



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 2

March/April 2005

CBC's Spring Celebration

Perfect Ten



Saturday, April 16, 2005
Flamingo Palace, Fremont
6:00 in the evening

Come and enjoy CBC's 13th Annual Spring Celebration with this year's theme being "Perfect Ten!" This all female ensemble from Taiwan plays modern and classical music on ancient Chinese instruments. This appearance marks their United States debut. Don't miss out on this exciting performance! Register online at www.cbc-sfbay.com. See page 3 for more details.

President's Message

By Thomas Tang



Dear CBC members and Friends,

There is only a very short time until our annual Spring Celebration on April 16, 2005. This year, Fremont Vista Retirement Homes continues its support to CBC as the Gold Sponsor of the Spring Celebration. Washington Hospital also supports CBC as another Gold Sponsor. Aside from Gold Sponsors, other major sponsors include Yin's McDonald, Topline Properties, Bank of America, Fremont Bank and Area 3 Rotary Clubs. Let me thank all of you for your continued support and participation in this annual event. Your support signifies your approval of what we have done in the past. Your sponsorship encourages CBC to continue its mission in the future.

Speaking of future, one of the objectives of the current Board of Directors is to improve future membership benefits. CBC is a volunteering service organization. When prospective members ask questions regarding member benefits, we often tell them that member benefits are basically opportunities to help better the community. The rewarding experience of volunteering certainly encourages membership renewal. However, the job of new member recruitment can be easier if CBC can offer more direct benefits to its members.

Currently, CBC's membership benefits include our internship program and toastmaster program. These programs are educational programs. CBC also organizes a summer picnic, Autumn Moon Festival celebration, Christmas party, Chinese New Year party, and our Spring Celebration. These parties help members to expand their social circles and connections. There is also a monthly business breakfast club to help members expand their business network.

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Our Board recently passed a resolution to start a scholarship program to award success in leadership and community involvement for our younger members. Additional membership benefit programs that are being developed include a Business Affinity Program, an On-line College Planning Forum, and a Family Health Internet Chat-Room.

The Business Affinity Program would allow CBC members to benefit from special discounts offered by CBC members in business. Business participants in the program will be selected and approved by the Board carefully to protect members' interest.

The On-line College Planning Forum is an email-based program where young students or their parents having questions regarding college entrance can write to a published board to ask their questions. Members who know the answers will reply to the published board to share their knowledge and experience. We will invite teachers to host the board and answer some of these questions.

The Chat-Room is another internet-based program to encourage members to share their experience on issues relating to health care. We hope we can find health care professionals to volunteer in this program to host the chat-room. All of these new proposed programs are being developed to promote membership benefit and member loyalty.

Well, so much has been said about the future. Currently, as you are reading this issue of the newsletter, Susanna Wong, the Event Chair of our Spring Celebration, Belle Chang, the Co-chair, and their team of volunteers are working very hard to execute all the planned details of the upcoming celebration at the Flamingo Palace. Many of our directors and members are also working very hard on ticket sales and additional sponsorships. I would like to take this opportunity in this newsletter to thank them for their hard work. I also would like to thank in advance all of those who will come to our Spring Celebration for their continued support to CBC. I am looking forward to seeing you at the party.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Tang
President

Passport to Adventure

By Aaron Wong

Friday, April 29, 2005
Fremont Main Library
6:00 in the evening



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 **Friday, 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 their 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

13th Annual Spring Celebration

Perfect Ten

**Saturday, April 16, 2005
Flamingo Palace, Fremont
6:00 in the evening**

Mark your calendars for CBC's 13th Annual Spring Celebration event being held on Saturday, April 16th at the Flamingo Palace. This year's dinner program will be the first US debut of the very popular and talented musical group "Perfect Ten", an all female ensemble from Taiwan playing modern and classical music on ancient Chinese instruments. "We are proud to share our rich culture and heritage by recruiting and promoting Chinese American consciousness in our local community," states Susanna Wong, CBC Director and Event Chair.

Founded in 1992, Citizens for Better Community is a non-profit organization that serves to motivate Chinese-American involvement in the community in areas of education, health, business, and community service. Each year, CBC raises its operating funds through the annual Spring Celebration fundraiser with a portion of the proceeds being donated directly back to other local organizations that generously support the community as well. Past beneficiaries of the Spring Celebration have included the Fremont Senior Services, Fremont Education Foundation, Alameda County Library Foundation, Ohlone College Foundation, Washington Hospital Healthcare System, and many others. "This allows us to support other local organizations which play an instrumental role in enhancing the community we live in," states Teresa Yin Wong, CBC Director.

In addition to the debut of Perfect Ten, CBC will also be presenting its 2005 "Citizen of the Year" award to Garrett Yee and "Volunteer of the Year" award to Karen Chen. Named by The Argus Newspaper as one of the "10 People to Watch in 2003", Garrett has been an invaluable contributor to CBC and the local community at large by currently serving a four-year term on the Ohlone College Board of Trustees and staying active in CBC, Ohlone College Foundation, Mission Peak Boy Scout District, Redevelopment Appeals Board for the City of Fremont, and the Army



Reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel. Karen is also being recognized for her commendable dedication to CBC's Summer Internship Program, which provides students an opportunity to work in legislative offices around the Bay Area.

For sponsorship and ticketing information, please contact Kathy Jang at (510) 790-0740 or register online at www.cbc-sfbay.com.

CBC Congratulates

Garrett Yee CBC Citizen of the Year



Karen Chen CBC Volunteer of the Year



Chinese New Year Celebration

Article & photographs submitted by Gerry Low-Sabado

The Chinese New Year Celebration at the Fremont Library on February 12th was a great success! Members of SBCC and CBC worked together to bring the Chinese New Year of the Rooster – Year 4703 to the Fremont community. CBC Vice President, Josephine Chou and SBCC Vice President Gerry Low-Sabado co-chaired the event.

A few SBCC members demonstrated how to make Chinese lanterns out of beautiful red envelopes generously donated by Fremont Bank. Eager parents and children packed the area as they waited their turn to learn how to make the craft that symbolizes a part of their Chinese culture. Maria Yee, Alyssa Yee, Lauren Wodka and Ellie Wong helped the children make colorful fortune cookie pins from craft foam. The children and their parents enjoyed making the lanterns and fortune cookie pins and proudly carried them off.



Josephine Chou was able to gather many friends and acquaintances that volunteered to create very talented Chinese traditional art demonstrations in the Library Van Doorn Room. There was Chinese Calligraphy, Dough Art, Flower Arrangements, Paper Cutting Art,

and Silk Dye Art. Refreshments were provided by Roses Café, Lion's Market (Milpitas) and CBC.

Thomas Tang, CBC President, Gerry Low-Sabado, SBCC Vice President, and City Councilman & CBC member, Steve Cho, welcomed and wished the audience "Gung Hay Fat Choy!" and "Gong Xi Fa Cai!" Many talented performers provided wonderful entertainment in the Fukaya Room B. Performances included Lion Dancing, Fremont Chinese School Flute Choir, Kung-Fu Fan, White Colt Dance, Tri City Chinese School Parents' Choir, Bay Area Children Percussion Ensemble, Chinese Dance and Crystal Childrens Choir. Amy Cho helped the performers keep track of when their performance would be next and kept the events flowing in a timely fashion.



Thanks to all for the time and work volunteered to make the 2005 Chinese New Year Celebration a wonderful learning experience! Special thanks to Josephine Chou, Fremont Bank, Roses Café, and Lions Market. Thank you also to Angela Yang, Library Manager, and children's librarians Karen Pacheco and Joy Tsou, who helped Josephine and I plan and coordinate the event.

Wishing you Happiness, Good Health, Harmony, Tranquility, Prosperity, and Peace in this new year of the Rooster!



American Cancer Society – “Relay for Life”

By Larry Hsu and Herb Chiu

The American Cancer Society – Northern California Chinese Unit – Relay For Life Team Members cordially invite you to participate in the unique Relay For Life ACS nationwide signature event. The event will be held at De Anza College in Cupertino on the 18th of June. Our main objectives are to increase cancer awareness in our community, and to raise money for cancer research, education, and patient services.

The main theme for the 2005 ACS-NCCU RFL is: “Salute to the Cancer Fighters”. Together, our volunteers and Relay team members will give up a few hours of our lives and take turns walking around the track at the De Anza College Stadium. You, too, can walk for someone you know who is battling cancer or remember someone who lost the fight. We sincerely urge you to get involved in one or more ways:

1. Put together a team as a Relay Captain
2. Join a team as a Relay Member
3. Sponsor a team and have your business represented in the Relay
4. Make a tax deductible contribution to help raise much needed research funds
5. Dedicate a luminaria candle to be lit at dusk in honor of your cancer-fighting friends
6. Dedicate a luminaria candle in memory of your lost friends or family
7. Come and enjoy the fun and meaningful event with us on 6/18/05

For the Youth Teams

To encourage youth participation, we will award the community service hours to the youth that participate in our RFL event: 40 hours will be awarded to each team captain and 20 hours will be awarded to each team member. In addition, for the high schools requiring the Service Learning hours, the ACS-NCCU RFL can provide up to 8 hours of Service Learning to each team member with attending all the education program on June 18.

Our volunteers and Relay team members are able and willing to explain any of the above involvement that may interest you. If you would like to know more about the Relay event, please call the American Cancer Society – Northern California Chinese Unit at (510) 797-0600 or 1-888-566-6222. You can also email us via Nccurfl@yahoo.com or visit our website at <http://www.acs-nccu.org>.

We appreciate your generosity and contribution to this community-oriented cancer-fighting event. Together, we have strong hope that we will win this fight in the near future.

“Making Tracks”

The San Jose Repertory Theatre presents a musical about a journey across America and it's Asian American history – spanning the building of the railroads, the grueling experience of Angel Island, the heart-rendering stories of the “picture Brides” and the tragedy of WWII internment camps. This musical is showing from March 19 – April 17 at the San Jose Repertory Theatre. Tickets are available at sjrep.com or call (408)367-7255.

Homeless Shelter Update

If you have not had an opportunity to do so, you should consider volunteering some time at the Tri-City Homeless Shelter at Sunrise Village. This is open to anyone interested in helping. If you feel inclined, please contact Margaret Wang and let her know you want to help.

Place: Sunrise Village

When: Sunday, May 15 & June 19

Contact: Margaret Wang (510) 252-1926

For information about the Tri-City Homeless Coalition, visit the website at <http://www.tricityhomeless.org> or call 510-657-7409, or e-mail: info@tricityhomeless.org.

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.

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CBC Summer Internship Program

Offering Local Chinese-American Youth:

- ?? *Communication and Leadership Skills Development*
- ?? *Exposure to The Legislative Process (Federal, State & Local)*
- ?? *Practical Work Experience*
- ?? *Opportunity to Work With Legislators to Help Our Community*
- ?? *Source of Recommendation Letter for Future Colleges and Jobs*

Qualifications:

1. Chinese-American, 16 Years or Older on January 1, 2005
2. High School Junior, Senior or College Student
3. Resident of the San Francisco Bay Area
4. Preference given to family of CBC members

Requirements:

1. Able to work 3 to 6 hours a week (total of at least 60 hours during the summer)
2. 3 to 5 month commitment (to be negotiated with the legislative offices)
3. An essay describing your experience at the end of the term
4. Must be available to meet 1 to 2 evenings during the summer, for Interns' Progress Meeting
5. Reliable transportation to/from designated internship office

At the End of the Program, You Will Receive:

- ?? \$300 Stipend
- ?? Certificate of Completion Awarded at the Annual CBC Interns' Appreciation Luncheon
- ?? Possible Recommendation Letter from an Elected Official

If you are interested in this program, please contact Karen Chen, CBC Internship Coordinator, at 510-206-2194 or via e-mail at kchen@intermune.com. Or complete the application form (available at the CBC website: www.cbc-sfbay.com) and mail (or e-mail) to the address above.

Asian Candidate Night

By Albert Wang



Citizens for Better Community and the East Bay Voter Education Consortium held an Asian Candidate night on March 21, 2005. This event showed our appreciation and honored the American Asians who have stepped forward to serve the public. Whether they won, lost, or are seeking office, we applaud their willingness to serve the community. Thank you to Jerry Chen at Fremont Vista Homes for the use of the facility and for providing the refreshments.

Pictured below front row from left are: Ivy Wu (FUSD Board), Betty Yee (State Board of Equalization, candidate for 2006), Mary Hayashi (State Assembly District 18, candidate for 2006), Lena Tam (Alameda Hospital District), and Emily Chang (Co-host, Executive Director, East bay Asian Voter Education Consortium). Back row from left are: Steve Cho (Fremont City Councilman), Susanna Wong (Washington Hospital Board), Thomas Tang (CBC President), Henry Manayan (State Assembly District 20), Dr. Rakesh Sharma (Fremont City Council), Jim Navarro (Union City Council), Evan Low (Campbell City Council), Kansen Chu (Berryessa School Board) and Garrett Yee (Co-host and Ohlone College Board).



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. Thank you in advance for your support!

Citizens for Better Community

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e-mail: cbcservices@cbc-sfbay.com
Web site: <http://www.cbc-sfbay.com>

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Spring Celebration "Perfect Ten"

Saturday, April 16, 2005

For ticket information, call
Kathy Jang (510) 790-0740



Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321

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

SBCC Scholarship Luncheon

When: Saturday, April 9, 2005
Where: Courtyard by Marriott, Newark
Contact: Gordon Jang (510) 790-0740

CBC Spring Celebration

When: Saturday, April 16, 2005 (6 pm)
Where: Flamingo Palace (Peralta Blvd)
Contact: Susanna Wong (510) 796-2332

Mission San Jose Rotary Fundraiser

When: Wednesday, April 27, 2005
Where: Best House (Palmdale Estate)

Library Foundation "Passport to Adventure"

When: Friday, April 29, 2005 (6 pm)
Where: Fremont Main Library
Contact: Aaron Wong (510) 791-1400

Homeless Shelter

When: Sunday, May 15, 2005
Where: Sunrise Village
Contact: Margaret Wang (510) 252-1926

ACS – Relay for Life

When: Saturday, June 18, 2005
Where: De Anza College, Cupertino
Contact: Larry Hsu (510) 490-2936

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Next CBC Meetings

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

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 1, 2005
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm