



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 13, Issue 1

January – March 2013

Save the Date!

21st Annual Spring Celebration set for

Saturday, April 27, 2013

Mark your calendars for one of the biggest celebrations yet! CBC will celebrate its 21st Annual Spring Celebration. At this event, CBC will also recognize CBC's Citizen of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. More details coming soon!



Gung Hay Fat Choy!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Con't ... President's Message / "Year of the Snake"
- 3 Christmas Party / International Speech Contest
- 4 Internship Program / Toastmasters Youth Leadership
- 5 "Remembering 1882" / SBCC / SBCC Scholarships
- 6 New Tax Laws / Free Tax Preparation
- 7 CBC Board Directory
- 8 Upcoming Events & Meetings / Membership Application

President's Message



By Ivy Wu

Dear CBC Family and Friends,

I can't believe we are in Year 2013 – Year of the Snake already! Time somehow just goes by faster when we get older!

I don't know how you all feel about growing older? For me, life gets more exciting and fulfilling because it is filled with more opportunities to serve with all the experiences, resources, connections and skills developed over the years.

If one person can do a little bit of good a little at a time, imagine how much more good many can do collectively over time? So, what can we do? We should be consistent and persistent in making the most of every opportunity to collaborate with other individuals and organizations who share similar passion to offer proper assistance, guidance, support, and care to our community.

One of the first things that CBC does is to bring the website up to date so that CBC will be more visible and accessible to everyone. To promote eco-friendly practices, CBC is now sending out newsletters electronically only.

CBC is also in the process of establishing partnership with other local organizations to provide services that benefit not only its members, but also students in the Tri-City area. The brief online research that I did shows that there are about 800 non-profit / charitable

President's Message continued on Page 2

organizations in Fremont. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all work together?

As CBC is working on the two upcoming events (i.e. Chinese New Year Celebration on Saturday, February 9, 2013; and Spring Celebration Gala on Saturday, April 27, 2013), I hope our community will be brought closer together because of our efforts.

Through the celebration of the Year of the Snake at Fremont Main Library, Fukaya Room, let us make a positive impact in our city by demonstrating the spirit of Chinese family tradition, respect of the elderly, and appreciation of cultural arts and festivities.

At our Spring Celebration Gala on April 27, 2013, let us warmly invite friends, old and new, to join us so that we would have a chance to get better acquainted with one another. Again, together, we can do a lot more!

Happy 2013! 祝大家蛇年平安,大順

Ivy Wu
吳葦
CBC President 2012-2013

CBC to Co- Host Annual Chinese New Year Celebration “Year of the Snake”

By Amy Cho

Citizens for Better Community, South Bay Chinese Club, Association of Northern California Chinese Schools (ANCCS), and the Fremont Main Library will again celebrate the Chinese New Year on **Saturday, February 9, 2013**, from 1 - 4 p.m. This year we celebrate the Year of the Snake! The official date for the new lunar year is February 10, 2013.



Above: Children enjoy making crafts to take home with them.

This event is for families, youngsters and anyone interested in Chinese culture. Art and craft booths will fill the library from 1 - 4 p.m. Last year, one hardly had enough time to watch all the demonstrations showing Chinese Knots, Paper Cutting, Dough Figurines, and Dragon Design. There will be more of the same this year. In the Storytime Theater, you will find many children's crafts. The children have tons of fun while they observe the demonstrations. They also get hands-on experience doing the crafts themselves and taking their own work home!

Don't miss the entertainment program, which takes place from 1 - 2 p.m. in the Fukaya Room. The performances include instruments, storytelling, singing, and dance. It is fascinating to see the talents we have right here in our own community.

Volunteers are always appreciated. We are looking for members who can volunteer 2 hours of their time on Friday afternoon, February 8 around 1:00 pm to help decorate and also on Saturday, February 9 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the Chinese New Year event, helping with children's crafts and many other areas. If you know of others who might have crafts to demonstrate, please also let us know. All the supplies will be provided! We only need your time and effort. Please call Amy Cho at (510) 797-6426.



Above: Volunteers assist with making “lanterns” from red envelopes.

CBC Welcomes New Members

Wendy and David Lee & Family
Mia Liang & Family
Wai-Kin Wong

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

Christmas Party 2012 Sharing with Seniors



By Amy Cho

CBC/SBCC recently held the 2012 Christmas party. This joint event is a tradition that members enjoy every year. Our Christmas party took place on December 8, at Aegis Gardens Retirement Home in Fremont.

This year's program featured youth playing piano from the studios of Aida and Aileen Chanco. The Seniors enjoyed the pieces, and most of all, they loved to watch young people play. The Seniors' faces lit up when they heard these young pianists.

The Chanco's also invited members of their chorus to lead caroling. What would a Sing Along be without accompaniment! Aida Chanco played the piano. Members sang Christmas carols and holiday songs with the Seniors.

Santa then distributed a present to every senior. Picture after picture was taken as people wanted to get their own photograph with Santa (CBC and SBCC member Steve Cho). As for the preparations before, it takes a team of people to prepare the hundred-some presents for the seniors. SBCC members Aliene Yee and Lorrie Wong wrapped them each individually! CBC and SBCC leave these little presents as a happy memory for the seniors. The party continued as current CBC President Ivy Wu played piano and others sang.

The dinner was superb. CBC/SBCC brought hot, freshly cooked Chinese food and Aegis Gardens topped that off with even more entrees. Dessert, drink, holiday dinnerware and other materials were all provided by Aegis Gardens. It amounted to having a 9-course Chinese meal served by waiters in the cozy, festive dining room.

Unwrapped toys and food items were collected for the local Tri-City League of Volunteers (LOV) organization. Li Zhou Restaurant delivered the dishes to Aegis Gardens. We greatly appreciate Li Zhou in Fremont for making all these nice dishes and making sure they were warm for us to eat. Committee members included: Lorrie Wong, Aliene Yee, SBCC President Steve Cho and Amy, and CBC President Ivy Wu. Finally, thanks to all of Aegis Gardens' warm and energetic staff! Aegis Gardens' Director is Emilie Poon and the Program Activities Director is Amy Yang.

The Christmas party will be remembered well. It brought seniors together from many places. We also did something for our community with the toy and food donations.



International Speech Contest

By Mary Verghese
President, Citizens for Better Communicators (CBC)
Toastmasters Club, Fremont

Spring is the time for contests and each year thousands of Toastmasters compete to be part of the much acclaimed International Speech Contest. Competition begins in the month of February when each Toastmaster Club organizes their club level contest. Winners of the club contests represent their clubs at their Area Level Contests. The Area level winners continue competing through their respective Division and District level Contests. The District level winners from around the world then compete at the Semi-finals. The winners of each Semi-final contest advance to the **World Championship of Public Speaking**. This year the World Championship will be held in the "The Queen City" of the United States, Cincinnati, Ohio in August!

Would you like to witness a Speech Contest in progress? If yes, here is the opportunity - CBC Toastmasters will hold their Club level Contests at Unitek College. As the president of the club, I invite you to join us as a guest to witness how some enthusiastic Toastmasters in Fremont challenge themselves to use their voices to inspire the world around them. I assure you it will be a fun & learning experience and at no cost. Please join us:

When: Saturday, February 23, 2013

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

Location: Unitek College, Room 141
4580 Auto Mall Parkway
Fremont, CA 94539

Questions? presidentcbctm@yahoo.com

Club Website: <http://654714.toastmastersclubs.org/>

Toastmasters International:

<http://www.toastmasters.org/>

CBC's Summer Internship Program

Offering Local Chinese American Youth:

1. Communication and Leadership Skills Development
2. Exposure to the Legislative Process (Federal, State & Local)
3. Practical Work Experience
4. Opportunity to Work with Legislators to Help Our Community
5. Opportunity to get Recommendation Letter for Future College and/or Job application

Qualifications:

1. Chinese American, 16 years or older as of June 1, 2013.
2. High school Junior or Senior student.
3. Resident of the East Bay, Tri-City Area.
4. Members of CBC preferred. Priority consideration will be based on seniority of CBC membership.
5. CBC Toastmaster Youth Leadership Program experience preferred.

Requirements:

1. Must be able to work 3 to 6 hours a week (total of at least 60 hours during summer).
2. Must be able to make 3 - 5 month commitment (to be negotiated with local government agencies or legislative offices).
3. Must write an essay describing your experience at the end of the internship.
4. Must attend the interview process in early May 2013 (place TBD).
5. Must be able to take one Saturday (full day) training class in Fremont; date to be determined (between 6/1/13 to 6/8/13). CBC will pay for the training expense.
6. Must be available to meet for orientation and one mandatory meeting during the summer for Interns' Progress report at CBC's summer BBQ event.
7. Must have reliable transportation to/from designated internship office.

At the End of the Program, You Will Receive:

1. Community Service Learning Hours
2. Certificate of Completion Awarded from both CBC and Internship Office at the Annual CBC Interns' Appreciation Luncheon in November 2013.
3. Possible Recommendation Letter from an Elected Official

The office assignment will be done after the interview at CBC's discretion. If you are interested in this program, please contact: Anna T. Muh, CBC Internship Co-Chairperson after you carefully read through the

information, Application and Waiver, by phone at (510) 468-6666 or via e-mail at annamuh@gmail.com.

Complete the 2013 CBC Internship Application and mail along with the Liability Waiver Form to:

Ms. Anna Muh
CBC Summer Internship Program
44927 Parkmeadow drive
Fremont, CA 94539

Application and Waiver Form must be received **prior to Saturday, March 2, 2013.**

CBC's Toastmasters Youth Summer Leadership Program

*By Irene Yung
CBC Youth Group Chair*

Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program (TYLP) is an educational program that teaches communication, public speaking and leadership skills. We are extremely fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and dedicated team of coaches, assistant coaches, and guest speakers, as well as the Citizens for Better Communicator Toastmasters, continuously support the Youth Leadership Program year after year.

TYLP is a five-week summer program that runs between June 22 to mid-July and meets every Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This program is highly recommended for high school students, as well as incoming 9th graders, who wish to take this great opportunity to learn the arts of speaking, listening, and thinking. Participants can evaluate one another's speeches; a feedback process that we feel is a key part of the program's success. To wrap up the program, students who complete the Toastmasters requirements in July will be awarded a certificate at the graduation ceremony.

The TYLP has been a very popular program as well as a growing success these past summers. As a result, we strongly recommend students to submit their application as soon as possible. The application will be available **during the week of March 25, 2013.**

Please check the CBC website at www.cbcsfbay.org for the most up-to-date information regarding the TYLP application and deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Irene Yung at CBC_ylp08@yahoo.com.

“Remembering 1882” Exhibit

Chinese American History Network
Extracted from Press Release on November 28, 2012

In 1882 Congress passed *The Immigration Act of 1882* - to prevent people of Chinese descent from entering the United States. This law broke apart families, reduced the Chinese American population in half, and denied Chinese immigrants the right to become citizens. *Remembering 1882* explores the historical debate around the Exclusion Act from its origins through its full repeal in 1968, and the importance of habeas corpus to the Chinese American struggle for civil rights.

The exhibit “Remembering 1882” is a traveling exhibit designed and made available to the public by the Chinese Historical Society of America. Co-sponsoring organizations are: Alameda County Public Library, Asian Pacific Island Public Affairs Association (APAPA), Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACAA), Chinese American History Network (CAHN), Chinese Historical Society of America, Citizens for Better Community, and South Bay Chinese Club.

The exhibit will be available for view during normal business hours for the Fremont Public library – Saturdays from 10 – 6 p.m., Monday and Tuesday from 1 -9 p.m., Wednesdays from 12 - 6 p.m., and Fridays from 11 - 6 p.m. The exhibit runs **through Thursday, February 28, 2013.**

Greetings from the South Bay Chinese Club

By Steve Cho
SBCC President 2012-2013



The South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC) is proud to say that the Club is in its 48th year of existence. SBCC started out with just a few community members in 1965 and has become one of the oldest clubs in the area. It has a long history of community events and community service.

Among the legacy of events, there are several upcoming events that should be noted. The first is the Chinese New Year celebration at the Fremont Main Library on **Saturday, February 9, 2013**, (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.). This event is co-sponsored by CBC and features a cultural program with

performances by various local groups and a kid’s craft faire. Along with the library celebration, there will be a 10-course Chinese New Year banquet on **Saturday, February 23, 2013**, at the Mayflower Restaurant in Union City.

Another noteworthy event is the Annual SBCC Scholarship Awards Luncheon. This will be held on **Saturday, April 20, 2013**, at the Marriott Courtyard in Newark. Scholarships will be awarded to a number of college bound high school seniors of Chinese descent. Scholarship applications are still being accepted until March 18. For more information, please visit SBCC’s website at www.sbclub.org.

The SBCC extends an invitation to you to attend the above events.

Cheers to all for a happy and prosperous year!



SBCC 2012-2013 Scholarship Applications Available



CBC’s sister organization, South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC), now has their 2012-2013 scholarship e-application available. The primary purpose of the South Bay Chinese Service Club is to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors of Chinese descent. Only students **residing in Fremont, Newark and Union City** or children of SBCC club members in good standing are eligible to apply. The actual number of scholarships will be determined by the amount of donations received.

In evaluating the applications, the scholarship committee will consider **unweighted** grade point average, school activities, special achievements, community service activities, and a personal essay.

All application materials must be submitted by **Monday, March 18, 2013.**

Visit www.sbclub.org for more information on the application process. For further information or questions, email: sbcc.scholarship@gmail.com.

The New Tax Laws...

By Thomas Tang, CPA



The new tax laws are not family friendly. As an accountant, I often have the desire to express my opinion on tax matters. As a returning Director to the CBC Board, I also feel like using the newsletter to introduce myself. However, no one likes to read article of taxation, unless the title is somewhat controversial. So, I write.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 was signed into laws by the President on January 2, 2013, effective for tax years starting 2013. There will be a 2% increase in social security tax for all earners. For a wage earner making \$50,000 a year, it translates into \$1,000. What a "Relief!"

Okay, let me get to the family part. For a single person making taxable income over \$400,000, there is an increase of tax rate for 4.6%, from the 2012 rate of 35%, totaling 39.6%. However, for married couples, the rate increase starts at \$450,001.

For example, two unmarried singles living together making \$400,000 each will not be subject to the increased rate of 4.6%. But, if they are married, they will pay an additional \$16,100 of federal income taxes (\$350,000 at 4.6%).

Therefore, the new laws are not family-friendly, or at least, not marriage friendly. Now, fiancés and fiancées are discouraged to make the big step as the step is getting bigger. But, divorcees get a coupon to pay the family lawyer. For those happily married, you probably simply make too little.

I apologize if I offend anyone with this article. I simply try to explain the new laws with some humor, knowing that there is actually no funny accountant. But, I tried.

Why Pay?? Free Tax Preparation

Submitted by Johnny Yee
FRC VITA Volunteer Tax Trainer/Coach

In partnership with the Union City Library, Newark Library, and the City of Fremont, the Fremont Family Resource Center (FRC) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program provides **FREE** quality tax preparation and **FREE** e-Filing services for qualified individuals and families with household income of \$51,000 or less annually. Since 2002, FRC VITA has helped over 11,000 customers to receive over \$17 million in refunds.

Check us out! You may qualify for up to \$5,891 of additional refund through the Earned Income Credit.

All tax returns are prepared by trained IRS-certified VITA Volunteer Tax Preparers and Quality Reviewed.

3 Locations to Serve You!

Walk-in only. **No appointment needed**
In-Person and Drop-off Services Available

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

When: **January 23 – April 15, 2013**
Mondays & Wednesdays – 4 to 8 p.m. or
Fridays – 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**** Closed Monday, February 18th for President's Day ****

Free onsite child care provided (first come basis, space is limited)

Where: Newark Library
6300 Civic Terrace Avenue
Newark, CA 94560

When: **Saturdays, February 2 – March 16, 2013**
10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: Union City Library
34007 Alvarado-Niles Road
Union City, CA 94587

When: **Saturdays, February 2 – March 16, 2013**
12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

What to Bring:

- Picture ID for you & spouse, if married, and original Social Security / ITIN Cards or letters for all persons to be listed on tax return; married couples must come together
- W-2s, 1099s, 1098s for 2012
- Other info if applicable: charitable contributions; property tax bill; DMV registration bill; childcare provider info; childcare expenses; college expenses; and landlord info
- For direct deposit and a faster refund, bring a voided check and/or bank routing number & checking/savings account numbers (not deposit or withdrawal slip)

We will not prepare:

- Married filing separately
- Self-employment and sole propriety business with expenses over \$5,000, depreciation, losses, and office in the home
- Rental income with rental expenses
- IRA conversions
- Other tax situations may be out of scope

For more information, please contact SparkPoint Fremont at (510)574-2020 or visit www.fremont.gov/frc

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."

2012-2013 Board Directory

President:

Ivy Wu(510) 252-9890

Vice President:

John Vuong.....(408) 230-9276

Secretary:

Wilson Hu.....(925) 480-7305

Treasurer:

Albert XF Wang.....(510) 252-1926

Past President:

Gerry Low-Sabado.....(510) 378-0999

Legal Counsel

Lisa Quan(415) 238-1893

David Sheen(510) 676- 2178

Executive Director

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

Committees

Education:

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

Health:

Teresa Yin, DC.....(510) 793-6302

Business:

Henry Yin.....(510) 676-7139

Community Involvement:

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

Youth Group: Irene Yung.....(510) 206-8108

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

Culture Exchange: Lena Zee(510) 421-6666

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

Website: Wing Ng(510) 326-1133

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

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

Spring Celebration: Richard Li(650) 207-3804

2012-2013

Board of Directors

Cecilia Chang

Carl Chen

Amy Cho

Steve Cho

Chien Mei Cram

Whisky Ho

Cecelia Leon

Lily Mei

Nina Moore

Anna Muh

Wing Ng

Lisa Quan

David Sheen

Thomas Tang

Tim Tran

Albert Wang, MD

Garrett Yee

Henry Yin

Irene Yung

Lena Zee

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

Contributors: Chinese American History Network, Amy Cho, Steve Cho, Anna Muh, Thomas Tang, Mary Verghese, Ivy Wu, Johnny Yee (Fremont Family Resource Center), Irene Yung

CBC Membership Dues

The new membership year began on November 1, 2012. The membership renewal form can be found on page 8 of this newsletter. Please complete the form and send in your dues. Better yet, become a lifetime member and never worry about your annual dues. Thank you in advance for your support!

Calendar of Events

“Remembering 1882” Exhibit

When: **ends Saturday, February 28, 2013**
 Where: Fremont Main Library

CBC/SBCC Chinese New Year Celebration

When: **Saturday, February 9, 2013 (1 pm)**
 Where: Fremont Main Library
 Contact: Amy Cho (510) 797-6426

CBC Toastmasters Speech Contest

When: **Saturday, February 23, 2013 (10:15 am)**
 Where: Unitek College, Room 141
 Contact: presidentcbctm@yahoo.com

Homeless Shelter Meal Service

When: **Sunday, March 31, 2013 (dinner)**
 Where: Sunrise Village
 Contact: sharonjiang@sbcglobal.net

SBCC Scholarship Luncheon

When: **Saturday, April 20, 2013 (noon)**
 Where: Marriott Courtyard (Newark)
 Contact: www.sbcclub.org

CBC Spring Celebration

When: **Saturday, April 27, 2013**
 Contact: Kathy Jang at kjang25@yahoo.com

Upcoming CBC Meetings

**Note: Prior to each meeting, there will be 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, February 6, 2013**
- ~ **Wednesday, March 6, 2013**
- ~ **Wednesday, April 3, 2013**

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL (November 1, 2012– October 31, 2013)

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