

*President's  
Corner*

Dear OCAPS Members,

The year 2009 is a year full of challenges, both for the nation and for OCAPS. The challenges we face at OCAPS are to revitalize the organization, to draw more members into its fold, to offer fun and educational events, and to attract the young to our ranks. At the same time, we need to follow our philanthropic mission, and continue to raise funds in these tough economic times. Along with these challenges there are benefits. The 2009 Executive Council is a "dream team" of fifteen focused and ready to serve members. The council meets the first Wednesday of each month. We brainstorm and strategize, we break bread together, provided by the members at no cost to OCAPS. At our meetings, we strengthen old friendships and create new ones.

I hope you will enjoy the Newsletter, which will keep you informed of our plans and projects.

Our attempt to provide details will help us stay accountable and be transparent to our members. On your part, we want you to stay close to OCAPS. We encourage you to take an active role by getting engaged in the organization, and writing us your feedback. It's only through active participation on your part that we can serve you better. Finally, we hope you will support our events by attending.

I look forward to a productive and pleasant year.

Sincerely,  
Sylvie Terzakian



*Membership  
Committee*

We are pleased to announce that since January 2009 OCAPS has 18 new members which brings our total membership to 116. Many thanks to our Executive Council members who have worked hard to get the word out about OCAPS. Since our effort in 2009 will be focused on the social aspect of our organization, our Event Committee has planned fun and exciting opportunities for us. Our Committee is working hard to continue our recruitment efforts.

We have revised our brochure, and letters that we send to new and potential members. OCAPS will have a new poster to place in certain locations to let students and professionals know about our organization.

There are a lot of Armenian professionals in Orange County who are not members of OCAPS. The best way to recruit new members is by word of mouth. If you have friends or family members who might be interested in becoming members or would like information, please tell them to contact OCAPS.

Thank you  
Lida Mooradian



# OCAPS

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## Philanthropic Committee

Dear OCAPS members, friends and supporters,

As OCAPS continues its philanthropic Annual Fund Raising effort for 2009, it wishes to thank you and your past generous support in assisting students, teachers and schools in the remote villages of Armenia, and also would like to inform you of its past charitable endeavors and what it wishes to accomplish in 2009. Since the independence of Armenia, OCAPS's philanthropic mission has been dedicated to enriching education in Armenia and has since delivered over \$120,000 in assistance to schools in Yerevan and Tavoush region. In 2007, OCAPS allocated \$9,000 (100% of your donations) to Sevkar and Berkabar Village schools in the remote region of Tavoush Mars near Azerbaijan border, by assisting students with school supplies, supplemental assistance to teachers and also provided funds for purchase of technical equipments (i.e.) computers. Additional funds were also provided for urgently needed repairs to school facilities.

In 2008, OCAPS allocated \$12,500 (100% of its charitable funds) to the same schools. During severe winter months of year 2008 in Tavoush region, the funds were allocated to the replacement of disfunctional broken windows of classrooms and lab. The new windows are Euro style, double pane and weather proof. OCAPS has received "Thank You" letters from both principals, and Deputy Minister of Education, Bagrat Yessayan, who visited the schools in February.

This year, given the economic slowdown, OCAPS is way short of reaching its goal of raising \$10,000. So far it has received \$2,200 in donations.

OCAPS appreciates and thanks those of you who have already contributed generously. However, those who have not had a chance to contribute and still wish to do so, you can send your tax deductible check made out to: OCAPS PHILANTHROPIC FUND, P.O. BOX 3455, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92659.

OCAPS is dedicated and eager to help the schools in Armenia in 2009. Any help, in any amount is greatly appreciated and will go a long way in helping OCAPS achieve its Philanthropic mission.

Thank you,  
Terez Bassenian

## Events Committee

Here at OCAPS, our goal is to provide you the potential to increase your professional and social networking possibilities. Our fun meet and greet events are designed for you to have a great time.

This is a wonderful chance to meet the friendly Armenians in Orange County. What a great way to maximize your connections.

Our last event "Meet & Mingle Night" at Kimera was a great success. Over 80 guests attended and we were delighted that enthusiastic non-members joined OCAPS.

I look forward in meeting with you at our wine tasting event in August and get your dancing shoes on for a fun Dinner Dance event in November!

Keep your ears and eyes open and check our website [www.OCAPS.org](http://www.OCAPS.org) for dates!

Thank you  
Joelle Tavitian

