



CITIZENS FOR BETTER COMMUNITY

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Membership Newsletter

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CBC wins the "People's Choice" award in Fremont's July 4th Parade



Congratulations to CBC for winning the "People's Choice" award for the 3rd year in a row in the July 4th Parade held in North Fremont. CBC also won 2nd place in the Novelty category. See page 4 for more details on the parade.

President's Message

By Anna Muh



Dear CBC members and Friends,

We had a great time at the 4th of July parade event in the north part of Fremont. CBC successfully coordinated nine groups to participate in this year's parade. We had Boy Scout Troop 468, Tri-City Chinese School, American Buddhist Cultural Society, South Bay Chinese Club, Miss Teen Chinatown, USA OMEI (lion dance and kung fu group), FCSN (Friends of Children with Special Needs) and American Chinese School. We won 2nd place in the Novelty category and also won the "People's Choice" award. Thanks to all the groups for your great support--together we made the remarkable difference.

I am glad to report that CBC Board of Directors had a successful retreat on June 30th. We reviewed our vision and mission statements and confirmed that during the past 12 years CBC's accomplishments were the reflection of our vision and mission statements. We all deserve a pat on the back for what we had accomplished thus far.

CBC is a service organization; we coordinate various groups in the Chinese American community to provide the services not only to our members but also to all community members at large. We have made a significant contribution and difference in the Tri-city area and we are proud of who we are and what we have done to serve the community.

This year is a major election year--from the Presidential office to local offices. We are currently gathering candidate information for the ballot to reach out to all our members and friends so they are able to make the best choice possible for various public service offices. I am very proud that our very best city council member and our

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Board of Director and also former CBC president, Steve Cho, is running for re-election. Also, our member Ms. Susanna Wong is running for re-election for the Washington Hospital Board and Ms. Ivy Wu is running for FUSD School Board. We thank them for their willingness to serve the community and wish them the best in their campaign.

Summer is halfway through, and I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather and spending some time with their family and friends. Have a great time and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Muh
President



Steve Cho, aboard the City Council float, greets parade goers on July 4th



The 91st Division Salute Battery and Band performed at Ohlone College Amphitheatre on July 4th: "Tribute to Hometown Heroes"

Steve Cho Files Documents to Re-Run for City Council



On Friday, July 30, 2004, current city council member Steve Cho submitted his written intent to run for re-election in November. Steve handed over the official document, complete with 30 signatures of community supporters, to the city clerk's office. Although he had previously made the announcement to seek a second term in February of this year, submission of the official documents will mark the beginning of his re-election campaign.

In the 2000 election, Steve stated "I am running for City Council because I have a sincere desire to make Fremont a better place to live. I want to preserve the character of Fremont and yet allow it to grow to meet the expanding needs of the community." Four years later, the well being of Fremont and its residents continue to be a major priority for Steve. His friends and family comment that he thrives off the numerous opportunities for involvement in Fremont.

Steve has been a familiar face at many community gatherings. He always finds time to attend the numerous cultural, business, and city functions, often times at the expense of his own work schedule. The comments from voices in the community have consistently been that "Steve cares and he is looking after the best interest of the city."

Steve wants to run for a second term because he wishes to continue the business and economic developments that have been started but not yet completed. Such projects include the redevelopment of Centerville, the Catellus retail center, the outreach to business owners for a larger variety in shopping and dining, and the creation of a "downtown" to serve as an icon for Fremont. He would also like to explore alternate means of revenue sources for the city in light of the city's limited resources.

At this moment, there are five candidates running for two seats on the council. It should prove to be a challenging election. Steve hopes that his proven ability to meet the challenges of being a council member will propel him to continue on for another four years.

Spotlight on CBC Member Cynthia Chun



We are pleased to spotlight one of CBC's members, Cynthia Chun. We asked her to give us some of her background. Here is what she had to say:

My name is Cynthia Lynn Chun, and I was born in San Francisco, CA and went through the public school system in Stockton, CA. Through my childhood experience in elementary school, I remembered what it was like to be frustrated in the learning process. Being of Chinese descendant, I had a very difficult time learning English, and I always felt that I was more of an observer than a participant in the classroom. When I became a teacher, I vowed to develop ways to engage students as active participants in learning. Two beliefs guided my teaching: "I believe in dreams coming true" and "anything is possible when you reach for the stars." This not only nurtured my spirit as a teacher, but it has also nurtured the learning process in my students. I have instilled in them the sense of self-worth and the strong desire to learn more. Children are truly valued, active, and responsible participants in my classroom. I received my Teaching Credential from San Jose State University, and this is my eighteenth year (Fall, 2004) of teaching with the Fremont Unified School District. Some of my awards and recognitions have been: Christa McAuliffe Fellowship-Washington, DC (2001-2002 and 1992-1993); Outstanding Teacher of the Year (2000) Phi Delta Kappa; Teacher of the Year (1996-1997) Alameda County and Fremont Unified School District; California Schoolmaster of the Year (1997) California Schoolmasters Club; Aegis Award (1999 and 2000) plus Videographer Award of Distinction (2004) Professional /National Recognition for Outstanding Video Production. I am presently a fourth grade teacher at Parkmont Elementary School in Fremont, CA.

In addition to my class's television magazine production (Parkmont E. Magazine) on the local cable channel 27, Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. (starting 15th season this year) my students (9 and 10 years old) will be producing documentaries based on the community learning service project themes of their choice. To find out more information about the TV Magazine, visit the website www.ChunVideo.com.

Ivy Wu Announces Candidacy for Fremont School Board



Eighteen year Fremont resident, parent volunteer, and mother of two announces her candidacy for the Fremont School Board. Here is what she has to say:

Hello, my name is Ivy Wu. I came to this country with my family when I was 15, a sophomore in high school. I went to UC San Diego for a year, and transferred to UC Berkeley to complete my bachelor's degree in Political Economy of Industrial Societies. To further my education, I went to University of San Francisco Law School and in 1986, I passed the California Bar Exam. While working as an intern for a San Francisco Superior Court judge, I met my husband, and we got married the same year.

As my husband was starting his own import/export trading business at the time, I felt the need to support him. Instead of practicing law, I worked with him in developing the business. About the 4th year into our marriage, we decided to have children, and we have been blessed with the most wonderful children – Ethan and Joei. Ethan will be going on to 10th grade at Mission San Jose High School, and Joei will enter junior high school at Hopkins in the fall.

Two years ago, I decided to retire from the business so that I could spend more time with my children, and get more involved with their schools, churches, and community. I find that as I participate more, the desire and need to serve our students, schools, teachers, and families has grown stronger. Therefore, after much consideration, and with much support and encouragement from many people, I decided to run for the Fremont Unified School District Board of Education in the upcoming election in November.

I'm grateful for all the support I have received from my family, friends and church. It's not always smooth and easy. As a matter of fact, it has been very trying and difficult at times. Yet, I'm very thankful for the opportunity to run for the Fremont School Board.

Fremont's Fourth of July Parade

By Amy Cho



CBC pulled together a conglomeration of Fremont Chinese groups to make a most colorful and spirited Entry #63 in the Fourth of July Parade held in the north part of Fremont. By the time all 140-150 participants had assembled, the parade entry stretched nearly a city block. All were dressed in either their organizations' T-shirts/uniforms or in Red, White and Blue! American flags could be seen everywhere as each participant waved at least one flag. In the end, out of 75 some entries, our entry won the "People's Choice" award and also took 2nd place in the Novelty category.

First CBC, led by President Anna Muh and husband Richard, kicked off Entry #63. The music of the "Grand Old Flag" caught the spirit of the parade watchers and inspired them to cheer and sing.

Right after CBC, came the Chinese School at American High (a private Chinese school meeting at American High School) and Principal Waiming Kok, who has operated her school for children and adults for the past 2 years. Both Cantonese and Mandarin dialects are taught. This was the first year the school participated. Nevertheless, they were well prepared with music, hats, costumed dances and Chinese yo-yos.

Miss Teen Chinatown 2003-2004, Cassey Ho, once again brought her charm and graciousness to the parade. She will always be a special ambassador for our community.

Then there was the Boy Scouts Troup 468 with leader Larry Hsu. How nice to see them sharp and neat in their uniforms and how proud we were to have Boy Scouts of our very own!

President Victor Gin and wife, Fran, led South Bay Chinese Club members. Among these were Gerry Low-Sabado and her family. Gerry still can't get over getting responses from the public, just by engaging them with a wave of the flag or a "Hello".

The gold uniforms of the American Buddhist Cultural Society (ABCS) added nice color to the already colorful Red, White and Blue. ABCS didn't have very far to go to the staging area of the parade. Their headquarters, located at Fremont and Decoto Roads,

was but a few footsteps away! ABCS is new to the Tri-Cities area and we look forward to having Nailing Chen and ABCS join us in many more future community activities.

CBC was happy to have Principal Peggy Chiou and Tri-City Chinese School join in the parade. With an enrollment of some 1,300 students, this school is one of the largest Chinese schools in the area.

President Anna Wang led a large group of representatives from the Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN). Our children in FCSN have much to contribute in spite of their disabilities. They also had fun being a part of the parade.

And bringing up the last group was Tony Chen from USA OMEI Lion Dance and Martial Arts School. As the parade wound down Fremont Blvd, this group surely spiced up the entry with fascinating performances along the way.

CBC thanks everyone for showing up and participating with us. Hope to see you next year again!



A few CBC members also participated in the international flags entry



Cassey Ho, Miss Chinatown 2003-2004

The Importance of Being a Leader

By Michael Tsiang (Youth Toastmaster)

"If you have the will, you will succeed." This Chinese proverb describes the real secret to success, and it perfectly reflects the reason I want to participate in the Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program for the third time this year: if I want to do something and I continue to pursue it, I will eventually reach perfection. I have changed dramatically in my styles of speaking and ways of leadership since the beginning of my high school career, all thanks to the wonderful skills Toastmasters taught me.

In my first year, the Toastmasters program was divided into two groups – one for the advanced students and one for the first-years. This system worked well, but we would never know whether what we are doing is what we should be doing, since no experienced peers were there to help us. Last year, the two classes were both combinations of new and returning students, so the experienced leaders can help the future leaders. Also, it was more student-ran so everyone developed their skills better. I used my skills from the first year and combined it with skills newly learned and did a terrific job in several leadership positions. I have learned so much so I just want to go back this year and learn more and do more.

The program is not just a leadership program: it also consists of everything else in life, such as friends and fun. I made friends in Toastmasters who have helped me inside and outside of school this year. Because we were friends, we had lots of fun going to the sessions and we actually enjoyed it. I think this year it will be even better because many people who know each other will return and help each other, at the same time we can all help new students. This will be more productive than using the first couple of weeks to just learn about each other.

The next school year I will be an officer of many clubs; this means I will actually be able to apply my leadership skills now. The things I learned have contributed to this success, and so I want to return to help more people reach their potential. Meanwhile, they can help me improve mine, too! I have much more to learn besides what I already know, and returning to Toastmasters will ensure I be even more prepared for those positions.

This year, I am a junior at Mission San Jose High School. Next year, I will be doing college applications and college interviews. This is the last opportunity that

I have before that time to strengthen my speaking and writing skills. Toastmasters has given me confidence in all that I do, and I definitely want to improve more.

The Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program has been a summer activity for me for two years now. I have learned so much and have done so much and I just want to return again this year for even more. The program is better than ever and it will develop my skills to better prepare me for next year and the years beyond.

Tsai Chin Charity Concert 2004

by Herbert Chiu, DDS
Chair, CBC Health Committee

She was described by some as the Barbara Streisand of the Orient. Her silky smooth voice, elegant and classy stage presence attracted over 5,000 people to the two day concert on May 1st & May 2nd at the Flint Center in Cupertino. Her songs and monologue brought laughter, memories and tears. The closing song "Your Mellow Ways" brought the audience to a long standing ovation after the singer had already sang more than 8 songs just for the encore.

Tsai Chin, the legendary super star singer from Taiwan, came to the Bay Area for a charity concert benefiting the Chinese Cancer Memorial Foundation, American Cancer Society - Northern California Chinese Unit (ACS-NCCU), and the Stanford Liver Center. The fundraising effort brought in over \$220,000 net proceeds for the above-mentioned organizations supporting cancer research, patients and their families.

As the Stage/Technical Director for the concert, I was overwhelmed by this rewarding experience. The concert preparation started over a year ago with a committee of over 30 members under the leadership of Kitty Geiger, a past president of ACS-NCCU. I recall meetings in Las Vegas, Taiwan and countless phone calls as the committee prepared the detail plans for the concert -- marketing, sponsorship, ticket sale, stage set, sound/lighting, special effects, musical instrument/accessories, meals, lodging... etc. As the CBC Health Committee Chair and an avid music/stage production hobbyist, I cannot think of a better way of dedicating my time and a year-long effort.

Washington Hospital Board Member Announces Candidacy



Union City, CA - Susanna Wong, member of the Washington Hospital Board of Directors, announces her intention to seek election to the two-year seat opening on the Board of Directors. "The Washington Hospital Healthcare System needs strong leadership to meet the challenges of providing accessible, affordable and appropriate medical treatments for those of us in the area," states Susanna.

As a member of the Board of Directors for the past two years, I am keenly aware of the challenges facing the Hospital: nursing shortages, diversity of treatment requirements, extensive government regulations, HMO and insurance issues, emergency room care, expanding and maintaining our community clinics, and our changing and aging populations.

Her qualifications are:

- ✍ Two years experience on the Washington Hospital Board
- ✍ Resident of the our district for over 27 years
- ✍ Business entrepreneur and bottom-line focused
- ✍ User of the system--family and self
- ✍ Understanding of women & ethnic needs
- ✍ Personally accessible

As a returning board member Susanna will continue to:

- 1) Focus on the Hospital's involvement in extended community outreach, including support of the Women's Center, the new Union City Clinic and the Mobile Health Clinic.
- 2) Ensure that the Hospital provides a full range of effective and up-to-date services to meet the changing needs of our community, including services to women, seniors and youth.
- 3) Provide for survivability of the Hospital and its long-range goals via sound bottom-line financial

management.

Susanna is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a degree in Economics. As a long time resident of the area, Susanna brings her experience as a business entrepreneur and a focus on bottom-line financial management as well as her responsiveness to the health needs of the residents of the Tri-City area.

South Bay Chinese Club Installs New Officers and Directors

The South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC) installed its new officers and directors at their installation dinner held on Saturday, July 17th, at Uncle Chong's Restaurant in Fremont. Several CBC members are also SBCC members and serve on both boards. The outgoing president is Victor Gin and the incoming president is Gordon Jang. Congratulations to the South Bay Chinese Club for continuing to serve the community!

Summer Time Fun...at 4th Annual BBQ

It's time for the annual summer BBQ with the South Bay Chinese Club! Once again, the BBQ will be hosted by Steve & Amy Cho at their clubhouse. Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, August 4th.

Date: Saturday - August 7, 2004

Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: Quail Run Clubhouse

Address: corner of Quail Run Road & Whimbrel, Fremont

RSVP: Steve & Amy Cho at (510) 797-6426 or (510) 790-1673

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@yahoo.com.

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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

CBC Toastmasters

Place: Best Friends Learning Center
Address: 42080 Osgood Road, Fremont
When: Saturdays (10-11 am)
Contact: Chia-Chee Chan (925) 979-2374

CBC Breakfast Club for Business (BCB)

Place: Cabrillo Park Café (4673 Thornton Ave)
When: 3rd Friday of the month (8-9:30 am)
Contact: Thomas Tang (510) 713-2388

CBC/SBCC Summer BBQ

Place: Quail Run Clubhouse
When: Saturday, August 7, 2004 (11 am – 2 pm)
Contact: Steve or Amy Cho (510) 797-6426 or (510) 790-1673

Youth Toastmasters Graduation

When: Saturday, August 14, 2004
Contact: Loretta Yu (510) 490-3047

Newark Days Celebration Parade

When: Saturday, September 18, 2004 (step-off 9:45 am)
Contact: Anna Muh (510) 226-8678

Next CBC Meetings

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 1, 2004
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 6, 2004
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 3, 2004
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm



Friends of Children with Special Needs enjoy marching in the Fourth of July parade