



# CITIZENS FOR BETTER COMMUNITY

華人權益服務社

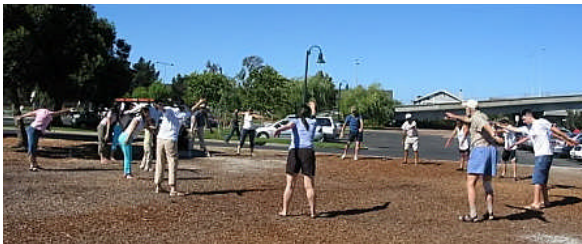
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**Membership Newsletter**

**Volume 7, Issue 5**

**September / October 2007**

## CBC Participates in Dragon Boat Race



*Photos courtesy of Amy Cho*

CBC joins in the 2007 Paddle for Life Dragon Boat Race fundraiser for the American Cancer Society - Northern California Chinese Unit (ACS-NCCU). See page 5 for details.

## President's Message

*By Steve Cho*



Greetings to All,

Summer has come and gone! I hope everyone had a fun, enjoyable and relaxing summer. I trust that you are now fully recharged and ready to begin the "Fall" season with renewed spirit and energy. You are just rearing to go!

As we look back over this past summer, a number of CBC activities took place and a number of upcoming activities are in the planning phase.

In keeping with our Mission Statement **"To initiate, sponsor, and promote community events that will affect the well being of Chinese Americans with emphasis on health, education, business and community involvement"**, CBC was a proud supporting sponsor of the following events:

- 1) Fremont Relay for Life (American Cancer Society)
- 2) Taipei Youth Sports Folk Group
- 3) Youth Leadership Toastmasters
- 4) Annual BBQ
- 5) Paddle for Life Dragon Boat Race (American Cancer Society – Northern California Chinese Unit)
- 6) Fremont Days at the A's
- 7) Senior Focus Forum
- 8) Hosted mixer for Mary Chung Hayashi, Assemblymember, 18<sup>th</sup> District
- 9) CBC Toastmasters
- 10) Hosted community meeting with Oakland A's Management

As you can see, a relaxing summer was still filled with many events and activities. These were many opportunities for CBC to engage the public and to showcase our involvement in the community.

*President's Message continued on Page 2*

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In the coming months, CBC will be providing continued support of several community events. These include:

- 1) SAVE (Safe Alternative for Violent Environment), Friday, September 28, 7:30 am, Fremont Marriott
- 2) Fremont Community Health Forum focusing on issues for the uninsured and the underinsured, Thursday, October 4, 4 pm-6 pm, Washington Hospital West
- 3) Top Hat (Washington Hospital Foundation), Saturday, October 13, 5:30 pm, Fremont Marriott

The Fremont Community Health Forum (#2) will address insurance issues that have a great impact to people of all ages regardless of race and gender. If you would like more information on the above events, please contact CBC Exec. Director Kathy Jang ([kjang25@yahoo.com](mailto:kjang25@yahoo.com)) or Steve Cho ([ascinc@mindspring.com](mailto:ascinc@mindspring.com)).

CBC holds its monthly board meetings at the Carlton Plaza Retirement Center (3800 Walnut Ave, Fremont). Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month starting at 7 pm. The meetings are open to all and you are most welcome to attend. I invite you come join us. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet people in the community and to create new and build on old friendships.

Warm regards,

Steve Cho

Steve Cho  
President

## President-elect David Sheen to Lead CBC in 2007-2008



David Sheen is a bilingual attorney in Fremont, CA. He recently married his lovely wife, Ashley, at the Ardenwood Historical Park and was honored by many of his CBC friends this past June.

David is a graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Psychology. David received his Doctor of Law Degree from California Western School of Law in San Diego, California.

Currently, David is serving as a Board Member of Citizens for Better Community. He is also serving as a Co-Chair for CBC Spring Celebration Committee and

as the Vice Chair of CBC Community Involvement Committee. He is an active member of CBC Toastmasters Club, California State Bar, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Asian American Bar Association, Better Business Bureau, Fremont Chamber of Commerce, and Fremont Rotary International.

David's parents immigrated to United States from Taiwan decades ago, so that their children could have better lives and obtain a higher education. David has had firsthand experiences of what many of his clients are going through while trying to start a new life here in America. It was an easy choice for him to go into immigration law... so that he may assist others to achieve their American dreams and become citizens of this great country.

David has represented clients ranging from multinational companies, to mid-sized and small companies, as well as individuals undergoing the U.S. immigration process. He is a frequent guest speaker for local schools, businesses, and community organizations on various topics about immigration, estate planning, and business law. David has been quoted by the *San Jose Mercury News* in its bi-weekly immigration columns. He has been interviewed by Channel 26 KTSF and NTDTV on various legal and community service related subjects. David has also written articles for the *Fremont Business Review* and many law journals. David was also featured in the *Chinese Consumer Yellow Pages* among one of the most successful Asian-American professionals in Northern California.

## Membership Dues

The new membership year will begin on November 1, 2007. The membership renewal form has been sent via US Mail (or see form on page 7). Please complete the form 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 MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

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](mailto:kjang25@yahoo.com).

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Contributors: Amy Cho, Steve Cho, Larry Hsu, Anne Lee, David Sheen, Albert Wang, Sophia Wu

## CBC and East West Bank Co-Host Mixer for Mary Chung Hayashi, Assemblywoman, 18<sup>th</sup> District

By Steve Cho

On Saturday, August 25, Richard Li, Bank Manager - East West Bank and Citizens for Better Community (CBC) co-hosted a mixer for members and friends of CBC. Steve Cho, CBC President, said this was an opportunity for CBC members and friends to meet and to engage in a lively discussion with Mary Chung Hayashi. Mary requested a chance to meet our members and friends, particularly from the Asian community. She wanted to meet members from the Tri-Cities area as well as learn about issues and concerns in our local community.

Mary gave a short presentation on various issues and bills that the state legislature is dealing with. She also opened a Q & A session for people in attendance. During her presentation, Mary informed the crowd that she was glad the State Budget finally passed. Now, her major efforts will be in the health care area.

Mary is a member of the Health Committee. She believes health care reform is critical for all Californians. Although several proposals are currently being discussed in the Health Committee, nothing has jumped to the forefront. She is very committed to finding a solution. A new requirement that will soon affect incoming students will be the requirement to have a dental clearance before being allowed to enroll in public schools. This is similar to the requirement of having certain vaccinations against childhood diseases.



(left to right) Steve Cho, Mary Chung Hayashi, Lisa Quan, Richard Li and John Chen)

A major concern echoed by several attendees was the State's requirement for building more houses and the impact(s) to the local school district. The current

guidelines preclude (forbid) cities from imposing additional conditions on developers over and above the statutory school fees. However, school fees do not necessarily solve the issue of overcrowding schools. Attendees also talked about the inequities of property tax funds coming from the State to the city and to the school district. On a percentage basis, Fremont is receiving less than many other cities which makes it much more difficult to provide the same level of service to the community. Mary acknowledged these problems and will make an effort to address the problems.

## FCSN Open House and Fundraising Gala



By Albert Wang

Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN) is a non-profit organization headquartered in Fremont providing services to special needs children and adults as well as providing support for their families. FCSN's mission is to help special needs children to find Love, Hope, Respect, and Support, through integrated community involvement. FCSN has grown from 10 families and a single program 11 years ago to 500 families with over 35 programs all over the East and South Bay. To expand our programs further, both in variety and location, we need your support. Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala "Expand Our Dream" will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center on **Saturday, November 17, 2007**, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$75 each and many levels of sponsorship are available. Please check our website at [www.fcsn1996.org](http://www.fcsn1996.org) or Contact Josephine Chou or Dora Chou at (510) 739-6900. Hope to see many of you there.

FCSN will also host an open house to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the "Dream Center" on Peralta Blvd on Friday, October 12. If you would like to learn more about FCSN's program, please RSVP to Sylvia at (510) 739-6900.



FCSN Summer Youth Music Camp for children with special needs.

## Apply Toastmaster Principles To Everyday Life

*Note: This speech was presented by Anne Lee at a Toastmasters meeting.*

The Toastmaster organization's philosophies and values are clearly not in agreement with the values of society we live in.

I remember, at one of my earliest meetings, I was forced to sit through a dreadful speech. The speech, I thought, suffered from a great many faults. The speaker stumbled and mumbled. It was hard to tell what the topic was.

As a new member, I was only thinking how dreadful the speech was; I was thinking of faults and mistakes. In this world, the world we live in, the world we work in, we look for FAULTS. We all start with 100% then we lose points for mistakes, we lose points for missed deadlines, and for poor decisions.

Anyway, at last the speaker finished her speech. It was her evaluator's turn to evaluate her speech. What did she say? She did not mention any faults I noticed. Instead, she talked about how the speaker looked around the room, making eye contact; and how her voice was controlled and how she didn't rely on any notes. Also she said her speech had a good rhythm. The evaluator gave her both positive and constructive feedback.

I was dumbfounded, I thought. Was I the only one who thought the speech was bad?

Well, one year later, I had the pleasure of listening to the same person giving a speech. It was very enjoyable. The speech was entertaining, well organized, and was very well presented. The faults I found a year ago were absent. The speaker looked confident, held the audience, and gave an interesting speech.

After several practices, and after receiving several positive and constructive feedback, she improved. Ladies and Gentlemen, THIS is the Toastmaster magic. Now can you see why I said that the Toastmasters' philosophies and values are not in agreement with the values of society?

How are things generally done OUTSIDE Toastmasters. The raising of children is the best example.

Sometimes, parents say AWFUL things to their children.

■ "I am disappointed."

■ "How many times do I have to tell you? Don't you get it?"

■ "Why can't you do better? Your friends are doing better than you."

Hands up anyone here, who has NEVER had a put-down by an adult when you were little.

For everyone in this room, feedback and comments we used to receive from adults are far different from Toastmaster evaluations.

Of course, our parents aren't horrible parents. They did give us many encouragements; we have many good experiences too. But, we don't remember them as much as the negative ones. Negative ones stay with us; they are buried. But, they influence our thoughts, emotions and behavior.

Society is shaped by us, by people who remember these negative comments. We are a civilization of the walking wounded. We all have childhood damages and we all coped with them in different ways:

- we drive ourselves to endless achievements
- we have emotional suffering
- we have drugs, alcohol or gambling addictions
- we put others down, just to prove we are better than them.

As adults, we tend to raise our children the way we were raised ourselves. Do we want to raise our children to:

- drive themselves to endless achievements
- constantly put other down to prove they are better
- have drug and alcohol addictions

I believe, we can eliminate many problems our society has if we consistently bring up all our children the Toastmaster way. There would not be a Virginia Tech shooting; there would not be a high school shooting at Littleton, Colorado.

We have the power to change. We have the power to change one small part of the world. Let us practice toastmaster principles every day at home with your family, with your children and at work with your co-workers.

Let us become active revolutionaries.

## CBC Raises Funds in 2007 Cancer “Paddle for Life” Race



By Amy Cho

It's been another “first” for CBC...certainly not the first time in raising funds for the good cause of fighting cancer, but the way the funds were raised. In addition to participating and sponsoring a team in the Fremont 2007 Relay for Life, CBC joins in the 2007 Paddle for Life Dragon Boat Race fundraiser for the American Cancer Society - Northern California Chinese Unit (ACS-NCCU). On Saturday, August 18, CBC's Dragon Boat team competed in Foster City. Are you wondering since when CBC has a Dragon Boat team!?!?!

Several months ago, CBC President Steve Cho heard about the Paddle For Life fundraiser and thought it might be fun and exciting to participate in the dragon boat event. It was good way to have fun and to help raise funds for ACS-NCCU. Before long, Steve assembled a team of 20 people, and voila, we had a “CBC Dragon Boat” team. The races in Foster City would be for amateurs. The entry fee for each team was \$400 (\$20/person). Together with various sponsors and the 44 teams, a sizable amount was raised for the fight against cancer.

It was a fun event eventually supported by CBC members, CBC Toastmaster Club, and South Bay Chinese Club members. Of the 3 categories (Women, Mixed, Open), it was decided that we would enter as a Mixed Team (Mixed Team had to have at least 8 women). The team held several practice sessions in preparation for the race but we never had our full team together until the actual day of the race.

You won't be able to tell too well from the pictures, but the CBC purple hats distinguished our team. Whether they could row fast or not, our team “looked” very professional. They could at least keep the oars going at the same time, even to the beat of the drummer. Teams raced against teams grouped into certain categories and the CBC Dragon Boat team raced against other Community Non-Profit organizations. In the first heat, the CBC Dragon Boat team bounded out at breakneck speed in first place, but halfway through, its speed petered out and our team came in #2. (Not bad considering that the #1 team was made of burly men and hefty women firefighters). Before the second heat for losers, the CBC team members strategically decided that they would leap out and this time keep

the pace up ALL the way. After all, the 420-meter race would take only about 2 minutes. They ate hot dogs and some gobbled up dim sums at the nearby ABC Restaurant. This would give them more energy.

Sure enough, the CBC Dragon Boat racers came in #1 in the second heat! This was really exciting! But even so, as they watched the scores posted, the team members could see that although they ranked #1 in the last heat, they were not in the top 6 teams overall to continue in the race. But they were happy and congratulated themselves on their fine performance. They were tired and they gathered their belongings and went home.

But what do you know? While everyone was halfway across the San Mateo bridge going home, the lone person left behind, Gerry Low-Sabado called Steve saying that she heard repeated calls on the loudspeakers “CBC – Citizens for Better Community Team, please return to the dock”, “CBC – Citizens for Better Community Team, please return to the dock”.

As you might be guessing, the team should have stayed to race again. But since we were not there anymore, you could guess what our ranking ended up: “Disqualified”. Oh well, the moral of the story might be: Don't jump to conclusions before getting all the facts.

But all in all, what could have been a better cause? And where could one have had 3 practices/training lessons in a dragon boat and an exhilarating race – for only \$20? Next year's race will be on June 8 at Jack London Square in Oakland. Get your paddles ready!

CBC DRAGON BOAT TEAM - Congratulations and Thank you all!

“PADDLE READY.....GO!”



## Justin Hsu Receives Eagle Scout Award

*Submitted by Larry Hsu*

Justin's Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held on August 18 at the Warm Springs Community Center. There were about 150 attendees including city mayors: Bob Wasserman (Fremont) and Jose Esteves (Milpitas). San Jose Councilmember, Kansen Chu, also brought in the proclamation. When Justin showed his slide show about "his life", it brought back a lot of memories from being a newborn to being an Eagle Scout. Scouting life indeed helped him to grow and to become mature.



When Justin joined the newly formed Chinese American troop 468, he was just a fifth grader with an overweight body. At the beginning, he "hated" scouting because he was not used to long hikes, especially carrying a backpack with food and water. With encouragement from our adult leaders (including me), he gradually started enjoying camping, hiking and scouting skills. The leadership training through various ranks troop jobs, and youth leader training program, he became a real scout and leader in the troop. He was willing to spend one entire summer camp to be trained and qualified as a BSA lifeguard because the troop needs at least one.

The leadership he learned was also helping him in school and other activities. Justin was overwhelmingly elected as the co-captain of the school football varsity team when he joined the team second season. Justin also agreed that the scouting life really benefited him to demonstrate the leadership automatically. In school orchestra, he was also chosen as the leader to help the conductor to coordinate the performance events, trips, and practices. The scout oath and scout law are always his daily life guidelines. He knew how to handle school homework with minimum help from us, how to make friends in any occasion, and how to face and deal with challenges. These were also shown when he conducted his Eagle Scout project. Other than his community services during scouting life, he had also done his best to attend the volunteer medical team with us to visit Thousand Buddhas City (three hour away from Fremont) every quarter to help those monks/nuns there.

As his parent, I do really appreciate the boy scout program benefiting my son. I will continue my scouting as an adult leader to help our next generation with my knowledge and experience. Justin is going to

attend UC-San Diego next week to start his new life of another level. He has all the blessings from us and relatives and friends.

## Louise Wu Named Miss Asian America

*Submitted by Sophia Wu for Louise*

Last year in 2006, I had the privilege to be Miss Chinatown USA. With that title, I truly learned at such a deep level the value of what you can do with a title. When you go for a pageant, the first question anyone should ask...is why? And then the next question is what would you do with the title if you were to win? My passion is in the arts, education, and serving. Even before Miss Chinatown USA, I have been heavily involved with helping the community and also in the performance realm. This past year, I made a career move to LA to further my passion in the entertainment industry. It was at that point I started seeing what would be a great alignment and fusion of a number of things. Asian Americans are more prevalent in the media than ever before; however, I still feel we are under represented and often times inaccurately represented. When I found out about Miss Asian America, I really saw it as a connector in bridging and also bringing Asians into the limelight on a new level. This title is a golden opportunity to bring accurate portrayals of Asian Americans into the media and what better way to do that than with the title as Miss Asian America. Also, with the wonderful opportunities that happened as Miss Chinatown USA, I saw this as another chance for me to continue cultivating relationships with organizations I worked and partnered with in the past. For example, this past summer I was honored to represent the US as the goodwill ambassador to China and other Asian countries. I was considered the representative that best understood what it meant to be Asian as well as American. As our worlds come closer together and businesses are joining together on an international scale, it is important to have representatives that can bridge the cultural gaps and open the lines of communications on a number of levels. Now as Miss Asian America, I'd like to continue serving the global community as an ambassador to bring awareness to different social issues. I truly am honored to have obtained this title... this title is not about me, or something for me to bask my glory in. It is a tool and a platform to bring exposure to issues that are important to Asian Americans. I just happened to be lucky enough to be that voice for the Asian community.





## Citizens for Better Community

P.O. Box 1

Fremont, CA 94537-0001

Web site: <http://www.cbc-sfbay.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

### **Toastmasters (Citizens for Better Communicators)**

When: Saturdays (10:00 am)

Where: Fremont Adult School

Contact: [xipingy97@yahoo.com](mailto:xipingy97@yahoo.com)

### **Fremont Community Health Forum**

When: Thursday, October 4, 2007 (4 pm)

Where: Washington Hospital West

### **Washington Hospital's Top Hat**

When: Saturday, October 13, 2007 (6 pm)

Where: Fremont Marriott

Contact: WHHS (510) 791-3428

### **CBC Installation/Internship Luncheon**

When: Sunday, October 28, 2007 (11 am)

Where: Hilton Newark/Fremont

Contact: Kathy Jang (510) 790-0740 or  
[Kjang25@yahoo.com](mailto:Kjang25@yahoo.com)

### **FCSN Gala**

When: Saturday, November 17, 2007

Where: Santa Clara Convention Center

Contact: [www.fcsn1996.org](http://www.fcsn1996.org)

### **Niles Festival of Lights**

When: Friday, November 23, 2007

(parade begins approx. 6:30 pm)

Where: Niles Blvd, Fremont

## Upcoming CBC Meetings

**\*Note: Prior to each meeting, there will be set-up and a social "hour" from 7 pm.**

### **CBC Board Meeting**

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

### **CBC Board Meeting**

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

### **CBC Board Meeting**

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm