



CITIZENS FOR BETTER COMMUNITY

華人權益服務社

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

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Membership Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

January/February 2005

Christmas Party



On December 18th, many people enjoyed the SBCC/CBC Christmas Party held at Aegis Gardens. See page 3 for more details.

*Happy Chinese New Year
Year of the Rooster*

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President's Message

By Thomas Tang



Dear CBC members and Friends,

First of all, let me wish everyone a happy Chinese New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a busy but happy holiday season as well. We had a great time at the CBC and SBCC Christmas party at the Aegis Garden. We also participated in the Niles Festival of Lights Parade and sponsored the Unity dinner organized by the Indo-American Community Federation. Josephine Chou, our vice president, with a great team of volunteers, is also putting in a lot of energy into our CBC and SBCC Chinese New Year celebration to be held on February 12 at the Fremont Main Library (see page 3 for more information).

As I mentioned in the last issue of our newsletter, I will use some space in my message to share with you my thoughts on certain issues. Let me start with CBC's focus on helping Chinese Americans to participate in community issues related to education, health and business. CBC was established because the founding members of CBC noticed that Chinese Americans valued highly quality education, health care, and a fair business environment to earn a living, but did not realize that achieving these goals would require their community involvement. Chinese Americans mostly come from Taiwan, China, and Hong Kong, where democracy is different than in the United States. Being influenced by their cultural backgrounds, Chinese Americans normally do not know that it helps to get involved. They often do not want to get involved. For those who do want to, they also lack the information and support to get involved.

Let me share with you some of my thoughts on education. I assume we all recognize the greatest teacher, Confucius. Confucius was more an educator—he was also a philosopher. He had a student named Mencius (Meng-tzu). Mencius' mother

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moved her home three times to find a good educational environment for Mencius to grow up. The impact of her moves can be felt even today in Fremont, knowing that so many Chinese parents spend their last dollar to buy a home in an attendance area where their children can get a better education. Do you know these parents? Well, I am one of them. Is there a better way to accomplish the same goal? One way would be to help to improve the school where you live, instead of moving. Another way might be to suggest to the school board to include your house into your desired attendance area. Going to community discussion groups, attending school board meetings, finding out what is going on, contributing your opinions, or taking on a leadership role to make changes in the system, may all lead to a better school where you currently live. And, most importantly, that is the American way. CBC was established to help Chinese Americans to understand this process. CBC is here to help Chinese Americans to get involved in our community.

Well, I said enough about history. Let us see the near future. Our annual Spring Celebration party is to be held at the Flamingo Palace on April 16 of this year. Susanna Wong is the event chairperson for this year and is currently working very hard to plan all details and organize a great team of volunteers to make this celebration another successful event. All of our directors are also putting a lot of effort into this event, knowing this is the fund raising activity to support most of CBC's operating budget.

I thank all of you for reading this long message! I will talk to you again in two months.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Tang
President

**Citizens for
Better Community**

Welcomes

Chew Dental Group
Rodney James Chew, DDS

**Corporate
Lifetime Member**

620 Mowry Avenue
Fremont, CA 94536
(510)793-8054

Chinese New Year Information

The year of Rooster:

The arrival of the year of the Rooster starts on Wednesday, February 9, 2005. Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the New Year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the New Year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade.

The legend:

Legend has it that "Nian", in fact, was the name of a vicious monster. It came out from the mountain only during the first 15 days of the New Year to hunt people. Therefore, on that special night, people stayed indoors and prepared a special meal with their family, hoping to live through the night alive. One day, a wise man told the villagers that the "Nian" monster was afraid of color "red" and noises. Since that day, it has become the tradition to put red papers on your door and light firecrackers during New Year days to scare off the monster and celebrate a new beginning of their lives.

The food:

Perhaps more food is consumed during the New Year celebration than any other time of the year!!!

Some of the traditional dishes are:

- **Fish**: You must prepare a whole fish for the New Year's Eve dinner. However, you must not finish the fish and leave some to the next day (which will be the New Year already). This is because in Chinese, the word "fish" sounds just like "sur-plus".

Therefore, by having a fish from this year to the next year symbolizes you will always have more than what you need.

- **Chicken**: a whole chicken (with head and tail) represents completeness.

- **Sticky rice cake** (year-cake): The name "year cake" represents good wishes that one will get promoted every year.

- **The mustard green**, which is known as chang-nian-cai 'long-year vegetable' in some dialects, naturally symbolizes good health and long life.

- **Dishes made with turnips** indicate good fortune because the word for turnips, cai-tou, also means 'good luck' in some dialects.

- **Dumplings**: Dumplings is one of the most significant foods for Chinese New Year. Because their shape is similar to ancient Chinese gold and silver ingots, dumplings symbolize wealth.

For more information, visit Sabrina's Chinese Astrology at <http://www.12zodiac.com>.

A Happy Christmas Party

By Amy Cho



On December 18, 2004, the South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC) and Citizens for Better Community (CBC) hosted a Christmas party at Aegis Gardens Retirement Center. It was a very happy time for SBCC, CBC members and Aegis Gardens seniors...it was a chance to pause and enjoy the spirit of Christmas and the holiday season.

Our two great emcees, Gerry Low-Sabado and Josephine Chou, led the program. The party started off with the energetic sounds of the Tri-City Band Corps, which had recently performed in the Niles Festival of Lights parade. It was a treat to hear Christmas music played by some 20 wonderful high school band members with their boisterous instruments. We wish to thank Eric Ching for bringing the band and putting a program together just for us.



Following the music, Santa Claus distributed little treats to all the seniors. Then CBC/SBCC members joined the residents at Aegis Gardens in having a Chinese dinner. The hospitality of Aegis Gardens combined with the lively visitors made for a happy and warm time.



Evelyn Tong and Michi Yee pose with Santa (Steve Cho)

There was yet another nice thing that could be remembered. Out of this event, CBC/SBCC also collected several bags full of toys and food items for the League of Volunteers (LOV). Monetary donations

were also collected. This was a chance to also make it fun for other families in our local community.

Once again, thank you Gerry and Josephine for being our emcees as well as Brent Chinn, Executive Director of Aegis Gardens and Amy Yang, Activities Director at Aegis Gardens. Others who helped included: Kathy Jang, Amy Cho, Aliene Yee, Serena Eng (organizers, arrangements, publicity, gifts for seniors), Jack Yee (food pickup), Steve Cho (Santa Claus), Cecilia Chang (toy and food drive), and Bernadette Chinn (decorations).

Gerry Low-Sabado captured some of these fine moments in the photos shown here. The spirit of fellowship and friendship that included young and old was unbeatable. Last but not least, thank you all for participating and making it a great party!



Anna Muh, CBC's Past President, with her mother

CBC & SBCC Hosts 6th Annual Chinese New Year Celebration "Year of the Rooster"

By Josephine Chou

Citizens for Better Community (CBC), the South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC), and the Fremont Main Library will host their 6th Annual Chinese New Year Celebration at the Fremont Main Library on **Saturday, February 12, 2005**, from 2 – 4:30 p.m. This event is geared towards families and anyone interested in the culture. Entertainment will include dancing, musical instruments, singing, martial arts, and crafts—all free.

This is an opportunity for the South Bay Chinese Club and Citizens for Better Community to do something together that celebrates our cultural heritage.

Josephine Chou (CBC), Aliene Yee and Gerry Low-Sabado (SBCC) are the backbone behind this year's event and are planning a day that will be enjoyed by all who attend.

SBCC President, Gordon Jang, welcomes everyone to attend. Each year, participation and interest have grown at this event and we expect the same this year. Please join us in celebrating the Year of the Rooster!

SBCSC Scholarships

The **South Bay Chinese Service Club** annually awards scholarships to exemplary high school students of Chinese descent in Southern Alameda County. The purpose of the scholarship program is to recognize these talented students for their hard work and achievements, and to provide encouragement for the challenges ahead.

Our recipients are an exceptional group of highly motivated future leaders - each year it is difficult to select just a few. The applicants are carefully evaluated based on academic achievement, leadership, and community service. Last year, our organization awarded twelve \$1,000 scholarships, three \$500 scholarships, and three \$250 scholarships for a total of \$14,250 in awards locally. This year, with your help, our goal is to generate an equal or greater amount for our scholarship fund.



2004 Scholarship recipients,
guests and chairpersons

The scholarship awards will be presented during the annual scholarship luncheon to be held on **Saturday, April 9, 2005**, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Newark, California. The names of the donors who make this program possible will be included in the program and other printed materials. All donors will also receive written acknowledgment for their tax-deductible contributions. Your participation will make a powerful statement about the strength of our community. Donations may be sent to:

SBCSC
c/o Gordon Jang
38742 Glencoe Drive
Fremont, CA 94536

Scholarship applications are available through the career centers in our local high schools and may also be downloaded from the South Bay Chinese Club website: www.sbcclub.org

“Paul Harris Fellow” award recipient

By Henry Yin

Teresa Yin, CBC Board of Director, received the “Paul Harris Fellow” award at the Fremont Rotary Club on December 22, 2004. Teresa accomplished an honorable role in October as the co-chair of the annual “Top Hat” fundraising event for Washington Hospital Foundation in the Tri-City area. She and other volunteers raised record-breaking funds in one of the most prestigious events in the East Bay. In addition to being on the CBC Board of Directors, Teresa is also a volunteer for Shelter Against Violent Environment (SAVE).

With less than 5 years since she started her Chiropractor practice in Fremont, she has demonstrated her cares and concerns about her home community by being involved in various activities and events including those mentioned above. According to many local community activists, she is seen as a role model to other young professionals in this area. I was very pleased to personally present the award to her at the Fremont Rotary Club.



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 Kathy Jang, Executive Director, at 510-790-0740, or email kjang25@yahoo.com.

Editor	Garrett Yee
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Contributors	Amy Cho
	Josephine Chou
	Larry Hsu
	Nina Moore
	Aaron Wong
	Henry Yin

Fremont Education Foundation Gala

Submitted by Nina Moore

The third annual Excellence in Education Gala sponsored by the Fremont Education Foundation (FEF) will be held on **Friday, February 25, 2005**, at the Golden Peacock Banquet and Bistro in Fremont. This annual event benefits FEF's Innovative Education Grants, and honors individuals who have helped promote educational excellence in our community. FEF is proud to announce the 2005 Excellence in Education honorees:

Rick Geha, 2005 Community Honoree
Dr. Garo Mirigian, 2005 FUSD Honoree

This gala is the only fundraising event in Fremont that promotes and celebrates excellence in education at the K-12 level within our public schools. The funds raised for the Foundation's Innovative Education Grants will allow us to continue to sponsor and expand our support of exceptional projects in our classrooms, with the intention of improving educational achievement and broadening the horizons and experiences of students.

For tickets or sponsorships, please contact Nina Moore nmoore@earthlink.net or visit the website at www.fremont-education.org.

Garrett Yee Receives Promotion

By Aaron Wong

Garrett Yee recently received a promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. This promotion follows his assuming command of the 3-356th Logistic Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 91st Division at Fort Hunter Liggett in April 2004. CBC congratulates Garrett on his well-deserved promotion.



SAVE THE DATE!

*CBC Spring
Celebration*

Saturday, April 16, 2005

CBC Members appointed to various committees

Edited from *The Argus* (January 13, 2005)

The Fremont City Council congratulated Mayor Bob Wasserman on his selections for the Planning Commission and other advisory bodies, unanimously confirming all 16 of his nominees. CBC members, Sue Chan, Garrett Yee and Bill Harrison have been appointed or reappointed to various positions.

Sue Chan, dental practice co-owner, was appointed to the Planning Commission, which has significant input on housing and business development in town.

Garrett Yee, past CBC President, was appointed to the Redevelopment Agency Relocation Appeals Board.

Bill Harrison, principal at Harrison, Luce and Co., was reappointed to the Planning Commission as well as to the Redevelopment Agency Relocation Appeals Board.

Congratulations to Sue, Garrett, and Bill!

13th Annual Spring Celebration

Just when you thought things were settling down, it's time to start getting ready for our annual Spring Celebration! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 16, 2005**. CBC will recognize the CBC Volunteer of the Year and the CBC Citizen of the Year. Event Chair, Susanna Wong, and the committee are planning for a great time. If you would like to take part in planning this event, contact susannaw1@yahoo.com.



Susanna Wong and Steven Chen at last year's Spring Celebration.

Passport to Adventure

By Aaron Wong

The Alameda County Library Foundation's *Passport to Adventure* is a benefit to enhance the Alameda County Library programs in Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin, Fremont, Newark, San Lorenzo and Union City.



The evening will be an adventure representing the rich cultural heritages of our patrons who make up our community. Art, entertainment and food representing many of these cultures will be presented at various locations in the library.

The benefit will help strengthen a key community resource, including the most frequently visited library in Northern California, Fremont Main. Your support will help us provide additional books and materials (many in foreign languages), children's services, adult programming, literacy projects, cultural events and much more to thousands of children and families

Passport to Adventure will take place on **Saturday, April 29, 2005**, at the Fremont Main Library.

Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are available. A donation to attend the event will be \$100 per person.

I would like to thank Citizens for Better Community for your past support. With your continued help, we together will build a stronger Library and a better community for everyone.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional information:

Lara White, Alameda County Library Foundation
Executive Director
(510) 745-1514, lwhite@aclibrary.org

Aaron P. Wong, Alameda County Library Foundation
President
(510) 791-1400, aaronpwong@excite.com

Membership Dues

The new membership year began on November 1, 2004. If you have not paid your membership dues in the last few months, please complete the membership form (page 7) and send in your dues. Better yet, become a lifetime member and never worry about your annual dues. Your dues help to pay for our CBC newsletter. Thanks in advance for your support!

CBC Gets Executive Director

CBC is pleased to announce that Kathy Jang will serve as CBC's Executive Director.

Kathy is a lifetime resident of Fremont and attended schools in the Mission area. She earned a B.S. in Accounting from San Jose State University, where she met her husband, Gordon, CBC's Treasurer.



Kathy was formerly employed by Safeway Stores, Inc., Division Office in Fremont. After, Safeway's accounting department consolidated and relocated to Phoenix, she became employed by a small biotech company in Fremont. When the biotech company was acquired, it gave her the opportunity to be a stay-at-home mother. Kathy volunteers at her daughter's (Kaitlyn) elementary school. She is a member of Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church and is coaching Kaitlyn's basketball team. Besides spending time with her husband and daughter, her hobbies are gardening and home improvement projects.

Citizen of the Year and Volunteer of the Year Nominations

CBC is now accepting nominations for Citizen of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. The selected individuals, with Board approval, will be recognized at the Annual Spring Celebration in April.

The *Citizen of the Year* is intended to honor one of its members for outstanding leadership in civic and community service. Past recipients were:

1998	Anna Muh
1999	Cecilia Chang
2000	Steve Cho
2001	Steven Chan
2002	Henry Yin
2003	Albert Wang

The *Volunteer of the Year* is intended to honor one of its members for outstanding volunteerism to CBC and the community. Past recipients were:

1998	Whisky Ho
1999	Elise Jan & Joan Wang
2000	Chi Choy
2001	Loretta Yu
2002	Eunice Ko
2003	Chia-Chee Chan & Margaret Wang

Please send your nominations and reason to chiacheec@yahoo.com by February 25.

2004-2005 Directory

President:
Thomas Tang.....(510) 353-0507

Vice President:
Josephine Chou.....(510) 651-0446

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

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

Past President:
Anna Muh..... (510) 226-8678

Executive Director
Kathy Jang.....(510) 790-0740

Committees

Education:
Larry Hsu.....(510) 490-2936

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

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

Community Involvement:
Albert Wang.....(510) 657-6610

Youth Group: Eunice Ko.....(510) 657-0136

Senior Liaison: 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

Intern Program: Karen Chen.....(510) 206-2194

Board of Directors

Cecilia Chang	Karen Chen	Herbert Chiu
Amy Cho	Steve Cho	Chi Choy
Whisky Ho	Thomas Hom	Larry Hsu
Eunice Ko	Albert Wang	Aaron Wong
Susanna Wong	Angela Yang	Daphne Yang
Garrett Yee	Henry Yin	Teresa Yin Wong
Loretta Yu	Lena Zee	

CBC Advisory Committee

Adam Chou	Chi Choy	Cindy Lee
Tony Luh	Ting O'Connor	Michelle Royston
Tim Tam	Joan Wang	Patrick Wong
Stanley Woo	Carl Chen, Chair	Simon Chen

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL (November 1, 2004 – October 31, 2005)

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"/> \$20 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 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

P.O. Box 1
Fremont, CA 94537-0001
e-mail: cbcservices@cbc-sfbay.com
Web site: <http://www.cbc-sfbay.com>

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NOTE: In an effort to reduce our mailing cost, please notify kjang25@yahoo.com, if you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email. Thank you.



CBC's Mission Statement:

"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

Rotary Centennial Celebration

When: Friday, February 11, 2005
Where: Fremont Marriott
Contact: Thomas Tang (510) 713-2388

Chinese New Year Celebration

When: Saturday, February 12, 2005 (2 –4:30 pm)
Where: Fremont Main Library
Contact: Josephine Chou (510) 651-0446

LOV "Elegant Affair" dinner

When: Friday, February 18, 2005 (6 pm)
Where: Newark Pavilion
Contact: (510) 793-5683

Fremont Education Foundation gala

When: Friday, February 25, 2005 (6 pm)
Where: The Golden Peacock Banquet & Bistro
Contact: Nina Moore (510) 713-9940

"Community – Who Belongs?" forum

When: Thursday, March 10, 2005 (7 pm)
Where: Irvington High School, Valhalla Hall
Contact: Herman Rosenbaum (510) 657-2740

Spring Celebration

When: Saturday, April 16, 2005
Contact: Susanna Wong (510) 796-2332

Next CBC Meetings

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 2, 2005
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 6, 2005
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 4, 2005
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm



At last year's Spring Celebration