



# 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 8, Issue 2**

**March/ April/May 2008**



Congratulations to the performers who were all winners at the Spring Celebration Got Talent Competition. *Pictured:* Andy Chen, Lilian Huang & Judy Chen with the Silver for their rendition of "Horseshoe" played on traditional Chinese instruments. See page 3 and 4 for more details on the wonderful evening.

## President's Message

*By David Sheen*



Dear CBC members and friends,

What can I say... Our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Celebration was another smashing hit! Certainly this could not happen without the hard work by our Spring Celebration Planning Committee and volunteers.

On behalf of CBC, I would like to extend my greatest gratitude and appreciation to everyone who participated in this event to ensure this big success. I would especially like to thank my co-Chair Lisa Quan who patiently stood by my side to plan out this event for months. I would also like to thank all of our key planning committee members: Sue Chan, Sharon Yap, Susanna Wong, Irene Yung, Tim Tran, Richard Li, Chi Choy, GarrettYee, Lena Zee, Steve Cho, Henry Yin and many others. And of course, our entertainment co-chairs, Steve Chan and Ray Tong for putting together such a wonderful talent show this year. I would also like to thank our very experienced stage manager Herbert Chiu and the participation of his band "IDEA." I am sure there are many others I have not mentioned in this short list. But, I want to thank you all for your hard work and unconditional support this year.

Now that our annual fundraiser is done and we have raised sufficient funds for the year, we certainly must turn our attention to put this fund into good use.

Many of our Board Members including myself have recently attended SBCC's scholarship luncheon at the Marriott Courtyard. As many of you already know, Citizens for Better Community is a major annual sponsor of this scholarship program. The primary purpose of this program is to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors of Chinese descent. Only children of club members in good standing and students residing in

*President's Message continued on Page 2*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 President's Message (con't) / Spring Celebration 2008 Sponsors
- 3 Spring Celebration 2008 / Got Talent Competition
- 4 Got Talent (con't) / Commendations for Lena Zee
- 5 Toastmasters Speech / Health Evaluation
- 6 Manager of Fremont Libraries Retires
- 7 Directory / Membership Application

Fremont, Newark and Union City are eligible to apply. This year was no different, thousands of dollars worth of scholarships were awarded to many outstanding students. I was quite impressed by these scholarship recipients this year.

Some of the other recent events and programs that were sponsored and participated by CBC over last few months includes: Ohlone College Green Tie Gala, Chinese New Year Celebration at Fremont Main Library, Chinese New Year Dinner Event—Fremont Rotary Club and F.U.N. Rotary Club, Fremont Education Foundation's Annual "Excellence in Education" Gala, and Third Annual "Black Tie and Tennis Shoe" Gala presented by The Exchange Club of Fremont.

In the coming months, there are many more programs and projects CBC will be supporting. One in particular I would like to mention is the Bay Area Voter Registration/ Education and Candidacy Forum on May 10, 2008. This is a joint project by APAPA, CBC, CAPA and several other non-partisan and community based organizations in the Bay Area. Our board members Henry Yin and Dr. Albert Wang will facilitate this forum. The purpose of this forum is to educate the public about the voting and registration process and to encourage interaction between the voters and the local candidates who are running this year. Some of the local candidates who will be attending this event include: Fiona Ma (State Assemblywoman), Otto Lee (Councilmember of Sunnyvale), Jose Esteves (Mayor of Milpitas), Ailene Kao (Councilmember of Saratoga), Ellen Corbett (State Senator), Steve Cho (Councilmember of Fremont), David Cortese (Vice Mayor of San Jose), Kansan Chu (Councilmember of San Jose) and Ira Ruskin (State Assemblywoman). The event will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center on Saturday May 10, 2008 (from 1 pm to 5 pm). I strongly encourage everyone to attend.

Some of the other programs CBC will also sponsor in the next few months include: Relay for Life, Dragon Boat Race, CBC Youth Toastmasters Summer Leadership Program, CBC Summer Internship Program, Fourth of July Parade and CBC/SBCC Annual BBQ.

Hope to see you all at these events!

Warmest Regards,

沈建飛  
David Sheen  
President of CBC

## Spring Celebration 2008 Sponsors

CBC would like to extend their sincerest appreciation to the sponsors for their generous support and contributions to the Spring Celebration.

### Olympic Torch Sponsor

Fremont Bank

### Gold Medal Sponsor

Robson Homes

### Silver Medal Sponsor

Washington Hospital

### Bronze Medal Sponsor

Fremont Firefighters Local 1689

Kaiser Permanente

The Globe

Topline Properties/Milpitas Square

### Olympic Circle Sponsor

East West Bank

### Appetizer Sponsor

Asian Pearl Seafood Restaurant (Fremont)

### Favor Sponsor

Fremont Flowers

### Photo Booth Sponsor

East West Bank

### Wine Sponsor

White Crane Winery

***CBC also thanks  
everyone else who made it a  
successful event!***



## CBC's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Celebration

By Amy Cho



It's hard to believe. Citizens for Better Community held the SIXTEENTH Spring Celebration this past March 29. While the Spring Celebration is the main fundraising gala for the year, it is also always a most entertaining event for all.

Each year, we try to improve the program and make it fun for the community. After last year with Martin Yan, we were wondering what would beat that. Sure enough, after many heads bounced ideas around, "One Community One Dream" became the main theme. This program theme emphasized CBC's hope for harmony and a united community. At the same time, this would also be the year when the Olympics would be held in Beijing. Accordingly, CBC would have its very own competition called "CBC's Got Talent". Interestingly, the sponsors for the Spring Celebration were designated: Olympic Torch Sponsor (Fremont Bank), Gold Medal Sponsor (Robson Homes), Silver Medal Sponsor (Washington Hospital Healthcare System), Bronze Medal Sponsors (Fremont Firefighters Local 1689, Kaiser Permanente, The Globe, Topline Properties/Milpitas Square) and Olympic Circle Sponsor (East West Bank).

The Fremont Marriott Hotel was this year's venue. With a Spring Celebration Committee of at least 25 people, led by Co-Chairs David Sheen (CBC President) and Lisa Quan (CBC Vice – President), the evening went smoothly, on schedule and almost flawlessly. Hours of planning had been spent. Emcee Garrett Yee also knew the ropes. Special Guest Will Tran, a news reporter with KRON4, and Celebrity Judges David Sloss (Conductor of the Fremont Symphony), Louise Wu (Ms. Asian America 2007-2008) and Gloria Fuerniss (Fremont Bank) joined Garrett. Xiao Hong Wang, former Olympian swimmer, was also welcomed. She is a Fremont resident. (See Ray Tong's article, in the next column, regarding the details about the Got Talent Competition.)

Last but not least, CBC honored the 2007 Citizen of the Year Suzanne Chan and 2007 Volunteers of the Year, Nancy Lee and Peggy Chiou. Congratulations for your unending service to CBC and our community.

CBC thanks all the sponsors, Spring Celebration Committee members, CBC Board of Directors, talent show participants and judges once more. CBC greatly appreciates the community at large for its continuous support in participating and attending the Spring Celebration!

## CBC's Got Talent Competition at Spring Celebration

By Ray Tong

To say that the entertainment portion of the evening was a resounding success would be an understatement. CBC's Got Talent, a combination of "America's Dance Crew", "America's Got Talent" and "American Idol", proved to be everything that the pre-festivity hype suggested. The competition between seven contestants left everyone wondering how the judges would determine the Gold, Silver and Bronze winners.

With the Olympic competition this year in Beijing providing the theme, MC Will Tran of KRON4 News brought each performer or group on one at a time to perform their act.

Things got off with a blast right from the start. Four teenage girls forming the Melody Strings Quartet came on stage and gave a wonderful performance on their gu zhengs, a traditional Chinese string instrument. If the show had ended there, no one in the audience would have felt cheated but there was a lot more to come. Next up was James Jones, a sixteen year old from the Star Struck Theater in Fremont. His rendition of the song, "Corner of the Sky" from the Broadway show, "Pippen" only served to grab the audience's attention even more. Following James was a trio of young musicians playing again some traditional Chinese instruments. Andy Chen played the er hu, and Lilian Huang played the yang ching while being accompanied by Andy's sister, Judy, on the wooden blocks. This third act made it very clear to everybody including the judges that this was a very serious competition with very serious talent.

Another young singer, Karina Simpson, also from Star Struck Theater followed with "Broadway Baby". Will Tran couldn't resist teasing her a little about how old she was at age 10. Then, the first dance act of the evening followed with Jessica Lee and Caroline Lai performing a jazz dance. Both students of Yoko's Dance Studio, they not only won several dance competitions recently throughout the Bay Area and

*Con't on page 4*

*Got Talent...con't from page 3*

and California, but also the hearts of the CBC audience with their incredible athleticism and precision. Energetic and graceful, they looked to be a very hard act to follow. Then, Judy Lam brought twenty of her students up to the stage to play two magnificent instrumentals on their flutes.

The last act was a very emotionally alluring one. Monica Chen and Zenon Anderson performed a wonderful traditional Chinese dance about love and how the good in it overcame evil. The artistry and romantic grace presented by the two dancers won over the crowd, which gave a rousing ovation after the dance ended on a quiet and touching note. Will Tran summed up the acts by saying that he did not envy the judges and was explaining the scoring when he was interrupted by one of the Gong Team members. It turned out that there was one last act that had been overlooked. The act being several CBC Directors and members dressed as The Village People performing "YMCA." It was then that the judges knew it was a joke and the judges walked off to tally their scores.

After the judges had come up with the three finalists, one last surprise was launched. Special presenter, Xiaohong Wang, who was an Olympic silver medalist in 1992, came up to the stage. A video showing her race was shown on the two large screens and Will Tran interviewed her about both her past Olympic exploits as well as her new endeavor in Fremont, a new swimming school. She proved to be a delightful presenter always encouraging the young people to never give up.

In the end, it was Monica & Zenon that walked away with the Gold prize for their artistic dance, Andy, Lillian & Judy with the Silver for their rendition of "Horserace," and the Melody Strings Quartet with the Bronze. CBC President David Sheen also came on stage with a giant check for the \$500 first place prize. The second and third place winners were awarded \$250 and \$150, respectively. Lastly, all the performers were given parting gifts donated by East West Bank, but it has to be said that all of them were indeed winners that evening.

#### **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).

Editor: Kathy Jang  
Distribution: Lilly Lee  
Contributors: Herbert Chiu, Amy Cho, Steve Cho, Aaron Lim, Ray Tong, Angela Yang

## **CBC Board Member, Lena Zee, receives Official Commendations from Santa Clara and Alameda Counties**

*By Amy Cho*

In April 2007, the Rotary International Foundation officially approved Project SPAN (Stop Pediatric AIDS Now) as a project for matching funds. Project SPAN is a 3-year project, which provides over \$100,000 to battle the killer, AIDS, in China. CBC board members and Rotarians Henry Yin and Lena Zee spearheaded this international Rotary project.

Now, on February 27, 2008 there was a presentation of Project SPAN at the Santa Clara County City Hall Auditorium attended by city officials and other VIPs. Richard King, Esquire, was the featured speaker. The event was held in recognition of World Understanding & Peace Month. Lena Zee received an official Commendation from Santa Clara County Supervisor Pete McHugh. Henry Yin was also there to support Lena. Lena said that she greatly appreciated and acknowledged publicly the important role that Henry played in launching this worthy international project. Lena also emphasized the fact that it was a team effort of all Area 3 Rotary Clubs, plus the Los Altos Club and even as far away as the Northbrook Rotary in Illinois.

Not long after, on March 11, 2008, Lena was honored with another proclamation from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors at the Alameda County Offices in Oakland. The Supervisors were very excited to hear about the work that Rotary is doing in addressing pediatric HIV in China. This project is an example of Rotary good will service.

These proclamations are also significant because few honorees are of Chinese ethnicity in the areas of promoting World Understanding and Peace via Rotary International service projects. The Rotary clubs had the cooperation of Dr. David Ho of Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York, the Rotary Club of Shanghai, and Yunnan AIDS Care Center.

Lena Zee points out that CBC had also been very instrumental in supporting this effort. Without CBC's contributions as well as the others, this project could not have taken off successfully.

***Congratulations, Lena!***



## Money = Happiness

By Aaron Lim  
Member, CBC Toastmasters



Does money really equal happiness? My personal opinion about this is that money does not equal happiness.

Let me start by defining the different terminologies here.

By definition, money is a commodity that everyone will accept in exchange for things they want to sell. By having enough money, you do not have to work and therefore will not give you any work-related stress. Money can buy you a lot of things in life, like a beautiful house and fine furniture. In other words, if you know how to manage your money wisely it can really make your life comfortable. I agree with that.

Happiness is an emotional or affective state that is characterized by feelings of enjoyment, pleasure, and satisfaction. States associated with happiness include well-being, delight, inner peace, health, safety, contentment, and love. Contrasting states include suffering, depression, grief, anxiety, and pain.

Let me tell you how other people define happiness:

- There is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved. (George Sand).
- It is only possible to live happily ever after on a day-to-day basis. (Margaret Bonnano)
- Action may not always bring you happiness, but there is no happiness without action. (Benjamin Disraeli)

The word 'equal' means of the same measure, quantity, amount, or number as another.

Now let us see if money really equals happiness. Happiness is defined as a state of being and thus intangible, while money, being a commodity which is measurable, is very tangible. We are therefore trying to compare apples and oranges here.

The opposite of happiness is sadness, and we know that sometimes money can bring us sadness. Money can be the cause of disagreements between business partners, quarrels within families, and envy among friends. These all lead to suffering, depression, alienation, anxiety, and pain, and this same suffering, depression, alienation, anxiety, and pain are the contrasting states of happiness. Thus, money alone

cannot make us happy. It takes more than money to make us happy.

As what Hobart Brown wrote "Money doesn't always bring happiness. People with ten million dollars are no happier than people with nine million dollars.

In conclusion, money can make us happy and can bring us happiness but is not equal to happiness.

## Chinese Medicine Health Evaluation

By Herbert Chiu, DDS  
Chair, CBC Health Committee

Chinese Medicine Day was first celebrated in 1929 in mainland China in the month of March, and has since become a yearly tradition. The Chinese medical community of Northern California has been celebrating this important day annually for the past thirty-two years in the San Francisco Bay Area.

On March 29, the same day as CBC's Spring Celebration, CBC along with the Fremont Main Library co-sponsored a free health evaluation event hosted by United California Practitioners of Chinese Medicine (UCPCM) and California Certified Acupuncturists Association (CCAA).

In addition to the consultation, two health seminars were also offered with topics on obesity and osteoporosis and their possible treatment utilizing Chinese herb medicine, acupuncture and other holistic approaches.

The event was very well attended and many participants left with very positive feedback and suggestions. Stay tuned for next year's event in March, hopefully not on the same date as the Spring Celebration!



## Farewell to Fremont

By Angela Yang

I wanted to bid you a fond farewell. You may have heard that I decided to leave Alameda County Library to have time to read, travel, take classes in history and art, volunteer in causes I love, and to enjoy life as a retired person.



CBC has been very special to me during my tenure in Fremont. The first CBC member I met was the gorgeous Garrett Yee. He was on one of the panels to interview all candidates for the position of Manager of Fremont Libraries. Garrett was the chair of Fremont Library Advisory Commission while the nation wide search was going on. During the interview, I was very impressed by his level of interest and his knowledge of libraries.

I was supposed to be a librarian, because librarianship is in my name. My Chinese name is Men-Ling Song, in the traditional western naming order, my initial becomes MLS. Master of Library Science is the basic requirement for a professional librarian.

Before I arrived in Fremont, I read as much as I could find about Fremont. I learned the history, political system, demographics, trends, housing and traffic patterns, schools etc. of the city and its surrounding area. I was fascinated by what I learned. I thought my experience in working with many diverse communities from both a major research university library at UC Irvine, and a large public library in the City of San Diego, could be a good match for the job.

When I arrived here six years ago, I didn't know anyone in the city. Amy and Steve Cho gave me a reception at their lovely home. It was so kind and generous of them. I met many CBC members there for the first time. I didn't realize how special and important that reception was until I got my feet solidly on the ground. I found out almost immediately that Steve, as reported in *The Argus*, could be counted on to show up in *all* major city functions due to his dedication to this city. He and Amy quietly and kindly extended their helping hands to many people that included me, and opened doors to opportunities for us.

As I started attending community functions, meeting people of all stripes and interests to introduce the library resources and services, I always ran into CBC board members. I learned very quickly that CBC and its members are held at the highest esteem whenever

help or action is needed in the community. CBC members are elected officials in City Council, School Board and Community College Board. CBC members are presidents and key members of Chamber of Commerce, city and county commissions and boards, and civic groups. It is a common sight in the Tri-City area to find CBC members actively engaged in civic activities, parades, voter registration drives and fund raising events.

CBC members also know how to have fun, and stage events with flare and style. I will take with me the fond memories of those delicious barbecues cooked to perfection by Chef Cho and other chefs; the colorful parades where we sit on the flatbed of a horse trailer waving to spectators and having a great time; those fund raising walks where we laughed and talked up a storm. And every Spring Celebration sets a new standard of excellence for the community. What a beautiful group of hard working people!

One comment I heard a great deal about CBC is how united this group is. CBC members are perceived as a group people who share common goals for building harmony and a united community. I have to tip my hat to the founding members for coming up with the great name. As I manned the Membership Desk at the recent Spring Celebration, Shirley Sisk was curious about CBC's Chinese name. I explained to her because the name was displayed horizontally, reading from left to right, the name 華益 could convey the meaning that Chinese/Chinese American group promotes the well being of the community; reading from right to left, 益華 could mean CBC activities will bring well being to the Chinese/Chinese American group.

I am grateful to all CBC members who helped my colleagues of Fremont Libraries in planning and implementing great library programs, giving talks and lectures, doing storytimes, recruiting volunteers, leading library tours as docents, and donating books and funding to help make the library the cultural and art center for the whole community. I'm especially appreciative of the large quantity of donated Chinese books to the library through CBC's effort. These books have brought information, knowledge and wisdom to the life long learners in the Chinese community.

I am fortunate to have come to Fremont, and I have enjoyed my tenure because of your support. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and expertise with me, and for extending your friendship. You have enriched my life.



## Citizens for Better Community

P.O. Box 1  
Fremont, CA 94537-0001  
Web site: <http://www.cbcsfbay.org>

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
FREMONT CA  
PERMIT NO. 17



*The CBC Group, aka The Village People*

### **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

### **Homeless Shelter Meal Service**

When: Saturday, May 31, 2008 (4 pm)  
Contact: Irene Yung at [IreneYung23@hotmail.com](mailto:IreneYung23@hotmail.com)

### **"Paddle for Life" Dragon Boat Race**

When: June 7 & 8, 2008  
Where: Jack London Square, Oakland  
Contact: Steve Cho at [ascinc@mindspring.com](mailto:ascinc@mindspring.com)

### **Fourth of July Parade**

When: Friday, July 4, 2008 (10 am)  
Where: Centerville District  
Contact: Amy Cho at [ascho@aol.com](mailto:ascho@aol.com)

### **Relay for Life**

When: Saturday, July 12, 2008  
Where: Logan High School, Union City  
Contact: Anna Muh at [annamuh@gmail.com](mailto:annamuh@gmail.com)

### **CBC/SBCC Annual Summer BBQ**

When: Sunday, July 20, 2008 (12 noon)  
Where: Quail Run Clubhouse (corner of Quail Run & Whimbrel, Fremont)  
Contact: Amy Cho at (510) 797-6426 or Bernadette Chinn (510) 790-3944

## Upcoming CBC Meetings

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

### **CBC Board Meeting**

Wednesday, May 7, 2008  
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

### **CBC Board Meeting**

Wednesday, June 4, 2008  
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

### **CBC Board Meeting**

Wednesday, July 2, 2008  
Place: Carlton Plaza – 7:30 pm

\* \* \* \* \*



**2008 Spring Celebration**  
**~ Olympic Torch Sponsor ~**