



CITIZENS FOR BETTER COMMUNITY

華人權益服務社

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Membership Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

January/February 2003

SPRING CELEBRATION TIME AGAIN!

"An Evening in Old Shanghai"

Saturday, April 26, 2003

Newark/Fremont Hilton

Just when you thought things were settling down, it is time to start getting ready for our annual Spring Celebration! This year's theme is "An Evening in Old Shanghai" and it is already shaping up to be a most interesting evening. What was it like in old Shanghai? You will have to attend to find out. As with the past several years, seating is limited so be prepared to send in your reservations when the tickets become available.

*Happy Chinese New Year
Year of the Ram*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 CBC Honored by IACF
- 3 Youth Group Update
- 4 Spotlight on CBC Member Jennifer Toy-Harrison
- 4 Exhibit at UC Berkeley
- 5 Chinese New Year—Year of the Ram
- 6 CBC Founders Thomas Hom & Whisky Ho

President's Message

By Garrett Yee

*Excerpt from Indo-American
Community Federation
Unity Dinner 2002*



In the end, we in this great nation, in this room, are more similar than we are different. Many years ago, one of this country's founding fathers wrote the following statement in the Declaration of Independence.

*"We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." -
Thomas Jefferson*

We don't get to recite this statement publicly very often, but tonight we do. And, as Americans, we hold dear the notion that we are all equal. But in our community, we also cherish public safety, clean neighborhoods, good schools, freedom of speech, open and honest government, but most importantly, to be accepted for who we are in our own backyard.

(See President's Message on Page 2)

On a separate note, I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Happy New Year! This is a time when we should all take a moment to reflect on all the good fortune that we have. One good fortune that I have is a great wife, Maria, and three great kids, Gilbert, Michael & Alissa. Another good fortune that I have is a great group of friends in CBC.

I guess it is also the time of year to do a little house cleaning—literally. This will take some effort, but in the last few weeks, I have made a few trips to the Salvation Army. I still have way to go, but this comes under the continuous improvement process. It never ends...

However, with the New Year, it is also a time when we should think about what we could do to better ourselves as individuals. This year, one of the things that I have made a commitment to do is be a better listener. In this respect, I hope that by working at being a better listener, I can hear the message, not just the words, and hopefully be a better president for Citizens for Better Community.

Best wishes to you all in the Year of the Ram!
Respectfully submitted,



GARRETT S. YEE

President

CBC Membership Newsletter

The CBC membership newsletter is published bi-monthly. We welcome your questions, comments and feedback. You may send them to Citizens for Better Community, P.O. Box 1, Fremont, CA 94537, or you may contact Teresa Yin Wong, Executive Director, at 510-793-6302, or email dryin@attbi.com.

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	Julie Hisaw
	Albert Wang
	Allen Wang
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CBC HONORED BY IACF AS "Organization of the Year"

FREMONT—The Indo-American Community Federation (IACF) honored Citizens for Better Community (CBC) as its Organization of the Year at its second annual Unity Dinner on Friday, January 24th at the Fremont Marriott. The event featured California's First Lady Sharon Davis as the keynote speaker and also honored Volunteer of the Year Shirley Sisk of League of Volunteers & Ohlone Trustee Dan Archer for a lifetime of service.

According to Jeevan Zutshi, IACF's Founder, "I founded Indo-American Community federation eight years back to help bring Indo-Americans into mainstream America and develop a working relationship with every other group. Five years ago, I ran into a Chinese group called Citizens for Better Community and ever since I have been fascinated with their organizational abilities, togetherness and determination to reach out. I will be very happy to see one day that our community gets fully involved and we undertake bigger community development programs like CBC has been doing."

CBC President Garrett Yee reflects, "This recognition is significant because what we have is an organization whose members are Indo-Americans honoring an organization whose members are primarily Chinese Americans. This does not happen very often, and in fact, this is probably a first. Obviously we take this as a great compliment to be recognized by what we consider a "peer" organization." CBC Community Involvement Chair, Dr. Albert Wang, notes "We have always thought well of organizations, such as IACF, that work to bridge individual cultures with the mainstream community. We must recognize organizations for what they do in helping to bring people together in ways that helps to foster and encourage dialogue."



Youth Event at Aegis Gardens a Hit!

By Julia Hisaw (Youth Writer)

CBC Youth Group kicked off its first event of the New Year on January 19, 2003 with the Chinese New Year Performance at Aegis Gardens. Haley Ko, Lisa Hisaw, and Concord Cheung welcomed the guests and introduced the Crystal Children's Choir in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese, respectively. The event consisted of a variety of lovely songs sung by the choir, as well as instrumental, solo, and duet performances. Highlights included Chinese folk songs sung by Director Hwei-Min Lu, a professional soprano. The program's finale consisted of vibrant Chinese New Year's songs by the choir, complete with cymbals, drums, masks, and colorful lions' heads. Josephine Chou organized this festive event, which definitely started the New Year off with a bang! Additionally, the event began with a festive Pot Luck/Iron Chef competition for new and existing members of CBC. Attendees were encouraged to bring in their favorite dishes to be judged on by Aegis Gardens residents as well as guests. Congratulations are in order for Eunice Ko who won the 1st runner up prize for her delicious almond jell-o, and to Josephine Chou for her delectable rice balls. While the event turned out to be a success, we hope to see even more CBC members at future events.



Youth Group Serves Dinner at Homeless Shelter

By Allen Wang (Youth Writer)

It is a rewarding experience to help care for these people who have nowhere to go and stay. We are proud of everyone for helping us prepare and serve them a good tasting dinner. We enjoyed helping them to move one step closer to getting a place to stay and knowing that people cared about them. It is nice to know that if we ever need help there are people that will always be right behind us to move us forward. A saying goes like this "what comes around will indeed go around". We prepared and served a dinner that they would love to eat one more time, I hope. The meal included BBQ chicken, vegetables, and fried rice that everyone loved to eat. I encourage others to do something good for your country and community; it might come back to you.

Kids and teens who spent the entire time making sure everything was perfect I present to you: Lisa Hisaw, Concord Cheung, Vinan Lin, Eric Lin, Pearl Lee, Lilly Lee, Joseph Tsay, Christine Tsay, Michelle Yung, Jonathan Yung, Eric Lee, and finally the 14 year old Allen Wang who has been volunteering since he was 8 years old. He has never missed a day going to the Homeless shelter because that is how much he cares. ☺ Now please pass the food plate.



Youth Group Members serve at Homeless Shelter in November (standing in the kitchen area).

CBC Member
Spotlight—
Jennifer Toy
Harrison
Union Sanitary
District Board of
Directors



In 1988, Jennifer Toy became the first Asian female elected official in the Tri-Cities area when she got elected to the Union Sanitary District Board of Trustees. At the time, she was 27 years old. In 2002, she ran unopposed and was re-elected to another four-year term, which she currently serves. Jennifer is a founding board member of the Ohlone College Alumni Association, and currently is a member of the Tri-City Ecology Center, Citizens for Better Community, and the League of Women Voters. Jennifer is also an appointed Commissioner of the East Bay Discharge Authority. She is a former member of the Fremont-Newark Community College Board of Trustees, and past Board member of Christmas in April * Tri-Cities Chapter and Children's Fund of the Bay Area. Jennifer also has had several years of experience in the banking, retail management, government, and non-profit sectors. She received an AA degree from Ohlone College and holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Studies and Geography from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Jennifer is married to long-time Fremont resident and active community member Bill Harrison, who sits on the Fremont Planning Commission amongst other boards. They have been married since August 1988. Together, this is one very active and involved pair. The biggest news in the Harrison's life is the birth of their son Bryce Toy Harrison born on September 9, 2002. Bryce made his first public appearance at a CBC sponsored event late last year, which was covered in the CBC newsletter.



Above: Jennifer, Bill & son Bryce

Chinese Overseas Exhibit at UC Berkeley

by Angela Yang

One of my hobbies is to visit libraries and museums. There is so much to see and to learn about the architectural design, space utilization, the intellectual content in each location. So I was quite happy to get an invitation to attend the Opening Ceremony of the Chinese Overseas, Challenges & Contributions exhibit held at UC Berkeley in November. The ceremony took place in the beautiful, elegant Morrison Library inside the Doe Library. The exhibit was housed at the Bernice Layne Brown Gallery. If you haven't visited Cal recently, you would be impressed by the Doe Library aesthetics after the recent renovation. Morrison Library reminds one of the clubby, old-fashioned libraries of years gone by, and Doe Library is bright and modern. It is an interesting contrast.

This exhibit was designed to spotlight the Chinese people's influence and impact on world events. It traces Chinese emigration back to its roots during the Han Tang dynasty (206- 907 A.D.). It highlights the materials assembled from the world's largest archival collection at UC Berkeley of items relating to overseas-Chinese and Chinese American culture. The exhibit showcases little-known manuscripts, diaries, poetry, historic photographs, rare books, Chinese newspaper articles, family genealogies, and records of the Chinese internment close to home (on Angel Island) during a bleak time in U.S. immigration history.

The fourteen cases of materials reflect the cultural, socio-economic, and political lives of overseas Chinese. Among the more unusual items are autobiographical manuscripts revealing the daily lives and struggles of Chinese in the U.S., and historic photographs of the first Chinese American woman physician, Margaret Chung, who practiced in San Francisco during World War II. There are accounts of Chinese entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, a biography of former Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien, and a profile of famed architect I.M. Pei. Mr. Him Mark Lai, a renowned Chinese American Historian was the guest speaker. Mr. Him Mark Lai just donated his life-time collection to the Ethnic Studies Library at Berkeley.

The photos, maps, manuscripts, books also reminded me of the great work and contribution CBC has made to the Chinese American community and the community at large in Fremont and the Tri-city area.

CBC & SBCC HOSTS 4TH ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION "YEAR OF THE RAM"

Citizens for Better Community (CBC), the South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC), and the Fremont Children's Library will host their 4th Annual Chinese New Year Celebration at the Fremont Main Library on February 15, 2003. This event is geared towards families and entertainment will include a Lion Dance, Martial Arts, Singing, Music, Chinese Folk Dance, Brush Painting, and Crafts—all free.

According to CBC President Garrett Yee, "This started four years ago as an opportunity for the South Bay Chinese Club and Citizens for Better Community to do something together that celebrated our cultural heritage. It was a great success from a standpoint that we had a chance to do something together for the good of the community. The first year we started off small, but each year, it has become more popular.

This year, the event will be held two weeks after the actual Chinese New Year day, which is February 1, 2003. However, the date selection is based on date availability and scheduling of the volunteers that make this event possible. Elise Jan and Bernadette Chinn have been the backbone behind this year's event and have both done a great job."

SBCC President Aaron Wong welcomes all to attend, "We wish to invite our neighbors and local communities to share our Chinese New Year Celebration event with us at the Fremont Main Library. Every year we've seen participation and interest grow at this event and expect the same this year. Please join us in celebrating the Year of the Ram."

"Children and their families are invited to the Fremont Main Library to experience Chinese New Year. The program will feature music, dance, crafts and exhibits intended to both celebrate the New Year and to introduce people of all ethnic backgrounds to the history and pageantry of the cultural event," states Karen Pacheco, Supervising Children's Librarian at the Fremont Main Library.

Hope to see you there!



The Origin of Chinese New Year

From www.Indiana.edu

The Chinese New Year is now popularly known as the Spring Festival because it starts from the Beginning of Spring (the first of the [twenty-four terms](#) in coordination with the changes of Nature). Its origin is too old to be traced. Several explanations are hanging around. All agree, however, that the word Nian, which in modern Chinese solely means "year", was originally the name of a monster beast that started to prey on people the night before the beginning of a new year (Do not lose track here: we are talking about the new year in terms of the Chinese calendar).

One legend goes that the beast Nian had a very big mouth that would swallow a great many people with one bite. People were very scared. One day, an old man came to their rescue, offering to subdue Nian. To Nian he said, "I hear say that you are very capable, but can you swallow the other beasts of prey on earth instead of people who are by no means of your worthy opponents?" So, swallow it did many of the beasts of prey on earth that also harassed people and their domestic animals from time to time.

After that, the old man disappeared riding the beast Nian. He turned out to be an immortal god. Now that Nian is gone and other beasts of prey are also scared into forests, people begin to enjoy their peaceful life. Before the old man left, he had told people to put up red paper decorations on their windows and doors at each year's end to scare away Nian in case it sneaked back again, because red is the color the beast feared the most.

From then on, the tradition of observing the conquest of Nian is carried on from generation to generation. The term "Guo Nian", which may mean "Survive the Nian" becomes today "Celebrate the (New) Year" as the word "guo" in Chinese having both the meaning of "pass-over" and "observe". The custom of putting up red paper and firing fire-crackers to scare away Nian should it have a chance to run loose is still around. However, people today have long forgotten why they are doing all this, except that they feel the color and the sound add to the excitement of the celebration.

If you have not done so, remember to send in your membership dues!

Thanks,
Chai-Chee Chan
Membership Chair

Meet Two CBC Founding Members Thomas Hom & Whisky Ho



Thomas Hom



Whisky Ho

Thomas Hom is a founding member of CBC. Over the years, he has been actively involved by serving as Vice President, chairman of the Spring Celebration, and various other committees. Thomas is also involved in other organizations, which include the South Bay Chinese Club, Santa Clara Rare Fruit Growers Association, the Newark Dance Club, and former member of the Organization of Chinese Americans. Hobbies include traveling, beekeeping, fruit tree grafting, kendo, bass singer for a choir group, ballroom dancing, and gourmet cooking. Thomas works for the City of Fremont Building Department. Thomas has three children Tina, Jennifer and Michael.

Whisky Ho is a founding member of CBC and has been a Board member ever since. He currently serves as the Education Chair and has also been very active in senior citizen programs. He was awarded "CBC Volunteer of the Year" for the year 1998. Over the years he has helped with various organizations, which include the Northern California Alumni Association, American Cancer Society Northern California Chinese Unit, and Dynamic Foundation. He is the past Principal of the Fremont Chinese School. He is an owner of a packing material company. Whisky and his wife, Wendy, have two children, Ashley and Andrew.

Citizens for Better Community is fortunate to have two such dedicated founding members currently serving on its board of directors. This is what keeps the organization going. Thanks Thomas and Whisky!

REFLECTIONS ON THE DEC 15 CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Amy Cho

The South Bay Chinese Club and Citizens for Better Community coordinated efforts to hold a fun and entertaining Christmas party on December 15. Robert He, manager of Aegis Garden retirement home, graciously offered the premises for the party. This allowed SBCC/CBC to have a big cozy, decorated place for the party, but it also gave us an opportunity to do something for the seniors during the holidays. The afternoon was magical. Seniors were entertained by voices of little angels from the Fremont Chinese School Children's Choir (directed by Stephanie Ho) and every senior received a beautifully wrapped Christmas present. There was Christmas carol singing (led by Lena Zee and accompanied on the piano by Judy Lam), children had the chance to meet Santa Claus, and finally all gathered for a Christmas treat of fried chicken, chow mein, egg rolls and sesame filled snacks!

Our thanks go to Lena Zee for leading the carols with her beautiful voice, arranging our musical selections, printing the lyrics, and making arrangements for the choir and piano accompanist. To Whisky Ho for selecting and picking up all the delicious goodies. To Maelene Wong for taking memorable pictures of the party, some of which you see here. To Steve Cho...our very own Santa. To Aaron Wong and Karen Chen, for leading us in the party activities. And to the rest of the Christmas party social committee members, Bernadette Chinn, Aliene Yee and Amy Cho.

Everyone had such a good time. This was the second year the Christmas party was held at Aegis Gardens. It's rumored that this might become 'a tradition' in the future!



Chia-Chee Chan & Shun Lee at Aegis Gardens
Serve Seniors at Potluck event.

2002-2003 Directory

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Garrett Yee.....(510) 790-0865

Vice President:

Karen Chen.....(650) 934-5245

Secretary:

Cindy Lee.....(408) 280-6631

Treasurer:

Gordon Jang.....(510) 790-0740

Past President:

Carl Chen.....(510) 490-8118

Executive Director:

Teresa Yin Wong.....(510) 793-6302

Youth Group:

Eunice Ko.....(510) 657-0136

Senior Group Liaisons:

Tim Tam.....(510) 796-0962

Whisky Ho.....(510) 623-7636

Culture Exchange:

Elise Jan.....(510) 659-9348

Membership:

Chia-Chee Chan.....(510) 710-0820

Website:

Carl Chen.....(510) 490-8118

Voter Registration:

Daphne Yang.....(510) 651-6472

Committees

Education:

Anna Muh.....(510) 226-8678

Health:

Herbert Chiu.....(510) 490-8649

Business:

Henry Yin.....(510) 657-1235

Community Involvement:

Albert Wang.....(510) 657-6610

Board of Directors

Cecilia Chang	Chia-Chee Chan	Carl Chen
Simon Chen	Hebert Chiu	Steve Cho
Chi Choy	Whiskey Ho	Tom Hom
Tony Luh	Anna Muh	Ting O'Conner
Michelle Royston	Thomas Tang	Albert Wang
Stanley Woo	Angela Yang	Henry Yin
Teresa Yin Wong	Loretta Yu	Lena Zee

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

If you like what you see in this newsletter and want to remain informed, please join CBC.

Please check one of the following and include a check payable to *CBC* and send to:

CBC, Membership, P. O. Box 1, Fremont, CA 94537-0001

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Corporate/Organization | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Individual: Life Membership | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Family: Life Membership | |

Please complete the following member(s) (contact person) information:

Member: _____

Last Name	First Name	Chinese Name
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Spouse: _____

Last Name	First Name	Chinese Name
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Address: _____

Street	City	State	Zip
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Home Phone #	Office Phone #	e-mail
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Please check here if you don't want to publish your phone # and address in our membership roster.

Citizens for Better Community

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Happy Chinese New Year! Year of the Ram!

"To initiate, sponsor and promote community events, which will affect the well being of Chinese Americans with an emphasis on education, health, business and community involvement."

Calendar of Events

SBCC/CBC Chinese New Year Celebration

Place: Fremont Library
When: Saturday, February 15, 2003, Time: 12 - 4 pm
Contact: Elise Jan (510) 659-9348

East Bay Asian Voter Education Consortium Asian Candidate Reception

Place: Aegis Gardens
When: Thursday, February 20, 2003, Time: 7:00 pm
Contact: Albert Wang (510) 657-6610

Serving Dinner at the Homeless Shelter

Place: Tri-City Homeless Shelter
When: Sunday, March 30, 2003
Contact: Margaret Wang (510) 252-1926

South Bay Chinese Club Scholarship Luncheon

Place: Union City Radisson
When: Sunday, April 13, 2003
Contact: Gordon Jang (510) 790-0740

CBC Spring Celebration

Place: Newark/Fremont Hilton
When: Saturday, April 26, 2003
Contact: Carl Chen (510) 490-8118

Next CBC Meetings

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 5, 2003
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:00 pm

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 5, 2003
Place: TBD – 7:00 pm

Cindy Lee,
Karen Chen,
and Chia Chee
at Aegis
Gardens "Iron
Chef" buffet in
January.

