

Transcript
of
OPENING SPEECH
by
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One of the Organizers and Co-founder of AHSA

Opening Speech “Soar to New Heights Fulfill with 15”
February 26, 2011,
Saturday 7:00pm – 12:00am
Milpitas Community Center
457 East Calaveras Boulevard
Milpitas, California
USA

Honorable Mayor Jose Esteves, Council Member Kansen Chu, Council Member Barry Chang, VIP Guests, Parents and Children, Members of the Media, and Ladies and Gentlemen,



My name is Hwa Lim. I am one of the four founders of the Asian Hustle and Salsa Association, abbreviated to AHSA. I am very honored tonight to represent AHSA to say a few words in front of you. For every word I say tonight represents the great courage and foresights of the other three co-founders of this organization who put their reputations on the line; the great efforts of those who stick with AHSA since its registration with the great State of California as a nonprofit organization; and the work of the many volunteers who join us later.

The Asian Hustle and Salsa Association has the mandate to foster cross-cultural understanding, cultivate healthful habits and promote healthy

lifestyle through social and competitive dancing of the Hustle, Salsa, ballroom dances and related dances. The mission is to introduce these authentic American dances into the Asian communities, who may otherwise experience cultural hindrance or language barrier, for fuller integration into the larger society.

The near term goal is to introduce these dances to Asian countries to challenge and transform dancers in those countries, and in the process, bring them one step closer to mainstream dancing as they are exposed to and mingle with some of the world's best dancers and performers.

It is the intention and wishes of this body of volunteers to promote better understanding among all people, to perform charity work, to promote healthy lifestyle, to unleash young generation's dance talents, to help the less fortunate in our society towards worthy achievements and responsible citizenship, and to help those who have erred or misstepped to find their better true self.

To this end, AHSA employs the philosophy of "Act locally, think globally."

We are all trained to think of skills as things we develop for the workplace. But think of them as strengths, and they open up a huge number of opportunities.



Learning how to dance is just developing such a skill. Dancing is a lifetime skill that will provide much joy, and many healthful benefits. It adds new dimensions to one's life. It offers many benefits and enhancements to life whether it is one's avocation, pastime, or hobby.

This is why we are working with “Friends of Children with Special Needs” in this event. The hope is that through developing the skill of dancing, windows of opportunities will swing wide open for them, and that they will “Soar to New Heights”.



Ladies and Gentlemen, I like what I am seeing tonight. The response tonight is beyond our expectations: we have people across the US, the whole Bay Area, and more indirectly a few people in Asia are in here with us. Even the weather is cooperating with us. The forecast was that it should be freezing and raining now. But see what we have outside. Now we have nice weather outside, great people inside. So what are we waiting for?



So on this upbeat note and without much further ado, let me hand the microphone back over to our Master of Ceremony tonight, James Curran.



Thank you.