

Jim Kern  
President 2010-2011

This was a fun year. Our board and committees provided fantastic support and actually made the job of president much easier than I imagined. The saddest part of the year was losing Harry Rutstein in July of 2010. Harry was a great addition to our club. He was the author of "The Marco Polo Odyssey", and was the first person to retrace the entire journey of Marco Polo. Harry had made a tremendous presentation the previous year, complete with Marco Polo era clothing at one of our special fundraisers.

I placed an emphasis in my year on administration, and attempted to find ways to make it easier and more fun to manage the activities of the club including the running of meetings, the recording of data (membership, attendance, etc.), marketing, and other functions. We did manage to implement some administrative changes that made things easier. The most important of these was switching to Club Runner for our website. This allowed us the flexibility of recording data and updating our meeting and event schedules. It also simplified the creating of weekly newsletters to our members, a tradition that was really pushed and implemented by Paul Mar as president before me.

We also created a new marketing brochure, which is designed to attract members to our club. In fact we were very successful in recruiting nine new members to our club.

We also moved early in my year to a new location, the New Hong Kong restaurant on Jackson. There was not much resistance to the move, especially since the restaurant provided free parking. We bought new audio visual equipment, and the space seemed to be a vast improvement, except that it was almost too big. *WE NEED 100 MORE MEMBERS!*

The highlight of our meeting schedule was when we went to Wing Luke for a special luncheon with Teddy Roosevelt impersonator Joe Wiegand. It was quite a treat from his special car arrival to his warm and wonderful presentation of one of our great presidents.

Thank you to all the great board and special committee members for a job well done!