



EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF CHINESE AND ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

April 2019

Volume 2, Number 1

MISSION STATEMENT

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Announcements

Newsworthy: Crazy Rich Asians
Article

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Saturday, March 9, 2019

ICEPN's "My Great Stage" 5th Season Anniversary Dinner, Royal Grand Manor, Edison, NJ



Board Member Virginia Ng was a VIP Judge and Host at the Award Night Gala. The Talent Competition and Music Art Festival culminated in trophy presentations prior to the Red Carpet Ceremony. Some OCA NJ board members happily walked the red carpet and were interviewed by budding young commentators.

Singing and acting performances highlighted the evening as the program progressed. One such skit was an audition for a TV host and improvised by the actors. Their antics must have surely been based upon real life experiences. Another segment was of parents commenting on their child's progress and success. The consensus was that experiences proved very beneficial overall. Through many of the acting performances, there appeared an energetic young teen named Owen Wang. He is a veteran of a few commercials and has an agent. One could tell he had a bright future. Another noticeable participant was a young man named Gene Hong who played "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes. He relayed the story of how he plays this instrument in memory of his friend, Anthony Raspa. His friend was a NJ trooper who was a positive influence and always wanted to serve his community. He talked of his "burning desire" to play bagpipes starting in May 2016, after the death of his friend. Not an easy journey, Gene Hong found out. First, he waited two-three months for handmade bagpipes set which cost \$1500. He spent one and a half years practicing and developing finger muscle memory. Then came the breathing process. His assessment was that this was going to be difficult, but he was encouraged by a band at Pipes and Drums of the Blue and Gold. He is keeping at it. An unusual choice in instrument but a memorable performance.

Remember the song Do, Re, Mi from the Sound of Music? A wonderful performance of this composition by Owen Wang, Alice Wu, Vivian Wang, Melinda Xu and Kathy Yang was delightfully received by the audience. Their enjoyment could be seen by their smiles and nods. The finale of the evening was the presentation of the Singing Category in which Platinum Winner, Olivia Gao, performed "Think of Me" from Phantom of the Opera. Gold winners of this category were Michelle Zhong and Amanda Chen.

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Saturday, March 2, 2019

Personal Safety and Awareness

On Saturday, March 2, 2019, 30 plus OCA members, friends, and students attended a special Youth Program entitled "Personal Safety and Awareness on Campus and in Crowded Public Places". This program was designed to highlight the importance of personal awareness in the age of high-tech audio and visual distractions like cell phones, reading emails or text messages, listening to music on air pods and headphones. Too often these distractions can impede awareness to imminent dangers around us because we are too busy reading emails that we can't see oncoming traffic or listening to music that we can't hear attackers approaching from behind.

Presented by former Port Authority Police Officer, Milton Fong and former FBI Agent, Cochi Ho, the program also offered practical tips, tricks, and tools that can be used when placed in a potentially dangerous situation from using items that you already have with you as potential weapons to fight off attackers to vulnerable areas of the body to target when trying to flee. Whistles were given to the students which can be used to attract attention and possibly deter attackers. Personal safety items such as personal mini alarms, hand held striking objects, and mace or pepper spray were reviewed. This important program not only helped raise awareness for the students, but also for the parents and other attendees that were present.

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Honoring Paula Madison at the 2019 Chinatown Planning Council LNY Dinner



OCA NJ had the great distinction of attending the 2019 Chinatown Planning Council Lunar New Year Dinner held at Jing Fong Restaurant in Manhattan's Chinatown on February 28th. Honorees this year included Paula Williams Madison, author and filmmaker. Her documentary "Finding Samuel Lowe: From Harlem to China" traces her search for her maternal grandfather's descendants in Shenzhen and Guangzhou. Our friendship with Ms. Madison started with her presentation of the aforementioned film and her book "Finding Samuel Lowe: China, Jamaica, Harlem" at 2016's OCA National Convention in Jersey City.

Ms. Madison was gracious enough to visit our table and pose for photos with the board members in attendance. We gifted her with a little red pig for this year's Year of the Pig. If you recall, Board Member Henry Lee was instrumental in providing the red pigs this year from Dragon Lion Gear.

The highlight of the evening was when Mayor DiBlasio entered the restaurant through a secured entrance (aka kitchen). We were notably surprised at his presence as we were not aware that he would be at this event. He stayed for some time after his speech, conversing with other guests and posing for pictures. On his way out (through the kitchen again), some of our contingent were fortunate to pose and take selfies with the mayor, who proved to be pleasantly affable and approachable. Looking for voters, we guess.

Saturday, February 16, 2019 – OCA-NJ Lunar New Year Banquet – Year of the Boar
Noodle Wong Restaurant, Parsippany, NJ



Feasting on a traditional 10 course banquet meal, over 150 OCA New Jersey members and friends gathered to welcome the Year of the Pig at Noodle Wong in Parsippany, New Jersey. Opening the festivities was a traditional Lion Dance by the Lee Kwok Lum Dragon and Lion Dance Team (formerly Asian American Dragon and Lion Dance) at Bergen Chinese School directed by Sifu Henry Lee. A raffle table full of fabulous prizes donated by our generous Board members, and a 50/25/25 cash raffle generated a lot of excitement, and a lot of happy winners. The OCA-NJ Lunar New Year celebration would not be complete without the annual recognition of our members and guests born in the year of the honored animal. This year, every guest born in the Year of the Pig was presented with a special commemorative Lunar New Year stuffed piggy generously donated by DragonLionGear.com. A wonderful celebratory evening was had by all. We wish all of our OCA-NJ members and friends a very healthy, happy, and prosperous Year of the Pig!

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

*Sunday, May 20 – OCA-NJ Asian American Heritage Scholarship Awards Luncheon
Flaming Grill Buffet, Riverdale, NJ*



OCA-New Jersey Chapter was proud to award a total of six scholarships to six very deserving high school seniors. The winners were judged based on their written essay on the topic of “Who is Vincent Chin and why should you care?”, their OCA activities, APA-Y attendance, academics, civic engagement, leadership, community service and work experience/extracurricular activities. Scholarship monetary awards ranged from \$300-2,000. This year’s scholarship winners are:

Danica Lee – Robert E. Wone Memorial Scholarship
Jackie Liu – OCA-NJ Gold Scholarship
Victoria Liu – OCA-NJ Silver Scholarship
Andrew Shen – Linda Lee Memorial Scholarship
Anisha Shin – Edwin & Aurora Len Memorial Scholarship
Leona Tomy – OCA-NJ Honorable Mention

The New Jersey Chapter also awarded one internship opportunity to Christopher Ho.

*Sunday, September 9, - FCC/OCA 4 Chapters Picnic
Van Saun Park, Paramus, NJ*



On Sunday September 9th, 2018, the OCA four-chapter annual picnic was hosted by the OCA Westchester Hudson Valley Chapter in Van Saun Park, Paramus, New Jersey. There were representatives from the OCA New Jersey, OCA New York and OCA Long Island. The guests braved the rain to support our event. We savored the many dishes that were brought in to share. The desserts and sweets were abundant. Polly the clown entertained the children.

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Sunday, September 30 – FCC-OCA Asian American in 2018 One Day Expo

PS 124, New York, NY



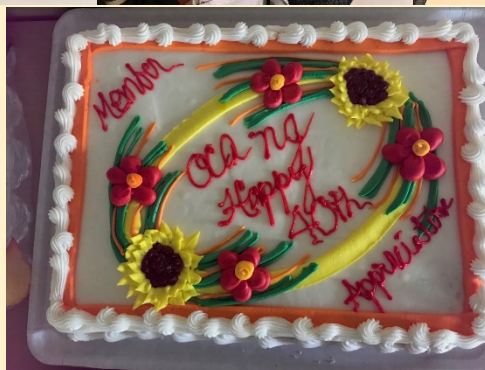
On Sunday September 30, 2018 OCA NY, OCA NJ, OCA WHV, OCA LI and Families with Children from China (FCC) held our first joint conference. The “Asian in America in 2018” conference was held at PS 124 in Chinatown. It was a day of workshops on important life issues impacting our communities. There were 5 tracks at the conference:

- o Civics – 2020 Census: Vision for the Future, Importance of Citizenship, #MeToo Movement
- o College – Affirmative Action in Education, What are Colleges Really Looking For, Asian American College Experience
- o Career – Communications Skills for Young Adults, Making Networking Work for You, Asian American Women’s Career Panel
- o Identity – API LGBTQ Family Acceptance, Unapologetically Asian, Identity Zone Making Workshop
- o Films Festival with Discussions with Film Makers – Abacus: Small Enough to Jail, And Then They Came for Us, Young Director’s Short Films: Your Daughter and Yuanfen.
- o Health – “Where are You Really From? And Other Microaggressions Workshop, Under Pressure: Exploring Stress & Unhealthy Expectations, Recognizing Anxiety and Depression in Your Teen, Yoga & Meditation.

The conference was a huge success! We had over 200 attendees and received very positive feedback. The 5 chapters continue our collaboration on our next endeavor: the APA Women’s Conference which is being held on Sunday April 28, 2019 at Pace University.

Saturday, October 20 – OCA-NJ General Meeting, Elections, Membership Appreciation and 40th Anniversary Celebration Lunch and Film Festival Installment: “Finding Samuel Lowe”

Girl Scout Service Center, Paramus, NJ



OCA New Jersey celebrated its 40th anniversary with an OCA-NJ Member Appreciation Luncheon on October 20, 2018. Without the support and participation of our members, OCA-NJ would not have made this monumental milestone. The event began with a brief General Membership meeting that included OCA-NJ Board elections for the 2019-2020 term. Three new Board of Directors were elected: Christine Braccino, Diane Chan, and Lillian Gee. Lunch was served along with a delicious, celebratory 40th Anniversary Cake. The event included a screening of the documentary, “Finding Samuel Lowe” by Paula Madison which documents her fascinating journey in the search for her grandfather, fulfilling a promise she made to her dying mother.

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Tuesday, December 18 – Charles B. Wang Community Health Center Service Project

This has been a board service project for the past ten years. A project started by board members Linda and Ray Lee. We continue to do this in loving memory of Linda Lee.

In November and December, the OCA-NJ board members collected 146 wrapped gifts for young clients of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center. They included 64 hat, glove and scarf sets or sweaters and hoodies. A variety of toys and games made up the remainder. Gifts donated from Johnson & Johnson contacts through board member, Cochi Ho, totaled 61 or 42%. Thank goodness, they all fit into one SUV, just leaving enough room for the driver!

Eight bags and six boxes were delivered to CBWCHC. Grace Cheung and others of CBWCHC were on hand to receive them. Below are her comments in regards to some of the children's reactions:

"Thank you, everyone from the OCA who gave thought, time and resources to make these gifts possible. As you may know, many of our families may not celebrate Christmas with buying children presents because of a variety of reasons. Each gift from you made a kid very happy—especially when they weren't expected any more than a checkup when they came to the health center. Each gift we gave elicited a look of surprise and true excitement! Our pediatric team and our patients' families truly appreciate all of your efforts in bringing holiday joy to all of the kids and families."

More than 110 thank you cards were written by the gift recipients and forwarded to the OCA-NJ board. If the goal of this community project was to bring joy to children, they it was a tremendous success! A big "Thank You" to all gift contributors, without whom we could not have been so successful.

Saturday, December 1 – OCA-NJ 2018 Holiday Ball

The Bethwood, Totowa, NJ



OCA New Jersey Holiday Ball 2018 was the ultimate celebration to cap off our 40th Anniversary. Held at the newly renovated The Grand Bethwood in Totowa, New Jersey, a crowd of over 200 danced the night away to tunes old and new. In between, groups and individuals delighted in creating their own unique holiday photo cards with fun, festive, fashionable, or holiday themed props and accessories. OCA-NJ 2018 Honorees included Josephine Ho, Executive Director of the New Jersey Chinese American Chamber of Commerce; Meiling Lee Kravarik, Founder of the first AREA (Asian Real Estate Association of America) chapter in New Jersey, and the incomparable GinGee Moy, OCA-NJ Unsung Hero Award recipient.

OCA New Jersey Holiday Ball benefits the OCA-NJ Essay Scholarship Program which awards scholarship money to college bound high school seniors of Asian American descent who reside in New Jersey. 26 fantastically themed baskets were donated by Board members for raffle ranging from a Crazy Rich Asian basket to a Funky Fun Retro Basket to an 11 piece Gourmet Cookware Set. Plenty of Silent Auction items like a Kate Spade handbag and wallet set, a High Spirit Liquor ensemble, and the ever popular FBI swag bag were also up for bids. We thank all of our members for their generous donations, their continued support, and their holiday cheer for making the 40th Anniversary Celebration, 2018 Holiday Ball a fun-filled success!

Saturday, January 12, 2019 – Board Meeting

Pequannock, NJ



The OCA-NJ Chapter Board convened its first 2019 Board meeting on January 12, 2019 in Pequannock, NJ. At this meeting, Immediate Past President, Virginia Ng, first officiated the swearing in ceremony of Chapter President, Laura Lee. Afterwards, all Board Members, both new and returning, were sworn in. Laura thanked the entire Board for their dedication and commitment to the OCA-NJ Chapter and welcomed the three new Board Members – Christine Braccino, Diane Chan and Lillian Gee.

A number of agenda items were also discussed at this meeting, including Board responsibilities, the upcoming Lunar New Year Dinner on February 16, 2019 and 2019 Chapter event calendar and programming.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Date TBD

Advocacy and Skyrocketing Drug Prices, venue TBD (see [Flyer](#) for more information on this program originally scheduled for April 13 – soon to be rescheduled. Please check our website at www.oca-nj.com and your email for the most recent updates for this and other OCA-NJ events.

Sunday, May 19, 2-5PM

OCA-NJ APA Heritage Luncheon Scholarship Awards

Flaming Grill & Supreme Buffet, 92 Route 23, Riverdale, NJ (see [Flyer](#) for more details)

Saturday, June 8, 9AM-12PM

Chinese Wellness Day, St. Barnabas Ambulatory Center

200 S. Orange Avenue, Livingston, NJ

Thursday-Sunday, June 27-30

OCA National Convention, Houston, TX

Sunday, September 8

FCC/OCA 4 Chapter Picnic Hosted by OCA-NY

Van Saun Park, Paramus, NJ

Saturday, October 19

OCA-NJ Member Appreciation

Saturday, December 7

OCA-NJ Holiday Ball, The Bethwood

38 Lackawanna Avenue, Totowa, NJ

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