CBA NEWS
Aug 2008

Year of the Rat

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

CBA NEWS

Surprise Awards to Robert Lee

The year 2008 marks the tenth anniversary of the annual staging of the CBA Badminton Tournament. As a fitting gesture to recognize the enduring tenacity of Robert Lee, who has almost single-handedly organized the successful CBA tournament each of those ten years, CBA President Wilson Look Kin presented him with a plaque of appreciation at the closing ceremony of the tournament on June 1, 2008 at the CBA Centre.

CBA President Wilson Look Kin made the surprise presentation to a "deeply touched" Robert Lee

To double the pleasure, Robert also received a plaque from ADS Ltd presented by Delsang Lue Taim, which read "For invaluable service and innovation to Badminton in Jamaica".

Robert says he was "deeply touched" and indeed surprised, particularly as this was not on the agenda of the awards ceremony for the tournament that night that he had planned.

As the CBA Sports Chairperson, it was Robert Lee's initiative ten years ago to put on a CBA badminton tournament in which members of the CBA Tigers (badminton) Club would compete along with guests from other clubs. So successful was that initiative that it was decided to hold another tournament the following year. The tournament soon began garnering wider interest and it naturally became an annual event.

To meet the needs of a more successful event, Robert and his small team of likewise badminton enthusiasts sought corporate sponsorship to help lift the standard of the tournament, and opened the event to a wider cross section of badminton players. The support has been tremendous.

As a result, the annual CBA badminton tournament, which gets media publicity, became known as the best organized tournament with good facilities, attracting participants from other clubs out of town such as Mandeville. Participating competitors appreciated the complimentary t-shirts from sponsors, the reasonable entry fees and, at the end of the competition, would go away with a good feeling and would be looking forward to compete at the next year's tournament.

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Mark your calendar:

Sunday October 5, 2008

China National Day

Celebration at the CBA Centre

From the Editor

Since our last issue of **CBA News**—March 2008, a number of events have taken place, which are reported in this issue in addition to:

Roundhouse Reunion 2008

The organizing committee who worked tirelessly to put on an excellent summer 2008 Toronto Hakka Conference

There have been positive reports on the recently concluded Toronto Hakka Conference held June 28-29, 2008, at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto in Scarborough, under the theme "Roundhouse Reunion 2008".

From all accounts, it was a well organized conference attended by people of Hakka ancestry, or people interested in the Hakka culture, from near and far. The conference covered a wide range of topics to interest everyone. In this issue, we reproduce a paper presented at the conference, and we highlight two Jamaican Chinese who were recognized with the Hakka Achievement Award 2008.

Beijing 100-Day Countdown

Ambassador Chen Jinghua and his wife Madam Xiao Linhua hosted a reception April 30, on the occasion of the 100-day Countdown to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The event turned out to be a fun evening as the Ambassador, his wife and the Embassy staff entertained in song and dance, which the guests thoroughly enjoyed as well as the sumptuous Chinese hors d'oeuvres.

Phyllis Kong, Editor

Fast forward to present day and the Olympics should be well under way. Jamaica's team of 58 athletes are competing in the Beijing Olympics, including Athens gold medallist Veronica Campbell-Brown and the two fastest men in the history of athletics, Usain Bolt and Asafa Powell. Bolt is the current 100 metre world record holder (9.72 seconds) who toppled Powell in New York on May 31. Powell is the Commonwealth Games champion and former world record holder whose 100-metre previous world record was 9.74 seconds.

All eyes now on the Beijing Olympics!

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games—August 8-24, 2008

Spreading traditional Chinese good wishes wherever they go

Fuwa embody the natural characteristics of four of China's most popular animals– the Fish, the Panda, the Tibetan Antelope, the Swallow—and the Olympic Flame.

In the ancient culture of China, there is a grand tradition of spreading good wishes through signs and symbols. Each of Fuwa symbolizes a different blessing – and will honour this tradition by carrying their good wishes to the children of the world. Prosperity, happiness, passion, health and good luck will be spread to every continent as Fuwa carry their invitation to Beijing 2008 to every part of the globe.

At the heart of their mission – and through all of their work – Fuwa will seek to unite the world in peace and friendship through the Olympic spirit. Dedicated to helping Beijing 2008 spread its theme of "One World, One Dream" to every continent, Fuwa reflect the deep desire of the Chinese people to reach out to the world in friendship through the Games and to invite every man, woman and child to take part in the great celebration of human solidarity that China will host in the light of the flame in 2008.

同一个世界 同一个梦想

One World One Dream

The Hakka Chinese Jamaican

A presentation at the Toronto Hakka Conference held June 28-29, 2008 at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto, Scarborough

By AARON BOHR

Hakka Roots

One cannot separate the Chinese Jamaicans from their Hakka roots. It is very important to note that the Chinese community in Jamaica is extremely homogenous. The vast majority of Chinese in Jamaica are Hakka Chinese who trace their ancestry from three neighbouring districts in Guangdong Province. The Hakka ("Guest People") are a distinct linguistic and cultural sub ethnic group of Han Chinese with their origins, over five thousand years ago, in North Central China. As a result of invasion, famine, and other disasters, the Hakka gradually migrated to southern China and Taiwan, where they often clashed with the original settlers of these regions. Because they maintained their own customs and language, the result for many Hakka was poverty and social ostracism. Han Suyin, a Eurasian writer of Hakka descent, observes:

> *"The Hakka say they are the true people of Han, and that they have escaped degenerate habits brought by foreign rule. They are proud of their singularity as the Guest People, especially among the Overseas Chinese, where their clans are prosperous and strong. But they also gave many leaders to peasant uprisings, and supplied many heroes to the Revolution."*

In fact, one of the largest rebellions in Chinese history, the Taiping, was led by a Hakka who claimed to be the younger brother of Jesus Christ. The Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864) resulted in 30 million deaths. Many Chinese Jamaican families trace their ancestry to Taiping rebels.

Writer Lori Tsang, in her essay describing her experiences growing up the daughter of a Chinese Jamaican mother and a Chinese American father, provides the following colourful description of her Hakka roots:

> *"Mom's family is Hakka – the people who wandered around for a while before kind of settling down in Guangdong Province. Even after that, many of them travelled even farther, to other parts of Asia like the Philippines and Indonesia, or to the Caribbean, like my great-grandfather. Supposedly, the Cantonese used to look down on the Hakka, whose women ran around with big, loose feet and had supposedly looser tongues. I don't know what happened to my mom. The only time you see her tongue flapping is maybe to lick an ice cream cone."*

Chinese Jamaicans are very much aware of their Hakka roots, especially the migratory history of their ancestors. Indeed, there is a strong identification with that migration, which is a great source of pride. Many Chinese Jamaicans whom I interviewed often spoke of the reasons for the Chinese Jamaican exodus out of Jamaica in the 1970's as "being in our blood. We are Hakka after all."

> "In the summer of 1998, I conducted a research project on the history of the Chinese in Jamaica and their subsequent migration to Toronto. I interviewed members of the Chinese Jamaican community as well as academics. My research project yielded two theses, one for my B.A. in History and another for an M.A. in Social Science. This is a summary of my research, and the story of the Chinese in Jamaica and their descendents."
>
> - Aaron Bohr

Immigration to Jamaica

Following the full emancipation of slaves in the British colony of Jamaica in 1838, the British searched for sources of cheap agricultural labour, as many former slaves moved away from the plantations. Organized Chinese immigration to Jamaica began in 1854 with the arrival of 197 Chinese who had been labouring in Panama under poor and unsanitary conditions. However, many of these workers died shortly after their arrival. There were consequently two more waves of Chinese contract labour to Jamaica. But the Chinese did not prove suited to the plantation. In fact, Chinese workers, weary of poor working conditions and low wages, organized the first strike in Jamaica. Gradually, the Chinese began to leave the labour force when their terms of indenture expired. Many of them opened shops and soon, most of the Chinese entering Jamaica were businessmen. Jamaica, according to University of the West Indies historian Patrick Bryan, soon came to be viewed by the Chinese as "a centre for potential economic progress." Socially, the Chinese acted as a buffer between the British and black Jamaicans. They quickly began to dominate the grocery trade so that, by the 1950s, the Chinese had established a monopoly. They controlled everything from factories to wholesale and retail outlets. By the 1930s, the Chinese population in Jamaica was the second largest Chinese community in the West Indies, second only to that of Cuba. There was a vibrant Chinatown in Kingston, home to many Chinese associations and institutions.

(Continued on page 4)

Hakka Chinese Jamaican

(Continued from page 3)

In her book ***Birdless Summer***, Han Suyin describes the Chinese Jamaicans:

> *"They were, like so many overseas Chinese, intensely patriotic, asked many questions about China. Some had Negro blood which improved their looks, but to my surprise, others were ashamed of it and spoke deprecatingly of the darker-skinned among them, and did not see the extra vitality and good looks it gave them. They sent money to China, and sons and daughters, and even though some could not speak Chinese, all that pertained to the ancestral lands was of concern to them."*

Chinese Jamaican Associations

In order to maintain their Chinese heritage, Jamaica's Chinese founded several cultural institutions. In 1924, the Chinese community opened the Sin Min School, which later became the Chinese Public School. The Chinese Public School's curriculum preserved the Chinese heritage through history, the Hakka language, arithmetic, painting and English. Teachers came from China, Jamaica and England. The school closed in 1965, due to lack of funds. However, today the Chinese Benevolent Association holds weekly Chinese language classes.

A major Chinese institution in Jamaica is the Chinese Benevolent Association. The CBA, which is still quite vibrant today, was founded in the 1890s, with the following goal in mind: "to protect and promote lawful trade and commerce...and to act as arbitrator in the settlement of disputes arising out of commercial transactions." Other institutions included the Chinese Freemason Society, the Chinese Catholic Action Association, the Chinese Athletic Club, and various professional associations. The community held celebrations honouring the founding of the Republic of China and the Lunar New Year. There were Chinese newspapers and publications. Jamaican born Chinese, honouring both their Jamaican and Chinese heritage, founded an English language magazine, ***The Pagoda***. Many young Chinese were members of the Chinese Athletic Club, which included such sports as cricket and soccer, as well as other activities such as beauty contests and Chinese New Year dances.

Aaron Bohr is shown 2nd left beside his parents Richard and Gail (Chang) Bohr at the recent Roundhouse Reunion 2008 in Toronto

Spirituality

In Jamaica and Toronto, the Catholic Church continues to play a major spiritual and social role in the Chinese Jamaican community. There are several theories as to why the majority of Chinese Jamaicans are Catholic. Father Richard Ho Lung, founder of the Missionaries of the Poor, a religious order of priests and brothers within the Catholic Church, believes that many Chinese converted to Catholicism because they felt an affinity for the Church's history and traditions. Among these traditions are rituals, such as special Masses and prayers, commemorating the dead. The Catholic Church, with its ceremonies honouring the deceased, allowed Chinese Catholics to fuse their own rituals of ancestor worship with Catholic spirituality. This is especially evident at ***Gah San***, a Chinese tradition of honouring the dead. The Chinese in Jamaica celebrate it with prayers and the Chinese ritual of offering incense and food to the dead.

Anti-Chinese Riots

Though they were widely accepted into Jamaican society, resentment against the Chinese led to three major riots in 1918, 1939, and 1965. The causes of these riots were alleged domestic brawls between Chinese merchants and their black Jamaican mistresses. The 1918 riot was caused by a rumour that a Chinese shopkeeper had killed a romantic rival and was being sold as salt pork. In a similar manner, the 1965 riot started with a rumour that a Chinese baker had beaten his black mistress. The riots forced the Chinese to come to terms with their own ethnicity. Victor Chang, a Chinese Jamaican professor of English at the University of the West Indies, recalled that "until then, I had thought of myself only as Jamaican." The riots to many, were a sign that the Chinese were not yet fully accepted by other Jamaicans.

Emigration of the Chinese Jamaicans

Due to political turmoil in the 1970's, many Jamaicans, including the Chinese, began to leave Jamaica. Like their parents and grandparents, many Chinese Jamaicans found themselves leaving their homes, and starting again in Canada, the US, Europe, New Zealand, and Australia. The history of Jamaica's Chinese community, and their exodus from the island, must not be overlooked. Chinese Jamaicans truly deserve recognition for their unique history and culture. As Chinese Jamaican Canadian journalist Tony Wong writes: "It started with precious little – the distinctive, special Hakka dialect and culture. We fused that with another unique blend of dialects, that of the Caribbean islands. And then we formed a new culture, primal and new. A culture born from a marriage of many to form something truly, miraculously original, in its own elegant way..."

Editor's Note*: Aaron is the grandson of the late Percy and Alice Chang, formerly of Chang's Emporium in Half Way Tree, Kingston.*

Hakka Achievement Awards 2008

The awards were presented in a ceremony at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto in Scarborough on June 29, 2008, to persons of Hakka ancestry who have achieved a high level in their field and have earned the recognition of their peers and the public. The awardees illustrate the diversity of talent that exists and it is our hope that the example set by them will inspire our youth.

Dr. Keith Lowe looks on as Canadian Senator Vivienne Poy makes the presentation to Ray Chen

We highlight below two of our own Jamaican Chinese who were thus publicly recognized, namely, Ray Chen and Byron Lee.

Ray Chen is an internationally acclaimed photographer whose work has been displayed in such major cities as Washington, D.C., London, Beijing, Toronto and in Kingston, his place of birth.

Ray's innate creativity and capacity for hard work, coupled with his unending quest to perfect the techniques of his profession, eventually propelled him to the top.

Over the years he has undertaken major assignments for large corporations and government agencies and has won awards from prestigious organizations, with his work appearing in influential publications in Canada and in Europe.

Though Ray has studied and lived abroad for most of his adult life, Jamaica maintains a tenacious hold on his heart and mind and, in 1983, he returned to the land of his birth for the start of another journey.

Of his two books of pictorial essays, ***Jamaica—The Land and the People*** (1984) and ***Jamaica—The Beauty and the Soul of the Land*** (1993), Ray said he wanted to show the world that there is more than white sand beaches and palm trees to Jamaica. He wanted those photos to project the beauty of the warm hospitality of its people—for that is the true Jamaica.

In 2002, the Government of Jamaica conferred on him the honour of the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Officer (O.D.) for excellence in photography.

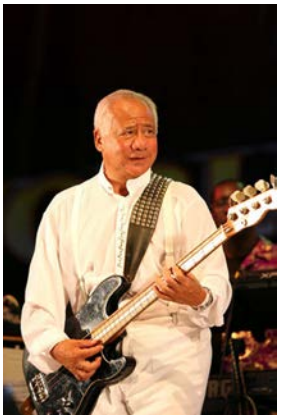
To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Chinese in Jamaica, in 2005, Ray published ***The Shopkeepers***—a compilation of short stories by the descendants of those pioneering Chinese, giving an account of their life experiences in a land foreign to their ancestry.

And in 2006, the People's Republic of China invited Ray to put on an exhibition of his works in Beijing, which he aptly titled ***"From Jamaica my birthplace to the people of China, the land of my ancestry"***. The event, recalled Ray, was a crowning achievement in his career and was very gratifying.

Byron Lee is the founder and leader of the highly successful band, ***Byron Lee & the Dragonaires***. For 52 years, Byron and his band have captivated audiences with their blend of Caribbean music, making them one of the longest lasting road bands in the world.

Byron is the son of Oscar Neville Lee (Li Mu Bin) and his wife Evelyn Chong. Mr. Lee was a successful Hakka businessman in rural Jamaica, who was involved in the bakery business as well as hardware stores. From his father, Byron said, he received his shrewd business sense and from his mother, who was partly of African descent, Byron received the soul, rhythm and love of music.

Byron Lee & the Dragonaires has played a crucial pioneering role in bringing Jamaican music to the world. When Bob Marley was still a struggling young musician, Byron Lee was already an established Jamaican bandleader, having been the first bandleader to achieve an international following, playing Jamaican music and popularizing it around the world. In addition, being a promoter, owner of the ***Dynamic Sounds*** label, and studio owner contributed much to the explosion in popularity of Jamaican music from the late 1960s.



Formed in 1956 and playing a big band ska sound, the band's big break came in the first James Bond film, ***Dr. No***, in which they appeared playing in a night club scene and for which they played several items on the soundtrack of the movie.

In recognition of his contribution to the field of music and entertainment both locally and internationally, Byron Lee was awarded the Order of Distinction, Commander Level, by the Government of Jamaica in 2007.

Delsang Lue Taim of ADS Ltd prepares to make his presentation to Robert Lee

Bar staff on duty (L-R): Eldores Yap, Sharon Wan and Willie Chung

CBA Badminton Tournament 2008

The CBA held its annual badminton tournament over the weekends of May 23-25 and May 30-June 1, 2008. This year marked the 10th anniversary of our tournament and attracted over 300 entries with numerous entries from the inner-city players and from Mandeville. As a result, similarly to last year, the tournament was dominated by Haile Selassie students and Mandeville players.

In fact the tournament produced three "Triple" winners: Ackeem Maxfill (Haile Selassie) in the "D" Division, Tossainte Taylor (Haile Selassie) in the "B" Division, and Garron Palmer (Mandeville) in the "Open" Division. Palmer's Singles Final against favourite Gareth Henry was the outstanding match of the tournament with Palmer winning in three epic sets.

Delsang Lue Taim, Jnr. also came close to being a Triple champion winning the "C" Men's Singles and Men's Doubles, but stumbled at the MXD Doubles with his sister, Allison, as his partner. All in all, it was a most enjoyable tournament and one befitting the 10th anniversary of our tournament.

CBA wishes to pay tribute to our two main sponsors, Tastee Ltd and National Baking Co. Ltd. for their continuous sponsorship. They also together sponsored the beautiful T-shirts marking the special occasion. Other contributions came from Atlantic Hardware & Plumbing, Daytona Sales Ltd and Western Sports, all of whom donated the shuttlecocks for the tournament. Many thanks to all the CBA members who gave their assistance when asked, and a special thanks to Pearl Lue Taim who did an outstanding job in collecting the entry fees.

Robert Lee, the Tournament Director since its inception a decade ago, has intimated that this is his final year as the T.D. but hopes that someone else will take up the mantle next year and continue this most popular of badminton tournaments.

- Robert Lee

Chinese Quotes to inspire you

Belief: "Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. Do not believe in anything because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason, and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, accept it and live up to it."

- Buddha

Power: Nothing in the world is more flexible and yielding than water. Yet when it attacks the firm and the strong, none can withstand it, because they have no way to change it. So the flexible overcome the adamant, the yielding overcome the forceful. Everyone knows this, but no one can do it.

- Lao-Tzu

Thanks and Farewell to Mary Chen See and Qi Ying

The CBA hosted a dinner to say thank you to Mary Chen See and farewell to Qi Ying, at the Golden Gate Restaurant on Sunday evening, June 1, 2008.

Although Mary has not served on the management committee of the CBA, she has provided tremendous support to the association through the Cultural Committee for many years.

Ten years ago or so, upon recruitment by Gladys Chin, Mary introduced the teaching of Mandarin to members of the CBA and these classes soon attracted interested persons outside of the CBA. Additional classes were also set up for teaching CBA children. Working with the children led to other cultural activities with them such as singing and dancing, while Gladys Chin was still with us in Jamaica.

However, as interest in learning Mandarin continued to grow, it became necessary to hire a teacher from China to take over that task.

In the meanwhile, Mary continued to focus on the children and planning various cultural activities for them. She has also involved herself in such other tasks as the Chinese M.C. at CBA garden parties and in matters relating to culture.

The CBA takes this opportunity to thank Mary Chen See most sincerely for her years of dedicated service to the CBA and to the children. We also extend her good wishes as she moves on to another journey in her life.

Qi Ying was our Mandarin teacher from China who was recruited through the assistance of the Chinese Embassy in Kingston. She has served us for two years, teaching CBA members, children and persons outside of the association who were interested in learning Mandarin.

As Qi Ying returns to China, we thank her for her services and wish her all the best.

May is Child's Month

The CBA children were entertained by well-known magician "Tricky Ricky" (Richard Lyn), who was in the island on a visit from Toronto.

Known as Toronto's foremost children's entertainer, Tricky Ricky mesmerized the CBA children with his magical feat at the CBA Centre on May 26, much to their amusement.

While admission was free, the proceeds of a collection box at the show were presented to the Maxfield Park Children's Home in Kingston, appropriately so in the month of May known as "Child's Month". Just another way that CBA extends charity to the wider community.

China Earthquake Disaster

Following the great Sichuan earthquake in China on May 12, 2008, the Chinese community in Jamaica immediately took the initiative to gather contributions among themselves and, through the Chinese Benevolent Association, made a presentation to Ambassador Chen Jinghua at the Chinese Embassy on May 26, 2008, to assist the people of China who suffered great losses.

Just three months prior, China was experiencing severe winter weather conditions that caused loss of life and hardship for the people.

Up to early July 2008, it was reported that, as a result of the earthquake measured 8.0 M, 69,197 persons were confirmed dead, 374,176 were injured, 18,340 were missing and at least 4.8 million people were made homeless. So strong and deadly was the earthquake that it could be felt in nearby countries.

Persons who contributed to the China relief fund were as follows:

Dong Dong Restaurant
Charley
Hanlue Brothers
Peter Chin
Dennis Yu
Raymond
Audrey, Steve
Gespedes
Albert, Jenny
Ray Su
Peter Cheuh
Kenny Com Ltd
Jia Jie Zhang
Fan Wholesale
Zeng Wholesale Co.
Apple Trading Co. Ltd
Christina Johnson
Silbert Mullings
Brandon Chang
Erica Cai
S.R Wholesale
Kaven Wong
May Chung
Sweet Eul.
One Plus One W/Sale
Orient Express
Paul Lee
C.I.
Kendel Trade Corp.
Ltd
Sincere Est.
Anthony Haberdas.
Gold Coast
Calvin
Richard Chen
China Express
Kenny Lau
James
Churchill
Ive Zhao
Payless Distributors
Sammel Liu
Cecil Chang
Jacky
Anthony Chin
Eva Lam
Jin Ming Zhang
Benny Zheng
Ena Wong Sam Ltd
Harry Chong
Lasi
Simon Chung
Emily Cai
Sky Yang
Wong Haberdashery
Chin
Donna Chung
Champion Betting
Ken Lyew
Ms Chin
88 Wholesale
Ecko
Moneys Worth
Kapik
Buffalo Est.
Extra Well
Shims Wholesale
New Washington W/S
Annie Wholesale
Rainbow Haberdash.
Three Star
Luo Xiu Wang
Universal Cash Carry
Xtra Pia Poon
Mcguyver Wholesale
Fashion World
Larry
Miss Clim
Allan Wholesale
Kevin
New Vision
Everybody Wholesale
TMR
Leei Guo
Richard Shim
Dave
Guan Hua Zhang
Mi Mi Zhou
J.M Wendy
Pole Star
Electronic City
Wu Shang Qin
Ming Wholesale
Alligator
David Chai
Min Wen
B.B.
Ah Fatt Suzan
Tina Wholesale
Charles
Lees Food Fair
Sun Yat Sen
Ventry Foo
Central Trading
Sun Kwong Lau
J. Chin
Yat Keung Lok
Yiu Wah Ma
Yau Fat Heung
Bigga Wholesale
Carmen Williams
Jason Kong
Gail Chung
National Continental
Winnie Zhana
Philip Yaung
Good Mood
Henry Chai
Crystal

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Suey Mein Night 2

Suey Mein 2, held on April 19, 2008 was a huge success. All our ticket-holders and late-comers had a good time.

We were serenaded by the lively Stella Maris Steel Band. It was great to hear songs like *"Wish I Had A Wing Like A Dove", "Shilling wid the Lion pon it", "Feeling Hot-Hot-Hot", "Sammy Plant Piece a Cane Down A Gully"* and more. I for one was shaking my "boody".

For people who have left Jamaica a long time ago, the Stella Maris Church is on Shortwood Road and their Steel Band was instituted under the "reign" of Msgr. Richard Albert, the former Pastor. The Steel Band gave of their time on Saturday for our Cemetery Restoration Fundraising event. Many of the members of the band are not Chinese. A few are part-Chinese and one member is Chinese from Malaysia. Her name is Set Yoon, and she organised our entertainment. We were deeply honoured.

Our volunteers for the Suey Mein Night were superb, and we all worked like coolies. Our thanks to all the businesses who supplied all the ingredients to make this event a huge success.

Robert Lee, Chairman of the Restoration project, was the driving force behind Suey Mein Night 2.

I am happy to say we had very little food left back at the end of the function.

- Fay Chang Allen

Tibet—an autonomous region of China

The Jamaica-China Friendship Association had as its guest speaker, Ambassador Chen Jinghua of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China at its meeting held May 31, 2008, at the Stella Maris Pastoral Centre.

The topic was Tibet—an autonomous region of China. The Ambassador's presentation was in the form of a lecture and provided much information about Tibet such as geographic location and population data, history going back to the ancient time of the Tang Dynasty founded in the 7th century, the Dalai Lama and feudal serfdom, political autonomy right, development of Tibet after peaceful liberation, Tibetan customs, as well as an account of the riot that took place on March 14, 2008, in Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, and which had resulted in death and destruction.

Following the Ambasaddor's presentation, Dr. Kai Meng Lui, editor of the **Blue Mountain Journal**—a publication of the Chinese Cultural Association of Jamaica, added interest to the subject with his insightful commentary as regards current issues pertaining to Tibet and China.

The meeting was chaired by the Association's President, Mrs. Fay Pickersgill.

Chinese Home for the Aged

At our annual Easter Treat on March 21 this year, a small team headed by Outreach Chairperson Sandy Chung visited several places of safety and homes for the shut-ins operated by the Mustard Seed Communities, of which the Rev. Fr Gregory Ramkissoon is the executive director.

While excellent care continues at these homes for abandoned and severely handicapped children, we continue to be moved by the profound situation of the children, some of whom are able to smile brightly at the sight of visitors.

As we began our Outreach journey on the morning of Good Friday, our first stop was at the Chinese Home for the Aged, where we shared Easter Bun & Cheese with the residents and even provided them with personal care treatment.

Following that visit, it was observed that it was time for another refurbishing of the home. A couple months later, the home was re-painted and several repairs effected. At the end of the project in June, to bring cheers to the residents who now enjoyed a refreshingly cleaner home, several CBA members brought Chinese dinner to share with the residents and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon with them.

Kuan Kung: the god of war

Kuan Kung

Kuan Kung, also known as Kuan Ti, is the Chinese god of war. He protects and defends the oppressed and fights against all those who wish to take advantage of others. Besides this, he is one of the Chinese gods of wealth, helping people attract wealth and prosperity to their lives and homes whenever he is present there.

This god of war is the police chief saint, the god who commands all those who fight evil. Kuan Kung is the keeper of all good people and the fighter against those who intend to hurt or cause them a problem of any kind. He protects people from being robbed, assaulted and from all kinds of crimes in general. This way, if you wish to feel more secure while being away from home, you can carry a Kuan Kung as a lucky charm and receive its protection wherever you go.

Kuan Kung is also the guardian of all business owners, politicians and leaders in general. Therefore, if you belong to one of these groups and have leadership responsibilities, you should have a Kuan Kung on your desk or at the place you work in order to allow it to guide and protect you from bad forces.

In order to maximize its powers and the protection you can receive from it, the ideal place for you to have your Kuan Kung is in the northwest area of your house, business or any other environment in which you wish to keep it. While being at this spot of the house, he will make you feel much more secure and safe from all kinds of evil that might wish to come in your way. He will make sure there is peace and harmony for everyone in the home and protection for the father (patriarch). He will help to make sure there is prosperity and luck for everyone.

Whether it is in the northwest area of the house or in any other spot, Kuan Kung should always be placed facing the main door. This way, his fierce image would be able to reject any bad forces which may wish to enter the house. Therefore, the most ideal place for Kuan Kung to be is in the northwest area and facing towards the main entrance of the house.

Kuan Kung installed at CBA Centre

In a somber Chinese ritual, a new Kuan Kung altar was installed at the CBA Centre on March 14, 2008, in the presence of several CBA members.

The new Kuan Kung altar and its accessories had been earlier acquired through the efforts of Winston (Churchill) Chung, formerly of Nam Keung in downtown Kingston, and donated to the Chinese Benevolent Association.

A few months ago, after consultation to identify the right location for its installation, Andrew (See Fah) Chin was able to make arrangements with Dr. Hui-Min Tsai, A.P., D.T.C.M. of Orlando, Florida, who flew down to Jamaica to assist the CBA in setting up the new Kuan Kung altar.

Dr. Tsai is a certified acupuncture physician and doctor of traditional Chinese medicine, practicing in Florida for over 17 years. He is a fifth generation Chinese acupuncturist and herbalist who is also knowledgeable in Feng Shui and Chinese cultural practices.

During the ritual, Dr. Tsai directed CBA President Wilson Look Kin in presenting gift offerings of fruits and flowers to Kuan Kung, and See Fah in praying in Chinese for good luck, guidance and protection by the god of war. To close the ceremony, all bowed in respect before Kuan Kung and placed their lit incense sticks in a container at the altar.

Henceforth, food, flowers, and a small light should always be left at the altar, and the area cordoned off to prevent anyone from interfering with Kuan Kung, who was now overseeing the CBA Centre.

CBA Annual General Meeting

The Chinese Benevolent Association's Annual General Meeting comes up within another couple of months, some time in late October or early November this year. Formal notice of the meeting will be published in the press.

CBA members are encouraged to attend this important meeting and to elect a new executive committee and supervisory board to serve the term of office for the year 2009.

Look forward to seeing you there!

CBA NEWS

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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China Earth-quake

(Continued from page 8)

A.I.
Triple A
Rita
Mickey's Wholesale
Y.S.
J.J., Eric Huang, Beauty Haberdashery
Fen Kong
Ken Hoo
Ming Wholesale
Fresh Approach
Richard Tenn
Qi Chi
Chi Man
D & S Wholesale
Mrs. & Mrs. Young
Keung Au
Chee Chuen Ling
Tai Chi Ho
Robert Lue
Norman Cheung
Han Liang Chen
Winni Lau
Karen Cousins
Monte Carlo Casino
CBA
Zheng Hai Xiong
He Yue Xiang
Betta Choice
Vernon
Beauty Warehouse
Pole Star
Ming Town Rest.
Lisa
Anthony Choi
Stanley Yap

陳華泛
葉俊暉
鄭杰輝
曾俊強
無名氏
房柏林
張錦雄
洪永如
鍾全安
黎劍峰, 廖曉玲
劉國雄
許祖胤
劉國偉
張力堅
彭德文
鍾昌濟
陳洪 傳娣
陳曉青
張志軍
陳偉倫, 黃國華

傅協斌, 傅協佳
劉嘉琪
陳微珍
翁斗
葉建平
聚豐樓
周軍, 劉湘雲夫婦
何永恩
鄭素銘
劉文偉, 彭羽杉
陳應斌
康泰餐廳
巫燕, 郭俊
朱賓, 盧少珊
丘明昆
黃龍甫
劉衛清
余智光
張建軍
張雲清

友洪
張錦林
廖建飛
龍亞才
蔡玉全
無名氏
鍾益靈
鍾百林
沈映波
陳偉遠, 張紅艷
劉官生, Yuki Liu
黃永東
巫立峰
黃坤華
劉官生
呂志勇
謝永和
陳巧玲
蔡榮俊
謝永明

劉永祥, 張懿良
張官意
張國濠
牟大偉
翁少平
顧衛娣
簡志培
張良軍, 劉敏夫婦
龍城酒家
蔡遠僑夫婦
梅松榮
嚴愛美
巫卿, 陳美
郭金芳, Albert Lee
丘天佑
陳樹藝
黃明石
鄧有明
李志堅
張建波

Please reply to the CBA Membership circular, sent to you earlier, using the self-addressed stamped envelope. Let's keep up to date with our membership dues!