade) to obtain request forms. It looks like it is going to be an eventful year with all of our Octagon Clubs participating in a record number of community service projects.

Please congratulate the Octagon officers, as they are future leaders of our community, when you see them.

*Jameson Lee
9th Grade Octagon Advisor*



12th Grade: VP Activities - Trisha Asao and Andrew Sakakura, Advisor - Jesse James, President - Garrett James, Sergeant-at-Arms - Justin Sugamura, Secretary - Lani Okuda, Treasurer - Stephan Robb, VP Membership - Sara Seto



11th Grade: VP of Activities: Dalton Doi, Secretary - Kevin Nishida, VP of Membership - Eric Caraig, Treasurer - Jeffrey Zhang, President, - Alysa Ito, VP of Activities - Brittney Kato and Michelle Yamasaki, Advisor - Caryn Ito, (Not pictured, Sergeant-at-Arms - Kevin Tsuruta)



10th Grade: Advisors - Neddie Bokosky and Ann Joyce, VP Programs/Activities - Michelle Joyce, President - Tara Bokosky, VP Membership - Dane Okuda, VP Programs/Activities - Cody Sakurao, Treasurer - Nicole Auerbach, Secretary - JJ James, Co-Sergeant-at-Arms - Skyler Jinkaw, (Not pictured: Co-Sergeant-at-Arms - Taylor Frank)



9th Grade: Advisor - Jameson Lee, VP Activities - Kieran O'Shaughnessy, VP Membership - Cory Kato, Treasurer - Michael Tomura, Secretary - Taka Ishiwata, VP Activities - Holly Kamo, President - Dale Matsumoto

Junior Optimists



Treasurer - Clayton Takeuchi, President - Michael Chan, Secretary - Cherilyn Blandford, VP - Erica Sugimoto, Activities/Membership - Kara Shimazaki

In an attempt to start to plan out our 2007-2008 year, as well as get the members involved in the planning while subtly learning what it takes to plan an event, the Junior Optimists (JOs) met in October to do just that. They formed into groups to work on the upcoming OCO Halloween Party, some community service events of their choice, and a "fun" activity. One group even took on the task of designing a T-shirt for the JOs.

In the coming months, the JOs will be delivering fruit baskets to the Keiro Home residents, and spending time with the patients at the Healthbridge Rehabilitation Center. Their "fun" activity is an afternoon at Boomers.

Various JO members volunteered to take on chair-person responsibilities, allowing them to start to learn various leadership skills.

We are looking forward to a great year!

*May Auerbach and Stacey Yoshinaga
Junior Optimist Advisors*

Young Adult Optmists _____

The Young Adult Optimist Club is really excited for the start of their second year. We kicked-off the new year by having a BBQ at Tanaka Farms to invite all the Octagon graduates to learn what YAO is all about, and to meet some of the members of the club! Joining YAO is a great opportunity for the high school graduates to continue their involvement in community service events after Junior Optimist and Octagons, and to keep in touch with their friends. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the Young Adult Optimist club, please contact our Vice President of Membership, **Corey Kubo**, at kuboc@uci.edu.

YAO was very busy over the summer working on a couple of projects. During OCO Camp in August, **Chris** and **Robert Lew** chaired our School Supplies Drive. We asked the basketball campers to bring in school supplies to be donated to the Indian Reservation in Arizona that the Bogdan family helps out. Thank you very much for all the families that donated school supplies during the camp!

We have also been collecting old cell phones during the OCSA basketball games and OCO basketball practices. **Marci Asao** and **Kasey Matsumoto** have been working hard as the chairpersons for this project. Cell phones, batteries, and chargers are being collected to benefit HOPE, an organization that provides support and services to abandoned or abused women and children. If you have any old cell phones that you don't need anymore, please contact us at yaoptimist@yahoo.com!

The YAO club has also just completed their elections for the upcoming year. Most of the board has stayed the same as last year, but we welcome and congratulate the following new board members:

Treasurer - **Stef Kato**
Board of Directors - **Chris Lew, Kenny Tanaka**

YAO is really looking forward to having a great new year!!

*Michelle Ito
YAO President*

Coaches' Corner

Wow, what a rush!!! Seeing all of the players, parents, coaches at the first practice of the season was great. It was like a BIG family reunion. There was some rust . . . players forgetting drills, arriving hours early for practice, coaches missing the Coaches' Meeting 30 minutes before practice. Ah, it's OCO basketball season!

Coaches remember the selection of a good Team/Division Representative makes your life so much easier. Be sure to remember to thank them frequently.

Forgot practice time, the Plyo schedule, dribbling clinic times, dog ate the homework sheet? Visit the Coaches Corner on www.ocoyouth.org.

Just a reminder, you should be having a parent meeting as soon as possible and please invite your Basketball Committee Representative:

Caryn Ito - TINKOS and Pee Wee Lowers

Mark Sakamura - Pee Wee Middles

Clay Sakuaro - Pee Wee Uppers

Bob Kubo - MIDGETS

Marsha Hamamoto - JUNIORS

We are here to help with any issues you have — tournaments, forming teams, finding coaches, running practices, OCO philosophy, selection of uniforms, etc. Feel free to contact us!

Welcome back!!!

bob kubo

OCO Basketball Committee

Continued from page 1

I could go on and on about all the wonderful community service events that OCO is involved in, but the main point is we would like you to have your children participate in as many events as possible to experience the joy of giving and helping others who are less fortunate than we.

In the end, while we like our children learning from the character-building attributes that participation in sports offers, such as teamwork and giving it your all regardless of the situation, I believe we also value the importance of learning to give of one's self, to respect other people who are different, and to make this world a better place through helping others.

Please join me in a great season of basketball and a great year of giving!

Wallace Chan
OCO President

Looking for *vendors*
for the
OCO Holiday Boutique
December 8, 2007
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Rancho Alamitos High School
Cafeteria

Interested? Contact Stacey @
stacey@att.net

Spotlight

Optimist of the Year

Each year an individual is awarded the designation of "Optimist of the Year." One very special person is recognized for his or her selfless and tireless efforts to our organization. Most importantly, he or she continues to make a difference with optimism.



This year the recipient is **Bob Kubo**. Here's a look at the list of responsibilities he committed to during the 2006-2007 term: He represented OCO as our SEYO Representative, he directed the Basketball Committee as Chairman, and he developed our youth as the Octagon advisor. Each and every year, for as long as I can remember, Bob has been the mastermind of the most popular OCO event, the Halloween Party. And if this list weren't already long enough, Bob somehow found the time to do what he loves best, coach basketball.

If you see Bob at an OCO function or see him at the gym every weekend, know that he is working on our behalf to make OCO the best Optimist Club in the nation. So the next time you see Bob, take the time to congratulate him.

Congratulations . . . Optimist of the Year, Bob Kubo.

*Nori Nishida
Past OCO President*

Fridge for Sale

Whirlpool side by side; with ultraease water filtration system and EZ touch ice and water dispenser ; good condition; dimensions: 35.5"W x 68.5"H x 30"D; \$250 OBO.

Enakamoto1@yahoo.com or Elsie Nakamoto
(714)761-7033

October is "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month"

On September 23 "Team OCO" participated in the Susan G. Komen, "Race for the Cure." The event took place at Fashion Island in Newport Beach. It was the second year of participation for Team OCO in this major fundraising event in the fight against breast cancer. Our team consisted of 57 families and friends and raised over \$3000 for this great cause. This year was a special treat with a morning "tailgate." Besides the usual refreshments and continental breakfast, **Jimmy Otsuka** served fried rice and eggs!

Thank you to the following OCO friends and families who participated in and/or contributed to this great cause: **Shirley and Trisha Asao, May and Nicole Auerbach, Erika Braesch, Cyndee Cazares, Suzanne Dicroce, Julie Furumizo, Dale, Doug and Gayle Hachiya, Alvin, Bayley and Karole Hagino, Kaili Hamada, Jordan and Marsha Hamamoto, Dan and Steven Hardy, Nick Hisamoto, Jay, Joan, Matthew and Sean Iida, Peggie Ito, Garrett, J.J., Judy and Tyler James, Ann and Kevin Joyce, Kelly Kato, Edwin and Renee Kimoto, Noel Kinoshita, Lucie Kouchi, Irene Koga, the Bruce Kogami Family, Austin and Aiden Kosaka, Andrea Kunihiro, Debi and Jonathan Lew, Jordan and Kris Matsuda, Dale and Judy Matsumoto, Dale, Lauren & Sheila Matsuno, the Hiko Miyake Family, Kevin and Sandie Nakamoto, Kathy Nakase, Ellen Natsume, the Nelson Family, Tami Nishida, the Nozawa Family, Isaiah, Makenna, Lyric and Shannon Olsen, the Oune Family, Jimmy and Koby Otsuka, Jamie Rich, Kathy Sakurao, Gail, Justin and Mark Sugamura, Helen and John Sun, Jane Tamura and Family, Kazue Tewell, Linda Yamada, Octagons, and Glenn Tanaka for providing additional "refreshments" and set-up help.**

See you next year at the "Race for the Cure"

Diane Otsuka

Jabber from the Editor

As a parent, I often question if I am preparing my girls to be able to survive in world of adulthood. There are times when I think my husband is too hard on the girls, and times when I think I am too lenient on them. Like many, I read those parenting magazines, and try to glean from their advice. Commitment seems to be an area that doesn't seem to be discussed much, which concerns me. Especially as I think about the youth of today someday entering into the workforce of tomorrow.

Specifically, oftentimes I see parents making excuses for their children, or allowing their children to not fulfill commitments that they have made to others. You know, signing up for an event, agreeing to play in a tournament, or to assist someone . . . only to cancel out usually at the last second. What message is this sending to your children? Have you considered the impact that the decision has on others? This has been one of the lessons that I have tried to share with my girls. If you make the commitment, then you need to follow through. It's been a hard one. We are all busy, and there are those unexpected situations that always come up. But I hope that my husband and I are teaching our girls to think through these commitments . . . and to look for options rather than cancelling out. Oftentimes cancelling out of these commitments has financial consequences, maybe not to us, but it usually does impact someone.

I am not saying that we don't ever flake out on our commitments, but I hope that my girls are learning to think through their commitments. I know this will be an invaluable lesson as they enter the workforce.

Stacey Yoshinaga
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Rak Kan News Photographer - Ted Matsumoto



Orange Coast Optimist Club

Newsletter

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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.