

# Current



## Shining Brightly

Perfection. This is a word that most teenage girls are familiar with. Many of them struggle daily with the challenges of fitting in, being attractive, being successful - in short, being perfect. While these stresses aren't necessarily new, they're exponentially greater in the world of smartphones and social media - where one harsh comment can reach thousands of people instantly. That world can also create an easy way to frequently compare yourself to peers and gauge how - and if - you fit in. Amidst the unattainable standard of perfection that's continually displayed, it's no wonder that many teens are so critical of themselves.

According to psychologist Catherine Steiner-Adair, this social media lifestyle is dramatically affecting our teenagers. "We know girls are very vulnerable to defining themselves in comparison to others," she says. Her young female patients often tell her they get their "entire identity" from their phone, she says, constantly checking the number of 'tags, likes, Instagram photos and Snapchat stories.'<sup>1</sup>

But basing their identity and value on external validation not only creates incredible pressure, it detaches them from who they really are and sets them up to be habitually 'performing' - versus actually living. The consequences are not surprising. Studies show that while girls now consistently outperform boys academically, they also surpass them in rates of anxiety and depression.<sup>2</sup>

That's where 'Girls on Fire' comes in. Developed by Andrea Ye, Courtney Leung, and Tabi Wong, this program is *for* girls and *by* girls. Reminiscing about the "Girls Overnight" experiences they had while in Friday Night Club, Tabi and Courtney felt impelled to start something for the girls in our current Club program. Connecting with Andrea, the three of them put

were challenging, she also exemplified selflessness, compassion, and poise. "I've never seen her get mad," said Tabi admiringly as the others nodded in agreement.

In college this fearless trio met other individuals who strongly impacted their lives. "There were people with a lot of wisdom who would stay late after work



momentum to their idea: Creating a safe place for high-school girls to come and discuss whatever they're facing. A place where they can be heard and form their own voices and opinions. A place where they can bond with one another and be themselves.

Looking back at their own high-school days, Tabi and Courtney recognized the tremendous support they received from their Cameron House Leaders, including Laurene Chan, who was not only a "good moderator" when situations

just to help me," said Andrea. "No one *had* to help me, but multiple people *were*. It was eye opening."

Through their experience at Cameron House and in college, these women - who describe themselves as having been 'shy' or 'bad' - came out of their shells, gaining compassion along the way. They developed their voices and confidence. They matured into strong leaders - and strong women. These are the very attributes they'd like to help the girls in our programs acquire.



# May's Corner

For the past 4-1/2 years it has been my great privilege and pleasure to work with everyone at Cameron House. From the dedicated, professional, and passionate staff to the devoted, long-serving Board members to the generous, earnest, and loyal alumni, donors, volunteers, community partners, and friends, you've made this a wonderful experience!

Because of your loving care, our youth and families have taken risks, gained confidence, become leaders in the community, and have used their voices to make changes. You have helped me grow as a leader and have brought joy into my heart. I am proud of the many things that we have accomplished together over the years; we have made a bigger impact on those we serve and have carried on the good work at Cameron House by serving others through our Christian values and faith-in-action.

I leave blessed with lasting memories of this welcoming community and the transformational moments I have been able to witness.

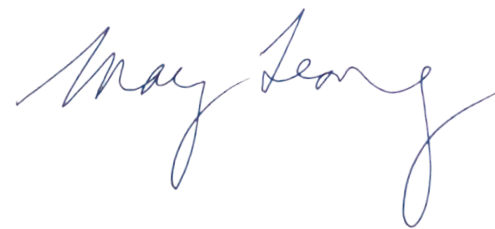
To everyone who has impacted my work here, thank you for being part of my journey. I look forward to continuing work in the area of philanthropy and seeing where I land next.

If you would like to keep in touch, feel free to contact me via email: [mleongde@hotmail.com](mailto:mleongde@hotmail.com) or by cell: 206-910-2621.

I go forward into the world with confidence in everyone's ability to continue the CH mission of helping people to learn, heal, and thrive.

Thank you all for your warm support during my time at Cameron House.

Blessings,



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After bringing their thoughts about a girls program to Kelcie Wong and Sherman Gee, they were given the approval to move forward. A mission statement was created, and they used it to focus their planning.

Their first meeting was a huge success. As Andrea expressed: "For our first 'Girls on Fire' meeting, our goal was to create a fun atmosphere where the girls would feel comfortable not only getting to know each other, but working together as well. Thus, we opted for a night of making boba milk tea which is definitely a favorite drink amongst our youth. The girls warmed up to each other through icebreakers, cleaning up spills, and lighthearted conversations. The meeting concluded with some tasty boba milk tea that prompted numerous girls to say,

"I'd pay for this!" – and surveys that will help our leadership gauge the interests and needs of these girls to create future meetings that are really catered to them."

Now, with six months behind them, they're able to step back and assess how things are going. They're excited about what they're seeing, and they're addressing some of the challenges: working around busy schedules; helping the girls feel comfortable opening up and sharing their own opinions, even if those opinions differ from the groups'; and balancing planning with the natural evolution of the program. But these are minor challenges for women determined to make a difference.

Learning to live instead of perform. Gaining confidence in who they really are and not who the world says they

should be. Creating solidarity and sisterhood with other young women. These girls are shining brightly, and their light can change the world.

'Girls on Fire' meet on the third Friday of every month from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm (dinner is provided). Participants are encouraged to bring their friends and there is no requirement to stay for Friday Night Club. In these coming months, we look forward to more thought-provoking, relationship-building, and empowering conversations.

All high-school girls are invited; if you know someone who might enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship this group offers, please let her know!

If you'd like more information, please contact Andrea Ye at 415.781.0401 x 124.

<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup> <http://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/positive/the-secret-to-raising-a-happy-confident-girl/>

## An Afternoon with Alumnus, Artist, & Architect Rev. Ed Sue

It was a beautiful afternoon in San Francisco. Alumni and friends gathered in the foyer of Cameron House, eagerly awaiting Ed Sue's arrival from Oakland (weekend traffic on the Bay Bridge is such a challenge)! But the time was not wasted, we used it as a fun opportunity to mingle and get re-acquainted with one another.

It wasn't long before Ed walked in, greeting everyone with a smile and apologizing for his delayed arrival. As we pulled up our chairs for the presentation, Ed spoke candidly about his early days working on staff at Cameron House, painting the mural, leading youth work, and being a pastor to the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown (PCC). His presentation brought us back even further in time to the history of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the many laws enacted against our ancestors, which caused much suffering and hardship.

As an architect, Ed traveled to the Far East on many occasions, building churches there; he also worked diligently in the Bay Area and provided his expertise, retrofitting Cameron House and remodeling PCC. While sharing his great stories, he showed us some sketches he had drawn at the time. One cartoon he had drawn for Bert Tom's 2001 retirement depicted their "fun wild bachelor days in Chinatown!"

The hours passed quickly. As we bid Ed farewell, we remembered his years at PCC. Back then, he was a great preacher and speaker without notes – he sure hasn't lost his touch in his 79 years! We look forward to having similar gatherings in the future, where alumni share their stories. Thank you Ed for helping us kick off our alumni reunion with your memories of service and compassion at Cameron House!





## Cancer Support Group

On June 10th, Cameron House's Chinese Cancer Support Group eagerly joined the San Francisco Relay for Life. Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society; each year more than 5,000 Relays are held in over 25 countries. Donations are used to fund cancer research, patient support services, prevention and education information, and detection and treatment programs. This year's Relay in the City was a meaningful event for our cancer survivors; it celebrated their successful battle against cancer - a battle their family and friends helped them fight. To kick off the Relay, the cancer survivors proudly walked the "Survivor Lap," the first lap of the Relay in which survivors and people currently affected by cancer walk the track amidst the cheers and support of everyone in attendance.



## IGNITE'S Mission (Service & Learning) Trip

IGNITE spent June 20th through 30th in Orlando, Florida, serving the community in a variety of ways. A huge THANK YOU to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church for hosting our young adults, who spent their time volunteering at United Against Poverty, Give Kids The World, and Second Harvest Food Bank. They also had some opportunities to relax, enjoy Orlando, and build a strong relationship with the youth of the Grace Covenant! Our prayers and hearts remain with all of you as you continue the cleanup and repair efforts after Hurricane Irma!



## June Outing

On June 24th, 80 women, men, and children eagerly embarked on a BART train for the first time. These members of our Cancer and Women's Support groups look forward to our June Outing every year. This year's destination was Daly City, where everyone anticipated a fantastic buffet lunch and movie (Cars 3)! It was fun to experience BART through the eyes of a child: one little boy expressed amazement at our ability to travel underground, emerge from the tunnel to see the sky, houses, and trees, and then plunge back into the dark tunnel again. Throughout the day, we witnessed members helping and looking after each other - a wonderful reminder of the strong friendships and supportive networks these groups foster. As everyone headed back to Chinatown, they expressed their gratefulness for Cameron House in providing such a wonderful adventure!



## Carnival

Our 69th Annual Cameron Carnival was a tremendous success thanks to our amazing staff, donors, and volunteers who made this happen! Youth and adults alike had a fantastic time reconnecting with old friends and making new ones, enjoying the scrumptious food, playing our unique, home-grown games, and dunking their favorite targets! New this year was the Carnival Lego Display that several of our Alumni helped build. Here are a few photos, please be sure to check out more pictures on our website: [cameronhouse.org/news/carnival/carnival-recap/](http://cameronhouse.org/news/carnival/carnival-recap/)



## Summer Programs & Westminster Woods

Our summer programs served 300 youth, engaging them in unique outdoor activities through our many partnerships (including the Treasure Island Sailing Center, UCSF Outdoor Programs, and Greenagers, just to name a few). And in the pilot year of Youth-Powered, eighth-graders were introduced to organizations like Urban Sprouts and the Chinatown Rising production team, which helped raise awareness about the different issues in the community. Our youth designed and implemented service projects for sheltered animals, the houseless, and new, low-income immigrant students.

Westminster Woods provided an exciting five days of personal growth and leadership development to our youth, while also renewing their respect of self, others, and the environment. Chocolate Swim made a reappearance, a variety of workshops were offered, and transforming worship music created a fun and meaningful experience for everyone involved.



## 70s Reunion

On August 26th, Cameron House brought together 200 friends and alumni for the first 1970s Reunion! The night was filled with laughter and wonderful memories as everyone shared fun stories of their time at Cameron House during the 70s. Photos and recap will be coming soon!





## Learning to Do the Right Thing

By Craig Lee

I've literally grown up at Cameron House (CH). My parents, John and Leona Lee, were very active members of CH and the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown (PCC). I attended all of our youth programs, Summer Day Camp, Best Day of the Week, Friday Night Club and Sunday morning Church School; and my role as Day Camp Assistant and Leader, as well as Boy's Club Leader, taught me how to coach and motivate. These leadership skills have helped me immensely, and I've been able to apply them to my successful career and to the roles I played on the CH Board and Foundation Board.

My Cameron House Leaders, the CH staff, and my active participation in CH Programs have taught me lifelong skills and values that have positively influenced my life. I learned to contribute time and money to CH and PCC. Naming Cameron House (and PCC) in my will is simply "the right thing" to do. I know and trust that the money will be put to good use, serving our Community and our Youth.



John Lee



Leona Lee

You're Invited to a FREE PERFORMANCE of

*Madame Ho*

A New Play by Eugenie Chan



**October 28, 2017 | 5 pm**  
**October 29, 2017 | 1 pm & 7 pm**

FREE ADMISSION

Inspired by the life of the playwright's great grandmother, Madame Ho tells the story of a formidable Barbary Coast San Francisco Chinese immigrant, single mother, brothel madam, and ghost. A Chinatown story of immigrant survival.

Each performance will be followed by a Community Conversation about the issues and history behind the story, with community experts. Light refreshments will be served.

Produced by Eugenie Chan Theater Projects in association with Intersection for the Arts with support from 6NewPlays

Cameron House | 920 Sacramento St | San Francisco CA 94108

For information & reservations: Email: [ECTPCommunityEvents@gmail.com](mailto:ECTPCommunityEvents@gmail.com)

## Tax Tips

Instead of cash donations to Cameron House, how about gifting stocks? If you have stocks that you've owned for at least one year - and they've appreciated in value - you can help Cameron House while reaping some wonderful benefits!

**Here's how it works:**

If you gift cash, e.g. \$5,000, you will only be able to get a \$5,000 itemized deduction on your taxes.

However, if you gift \$5,000 worth of stocks, you will get a \$5,000 itemized tax deduction **and** you will avoid paying capital gains tax on that stock!



**For example:**

Let's say you have 59 shares of Facebook stock that you purchased in January of 2015. If the current market value of Facebook stock is \$175 per share, but you purchased them for \$80, the appreciated value would be \$95 per share (or \$5,605 for 59 shares).

By gifting your 59 shares to Cameron House, you would not only get a \$5,605 itemized tax deduction, you would also avoid paying \$1,362 in Federal Long Term Capital Gains tax (15%) and State tax (9.30%)! (\$5,605 x 24.30% = \$1,362)

If you have any questions, please call or email Bill Vigna (415.781.0401 x138 or [bill@cameronhouse.org](mailto:bill@cameronhouse.org)).

*(The above example has been prepared for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide and should not be relied on for tax, legal, or accounting advice. Please consult your tax, legal, or accounting advisor before engaging in any transactions.)*

**Donate Your Appreciated Stocks to Cameron House Today!**

## Academic Scholarship Awards



On Friday, June 20th over \$25,000 in Academic Scholarship Awards were given. Thanks to our extremely generous donors, that's the most we have ever awarded! Our scholarship donors included: David and Pauline Chan, Karen and Glen Chew, Micah Chu and Foy White-Chu, Kenneth and Josephine Kwong, Clovis and Pat Shem, Beverly Lee, Harold and Gwendolyn Wong, and the Northern California Chapter of the Asian Pacific Islanders for Professional and Community Advancement (APCA).

We had two new donors this year! The first is Harold and Gwendolyn Wong, neighbors

“My commitment to Cameron House, where I have been since the first grade, has allowed me to make a difference in the lives of others, the same way Cameron House has made a difference in my life.”

of Kenneth and Josephine Kwong. After hearing how the Kwongs were impacting the lives of students by investing in their futures, they decided to do likewise. The Wong's scholarship is awarded to a recent high school graduate who has maintained at least a 3.0 GPA and whose family situation would greatly benefit from scholarship support.

Our second new donor is Beverly Lee, who unveiled the Jerry and Beverly Lee Community Awareness Textbook Scholarship at this year's

Gala (when we honored her husband, Jerry, posthumously). Jerry's impact continues at Cameron House through the tremendous support he willingly offered for decades - and now through this textbook scholarship award. These awards help two students purchase textbooks for their first year of college. These awards are given to two Cameron House youth who demonstrate best their understanding that they "get it" when it comes to extending a hand, their hard earned money, and, more importantly, their time, to people in their community who need it.

For the second year in a row, we were also blessed to have the Northern California Chapter of the Asian Pacific Islanders for Professional and Community Advancement (APCA) as a donor! APCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Employee Resource Group at AT&T. APCA's Scholarship Director, June Tom, and fellow Board member Mae Jean Go were present to give their awards. APCA recognizes amazing students from our local communities and helps them with their college education to further their capacity in making a difference in our community.

Congratulations to the students who worked hard in the classroom and in the community! We wish them the best at college: Charlie Ruan, Edmund Liang, Fiona Zhao, Kyle Quan, Jack Sampior, Mikayla Wong, Samantha Wong, Harley Tran, Vienna Wu, Jordan Wong, Michelle Por, (and renewed scholarship award winners Deanna Ly and Julianna Mak)!

## Listen to Your Favorite Cameron House Alumni & Staff Any Place, Any Time

Where can you hear Tristan and Addison Kam interviewing their grandfather Harry Chuck? Or Casey Chow preaching at PCC on leadership and faith? Or Alumni Victor Ye interviewing Laurene Chan on Family, Love, and Community? At C-House Podcast, you can find these recordings plus a growing collection of fantastic interviews with Cameron House staff, Board members, and youth.

Earlier this year, Alumni Marcus Chan offered his time and talent to give a radio broadcasting workshop to the Visual and Performing Arts students. The students had already learned the medium of video and photography, so this brought them a new and exciting level of skills and ideas. The students thought it would be a fun endeavor to collect audio stories and interviews for people to enjoy while they're working, driving, or relaxing. About five students began working on the project, then the Youth Ministries Civic Engagement Interns started pitching in, as well. While there are still a variety of people involved, YM staff is now managing the process. And the rest, they say, is history.

Be sure to visit [soundcloud.com/cameronhouse](http://soundcloud.com/cameronhouse), kick your feet up, and enjoy the podcasts. New shows will be continually added, so keep stopping by!

Do you have any skills you'd like to teach our youth? VPA Workshops can be as short as a few hours or as long as a few sessions! Last year's workshops ranged from "Intro to Drumming Techniques" to "Jewelry Making and Design"! If you'd like to pass your talents to the next generation, please contact Casey Chow at [casey@cameronhouse.org](mailto:casey@cameronhouse.org) (or 415.781.0401 x228).



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# events

upcoming

**8th Annual Visual & Performing Arts Festival**, Friday, January 26, 2018, 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

**Soul & Elegance**, Saturday, February 10, 2018 at the South San Francisco Conference Center

*For more information about the gala, please contact:*

Liz Poong Mark at [emark@cameronhouse.org](mailto:emark@cameronhouse.org) or Byron Ho at [galachair@cameronhouse.org](mailto:galachair@cameronhouse.org)

*Help us by donating new or antique items! For more information about donations, please contact:*

Charlene Jung at [cjung@cameronhouse.org](mailto:cjung@cameronhouse.org)

## HARVEST HOME

Our Social Services Ministry staff are preparing for Harvest Home, when 200 low-income immigrant families from our programs and the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown receive a welcomed bag of familiar Chinese food for the holidays. Our goal is to raise \$4,000, which will help us purchase food items for 200 families. Any extra funds will enable us to buy Christmas gifts for children and families that are served by our programs.

**Please donate by Friday, November 10th.** You can donate **online** ([cameronhouse.org/give/donate/](http://cameronhouse.org/give/donate/)) under "Purpose of Donation/Gift" please click on "Harvest Home"; **call** 415.781.0401 x123 and make a donation over the phone, or **write a check** to Donaldina Cameron House (include Harvest Home on the memo line) and mail it to 920 Sacramento St, San Francisco, CA 94108 Thank you!

## YEAR-END TAX SUMMARY LETTERS

In an effort to reduce postage costs and conserve resources, we will only be mailing annual donation summary letters by request. If you would like to receive one, please contact Annie at [annie@cameronhouse.org](mailto:annie@cameronhouse.org) or 415-781-0401 x123, and we will gladly send one to you in January 2018.

Thank you!