



# Summer Newsletter

August, 2004  
issued quarterly

## Oasis Celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



O4g Co-Founder Jill W. Pfeiffer, Executive Director Cynthia Taylor & Co-Founder Ly Nguyen celebrate at the www.FriscoGirls.com launch party at SFMOMA on 7.29.04. Photo by Debra Koval

**Oasis For Girls (O4g)**, a project of The Tides Center, a nonprofit organization, serves ages 10 – 20 in youth-driven free after-school and summer programs in San Francisco's culturally diverse South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood.

The vision of Oasis For Girls is to provide a safe place where girls and young women are inspired and empowered to become strong and creative leaders.

The mission of Oasis For Girls is to cultivate self-esteem in girls and young women ages 8 – 19 through arts, education and leadership development programs.

Oasis For Girls (O4g) celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 20<sup>th</sup> and leadership transition at our center on Folsom Street with over 100 friends (old and new), family and most importantly, the amazing girls and young women of O4g. New Executive Director, Cynthia Taylor emceed and introduced the new Program Manager, Yoriko Yamamoto in addition to the new Advisory Board member Mary P. Kwan of Levi Strauss. The celebration embraced the new staff and honored the co-founders Jill Weinberg Pfeiffer and Ly Nguyen for their five-year directorships and valuable contribution to the organization. Three 2004 Future Fund scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each were awarded to college bound May Deng, Jennifer Diaz-Romero, and Jennifer Tse! The event also raised funds for the Future Fund College Scholarship.

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## Summer Programs a Success!

### Free weekly multi-disciplinary cultural and gender-awareness-rich classes included:

- Mondays, 3-5 pm: La Cocina de Oasis Cooking and nutrition classes
- Wednesdays, 3-5 pm: Studio Oasis Art workshops
- Wednesdays, 4:30-6 pm: Beginning Digital Dreams – a technology program
- Fridays, 1-6 pm: Field Trip Fridays Game-filled cultural excursions

### Paid Teen Internships Included:

- \* Youth-Led Girls' Needs Assessment and Organizational Evaluation
- \* Office Assistance
- \* Advanced Digital Dreams
- \* Leadership Development/ Women's Studies Group (formerly *Movin' On Up*)
- \* Paid Arts Apprenticeship Program in collaboration with Clarion Alley Mural Project (CAMP)



Log on to [www.sfoasis.org](http://www.sfoasis.org) for Fall Programming

### Oasis Womanpower

STAFF	Cynthia Taylor	Executive Director
	Yoriko Yamamoto	Program Manager
	Marisa Jahn	Arts Program Coordinator
	Anita Vasa	MFT Intern / Counselor
	Megan Wilson	Development & Marketing Consultant
	Caroline Park	Summer Coordinator
	Estelle Weyl Beverly Adams	Tech Instructor Office Assistant Intern
VOLUNTEERS	Shelly Blockus	Computer Lab Goddess
	Gwen Barr	Beginning Tech Instructor
	My Tu Duong	Intern
	Nelissa Canunun	Intern
ADVISORY BOARD	Lupe C. Garcia	Board Chair
	Thérèse F. Martin	Secretary
	Neha Patel	Treasurer
	Jill W. Pfeiffer	Co-Founder
	Mary P. Kwan	

### Thank you to our generous funders!

Agape Foundation, American Association of University Women, California Wellness Foundation, Jessica Fund, San Francisco Foundation, Serpent Source Foundation, Third Wave Foundation, Tides Foundation, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund, Walter and Elise Haas Foundation, Susie Tompkins Buell Foundation, Hasbro Children's Foundation, Kimball Foundation, Zellerbach Family Fund, Louis R. Lurie Foundation, Tang Foundation, Silver Giving Foundation, Nicholson Family Fund, Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation, Upjohn Fund of San Francisco, Morris Stulsaft Foundation, The Women's Foundation, Bothin Foundation, Cisco Systems Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, Social Venture Partners, Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Community Technology Foundation, Open Meadows Foundation, The Milagro Foundation, The Eva Gunther Foundation, Levi Strauss Foundation, The Isabel Allende Foundation, The Gap Foundation, Van Loben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, The San Diego Foundation, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, PG&E in addition to the many caring O4g individuals and volunteers!

Oasis for Girls is a proud project of the Tides Center – thank you Work Team 3!

### A Note from the New Executive Director

Dear O4g community-

It is my pleasure to share our first quarterly newsletter with you! It has been a productive and successful year thus far for all the girls and young women of Oasis For Girls and there is much to report as our girls begin to cover their new text books, locate their lockers at middle & high schools, move into dorm rooms, sign up for O4g tutors and giggle over the pictures and good times of our summer together. In December 2003, together with the Advisory Board, co-founders/co-directors Jill W. Pfeiffer and Ly Nguyen welcomed me to Oasis For Girls as they transitioned out of their staff roles. Jill joined the Advisory Board and Ly departed the organization to pursue her creative writing career. The leadership transition is the realization of the organization's early strategic planning process where a term limit of five years was set for the Director(s) position(s). This practice would: 1) ensure fresh perspectives; 2) support the leadership development of a diverse range of women; 3) build on Oasis For Girls' mentorship model; and 4) expand the network of support for girls and women. We anticipate the day when we transition one of our girls to the Executive Director position! Please explore [www.sfoasis.org](http://www.sfoasis.org) and [www.friscogirls.com](http://www.friscogirls.com) for more information about the extraordinary programs and team at Oasis For Girls.

Regards,

Cynthia Taylor  
Executive Director



**Cynthia Taylor, Executive Director** was appointed in December 2003 after having curated the nationally recognized multi-disciplinary art & job-training program, *Young Artists at Work* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts since 1999, where she established an annual scholarship fund. A professional vocalist, Taylor is currently performing and recording with Charming Hostess. An experienced world traveler, she was raised in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains with a dynamic bi-racial (African-American/Caucasian) and bi-coastal family of alternative educators and academics.

**Yoriko Yamamoto, Program Manager**, joined Oasis for Girls in March 2004. Before joining O4g, she worked as the School & Youth Programs Coordinator in Yerba Buena Center for the Arts for four years. Yamamoto also designs clothing and rings under the professional artist name *a n t*. She was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan and has been to several countries through exchange programs as a teenager.

**Marisa Jahn, Summer 2004 Mural Arts-Instructor**, later joined the O4g staff as the **Arts Program Coordinator**. Jahn is a conceptual artist interested in the relationship between mark-making and place-making, and has exhibited and presented work internationally. A Co-founder of Pond, a non-profit arts organization in San Francisco dedicated to experimental public art, Jahn

was born in Dallas, TX to a family of mixed cultural and linguistic backgrounds (half-Ecuadorian, half-Chinese).

**Anita Vasa, MFT Intern/ Counselor**, is dedicated to healing others and balancing assimilation with cultural identity. Vasa loves poetry and writes in her spare time. A first generation Southeast-Asian Indian-American, Vasa joined Oasis for Girls in October 2003.

Cynthia (left) & Yoriko (right) arrive at O4g!  
Drawing by Ivana Vanessa Romero Ibrahim



"Oasis has inspired me to picture my career. It made me feel better about myself."  
- Anonymous



## O4g Leadership Development/ Independent Woman and Women's Studies Program

The paid 10-Week Internship takes place every Spring, Summer, and Fall, with a curriculum consisting of the following:

<b>Week 1 &amp; 2</b>	The Power of Womanhood
<b>Week 3</b>	Academics and Discipline
<b>Week 4</b>	Financial Literacy
<b>Week 5</b>	Public Speaking and Ethics
<b>Week 6</b>	Healthy Relationships Week
<b>Week 7</b>	Stress Management
<b>Week 8</b>	Our Beautiful Bodies: The Facts
<b>Week 9</b>	Career Building and Resume Workshop
<b>Week 10</b>	Culinary Arts & Nutrition



### Summer 2004

top, left to right: Cassandra Kaufman, Almaz Nigusse  
middle, left to right: Rebecca Hall, Kandice Waterford, Danielle Garcia, Whitney Gregory, Meyana Tillman  
bottom, left to right: My Tu Duong, Yet Wa Ly, Cindy Gee, Melissa Lopez

Do you share our vision? Join us and donate to our programs, The Future Fund, or the Mrs. Katherine Flowers Reid Scholarship Fund!

The Mrs. Katherine Flowers Reid Scholarship Fund was established this spring by Dr. Angela Reid Taylor & Dr. John L. Taylor! Watch [www.sfoasis.org](http://www.sfoasis.org) for details later this year!

## Congratulations to the 2004 Future Fund Scholarship Recipients!



May Deng, Jennifer Diaz-Romero, Jennifer Tse

Every year Oasis for Girls awards Future Fund Grants to young women towards their educational advancement. Three grants are distributed every Spring in the amount of \$1000 towards college tuition and school expenses. This year's recipients include:

**May Deng** (graduate of John O'Connell High School, Fall 2004 attendee at UC Berkeley) May, a member of the Oasis Leadership Circle Youth Board, studied everyday at O4g and participated in the after-school tutor program. For her role in contributing to the environmental well being of San Francisco, she received the Environmental Service Award from the San Francisco Department of the Environment and placed first in the ECO HERO award from San Francisco Environment.

**Jennifer Diaz-Romero** (graduate of Philip & Sala Burton High School, Fall 2004 attendee at Mills College) Jennifer, a founding youth advisor, was a member of the Oasis Leadership Circle. In this capacity, Jennifer also served as the youth representative for the Executive Director search. Jennifer studied everyday at O4g and participated in the after-school tutor program. Last summer, she completed the San Francisco Foundation's FAITHS Youth Leadership Program.

**Jennifer Tse** (graduate of John O'Connell High School, Fall 2004 attendee at UC Berkeley) Jennifer, a graduate of O4g Leadership Development/Independent Woman and Women's Studies Internship Program, also participated in the O4g paid summer arts apprenticeship program.

**www.FriscoGirls.com launched!**



On Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, Oasis For Girls launched our new website at The San Francisco

Museum of Modern Art's Koret Visitor Center with 60+ attendees! www.FriscoGirls.com is the 411 from the 415, Teen Topics by Teen Techs, a one year paid internship project of the O4g pilot Digital Dreams Technology Program. The site was designed by our advanced Digital Dreams class this summer under the direction of instructor Estelle Weyl with contributing trainers over the year Gwen Barr, Ly Nguyen & Jill W. Pfeiffer. Teen Techs included Kimberly Krause, LaShanta Patterson, Jennifer Ramirez & Joanna Torno. Contributing Teen Techs include, Cecilia Ramirez-Ruiz, Ricilyn Sanchez, teen members of the Oasis Leadership Circle 2003 & 2004. The site is designed to be compliant with Section 508, making it accessible to people with disabilities. O4g is currently raising funds to continue this sought-after program.

**Hearts of Gold, Fists of Fury mural unveiled!**

O4g and Clarion Alley Mural Project proudly unveiled Hearts of Gold Fists of Fury on August 14<sup>th</sup> to a crowd of 50+ supporters. The mural, embracing the secrets of the Shaolin and the simple strength of femininity, was developed and painted by eight young women ages 16 – 20 from O4g during an 8-week summer paid Arts Apprenticeship Program, the mural addresses the historical concerns of feminist leadership through contemporary pop iconography – a political adaptation of the 1976 Charlie's Angels film. Under the artistic guidance of Marisa Jahn, the mural features Rosa Parks, Mother Theresa, Emma Goldman, Phoolan Devi and "Every Woman." Teen muralists included Sierra Bloomer, Micaiah Caplong, Su Mei Mai, Sunum Mobin, Nancy Salcedo, Amber Sanchez, Jennifer Tse & Lily Zhen.



**O4g Wish List !**

- ☑ Mac ibook
- ☑ Standing lamp
- ☑ Gift certificates to IKEA or Container Store
- ☑ Hanging pot and pan rack
- ☑ Volunteer tutors for writing, math, and science (available weekdays between 4-6:30
- ☑ Vacuum



*"Oasis for Girls is the best place in the whole world!"  
- Jessica, age 10*