



CITIZENS FOR BETTER COMMUNITY

華人權益服務社

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

Web site: <http://www.cbcsfbay.org>

Membership Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 1

January/February 2010

For sponsorship information and event tickets, please contact Kathy Jang at (510) 790-0740 or kjang25@yahoo.com.

Gung Hay Fat Choy!
Year of the Tiger

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President's Message

By *Tim V. Tran*



Dear CBC members, friends and supporters,

Happy New Year!

It's a tradition that each new CBC President is given the opportunity to write a message to all Board of Directions, members and supporters in this newsletter. I am grateful for this ongoing tradition, which gives me the chance to communicate with every one of you directly.

It's a great honor to be selected as CBC's new President. In CBC, everything that we are and everything that we inspire to become, rest in your hands. Through cooperation and understanding, meetings are well run, and services are well planned & duly executed. Each member of the Board feels a sense of belonging through honesty and open communication, which in turn helps CBC and the community to thrive.

Moving forward in 2010, I challenge each and every one of you to focus on business, internship, membership and youth leadership. I ask the CBC Board and members to continue to learn from our past experience and to build upon our successes. I ask you to continue to work for the needs in our community, to instill confidence and a sense of noble involvement. I ask you to continue to address the club's limited resources and to give to our community in the areas that have been severely affected by budget cuts.

There is much work to be done. CBC will not stand idle. We accept the duties and responsibilities to create solutions to ongoing community challenges. Our Club is as great as the members within it.

President's Message continued on Page 2

Thank you for instilling your confidence in me. I look forward to your participation to make this year a resounding success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim V. Tran

Tim V. Tran
CBC President 2009-2010

Upcoming Events...

CBC to Co-host Annual Chinese New Year Celebration “Year of the Tiger”



Volunteers are needed: We are looking for members who can volunteer 2 hours of their time on Friday afternoon, February 19, around 2:00 p.m. to help decorate and also on Saturday, February 20 from 2 pm to 4:30 p.m. for the Chinese New Year event, helping with children's crafts. All the supplies will be provided! We just need your time and effort. Please contact Gerry Low-Sabado at (510) 792-3163 or Cecilia Leon (510) 267-8043.

Citizens for Better Community and sister organization South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC), and the Fremont Main Library will host the 11th Annual Chinese New Year Celebration at the Fremont Main Library on **Saturday, February 20, 2010**, from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. This event is for families and anyone interested in the Chinese culture. Entertainment will include dance, musical instruments, songs, Kung-Fu and crafts – all free. There will also be a Chinese Traditional Art Demo in the Van Dorn Room.

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 Tiger.

Program:

1:00 – 2 p.m. (Fukaya Room) ~ Entertainment
1:00 – 4 p.m. (Van Dorn Room) ~ Traditional Art Demo
1:00 – 4 p.m. (Storytime Theater) ~ Crafts

FEF's “Excellence in Education” Gala

The Fremont Education Foundation's annual “Excellence in Education” Gala will benefit Innovative Education Grants for FUSD teacher projects in the school classrooms. This year's Gala “Under the Sea” will be held on **Friday, February 26, 2010** from 5:30-10 p.m. at the Fremont Marriott.

For more information about the event, please contact Nina Moore at (510) 409-9940 or www.fremont-education.org.

Scholarship Program

The South Bay Chinese Club is now accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors residing in the cities of Fremont, Newark and Union City. The forms can also be downloaded from the club's website: www.sbclub.org. Seniors who meet the geographical criteria are encouraged to apply.

The date and venue of the Scholarship Luncheon will be on **Saturday, April 17, 2010** at the Courtyard by Marriott in Newark.

Also, if you would like to support this program, please make your donation payable to SBCSC and mail it to: Gordon Jang, 38742 Glencoe Drive, Fremont, CA 94536.

Spring Celebration 2010 “Expo 2010 - Better Community, Better Life”

CBC's 18th Annual Spring Celebration will be held at the Fremont Marriott on **Saturday, April 24, 2010** at 5:30 p.m. This year's theme is “Expo 2010 – Better Community, Better Life.” We will disseminate more information through our website, flyers and other media very soon.

The Spring Celebration is CBC's annual major fundraiser from which it obtains the necessary resources to continue to provide the myriad of community service projects in Fremont and other cities.

For sponsorship information and event tickets, please contact Kathy Jang at (510) 790-0740 or kjang25@yahoo.com.

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 June 1, 2010
2. High School Sophomore, Junior, or Senior
3. Resident of the San Francisco Bay Area
4. Preference given to families of CBC members
5. CBC Toastmaster Youth Leadership Program experience is a plus

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 attend the interview process on April 10, 2010 (place TBD)
5. Must be able to take one Saturday (full day) training class in Cupertino/San Jose; date to be determined (between May 2 to May 16, 2010). CBC will pay for the training expense.
6. Must be available to meet for orientation as well as 2 evenings during the summer for Interns' Progress Meetings
7. Reliable transportation to/from designated internship office

At the End of the Program, You Will Receive:

- \$200 Stipend or Community Service Hours
- 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 Anna T. Muh, CBC Internship Committee Chair at (510) 468-6666 or via e-mail at

annatmuh@yahoo.com. Or complete the application form (available at the CBC website: www.cbcsfbay.org) and mail to:

CBC Summer Internship Program
44927 Parkmeadow Drive
Fremont, CA 94539

Application deadline: Saturday, March 20, 2010

**It's In Our Hands...
This March, Please
Participate in 2010
Census**



*By Monica Xu
US Census Bureau Partnership Specialist*

The once every 10 years Census is approaching. You will receive a questionnaire during March 15-17, 2010 in your mail box (you may receive an advanced letter by March 8-10, 2010 in the mail). As most of you already know, a Census is a count of everyone residing in the United States. All U.S. residents must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

It's Important:

The first census took place in 1790 to determine the number of seats each state would have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The upcoming Census is the 23rd Census in the US history. State and local legislative and congressional districts boundaries are also determined by Census data.

Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and local communities based, in part, on Census data. The data is also used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.

According to Brookings research, in 2008, every Californian got \$1,700 from Federal government; that means \$17,000 for 10 years per person. You may understand better now how important it is for everyone to participate in the Census and why we emphasize that "everyone be counted."

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CBC – SBCC Christmas Party was held on December 12, 2009

By Amy Cho



It has become a little tradition for Citizens for Better Community and sister organization South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC) to hold our Christmas party together at Aegis Gardens Retirement Center. The seniors at Aegis Gardens look forward to our coming over to share our party and fun with them.

We were all treated to a performance by Sally Huang, Lyric Coloratura Soprano. Though Sally is a software engineer, her passion lies in singing. Sally studied voice at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Since her arrival in the United States, she has been very active in several choral groups. We were very fortunate to have someone like Sally perform. Additionally, the TECK Quartet performed for the Aegis Gardens Seniors and our members. The high school members of the quartet include Theodore Ma, Eric Lai, Catherine Shir and Karen Hsu. The young performers are to be commended, as this was a very busy time for them as well. Finally, Justin Jiang performed using the Chinese instrument Sheng. The sheng is a mouth-blown free reed instrument consisting essentially of vertical pipes. The audience was spellbound for every one of the performances.



CBC President Tim Tran and SBCC President Amy Cho were present to welcome all of us. Our favorite Santa (Steve Cho, CBC and SBCC member) delivered small presents to each senior at Aegis Gardens and seniors from CBC and SBCC. To top it off, our members stayed to have dinner with the residents. It



was a sumptuous dinner, a combination of food that CBC/SBCC provided along with cooking by Aegis Gardens' staff! On an added note, CBC Past President Lisa Quan and student volunteers manned a Census table and passed out U.S. Census literature and census T-Shirts. Year 2010 is a census year and it's important for all to be counted (see article on page 3).

Thank you very much for the food and toys that were brought to the party. These were all delivered the very next day to the League of Volunteers, in time for the Christmas holidays! It was nice to see the generosity of our club members. Finally, we would like to thank the other committee members from CBC/SBCC for the program preparation and arrangements, wrapping of gifts, and decorations. Bernadette Chinn and Aliene Yee were especially instrumental. We appreciate Aegis Gardens for setting up such a nice atmosphere for our party and for the efforts of Amy Yang and the entire Aegis Gardens staff. They are such a warm and caring bunch!

Happy
New
Year!



Free Income Tax Preparation by Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program



Submitted by Johnny Yee, VITA Volunteer

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), is available for qualifying families and individuals at the Fremont Family Resource Center. (510) 574-2020

If your family income is less than \$52,000 annually, VITA volunteers can help you file your tax returns for free!!! You may also be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and/or other credits you did not know about, which can result in MORE MONEY in your pocket!!! For example, a married couple filing jointly with 3 qualifying children, who have social security numbers, may qualify up to \$5,657 of MORE Federal Income Tax Refunds \$\$\$

When: January 25 – April 14, 2010

Mondays & Wednesdays – 4 to 8 p.m.

Fridays – 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Walk-in only - **No appointment needed**

**** Closed Monday, February 15th for President's Day****

Where: Fremont Family Resource Center (FRC)
39155 Liberty Street, Fremont, CA 94538

Cost: FREE plus: free onsite child care provided (first come basis, space is limited)

What to Bring:

- Picture ID and original Social Security Cards for all family members (Sorry, no exceptions)
- All forms, W-2 AND 1099'S for all 2009 jobs & income
- Information for all other income (interest, savings, IRA's, etc)
- Information for all deductions and credits
 - Childcare provider information (SSN or EIN & address)
 - Name address & phone number of landlord, if applicable
- A copy of last year's tax return is helpful
- Married couples filing jointly must come together
- For Direct Deposit of tax refund, please bring routing & account numbers for savings and/or checking accounts for split refund service (and a faster refund!)

2010 Census....con't

It's Easy:

The 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history. There are only 10 questions on the form and it takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.

Participating in the Census is required by law. Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

It's Safe:

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

CBC is one of the Census partners that committed to help promoting the Census. The very first Census 101 flyer distributed in Northern California in Chinese was (part) translated by CBC; CBC's internship program supported the Census Young Ambassador project; CBC provided speaking opportunities to Census staff in promoting Census, distributing Census literature, etc., and giving me space to spread the Census message via this newsletter.

Please accept my sincere appreciation to the CBC Board and leaders for their commitments and contributions. Let's work together, making sure all members of CBC, your relatives, friends and co-workers are all counted by Census Day: April 1, 2010. Remember, an accurate and complete census 2010 is in our hands!

Homeless Shelter Meal Service

The CBC Youth Group serves meals at the Tri-City Homeless Coalition. The Homeless Shelter Meal Service allows high school students to participate in preparing and serving food to the homeless people. This is a good learning experience for the students and they will receive four community service hours upon completion.

The Youth Group will serve meals (dinner) on the following Sundays: April 11, July 11, August 29, November 14 and December 12.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Irene Yung at IreneYung23@hotmail.com.

A Contemplation of Clouds

By ChenChen Fan
Member, CBC Toastmasters



*"I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;"*

~ William Wordsworth, Romantic Poet

Mr. Toastmaster, fellow Toastmasters and honored guests... One of my favorite things to do is watch the clouds in the sky. Now, I'm not talking about when you were a kid and imagined those clouds to be shapes of other things. My hobby is more like sleeping. Some people enjoy sleeping and napping. To others, it's just something to do to stay alive and sane. I love clouds because they play a vital role in sustaining life on our planet, because of their ever changing beauty, and because they stir our inner passions and spirituality.

What are clouds but frozen droplets of water in the atmosphere? When they are closer to the ground or near a body of water, they are fog and mist. Yet they protect the earth's surface from the harsh solar rays. You all know that dark surfaces absorb more light. Without white clouds to reflect the sunlight, the ground and bodies of water would absorb all the light and our planet would fry to death. In addition, clouds are responsible for carrying water vapor from one place to another. The tropical rain forests near the equator are some of the wettest places on earth. The evaporated water from those forests is carried into the atmosphere and form clouds when it becomes cold. Finally, when the clouds become too heavy, they dump all the collected water in the form of precipitation, such as rain and snow. It's a glorious process. On some days, when I'm watching the winds blow patches of clouds across the sky, I imagine the clouds' journey. Where did they form, and what foreign, exotic lands have they passed over? I watch their massive shadows pass over me, as if they were gigantic airborne whales. If they had eyes, what did they see, so high up? Where will they meet their end, when they finally disperse? It's an intriguing mystery.

Like a shifting watercolor painting, clouds constantly change shape and color. No two clouds are ever the same. There are many kinds of clouds – gray and dark clouds on an overcast day, white and puffy clouds during the summertime, or blazing clouds exploding with pink and purple hues during sunset. The beauty of clouds is indescribable and breath taking, but I will make an attempt to describe some of my favorite scenery. ----- Winter has passed, and I look back with nostalgia at the memory of the emerald Mission hills on a rainy day. The somber sky, dark and gray, brings out the crisp and fresh green color. When the streaks of mist sweep over the rolling hills, they seem like gentle fingers slowly caressing the lovely slopes. On summer days like now, puffy soft clouds resembling cotton balls are common. I love to sit

by my window and gaze at the endless parade of white fluffs flowing across my field of vision and then fall to pieces. However, my ultimate favorite sights are sunsets. It is simply unforgettable to watch the sun as it sinks to the horizon, at which point the clouds in the sky catch fire and burn with crimson and scarlet plumes that tower over the landscape. Within several short minutes, as the dusk and twilight approach, the fiery sky fades to violet and periwinkle, and leaves a soft rosy blue overhead, glistening with the last light of the day.

The beauty of clouds is a feast for the eyes, but it also feeds the soul. Views of the world's natural splendor are a gateway to inner happiness. To look upon nature as it is meant to be is to catch a glimpse into your own being. Sometimes at night, I stand in my yard and raise my eyes to the heavens to glance at the bright moonlight piercing through the cloud cover. Occasionally there is a ring around the full moon, with subtle nuances of rainbow colors. Science explains that this is an atmospheric phenomenon, but I only see a divine marvel. Gazing at the ethereal spectacle, all small vexations vanish and the beauty of things stands out, the shadowy silhouette of the still palm trees, the playful twinkle of the distant stars, the smell of the calm air. For a moment, my heart beats in sync with the cosmic pulse. In that instant, I don't exist; my essence is mixed with the elements. Then I become aware of myself again, and go back to my daily routine, but knowing that at any minute, all I have to do is look to the sky to recapture that magical moment.

And there you have it; three marvelous things about clouds. I live near Ohlone College. There is a small wooded area near the slopes, where clumps of golden daffodils line the path. As I walk and watch the clouds overhead, I feel the spirit of Mr. William Wordsworth standing next to me. Whether you're a self-labeled Romantic or not, sometimes, just drop what you're doing and look up at the amazing splendor above you. You will feel comforted, you will feel closer to Nature, you will feel your vexations melt away, even for a brief moment, and I hope you feel what I shared with you today.

Come see what it's all about! Visitors are always welcome!

What: Citizens for Better Communicators
Toastmasters

When: Saturdays

Where: Intero Real Estate Services
43225 Mission Boulevard, Lower Level
Fremont, CA 94539

Time: 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

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.

Publisher: Kathy Jang

Committee: Dr. Herbert Chiu, Steve Cho, Dr. Albert Wang

Distribution: Lilly Lee

Contributors: Amy Cho, ChenChen Fan, Anna Muh, Tim Tran, Monica Xu, Johnny Yee, Irene Yung

2009-2010 Directory

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Tim Tran(408) 799-5290

Vice President:

Richard Li.....(510) 683-3228

Secretary:

Xiping Yang..... (510) 364-0159

Treasurer:

Steve Cho..... (510) 797-6426

Past President/Legal Counsel:

Lisa Quan(510) 438-6868

Executive Director

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

Committees

Education:

Lily Mei.....(510) 770-9888

Health:

Herbert Chiu.....(510) 471-3777

Business:

Richard Li.....(510) 683-3228

Community Involvement:

Albert Wang.....(510) 657-6610

Youth Group: Irene Yung.....(510) 659-8618

Senior Liaison: Whisky Ho.....(510) 623-7636

Culture Exchange: Lena Zee(510) 421-6666

Membership: Tim Tran.....(408) 799-5290

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

Voter Registration: Cecilia Chang..... (510) 713-1769

Internship Program: Anna Muh.....(510) 468-6666

Spring Celebration: Richard Li(510) 683-3228

Board of Directors

Suzanne Chan	Stella Chang	John Chen
Herbert Chiu	Amy Cho	Josephine Chou
Gordon Jang	Mike Liu	Lily Mei
Anna Muh	Gerry Low Sabado	David Sheen
Thomas Tang	Albert Wang	April Xie
Angela Yang	Sharon Yap	Henry Yin
Irene Yung	Lena Zee	

CBC Advisory Committee

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL (November 1, 2009 – October 31, 2010)

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 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Corporate/Organization: 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
-----------	------------	--------------

Address: _____

Street	City	State	Zip
--------	------	-------	-----

Home Phone #	Office Phone #	e-mail
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Citizens for Better Community

P.O. Box 1

Fremont, CA 94537-0001

Web site: <http://www.cbcsfbay.org>

Save the Date

CBC's 18th Annual Spring Celebration

Saturday, April 24, 2010

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/SBCC Chinese New Year Celebration

When: Saturday, February 20, 2010 (1:00 pm)

Where: Fremont Main Library

Contact: Gerry Low-Sabado (510) 792-3163

Fremont Education Foundation Gala

When: Friday, February 26, 2010 (5:30 pm)

Where: Fremont Marriott

Contact: Nina Moore (510) 409-9940 or

www.fremont-education.org

SBCC Scholarship Luncheon

When: Saturday, April 17, 2010

Where: Courtyard by Marriott, Newark-Silicon Valley

CBC Annual Spring Celebration

When: Saturday, April 24, 2010 (5:30 pm)

Where: Fremont Marriott

Contact: kjang25@yahoo.com or (510) 790-0740

Toastmasters (Citizens for Better Communicators)

When: Saturdays (10:15 am – 11:45 am)

Where: Intero Real Estate Services (see page 6)

Contact: Justin.Paras@gmail.com

Upcoming CBC Meetings

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

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

CBC Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm