



# 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 19, Issue 3

July – September 2019

### History in the Park



(R-L) Janet Barton, Gerry Low Sabado, Cyndy Mozzetti, Mayor Lily Mei, Jill Fong Au, Megan Au, Polly Fong, Alyson Au, Eri Tamada - Photo Courtesy of Gerry Low Sabado

Members of the Chinese Bunkhouse Preservation Group, with the Washington Township Museum of Local History, presented part of their Chinese History Project to the community at the annual Shinn Park and Arboretum Ice Cream Social. The exhibit highlighted the early Chinese presence in Fremont, the Chinese Bunkhouse at Shinn Park, the history of the Fong Family, and the stories of others who helped lay the foundation for our City of Fremont. Thanks to CBC for their sponsorship, helping to bring the past to the present.

### President's Message

By Charles Liu



Dear CBC Members and Friends,

It is really a high honor and privilege to serve as CBC president for the last two years! I must say working with dedicated and altruistic CBC board members and volunteers has been the most life affirming and positive experience I have ever had in all of the non-profit organizations I have been involved with. CBC, after 27 years of serving the Fremont community, continues to be the magnet that attracts the most service-minded volunteers dedicated to promoting the well-being of the Chinese American community and larger in the areas of health, education, business, and community involvement.

In the past two years, our key programs, the summer Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program (TYLP) saw record enrollment and for the first time in CBC history, we expanded the public speaking program into a year-long student run Gavel Club. Our other marquee program, summer internship program, also had record applicants and the elected offices were impressed with the quality of the students that we sent to those offices. We also expanded the internship program into a year-long student run CBC Internship Club that has its own officers who work with CBC board members much more closely than before.

We built a new relationship with Bay Area's One Myanmar Community organization and supported each other's events. Our other traditional events such as our Chinese New Year celebration at Fremont Main Library, annual CBC gala, Fourth of July parade,

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Cont'd from page 1...President's Message

annual summer BBQ and Christmas party for the seniors at Aegis Garden, continue to run like a well-oiled machine in conjunction with our sister organization South Bay Chinese Club.

As my two-year presidency ends next quarter, I want to congratulate and welcome CBC's next president David Lam! At the last Board meeting, David was elected by our Board members to be the next president and will select a VP to work with him for the term. David has been a long-time CBC board member and a hard-working volunteer who can be seen at almost all CBC events! He is thoughtful, level headed, a great communicator, and always has the best interest of CBC and community in mind.

Our Fremont community is currently facing new challenges and controversies in housing, traffic, homelessness, equity, etc. All of these are very difficult and complex issues that require comprehensive solutions for the city government and citizens to deal with, and we need bold leadership, wisdom, and a lot of compassion to make Fremont truly the happiest city in America, not just for some, but for all residents in Fremont. I look forward to the leadership from David and I know he will be a great president for CBC!

Once again, congratulations David and you have my best wishes!

Charles Liu  
CBC President 2018-2019

## Fremont's July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade

By Charles Liu, CBC President

CBC began its 3rd quarter of 2019 by participating in the Fourth of July parade in Fremont, a long running tradition of CBC. As in the past, CBC's parade entry formation was joined by our long-time friendly organizations: South Bay Chinese Club, Citizens



for Better Communicators, Friends of Children with Special Needs, Virtuoso International Flute Ensemble, Fremont Youth Symphony Orchestra and Legend Kung Fu Academy. Also, CBC's newly formed Internship Club proudly joined our entry.



This year's CBC Fourth of July parade stood out because of perhaps the largest American flag in the whole event. The 12 x 18-foot American flag was carried by 6 scouts from Troops 468 and 2468; claps and cheers erupted from both sides of the streets wherever the outsize American flag reached. That was the highlight of the CBC's parade this year.



Charles Liu, Midji Rovetta, Anna Muh, Henry Liang, Lena Zee, David Lam, Judy Lam, Robert Kaiser, Gerry Low Sabado, Wing Ng, Kathy Jang and Kathy Kimberlin from the CBC board participated in the parade. We hope to add more sound and voice to our entry next year. CBC members are encouraged to participate in this most American event in this country!  
- Photos courtesy of Charles Liu, Gerry Low Sabado and Kathy Jang



## Summer Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program a Great Success!

By Robert Kaiser, TYLP Head Coach and  
Midji Rovetta, TYLP Coordinator

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, CBC held our showcase which culminated our 22<sup>nd</sup> Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program (TYLP). TYLP has been an incredibly popular program for CBC and has had a waiting list for many years. The feedback from the parents has been very positive. The purpose of TYLP is to help our youths become leaders in our community through the ability to speak in a public forum and lead with confidence. After all, the youths are our future.

We have personally been impressed by seeing the improvement from our first week where students are shy/inhibited to speak and the result on our final week where the students seem like professionals...those who attended our showcase would, I'm sure, attest this is the case.

The TYLP program has been so successful we have started a Gavel Club (see details on page 4) which is completely student run and available to those who have completed TYLP. Leadership and public speaking are of course much sought after in college applications as well as job applications. I am very proud CBC provides this service to our youths!

Our program is completely run by volunteers. Midji Rovetta runs the program but our coaches, assistant coaches and logistics volunteers assure the continued success of one of our premier CBC programs and we should be appreciative of their contributions.

Lastly, we are grateful to Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN) for providing the use of their facility and appreciate their continuous support especially for this summer program. - Photos by Charles Liu, Catherin Ma and Whay S. Lee



# 2019-2020 CBC GAVEL CLUB PROGRAM

## WHEN

**Every other Saturday**

**1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Sept 14 & 28, 2019**

**October 12 & 26, 2019**

**November 9 & 23, 2019**

**Additional dates TBA**

**(no classes in December & summer)**

## THE TOASTMASTERS EXPERIENCE

Gavel clubs are a way of providing the full Toastmasters experience to students under 18 years of age, with an excellent opportunity for community service.

## WHO CAN REGISTER

- **Must be CBC Members**
- **Must have completed CBC TYLP summer program prior to participating in Gavel Club**

**9<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup>  
GRADERS  
OR  
COMPLETED  
TYLP PROGRAM**

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

Learn by doing,  
Impromptu speaking,  
Body language,  
Voice and words,  
Preparing and  
presenting

## LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Learn together,  
Conduct meetings,  
Officer elections,  
Provide feedback,  
Supporting your  
peers,  
Think on your feet

## REGISTRATION

\$195 annual fee.  
This covers  
supplies/materials  
and Toastmasters  
International  
Registration

## LOCATION

Fireside Lounge  
Holy Spirit Church  
37588 Fremont Blvd  
Fremont, CA 94536

## CBC Adult Toastmasters

By Arunavaa Mukherjee  
President, CBC Adult Toastmasters



While the summer sun is shining bright and warm outside, CBC Toastmasters are nurturing their tree of wisdom with their regular meeting, speeches, evaluations and table topics at Unitek college, every Saturday morning at 10:15 a.m.

Our team of new officers started their new term with fresh energies and high spirits. Most of the officers attended the officer's training. Sudha, Gaganbir and Arunavaa are providing the training in different areas in the Bay Area. Our club completed all the points in Distinguished Club Program goals and received the highest award from Toastmasters International. Two of our members Sudha and Marty achieved 'Outstanding Toastmasters Award' in June. Now we have two area directors, Sudha and Hema, division director Abe and district finance manager Gaganbir in our club. One of our members, Justin Paras, was recognized as the 'Toastmaster of the Year' from District 57 of Toastmasters International for his outstanding contribution as the district conference chair.

We successfully completed the summer Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program arranged by CBC. Our members were delighted to spread the goodness of Toastmasters among the youth. The five Saturdays spent with the youths were memorable.

Our new mission is to reach individual goals together. We are a club where members support each other to realize their dreams. Everyone is welcome to visit our club.

**When:** Saturdays

**Where:** Unitek College (Room 119)  
4670 Auto Mall Parkway, Fremont

Visit <http://654714.toastmastersclubs.org/> for more information.

## Welcome...New CBC Members

- Erin Chen
- Whay S. Lee & Diana Lan and Family
- Prahan Reddy Poreddy
- Wei Song Yao and Family
- Sarah Zheng and Shengming Huang
- Man & Hongbin Zhang and Family

Thank you for joining us in helping to make our community a better place to live.

## Summertime BBQ

Contributions to article by Anna Muh

On Saturday, August 3, 2019, CBC and sister organization South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC) held their annual barbecue. Although the venue changed this year, the event was well-coordinated and went smoothly.

As you may know, Steve and Amy Cho had coordinated the BBQ year after year at their Homeowners Association Clubhouse. Since they have relocated, we now realize the amount of effort which goes into planning this event—they made it sound so easy! We really miss having Steve and Amy in Fremont but they took the time to attend and still helped out.



The members and guests enjoyed the camaraderie while eating delicious food: roast pig (a big hit!), chow fun, hot dogs, honey chicken wings, fruit and Haagen-Dazs ice cream bars which made the BBQ complete.



Special thanks to Anna Muh and Cecilia Leon for taking the lead role and coordinating the event...but they could not do it without help. There were so many behind the scene activities that happened before the event and everyone pitched in to make it happen. Thanks to: Richard Muh, Jessica Muh, Joe Zerda, Whisky Ho, Wing Ng, Serena Suranyi, Aliene Yee, Randy Sabado, Steve Cho, Amy Cho, Colleen Woo, Lorrie Wong, Ron Wong, Willy Yichoy, Cindy Yichoy, Alice Cheung, Wendy Lee, Rachael Wong, Anny Kan and Kathy Jang. – Photos by Gerry Low Sabado



## Remembering the Forgotten Chinese Railroad Workers

*Sapiens*, August 22, 2019

Full Article by Veronica Peterson can be found at <https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/chinese-railroad-workers-utah/>

*Veronica Peterson is in the doctoral program in archaeology at Harvard University. Below is an excerpt from her article from the above link. CBC Board member Gerry Low Sabado is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Chinese Fishing Village Descendant and community preservationist. In May, Gerry and her husband, Randy, attended the Golden Spike Conference in Utah to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad.*

Despite the huge presence of these Chinese workers, few Chinese individuals were named in the payroll ledgers and other historical documents of the late 1800s. Racial prejudice by Euro-Americans tended to erase or discount Chinese American contributions. Because of this, the descendant community is bound by a shared yearning to know what it was like back then. What did these workers eat? Where did they live? How did they relax?

Archaeologists have been studying Chinese railroad work camps since the 1960s, but it wasn't until 2012 that a concerted effort began to move the field beyond simple site descriptions to more detailed analyses. Archaeologists have focused their efforts on the few large, long-term camps of major earthworks like tunnels and bridges. Summit Camp at Donner Pass in the Sierra Nevada Mountains—nearly 1,000 kilometers away from where the Utah tour took place—is one such site. Chinese railroad workers lived there from the fall of 1865 to the summer of 1868, carving tunnels through the biggest obstacle to the transcontinental railroad. They worked without stopping, even during some of the worst winters on record.

Stanford's Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project (which supports the archaeology network that I am a part of) collects all such information. Surprisingly, despite a concerted search for letters or other personal, primary accounts of the project, we came up empty-handed. We know through newspaper accounts from the era that many of the workers had basic literacy and did indeed send letters home. But these letters have been lost due to the social upheavals and conflict in home villages in Guangdong in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the attacks, looting, and targeted fires Chinese American communities suffered in the mid- to late 19th century.

For Lea Anne Ng, also from California, listening to the stories the archaeologists wove around us as we stood

in the former town, and seeing the tangible remains of what the Chinese residents ate, the bowls they used, and what they did to pass the time, was fascinating. "I will never forget what I have learned today," Ng told me later.

From her bag, Gerry Low Sabado, also from California, pulled out a small thermos of hot tea. She quietly asked the archaeologists if it would be okay for her to pour some for the ancestors "to show gratitude for their efforts."

Low Sabado's ancestors arrived in Monterey Bay, California, in the early 1850s. Some worked on railroads in California, but most of her people fished, she said. Her family stayed in Pacific Grove, California, even after their fishing village was burned in a suspicious fire in 1906—perhaps a racially driven act of arson. Low Sabado says she often thinks of those who have been forgotten but who should be honored, whether she is leading the Walk of Remembrance (a march of solidarity to the site of the village that was burned down), visiting the Stanford Arboretum (where a team is [excavating a residence](#) of former Chinese employees), or walking along an abandoned stretch of railroad. She honors the Chinese ancestors by pouring tea and offering rice at the places where they lived and worked, in her family's own adaptation of the amalgamated Confucian and Buddhist rites of Qingming, or Tomb Sweeping Day.



Gerry Low Sabado visiting an original wooden trestle.  
- Photo by Rando Sabado

Siu G. Wong, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, overheard Sabado describing the point of the ceremony to the archaeologists. She spread the word, explaining to me later that if there were any "restless spirits who are roaming the area," especially any who had died and were not identified or returned to China for burial, the ceremony "could provide some solace and peace."

*Cont'd on page 7*

Cont'd from page 6...Chinese Railroad Workers

As the group came together, people helped Low Sabado further adapt her ceremony to their needs that day. A young woman came back from the vans with three oranges that she had found in the snack bags packed by volunteers the night before. Participants laid them out.



*Gerry Low Sabado has led tea ceremonies in a variety of venues to honor Chinese ancestors. In this photo, she initiates the start of an archaeological project at the Stanford Arboretum excavating Chinese workers' residences. – Photo by Veronica Peterson*

"If you would like to bow with me, let's bow," Low Sabado said. Bending at the waist, the group bowed three times as tea soaked into dry dirt.

At the end of the tour, before driving back to Salt Lake City, Russell Low (no relation to Gerry Low Sabado) looked around at the dry, barren landscape. At night in early May, the temperature in this part of the country can drop 30 degrees Fahrenheit to just below freezing. As we talked about the connection, we felt to the Chinese railroad workers after walking in their footsteps, he said he couldn't help but picture Hung Lai Wah and his brother Hung Jick Wah walking through that harsh environment. "I thought about how, when these men were done with the transcontinental railroad, they had to walk through this landscape to get home, to get to their next jobs," he told me. The railroad company made no arrangements for helping the workers return home.

Many went on to reside in San Francisco or to live in mining, logging, or agricultural settlements of the new American West. Others went to the South to run grocery stores that served African Americans. Facing violence and racial animosity in the West, others moved to the cities of the East. Along the way, they left archaeological footprints behind.

I had started the tour excited at the prospect of sharing archaeological knowledge with this community. But in joining descendants as they walked in the footsteps of their history, I was reminded that the past is not a static thing. It is remembered, relived, and reincorporated into Modern traditions. – excerpt from Veronica Peterson, *Sapiens*, August 22, 2019

## Upcoming Events...

### Homeless Shelter Meal Service

The CBC Youth Group serves meals at Sunrise Village in Fremont. 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 community service hours upon completion.

The last meal service scheduled for 2019 is:

- **Sunday, September 29, 2019 (dinner)**

Schedule for meal services in 2020 are as follows:

- Sunday, March 29, 2020 (dinner)
- Saturday, June 13, 2020 (lunch)
- Sunday, August 30, 2020 (dinner)
- Saturday, October 31, 2020 (dinner)

For more information or to sign up to help, please contact [sherry.y.chang@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.y.chang@gmail.com).

### FCSN Fundraising Gala

Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN) will be hosting their annual fundraising gala "Fulfill Our Dream" on **Saturday, November 2, 2019**, at the Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley from 5:30 p.m.

FCSN's mission is to help individuals with special needs and their families find love, hope, respect, and support through integrated community involvement.

FCSN believes in the power of families helping families and promotes peer support through the many programs and events. Family involvement is emphasized along with integrating special needs children and adults with their regular peers.

For more information about FCSN, visit [www.fcsn1996.org](http://www.fcsn1996.org).

## Save the Date...

### CBC's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Celebration Gala

Save the date for CBC's annual Spring Celebration planned for **Saturday, April 18, 2020**. Event co-chairs Herbert Chiu and Kathy Kimberlin and the committee members have already started thinking about the gala and will hold planning meetings starting in October. If you would like to be involved and take part in planning the details, please join us on October 2 at 6:30 p.m. prior to the general Board meeting.

**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.”*

**CBC’s Vision Statement:**

*“CBC will be a model of excellence in community service by facilitation and motivating Chinese American involvement in the community.”*

**2018-2019 Board Directory**

- President:**  
Charles Liu .....(510) 938-6668
- Vice President:**  
Herbert Chiu.....(510) 471-3777
- Secretary:**  
Wilson Hu.....(925) 480-7305
- Treasurer:**  
Robert Kaiser .....(510) 386-9967
- Past President:**  
Judy Lam .....(510) 979-9263
- Legal Counsel**  
David Sheen .....(510) 676-2178
- Executive Director**  
Kathy Jang.....(510) 790-0740

**Committees**

- Education:**  
Yang Shao.....(510) 687-9184
- Health:**  
Herbert Chiu.....(510) 471-3777
- Business:**  
Henry Yin.....(510) 676-7139
- Community Involvement:**  
Albert Wang.....(510) 657-6610
- Membership:** Wing Ng.....(510) 326-1133
- Culture Exchange:** Lena Zee .....(510) 421-6666
- Youth Internship:** Charles Liu .....(510) 938-6668
- TYLP/Gavel Club:** Midji Rovetta.....(510) 798-7871
- Social Activities:**  
Amy Cho.....(510) 823-4328  
Cecilia Leon .....(510) 445-1330  
Gerry Low Sabado.....(510) 378-0999
- Spring Celebration:**  
Herbert Chiu .....(510) 471-3777  
Kathy Kimberlin .....(510) 552-0221

**2018-2019 Board of Directors**

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| David Bonaccorsi | Lily Mei      |
| Herbert Chiu     | Anna Muh      |
| Steve Cho        | Richard Muh   |
| Whisky Ho        | Wing Ng       |
| Wilson Hu        | Midji Rovetta |
| Robert Kaiser    | Raj Salwan    |
| Kathy Kimberlin  | Yang Shao     |
| David Lam        | Albert Wang   |
| Judy Lam         | Julie Wang    |
| Cecilia Leon     | Marvin Wong   |
| Henry Liang      | Henry Yin     |
| Charles Liu      | Lena Zee      |
| Gerry Low Sabado |               |

**CBC 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 [kjang@cbsfbay.org](mailto:kjang@cbsfbay.org).

**Publisher:** Kathy Jang

**Committee:** Herbert Chiu, Amy Cho, Steve Cho, Albert Wang

**Contributors/Photos:** Jill Fong Au, Sherry Chang, FCSN, Kathy Jang, Robert Kaiser, Whay S. Lee, Charles Liu, Gerry Low Sabado, Catherine Ma, Anna Muh, Arunavaa Mukherjee, Veronica Peterson (article in Sapiens, August 22, 2019), Midji Rovetta, Randy Sabado





## Calendar of Events

CBC Adult Toastmasters

When: **Saturdays (10:15 am)**

Where: Unitek College (Room 119)

4670 Auto Mall Parkway, Fremont

More info: <http://654714.toastmastersclubs.org/>

CBC Gavel Club

When: every other **Saturday (1:30 pm)**  
**starting September 14, 2019**

Where: Holy Spirit Church (Fireside Lounge)

37588 Fremont Blvd, Fremont

**Homeless Shelter Meal Service**

When: **Sunday, September 29, 2019 (dinner)**

Where: Sunrise Village

Contact: [sherry.y.chang@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.y.chang@gmail.com)

**FCSN Fundraising Gala**

When: **Saturday, November 2, 2019 (5:30 pm)**

Where: Fremont Marriott Silicon Valley

46100 Landing Pkwy, Fremont

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

## Upcoming CBC Meetings

Set-up and a social "hour" from 7:15 p.m.  
Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at **Carlton Plaza,**  
**3800 Walnut Avenue, Fremont.**

~ **Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

~ **Wednesday, November 6, 2019**

~ **Wednesday, December 4, 2019**

General meeting from 7:30 p.m. is open to guests  
and CBC members. To be followed by a meeting  
for Board members.

**Save the Date**

**CBC Annual Spring  
Celebration**

**Saturday, April 18, 2020**

For more info, contact: [kjang@cbcsfbay.org](mailto:kjang@cbcsfbay.org)

## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL (November 1, 2019– October 31, 2020)**

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

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Chinese Name

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone# Office Phone # e-mail