

South Bay Chinese Service Club Annual Scholarship Awards Program – (Submitted by Jane Lin, SBCSC Scholarship Committee Chairperson)

On Wednesday, April 27, 2022, the South Bay Chinese Service Club (SBCSC) awarded \$41,000 in scholarships to 22 exceptional high school seniors of Chinese descent at our Scholarship Awards Banquet at Grand Golden Bay Seafood in Union City, CA, after two years of virtual Zoom celebrations . This year is the 52nd anniversary of our scholarship program, and over the years, we have awarded over \$450,000 to hundreds of Tri-City area high school students.

South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC) President Dr. Clifton M. Der Bing opened the banquet by welcoming and commending the graduates for their perseverance, and thanking the parents and scholarship donors for their interest and involvement. He also recognized local dignitaries such as Fremont Mayor Lily Mei, Fremont City Councilmember Teresa Keng, Fremont Police Chief Sean Washington, Ohlone College President Dr. Eric Bishop, Ohlone College Trustee Sue Chan, and Cupertino Union School Board Trustee Sylvia Leong. Scholarship Committee Chairperson Jane Lin praised the students for their outstanding academic achievements and exceptional community service, and encouraged them to “go out and conquer the world”, then to come back and continue our important legacy. Past President and Scholarship Committee member Joe Woo then gave a brief history of the South Bay Chinese Club and the Scholarship Program. This included a 6-minute video depicting many of our past recipients and guest speakers. It was a visual reminder of the many students who have benefitted from this program, moving on to successful careers.

Our Keynote Speaker Shelly Gin, the development manager at Chinese for Affirmative Action, a San Francisco-based non-profit founded to protect the civil and political rights of Chinese Americans, and to advance social justice and multiracial democracy in the U.S., gave an inspiring speech about “navigating and accepting” one’s cultural identity and heritage, and finding the passion to fight for our beliefs. We were pleased that many of our major sponsors were on hand to present the awards to their recipients, including the families of Gerry Low-Sabado and Frances Ngan, two beloved long time members who inspired 6 new memorial scholarships.

In addition to receiving the monetary awards, the recipients also received a plaque and Certificates of Commendation and Special Recognition from U. S. Congressman Ro Khanna, State Senator Bob Wieckowski, State Assemblymembers Alex Lee, 20<sup>th</sup> District and Bill Quirk, 25<sup>th</sup> District, Alameda County Supervisors David Haubert, First District, and Richard Valle, Second District, Alameda County Assessor Phong La, and Fremont City Mayor Lily Mei. These certificates, along with the scholarship award plaques and checks, were distributed by SBCC President Dr. Clifton M. Der Bing, Service Club President Aaron Wong, and Scholarship Committee Chair Jane Lin following a tasty 7-course meal.

The 22 scholarship winners this year are an impressive group of scholars representing 4 high schools in Fremont and one high school in Union City. The average unweighted GPA was 3.90, with an amazing 14,068 community service hours amassed. In this group, there were National Merit Finalists, numerous AP Scholars with Distinction and Honors, 7 students with a perfect unweighted 4.0 GPA, Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Awards, Presidential Service Awards (Gold), Robotics Awards, Scholar Athlete Awards, student leaders in student government positions, a published author of math books for teens, a 3-time national Chinese calligraphy winner, and an US Table Tennis National Team member.

The scholarship recipients and the awards they received are as follows:

*Daniel Bielin, Mission San Jose High School -- South Bay Chinese Service Club Merit Scholarship*

*Connor Chen, Irvington High School – South Bay Chinese Service Club Merit Scholarship*

*Jonathan Cheng, Irvington High School – Gerry Low-Sabado Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Education & McGrath RentCorp Scholarship for Excellence in STEM*

*Darcy Chew, American High School – Robert Vun Yau Lee Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Performance Arts & Dutra Enterprises Best Essay Award*

*Kyra Deng, James Logan High School – Pearl Li Gunsell Merit Scholarship*

*Ava Fu, Irvington High School – York & Dora Gin Memorial Scholarship for Scholar Athlete & Ruby W. Chiang & Mary Ruth Wong Memorial Scholarship for Perseverance*

*Daphne He, Mission San Jose High School -- South Bay Chinese Service Club Merit Scholarship*

*Curtis Hu, John F. Kennedy High School – Dr. David and Mrs. Brenda Muh Merit Scholarship*

*Nydia Kuo, American High School – South Bay Chinese Service Club Merit Scholarship*

*Karissa Lee, American High School – South Bay Chinese Service Club Merit Scholarship*

*Alicia Li, American High School – South Bay Chinese Service Club Merit Scholarship for Excellence in Health Sciences & Citizens for Better Community (CBC) Scholarship for Community Service*

*Dawson Lin, Mission San Jose High School -- Sylvia Wong Real Estate Scholarship for Business Acumen*

*Natalie Loo, American High School – Lim Family Merit Scholarship*

*Amanda Pang, Mission San Jose High School – Karl Ngan Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in STEM*

*Amaelia Shui, Irvington High School – Frances Ngan Memorial Scholarship for Community Service & Gerry Low-Sabado Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Education*

*Emma Wang, Mission San Jose High School – Frances Ngan Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Creative Arts*

*Heidi Wang, Mission San Jose High School – Gerry Low-Sabado Memorial Scholarship for Community Engagement and Organizing*

*Jade Wang, American High School -- Howard Tom Memorial Top Honors Scholarship*

*Madison Wong, Irvington High School – Supervisor David Haubert Scholarship for Youth Engagement*

*Maxine Wu, American High School – South Bay Chinese Service Club Merit Scholarship*

*Ethan Ye, Irvington High School – Pearl Li Gunsell Scholarship for Excellence in Leadership & Dr. Clifton M. Der Bing & Joseph R. Fruen, Esq. Scholarship for Community Advocacy*

*Alivia Zhang, American High School – Gerry Low-Sabado Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Ethnic Studies*

The South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC) was formed in 1965 to preserve the culture and customs of the Chinese heritage, to foster and encourage better understanding of civic responsibilities and the American way of life, and to promote general welfare of the community. In 1984, the Club formed the South Bay Chinese Service Club (SBCSC), a California non-profit organization, in pursuit of community outreach services such as the Scholarship Program. The annual Scholarship Program began in 1970 by providing two scholarships of \$100 each to graduating high school seniors of Chinese descent. The primary funding for the Scholarship Program is obtained through direct solicitation of donations from corporate and individual sponsors. Additional information about the Scholarship Program is available on the Club's website ([www.southbaychineseclub.org](http://www.southbaychineseclub.org)).