



CITIZENS FOR BETTER COMMUNITY

華人權益服務社

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Membership Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

July/August 2001

CBC WINS "MOST PATRIOTIC SPIRIT" IN JULY 4TH PARADE

With American flags flying high and a troop of Chinese American Boy Scouts marching to the beat of the dragon dancers' drums down Fremont Blvd, Citizens for Better Community (CBC) won the award for "Most Patriotic Spirit" in Fremont's annual July 4th Parade. This year, CBC partnered with the Fremont Chinese School, Boy Scout Troop 468, and Merrill Lynch to display up to 100 flags with 200 participants in this year's parade. The parade ensemble featured CBC Members, Dragon and Lion Dancers, Miss Teen

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President's Message

(Photo by Monica Xu)



By Garrett Yee

This is a story about Kiyo, who was born a United States citizen. Kiyo grew up in Colorado living the life of a farm worker. At 16, she married a Japanese immigrant, Harry Ino, and together they started a family. Eventually, the Ino family moved west to Santa Barbara where Harry opened a small restaurant while Kiyo found work at the local packing sheds. By the time Kiyo was 26, she had five children--Ichiro, Jiro, Saburo, Shiro and a daughter, Michiko. Although Kiyo and Harry did not have much material wealth, they did have a family and they did have their pride. One December, Harry gave his daughter her first real doll for her fifth birthday party held at Harry's restaurant. The year was 1940.

Life may have seemed just fine growing up in America; however, in 1941, America entered the War and on February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, ordering the internment of Kiyo, Harry and their children. Almost overnight, a family of seven reduced all that they had accumulated to just a few boxes. Harry was forced to give up his restaurant and little Michiko had to leave her doll behind, amongst other valued family possessions. Stripped of their belongings, pride and dignity, the Ino family would spend the remaining years of the war surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by military police. A sixth child, Yuriko, would be born behind the wire.

Although betrayed by their own country, many rose to the occasion. Harry's brother Jimmy served proudly with the famous 442nd Regiment. Ironically, this all Japanese-American unit became the most decorated unit during the war in the face of prejudice. These Japanese-Americans fought to prove that they were Americans. Harry's oldest son Ichiro was allowed to leave the barbed wire compound in order to attend

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Officer Candidate School and become a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. He would be stationed in Japan.

After the war, the Ino family would have nothing to go back to in Santa Barbara. It was not until 44 years later with the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, that the United States government formally apologized for the treatment of their own citizens.

Progress. On a sunny day in northern California, a group largely comprised of Chinese-Americans calling themselves Citizens for Better Community, joined a July 4th Parade sponsored by the City of Fremont, the fourth largest city in the San Francisco Bay Area. With the intent of showing Fremont that Chinese-Americans can be patriotic, CBC won the "Most Patriotic Spirit" award in an all-American parade. In a city of over 200,000 residents, CBC took a big step in painting a positive image of Chinese-Americans. The year, 2001.

Can what happened in 1942 happen again in the United States? We hope not. But the recent example of Dr. Wen Ho Lee has shown the importance of fighting stereotypes, almost 60 years later. It is important today, just as was it was in 1942, to show that Asian-Americans can be patriotic. I share this story because Kiyoo is my grandmother, and Harry my grandfather. Can each of us make a difference? Yes.

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 510-796-5555, or email ptywong@home.com.

President	Garrett Yee
Assistant Editor	Ping Gan
Distribution	Lily Lee
Youth Writers	Catherine Chu
	Stephanie Gan
	Ada Chang
	Albert Wang

Chinatown Louise Wu, Fremont Chinese School members, Chinese Yo Yo Team, Merrill Lynch representatives, and dancers from the Academy of Chinese Performing Arts dressed in various traditional costumes. During the parade, the dancers passed out 2000 fortune cookies with messages from CBC and Merrill Lynch.

This year, the efforts of CBC paid off in several ways. Within their own parade category, CBC finished in second place amongst several entries. Although the number of competitors within CBC's category is not known, there were about 100 entrants all together.

The hi-light of the day was the awards ceremony held at Central Park when CBC received the "Most Patriotic Spirit" award. CBC President Garrett Yee felt that "this was the award we were striving to achieve, even though we did not know such a category existed until we were called to the stage to receive it. It is fitting that we receive this award because our intent today was to show that Chinese Americans can be just as patriotic as anyone else. That is what we came to the parade to show the people of Fremont and that is exactly what we did."

Part of this day's efforts also supported the efforts of 80/20, which was to help shape the image that Chinese Americans can be patriotic by flying a flag. According to Yee, "While it was our intent from the start to show our American pride during this event (this is our third year), our plans happened to dovetail nicely with 80/20."

This year's CBC event chair for the July 4th parade was Ting O'Connor, who did an excellent job pulling it all together. According to Ting, "Next year will be even better."

(Pictured below are members from the Merrill Lynch Team with Simon Szeto and Ting O'Conner)



Friends of Children with Special Needs Annual Party

By Catherine Chu (Youth Writer)

This year's Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN) party was held on June 9th at the Chinese American Culture Center in Sunnyvale. Two hundred fifty attended, including many influential people such as school district board members, community leaders, and the special education director. The party allowed FCSN to display itself to outside agencies, local political leaders, and school districts, as well as give group members an opportunity to socialize and enjoy the wonderful performances. Entertainment present at the party included professional dance and kung fu performances, performances by FCSN members, and a musical by children with special needs. CBC members present included Herb Chiu, Anna Muh, Albert Wang, Joan Wang and Garrett Yee. FCSN would like to add that Albert Wang has been elected as their new president and that they are in need of volunteers and financial supporters. If interested please visit <http://www.fcsn1997.org>.



Meet Louise Wu – Miss Teen Chinatown

By Ada Chang (Youth Writer)

Louise Wu, a recent graduate from Mission, is a girl who loves to dance and is quite a daredevil. Her upbeat personality can practically make anyone smile and she is the outgoing type of person. She has taken many dance classes throughout her life and has performed around a thousand hours of community service! As if that isn't amazing enough, she has also achieved what many young women would just love to be, she's the current Miss Teen Chinatown. She had to do so many things as a contestant in the Miss Teen Chinatown pageant, but it was all worth it.

How did Louise become Miss Teen Chinatown? Well, one day, she was just sitting at home and this call came for her. It was from a representative from the Lions Club. They said that they have seen all of her achievements and they wanted her to become a contestant in the Miss Teen Chinatown pageant. She obviously agreed, but first she would have to go through a prescreening interview where they looked at her academic record, community service hours, extracurricular activities, school involvement, and so on. After that was looked over, she found out just how busy she was going to be. For two months after the interview, she had to travel to Chinatown every Saturday for practice. Louise says that this experience was "quite nerve-racking." She also had to go out and do some fund raising and community service; which was very time consuming.

In the pageant, there were many competitions such as the evening gown competition, talent competition, question/answer competition, and a few more. For her talent, Louise chose to do a dance. When asked if she had any regrets in anything she had done on the big day, she said "no," but that she wished that her response in the question/answer portion could have been a little better. The funny thing about this is that the audience was more nervous than the contestants were! For instance, when she was saying her answer in the "question/answer" portion, her friends in the audience were afraid to even listen to what she said. Louise enjoyed the experience and she thinks that all of the other contestants all deserved to win. She says that they (the other contestants) have many good qualities about them and they were all pleasant to meet. This just proves how some few kind acts can lead to a lot.

At the July CBC Board Meeting, Ms. Wu was presented with a framed certificate recognizing her for achievement. Great job Louise!

(Pictured below is Miss Teen Chinatown Louise Wu at the Fremont July 4th Parade.)



Issues and Politics...

Alice Lai-Bitker Event a Success

By Stephanie Gan (Youth Writer)

Alice Lai-Bitker held a special event to meet friends and CBC members to discuss her position of county supervisor at Uncle Chong's restaurant in Fremont on June 27th. Among the attendees present were Garrett Yee and Joan Wang (CBC president and vice-president, respectively), City Councilman Steve Cho, Dr. Albert Wang, 1999 California woman of year Daisy Chu, Daphne Yang, Cecilia Chang, a reporter from China Press, CBC representatives, and several members of the South Bay Chinese Club.

Halfway through dinner, Ms. Lai-Bitker made a short speech about who she is and to present some of her ideas and priorities as a county supervisor. Alice made clear to the guests, her top priority is expanding health care coverage. By spreading awareness of free Medicaid health insurance for disadvantaged children, Alice wants to ensure that all children who are eligible for health benefits are enrolled. Second, Alice wants to promote youth counseling services at schools, as she believes this can significantly reduce the number of teens who turn to drugs and crime each year. Next on her agenda is improving services at senior centers for the Bay Area's growing senior population. Finally, she hopes to increase affordable housing in the region through programs such as "Smart Growth" and improve public transportation through new facilities, such as an extended BART service.

As a county supervisor, Alice's responsibilities also include the welfare, health, and prison systems, fire and police departments, and local transportation projects. Despite the challenges of campaigning for the upcoming election (March 2002) and a daunting list of potential responsibilities, Alice seems confident about her situation. With her years of experience as a social worker (1984-1994), her previous position as staff assistant to former county supervisor Wilma Chan (1995-2000), and her involvement in the community, Alice feels ready to continue on the responsibilities of Alameda County Supervisor.

Ohlone College Bond Update

On Monday, July 30th, Ohlone College held a town hall meeting at the Fremont Main Library to discuss the proposed bond for the upcoming election in March 2002. Several CBC members were in attendance in order to learn more about the proposed bond measure. Stay tuned for more information on this issue.

In the Community...

Fremont Chinese School Teacher Appreciation Dinner

By Catherine Chu (youth writer)

On Saturday, June 9th, Fremont Chinese School's (FCS) staff and the PTA hosted the annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner for the many altruistic teachers serving FCS. Aside from attending this dinner and receiving awards, many teachers brought with them a little something to add to the entertainment. Elise Jan sang a beautiful song for all those in attendance. As usual this dinner was very successful and accomplished more than the planned goal of showing an appreciation towards the sixty-five teachers and giving them a small boost towards a relaxing summer. Kitty Chen received an award for 25 years of service to FCS. FCS Principal Whisky Ho, who is also the CBC Education Chair, did an excellent job serving as master of ceremonies for this memorable event. Other CBC members present included former FCS principals to include Carl Chen and Henry Yin.

South Bay Chinese Club Installs Aaron Wong as President

On Sunday, August 12, 2001, the South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC) installed its new officers and directors for the 2001-2002 year. The new board for 2001-2002 is comprised of Aaron Wong (President), Frances & Victor Gin, Gladys Lee, Maelene Wong, Joseph Au, Simon Chen, Elaine Lee, Evelyn Tong, Aliene Yee, Gilbert Yee, and Jean Louie. SBCC Immediate Past President Garrett Yee served as the installation officer. Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty presented a certificate of recognition to outgoing president Jean Louie. The event was held at Uncle Chong's Chinese Restaurant in Fremont and attended by about 100 members and friends.

(Pictured below are dancers from the Culture Exchange Group from a recent Crossing the Bridge event)



Teresa Yin Wong – CBC's New Executive Director

By Stephanie Gan (youth writer)

Teresa Yin Wong, a full-time chiropractor and devoted CBC volunteer in her free time, was recently appointed the club's executive director for the coming year of 2001-2002. Already, Teresa holds an impressive history of community service in the Bay Area. She was CBC's secretary last year, volunteered for the Spring Celebration, participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life run, and was active on the SBCC Scholarship Committee. In addition, Teresa serves as a member of the Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation, where she became involved in the program's Golf Tournament as well as the Top Hat annual fundraiser. Aside from all of this, Teresa is also a CERT (Certified Emergency Response Team) member for the MSJ District in Fremont and a member of the Women's Group of St. Joseph's Parish.

According to Teresa, she decided to volunteer for CBC because she wanted to have a positive impact on the community for Chinese Americans and more importantly, because of the people. "I have had the opportunity to build many great relationships with special people, and I feel honored to be in their company." She also feels that volunteering there gives her life a sense of purpose outside of her professional and personal life.

As a native of Fremont and an alumna of Mission San Jose High School, Teresa grew up under the influence of her father, who she admires and sees as her greatest role model. "My father, Henry Yin, has paved the way and demonstrated how satisfying and fulfilling it is to give back to the community so selflessly and with so much dedication. He never imposes his expectations on people; however he has a way of bringing out everybody's unique talents and potential." After graduating from Mission, Teresa went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at UCLA. She then attended Chiropractic College. After graduating (*summa cum laude* and as class salutatorian) with a chiropractic degree, Teresa returned to Fremont in January of 2000 and officially began practicing as a chiropractor.

Today, Teresa lives with her husband, Patrick Wong, and her two cats Maggie and Frankie (both aged eight). In her spare time, Teresa enjoys reading, hiking, practicing yoga, dining at fine restaurants, and has recently taken up windsurfing.



American Cancer Society Relay for Life

On Saturday, June 23rd, CBC participated in the 2nd biannual Relay For Life of the American Cancer Society-Northern California Chinese Unit held at Cupertino High School. Relay For Life brings love, hope, enthusiasm and fun in a large-scale community oriented event. There were more than 45 teams totaling over 1000 participants walking or running on the tracks of the Cupertino High School football stadium. Herb Chiu served as one of the event coordinators and Teresa Yin Wong served as the Captain of the Fremont Team. Pictured below CBC Members walk around the track at the Relay for Life.



CBC Participates in 2001 Fremont Festival of the Arts

Finally, after a few years of trying, CBC participated in Fremont's Festival of the Arts held on July 28-29, 2001. This year, CBC sold Chinese food plate lunch with choice of chow mein, fried rice, chow fun, and egg roll. Event Chair Daphne Yang did an excellent job coordinating the food, services, and the workers. We had a great turnout and the youth that came to help did an outstanding job. We were lucky to have Daphne as chair of our first ever participation in this event—she has a lot of energy and fun was had by all those that helped.

CBC Youth Toastmasters Program

CBC Toastmasters Youth Leadership Summer Program for year 2001 will have its graduation on Saturday, August 25th at 9:00 a.m. at Kaiser Hospital in Fremont. The graduation will culminate 8 weeks of public speaking training. The program has helped more than one hundred students to improve their public speaking skills. This year's class will graduate 26 students. For details, please call Loretta Yu at 510-490-3047.

CBC Gives \$5000 to Local Charities

By Teresa Yin Wong

FREMONT - Five local charities recently received a \$1000 gift donation from Citizens for Better Community (CBC), as a result of their 2001 annual Spring Celebration fundraiser. Contribution checks were presented to the Fremont Education Foundation on March 20 by CBC President Garrett Yee; Shelter Against Violent Environment (S.A.V.E.) on May 17 by CBC Community Involvement Chair Dr. Albert Wang; Alameda County Library Foundation on June 21 by Garrett Yee; Life Eldercare on June 27 by CBC Director Simon Chen; and Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation on July 10 by CBC Director Dr. Teresa Yin Wong.

This year's Spring Celebration was held at the Fremont Marriott Hotel in March. Although the intent of the fundraiser is to help pay for operating costs for the year, the board of directors annually selects a few commendable community organizations as beneficiaries. "This allows us to recognize and acknowledge other local volunteer groups which have been playing an instrumental role in enhancing the communities that we live in," comments Chi Choy, CBC board member and event coordinator. Past beneficiaries of the Spring Celebration funds have included American Cancer Society – Northern California Chinese Unit and Asian American Donor Program.

Homeless Shelter Update

By Albert Wang (youth writer)

On Sunday July 29, a group of young warm-hearted volunteers took time out of their busy schedules to assist in the development of their community. These students spent an evening in the kitchen of the Tri City Homeless Shelter preparing dinner for those less fortunate. The volunteers served barbecued chicken, fried rice, rolls, lettuce cooked with bacon and butter, and honey almond cookies. These young volunteers: Wilbur Wang, Albert Wang, Audrey Lin, Haley Ko, Charlene Wu, Allen Ko, Alice Wang, Mark Wu, Teresa Wu, and Jerry Sha, came to the aid of their community and did their part to help. It was the most heart-warming scene that I have witnessed in the last couple of years that I have been serving. Seeing the parents that came to help at the homeless shelter with their children brought an added sense of goodness to the atmosphere. These concerned parents: Tai-Ling Wang, Eunice Ko, Maree Wu, Margaret Wang, Crace Wu, and Jang Wang, took time out of their busy schedules to come and help. This was the first time that I saw this many parents and volunteers who came out to help.

Autumn Moon Festival in September

This year, CBC will host an Autumn Moon Festival celebration at the Fremont Main Library. This is the first of its kind at the Fremont Main. The date is set for Saturday, September 29, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. There will be fun, entertainment and dance performance by the Academy of Chinese Performing Arts. Anyone interested in participating, please contact event Chair Anna Muh at (510) 226-8678.

Silent Killers - Hepatitis B Virus!

By Herbert Chiu, DDS – CBC Health Committee

Chronic hepatitis B is prevalent in the Chinese population. It is estimated that 10-20% of the population has been exposed to hepatitis B virus (Hepatitis Surface Antigen, HbsAg, positive).

The danger of hepatitis B lies in its silent transmission and progression. Many chronic hepatitis B carriers have no symptoms and feel perfectly healthy. Carriers may exhibit normal blood tests for liver function and be granted a clean bill of health. The diagnosis cannot be made unless your doctor orders a specific blood test to test for the presence of the hepatitis B surface antigen, a marker of chronic infection. Early detection not only benefits the carrier, but will also prevent the infection from being passed silently from one child to another, and from one generation to another.

One out of four hepatitis B carriers (25%) eventually dies from liver cancer or cirrhosis (liver scarring). Some develop cancer as early as 30 years of age, while many of the liver cancers are diagnosed at the prime age of 35-55. Hepatitis B is one of the largest health threats for Asians. Thus it is important for all Asian/Pacific Islanders to be checked for hepatitis B and vaccinated if not previously exposed. Also, chronic carriers need to take control of their own health, learn about treatment available, and be regularly screened for liver cancer after a certain age.

CBC is joining The Asian Liver Center at Stanford University as a community partner to promote the hepatitis B awareness and screening program sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline pharmaceutical company. Up to 1000 individuals over the age of 18 will be tested free of charge at many local Unilab facilities. A hepatitis B awareness presentation and screening registration will be held on September 29th at the Fremont Main Library during the Autumn Moon Festival. Please contact Lena Zee at (510) 651-0732 or Dr. John Duong at (510) 796-1288 if you or someone you know would like to take advantage of this free testing offer.

CBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2001-2002 Directory

CBC TOASTMASTERS GRADUATION

PLACE: FREMONT KAISER
WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH (9:00 AM)
Contact: Loretta Yu (510) 490-3047

CBC YOUTH SERVING THE HOMELESS

PLACE: TRI CITY HOMELESS SHELTER
WHEN: SEPTEMBER 29 & 30, AND DECEMBER 30
Contact: Margaret Wang (510) 252-1926

CBC INTERN PROGRAM

PLACE: VARIOUS ELECTED OFFICIALS' OFFICES
WHEN: SUMMER
Contact: Karen Chen (650) 934-5245

NEWARK DAYS—CULTURE EXCHANGE PERFORMANCE

PLACE: NEWARK
WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2001
Contact: Elise Jan (510) 659-9348

HEPATITIS B SCREENING

PLACE: FREMONT MAIN LIBRARY
WHEN: SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 (12:00 – 4:00 PM)
Contact: Lena Zee (510) 651-0732 or
Dr. John Doung (510) 796-1288

AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL

PLACE: FREMONT MAIN LIBRARY
WHEN: 2 P.M., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2001
Contact: Anna Muh (510) 226-8678

OHLONE COLLEGE BENEFIT LUNCHEON

PLACE: NEWARK HILTON
WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2001
Contact: Herb Chiu (510) 490-8649

NEXT CBC BOARD MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2001
PLACE: HENRY YIN'S—7 PM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2001
PLACE: HENRY YIN'S—7 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2001
PLACE: HENRY YIN'S—7 PM

TO PLACE AN EVENT ON THE CBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS,
CONTACT PATRICK WONG AT 510-657-1235.

President:

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

Vice President:

Joan Wang.....(510) 490-8689

Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

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

Past President:

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

Executive Director:

Teresa Yin Wong.....(510) 796-5555

Education:

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

Health:

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

Business:

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

Community Involvement:

Albert Wang.....(510) 226-1239

Youth Group:

Joan Wang.....(510) 490-8689

Senior Group Liaison:

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

Culture Exchange:

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

Annual Spring Celebration:

Chi Choy.....(510) 659-0400

Website:

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

Membership/Voter Registration:

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

Board of Directors

Cecilia Chang	Carl Chen	Simon Chen
Hebert Chiu	Steve Cho	Chi Choy
Whiskey Ho	Tom Hom	Elise Jan
Anna Muh	Ting O'Conner	Michelle Royston
Simon Szeto	Timothy Tam	Thomas Tang
Albert Wang	Patrick Wong	Daphne Yang
Henry Yin	Teresa Yin Wong	

Citizens for Better Community

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Above: July 4th Parade participants from the Fremont Chinese School, Citizens for Better Community, Boy Scout Troop 468, Adacemny of Chinese Performing Arts, FCS Yo-yo Team, Miss Teen Chinatown, Merrill Lynch, and the Dragon and Lion Dancers.



CITIZENS FOR
BETTER COMMUNITY

華人權益服務社

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.