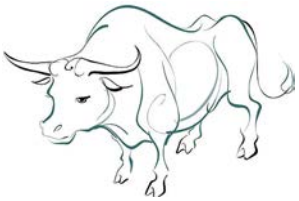
CBA NEWS
Jun 2009



Year of the Ox

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

CBA NEWS

The saga of the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society 1973—2009

BY WILSON LOOK KIN

At the Special General Meeting held on June 9, 2009, members of the Chinese community as represented by the Chinese Benevolent Association overwhelmingly gave its assent to formally accept the 'Transfer of Engagements' (assets and liabilities) of the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society and enable the Registrar of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies to gazette the formal closure of the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society (SYSBS). By acceptance of these Transfer of Engagements, the property at 18 Trinidad Terrace and cash assets totalling over 84 million dollars was transferred to the Chinese Benevolent Association for fulfilling the benevolent objectives of the CBA.

Above all, this is the culmination of efforts aimed at recovering the tangible assets of our forefathers, which in 1973 was placed in the property known as 18 Trinidad Terrace and registered in name of the SUN YAT SEN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY. By 'purported' resolution of July 8, 1993, the cash assets and property were willed away by the then trustee Charles Moo to the Anglican Diocese of Jamaica, seemingly in a fit of peeved anger over the CBA's stated policy of recognizing one ancestral homeland – CHINA.

Over the next 14 years spanning several administrations, the CBA sought various forms of moral suasion such as begging or appealing to the Trustee and also to the supposed Beneficiary—the Anglican Church to return these assets (from sale of Chung San Beach) of our forefathers back to the Chinese community of Jamaica through the Chinese Benevolent Association.

In 1997, an attempt was made to register the transfer by irregularly attempting to change regulations of SYSBS. It is now clear that, if 12 years had elapsed without any attempt being made during this time to register the title or question the legality of these purported actions, the property could be transferred to the church without difficulty under the cover of "ADVERSE POSSESSION" provision in law.

In March 2007, your CBA took the historic decision to institute due legal process and to allocate $500,000 to effect such recovery, and the firm of Livingston, Alexander & Levy was engaged, utilizing the services of attorneys Seyon Hanson and Warrington Williams.

As the property was still registered in the name of Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society under the Friendly Societies Act, the cooperation and the assistance of the Registrar Mr. Norman Gordon was sought to resuscitate the long 'dormant' SYSBS. This was formally effected by surviving mem-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Harmonization of CBA Operating Charter	2
Sun Yat Sen Education Trust	2
Street Feeding Programme	4
Annual Easter Treat	4
Transition	8
The relevance of Sun Yat Sen	10
Upcoming Events	12

Sun Yat Sen Education Trust

Tuition Assistance Programme

Open to students of Chinese descent

Apply now

Contact: CBA Office 977-3059
for application form and further details

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Harmonization of CBA Operating Charter

The Chinese Benevolent Association (CBA) was established in 1932 and is successor to the earlier Chinese Benevolent Society (CBS), which was formed in 1891. The operating Articles of Association is thus 1932.

The aims of the founding fathers for both the CBS and later CBA were to be active in the education and charity of its members, to arbitrate disputes and articulate the interests of members with the Government and the wider national community.

In 1996, the Memorandum of Association was amended and the Minister of Finance agreed to the grant of Charitable status, with the 1932 Articles being the operative document.

In 1997, changes to the Articles of Association were considered and these were approved by the general membership of the CBA, but the requisite approval of the Minister of Finance was neither sought nor obtained and, as a consequence, these amended Articles, which would constitute our operative charter, could not be registered and we could thus be regarded as operating in a grey area.

These shortcomings have now been identified and the law firm of Dunn Cox engaged to do the necessary redrafting to ensure complete harmonization under the new Companies Act of Jamaica, which will enable us to continue to represent the interests of the Chinese community in Jamaica and to be recognized as a charitable and benevolent association.

The draft Articles of Incorporation 2009 in keeping with the new Companies Act will shortly be made available for consideration by the CBA Management Committee and, once approved, a Special General Meeting will be convened for the general membership to give its assent to enable submission to the Minister of Finance for approval.

With co-operation and goodwill, this should be ready in time for our next Annual General Meeting, when you will have the opportunity to elect your new Executive Management Committee team who will guide our affairs for the year 2010 – the Year of the Tiger.

- Wilson Look Kin, President

Sun Yat Sen Education Trust

Tuition Assistance Programme

The Chinese Benevolent Association launched the Sun Yat Sen Education Trust—Tuition Assistance Programme on June 22, 2009. The Program objectives for 2009 is to award eight tuition assistance grants with a value of $80,000 each to students of Chinese descent who have a demonstrated financial need. The student must maintain a minimum GPA of a B academic performance and is required to perform voluntary or community work.

This Tuition Assistance Programme will be administered by the CBA Scholarship Committee. The student must be of Chinese descent as defined in the membership requirements of the CBA but need not necessarily be a member of the CBA. These awards are only for one year but awardees may apply each year during their course of study. Tuition assistance is provided to students with a demonstrated financial need and who will maintain an acceptable educational performance, participate in community service activities and sustain reputable personal behaviour. The total budget for this program for 2009 is $640,000.

Application forms are available at the CBA office at 176 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6 or by email at chinesebenevolentassociationjamaica@hotmail.com. Applications must be submitted by July 15, 2009 and successful applicants will be notified of tuition assistance awards by July 31, 2009.

Information garnered in the first year of this programme will be used to assess any additional needs for educational assistance within the local Chinese community. This information will be used to enhance this programme in future years.

- Gregory Hugh Sam, Chairman

The saga of SYSBS

(Continued from page 1)

bers of SYSBS Kenneth Hugh and James Lowe accepting into membership 23 members of the Chinese Benevolent Association to create a resuscitated SYSBS, who could challenge the propriety of donation of assets of and belonging to the Chinese community.

The founding meeting of SYSBS took place on April 20, 2007 under the aegis of the Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies, and the following officers were elected:

Chairman:	- Wilson Look Kin
Vice-Chairman:	- David Chang
Treasurer:	- Ventry Foo
Secretary:	- Marcia Harford
Trustees:	- Richard Tenn
	- Jimmy Lowe
	- Roger Chang

The Registrar of Friendly Societies was advised of the membership of a resuscitated SYSBS and its office holders, and was requested to issue a letter confirming our registered status,

following which we took action simultaneously on two fronts.

The Scotiabank branch in New Kingston was advised that all accounts standing in the name of SYSBS must be transferred immediately to the 'new SYSBS' and to effect the revocation of all previous signatories to the account, which was only the attorney Mrs. Bailey-Williams who was appointed by the late Mr. Charles Moo. We thus immediately recovered $4.5 million.

On April 27, Attorney Seyon Hanson received instructions to begin preparation of a CAVEAT on behalf of the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society, which specifically forbade any person or party from attempting to transfer or deal with the said 18 Trinidad Terrace without specific authorization of the Executive of the reconstituted SYSBS. Upon the formal acceptance and recognition of the legitimacy of the CAVEAT undertaken on behalf of SYSBS by its Chairman and confirmation by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, it effectively meant that, if the attorneys for the Anglican Church and that of the old SYSBS made any attempt to file for registration of 18 Trinidad Terrace, this would have to be resisted by Supreme Court Action by ourselves the CBA and SYSBS—the legitimate owners of this property. The earlier recovered $4.5 million from Scotiabank represented our safeguard mechanism for legal fees should the need arise for defense action.

Under legal cover, we took control of 18 Trinidad Terrace and assumed all rights of ownership. Upon further instruction, the CBA and new SYSBS attorneys then advised the attorneys of old SYSBS, Messrs. Pickersgill, Dowding & Bailey, that SYSBS has now been resuscitated and recognized as such by the competent authority—the Registrar of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies. It was further demanded of the attorneys of old SYSBS that the new SYSYBS require full accounting of the funds collected on behalf of SYSBS and manner of disposal of such funds. However, only a partial accounting was provided and a sum of $4.5 million returned to the 'new SYSBS' without details of previous donations from old SYSBS cash assets.

It required a legal ruse to ferret out documentation on attempted transfer of 18 Trinidad Terrace, which provided the basis of acceptance and registration of the CAVEAT undertaken by the CBA and SYSBS.

Despite objections by a minority, the Membership (61 signatories) overwhelmingly accepted the Transfer of Engagements. The Registrar has been so advised and has now issued a Notice for publication in the Jamaica Gazette for the closure of Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society.

Subsequent documents have now revealed that attorneys for the Anglican Diocese were fearful that legal action could be taken possibly by the Chinese community as the apparent 'DONATION' procedure was effectively flawed, and that they were given a GIFT and taking steps to accept. One attorney even remarked to the Chairman, "It was felt that all the Chinese Jamaicans had died out".

This should be a salutary lesson to us all to be ever vigilant and as a community to be prepared to defend and uphold our rights.

As the objectives of SYSBS were not fundamentally different from the CBA, we began the process of allocating funds to projects as befit the Chinese community, namely: $2.5 million to the process of Restoration of the Chinese Cemetery and $1 million to the Chinese Home for the Aged. We continued this process of allocation to the second year, when we took the next important step—to seek the Registrar's guidance to effect the transfer of the 'Assets of the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society' to the Chinese Benevolent Association.

Whereas CBA obtained Charitable Tax Status in 1996 through its amended Memorandum of Association, the CBA must legally continue to operate under its 1932 Articles of Association, and not its 1997 Articles of Association. As we sought to place SYSBS into voluntary liquidation, the Tax, Duties and Liquidation Fee Liability would have run into several million dollars. The assistance of the Registrar was again sought and it was agreed that the interests of SYSBS and CBA would be better served by rescinding the decision taken at our meeting in 2008 and formally asking the membership of the SYSBS to transfer Engagements under section 48 (1) of the Friendly Society's Act to the Chinese Benevolent Association. This was done at the meeting of March 30, 2009.

Once formally notified of the wishes of at least 75% of the TOTAL Membership of the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society, the Registrar of Friendly Societies issued a letter of "GOOD STANDING" to enable our attorneys to register 18 Trinidad Terrace in the name of the Chinese Benevolent Association.

Nothing now remained but to accede to the Registrar's requirement that the MEMBERSHIP of the Chinese Benevolent Association be convened in a Special General Meeting to give their formal assent and approval to accept the 'TRANSFER OF ENGAGEMENTS', freely donated by the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society for the benefit of the good causes undertaken for its membership.

Despite objections by a minority, the Membership (61 signatories) overwhelmingly accepted the Transfer of Engagements. The Registrar has been

(Continued on page 9)

Above: CBA volunteers feed the street people

CBA volunteers visited residents at the Chinese Home for the Aged—Easter 2009

Street Feeding Programme

CBA has embarked on a Feeding Programme to the so-called "street people" spread over various areas of Kingston. The programme began on Sunday, February 22 and to date we have had four such outings – February 22, March 29, April 26 and May 31.

The meal is cooked at the CBA Centre on the day of distribution and then packed into lunch boxes along with sachets of soda drinks. The CBA volunteers then set out at about 1:00 p.m. with at least four igloos containing about 150 lunch boxes and usually the first stop is at Cross Roads, and then we head to downtown King Street, then Sir William Grant Park, and then to Dumphries Road in New Kingston to feed the "gully" inhabitants. At each location we were pleasantly surprised at the disciplined manner in which the recipients conducted themselves, forming queues, giving thanks, expressing gratitude for what may be the only decent meal for the day, if not for several days.

Generally, the experience and feeling of the CBA members who have volunteered so far is one of humility and satisfaction of providing albeit temporary relief of hunger, but at the same time a feeling of sadness that such destitution exists not only in Kingston but islandwide. Our efforts seem miniscule given the enormity of the needs of the poor.

Members who have volunteered so far are Lloyd and Pearline Hoo, Doreen Chin, Neil Yap Sam, Marcia Harford, Wilson and Delores Look Kin, Robert and Emilia Lee, Willie Chong, and Eldores Yap. More volunteers are needed so that it will not require the same set of people to do the distribution each time. This programme is scheduled to take place on the last Sunday of each month.

CBA wishes to thank Caribbean Broilers for the donation of chickens towards this project.

Annual Easter Treat

Our annual Easter Treat took place on Good Friday, March 10, this year with our usual visits to the Chinese Home for the Aged and the several homes operated by the Mustard Seed Communities.

Preparation of the bun and cheese treat was done the night before by CBA volunteers, led by Sandy Chung who continued to head this project.

The group's first stop the following morning was at the Chinese Home at 1 North Street where bun and cheese as well as fruit punch were shared with the residents. Of the four residents there last year, only one remained as three have since died. Currently, there are six residents as five new residents have since come on board.

As we continued our journey of caring and sharing with the needy in the wider society, we were accompanied by Karen Lee, Sharon Wan and her mom, Pam & Richard Chang, William & Phyllis Kong in bringing Easter cheer to the residents at Mary's Child, Matthew 25:41, and My Father's House. We also provided for Jerusalem in Spanish Town.

We treated a total of 320 persons this year, and we are thankful to Jack's Bakery and to Purity Bakery for their kind donation of buns for this endeavour.

Earlier News in Pictures

***Above**:* CBA Gah San at the Chinese Cemetery on April 5, 2009.

Below: Dr. Keith Lowe made a presentation on "Hakka Castle Dwellings—UNESCO World Heritage" at the Confucius Institute, UWI Mona Campus on April 14, 2009.

Generations meet in Jamaica's Chinese Cemetery

Lisa Biagiotti was recently reporting on another story in Jamaica when she visited her grandfather's grave in the Chinese Cemetery in Kingston. She shares a personal story of death and renewal of the Chinese community in Jamaica.

I never met my grandfather, Albert Hosang, but I knew he was buried in the Chinese cemetery in Kingston, Jamaica. The 11-acre cemetery serves as the buffer zone for three main gangs in one of Kingston's most volatile neighborhoods.

Before the Chinese Benevolent Association (CBA) erected a wall around the cemetery, it was a blanket battleground. People slept in graves and pillaged marble tombstones, preventing many Chinese Jamaicans from visiting the final resting places of their relatives.

The cemetery is a reminder of the Chinese presence in Jamaica since 1854. After slavery was abolished in Jamaica, British landowners recruited the Chinese—specifically the peasant, nomadic Hakka Chinese from the Guandong province outside Hong Kong. They came as indentured laborers, but soon rose through the economic and social ranks of Jamaican society, settling in downtown Kingston and throughout the island as traders, shopkeepers and bakers.

From the beginning, the Chinese mixed with the local population and converted from Buddhism to Christianity. At one point, some estimate the Chinese population reached 20,000, but it's difficult to calculate a precise count because many Chinese are a blend of other ethnic backgrounds like black Jamaican, white European, South Asian, Lebanese, Syrian and Jewish.

When independence from British rule came in 1962, the Chinese fully integrated into Jamaican society. The second and third generations identified more as Jamaican than Chinese. They didn't speak the old Hakka dialect, but spoke Jamaican patois. The CBA in Jamaica is trying to revive haunts of Chinese culture with Mandarin language lessons, Chinese socials, badminton, Kung Fu and other traditional Chinese celebrations.

There is also a new wave of Chinese immigrants in Jamaica today. Like their Chinese ancestors 150 years ago, they are setting up shops in downtown Kingston. When I walked into Chun Lai's

(Continued on page 10)

Miss CBA Cultural Beauty Pageant 2009

Miss CBA 2009 Amanda Chin (centre), 2nd Place Leanne Morrison (left), 3rd Place Joanne Sadler (right).

Participants in the Miss CBA Cultural Beauty Pageant 2009 on coronation night during the CBA Annual Spring Festival Garden Party held Sunday, February 1, 2009, at CBA Centre

and Post-Pageant Presentation Party

Willie Chung enjoying the post-pageant party with the girls

Transition

Kam Fai Chan

(Tony Chin —Jai Gung)

June 19, 1934—May 10, 2009

Unexpectedly on Sunday, May 10, 2009, Tony passed away at North York General Hospital in Toronto with his family present. He leaves his beloved wife Mary Chen See and his free-spirited daughter Lee-Ann. He is survived by his siblings Ruby (Charles, deceased), John (Helen), Andrew (Elsie), Lillian (Wilson, deceased), Patrick (Janet), Victor (Gao) and Vincent (Joy). Tony will be fondly remembered and missed by his many nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. Tony's love of life included a passion for art, food, music and travel. His generosity to his family and many friends will always be treasured.

The funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, in the Chapel at Highland Funeral Home in Markham. Interment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery (Bayview & Langstaff).

In Jamaica, a memorial service was held at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Kingston on Saturday, June 6, 2009, at 12:15 p.m. Msgr. Kenneth Mock Yen officiated along with Rev. Fr. Kenneth Kong and Rev. Fr. Alfred Lee. A collection was taken for the Sts. Peter & Paul Health Clinic.

A reception followed at Golden Gate Restaurant in Liguanea, where a DVD showing Tony's life was presented and his favourite classical music played.

"Jai Gung", as he was affectionately called, formerly of Photo Express, was a past CBA Supervisor who gave generously to the association in support of the Chinese community. He was one of the few million dollar donors for the construction of the CBA Centre. His quiet strength and wisdom drew much respect, and his sometimes nonchalant exterior belied a deeper aspect of his values. A unique character, Jai Gung will surely be missed.

Mrs. Enid M. Chen

September 19, 1926—March 23, 2009

Late of Shenstone Drive, Beverly Hills, Kingston 6, made her transition on Monday, March 23, 2009, leaving son George Andrew (Andy), brothers Kenneth, Eric and Cecil, nieces, nephews, grand and great-grand nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends. Liturgical Celebration in Thanksgiving was held on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church, Old Hope Road, Kingston 6. A collection was taken for Missionaries of the Poor, Sts. Peter & Paul Soup Kitchen, and the Jamaica Cancer Society. Interment followed at Dovecot Memorial Park.

"Aunt Enid" was a past CBA Supervisor who unselfishly gave of her time and effort to the CBA. For a number of years, she took charge of the cake stall at the garden parties and brought it to a level of viability as well as made it a delicious attraction stall that was oftentimes sold out.

A kind and gentle person by nature, Aunt Enid was admired and loved by many as their mentor.

Aunt Enid was the wife of the late Bat Chen and the aunt of CBA reserve executive Melvin (Mello) Chin.

Milton Fred Wong

Passed away peacefully, on Sunday March 1, 2009 at North York General Hospital in his 95th year. Beloved husband of Clarisa of 22 years. Loving father of Clinton and his wife Carolyn, Winston, Arlene and her husband Yi-Han Chang, and Sandra Keney and predeceased by his daughter Eleanor Blackburn. Cherished grandfather "Gung-Gung" to Chantalle Marie and husband Christopher, Andrew and wife Karen, Randall and wife Tiffany, Matthew and wife Kelly, Mark, Luke and wife Zee, Nicole, and Paul and "Great Gung-Gung" to Isabel, Jeremy, Zachary, Gabriella, Griffin and Aiden. Predeceased by his several brothers and one sister. Milton will be missed and fondly remembered by his nieces and nephews, extended family and many friends.

Funeral service was held at the R.S. Kane Chapel on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 11 o'clock. Interment followed at Highland Memorial Gardens. As an expression of sympathy, donations were made to North York General Hospital.

Milton Wong was a former wholesaler in Jamaica in the earlier years, who served as President of the CBA in the 1960s. He had a particular interest in the Chinese Home for the Aged and other CBA benevolent projects. His sons Clinton and Winston continued the tradition of generosity and donated building blocks for the construction of the perimeter wall at the Chinese Cemetery in recent time.

Roy Augustus Loshusan

September 26, 1931—February 26, 2009

Suddenly passed away February 26, 2009 in Markham-Stouffville Hospital at the age of 77. He leaves behind wife Eldith (Joyce), sons Michael (Lisa), Christopher (Agnes) and Ronald, loving granddaughters Carleigh, Adrianna, Noelle, Bethany, Samantha and Breanna, siblings Icilda (Ed), Hilda, Josephine (Maurice), Gladstone (Evadne), Kenneth (Yvonne), Louise, Earl (Sharon) and Hermine (Danny), nieces, nephews, other family and friends. He will be missed by all.

Mass was held on Monday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Markham. Interment followed at Christ the King Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations were made to the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation. The family would like to thank all the medical staff who cared for him and all the family and friends who supported him during his time of illness.

In Jamaica, Thanksgiving Service for the life of Roy Loshusan was held at Stella Maris Church, 62 Shortwood Road, on March 16, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Immediately following the Service, refreshments were served at the Stella Maris Pastoral Centre.

A behind-the-scenes person, Roy was like a pillar holding up the Sovereign Centre in Liguanea. He was never one to be seen on the shop floors or at any any of the other Loshusan family business locations. Yet he was very much a part of the family business all his life, working diligently in the background and doing his part.

Clarence George Kong

April 8, 1924—February 17, 2009

Formerly of Kong's Hardware, Cross Roads, Kgn. 5, Chinese Benevolent Association, Chee Kung Tong and late of 21 Durie Drive, Kingston 8, died on February 17, 2009, leaving sons Maxwell, Stephen, daughter Doreen, grandchildren Laetitia, Favian, Jason, Ronan, sisters Terry, Gloria, Edna, Cissy, brother Aston, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Funeral service was held on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at Stella Maris Catholic Church, 62 Shortwood Road, Kingston 8 at 10:00 a.m. Interment in the Dovecot Memorial Park.

Clarence Kong was a CBA Past Executive and Supervisor, who continued to serve up to several years ago. His skills as a Chinese cartoon artist has served his community well, as, over the years, he has recorded events of the day that involved the Chinese in Jamaica. While some of these cartoons would provide humour, they also deliver unwritten messages that are clear. Some of Clarence Kong's cartoons are on display in the halls of Chee Kung Tong on South Avenue in Kingston.

He was the father of former CBA executive Maxwell Kong, an occasional contributor to the CBA newsletter.

The saga of SYSBS

(Continued from page 3)

so advised and has now issued a Notice for publication in the **Jamaica Gazette** for the closure of the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society.

The Notice

Friendly Societies Act

Notice concerning the Transfer of Engagements of Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society and the acceptance of the fulfillment of the said engagements by the Chinese Benevolent Association (registered under the Companies Act of Jamaica).

It is hereby notified for general information that Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society registered No. 434, by Special Resolution passed on March 30, 2009, in accordance with the provisions of Section 48 (1) of the Friendly Societies Act, has agreed to the Transfer of Engagements of Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society to the Chinese Benevolent Association (registered under the Companies Act of Jamaica), which undertakes to fulfill said engagements at the Special General Meeting held on June 9, 2009.

Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society has henceforth ceased to exist.

Dated 16th June 2009

Signed by the Registrar of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies

JAMAICA

This brings to finality the saga of SYSBS—assets of the Chinese community being improperly donated to the Anglican Church in Jamaica, its recovery to a new SYSBS, and its return to the Chinese community to be administered by the CBA on its behalf.

It is an achievement of significance by us as a community who recognized the importance of this committee's efforts and gave its membership approval for the fulfillment of the requirements for achieving the common goal.

- Wilson Look Kin, President

Generations meet...

(Continued from page 5)

shop on Princess Street, no one spoke patois (yet), and all the goods were made in China.

At 10:00 on Saturday morning, I sat at the foot of my grandfather's grave in the 99-year-old Chinese cemetery while resident expert David Chang read the Chinese characters on the tombstone. (My grandfather died at age 46, but the Chinese characters read 49 — it's common to have errors like these as the language slipped away from the Chinese Jamaicans.) David read from top to bottom, right to left: The town and province my grandfather's family came from in China, the names of his parents, brothers and wife. Then he said, "And 10? Ten children?" and turned to me.

I nodded, "Yes, 10 children." And I looked down at my right hand, at the worn, barely-beveled ring my Aunt Paula sent me in a plastic bag a few weeks ago. I sighed and thought of her as she waged her final battle with cancer. I patted her father's grave and heard her slim gold band tap the white tile.

My aunt, Paula (Hosang) Sperrazza, died at 1:30 p.m. that very same day. I'm not sure if my visit was karmic or auspicious — maybe it just is. She was a courageous and brilliant woman who began her life 62 years ago in the Chinese Jamaican community in Kingston.

Rest in peace Paula Sperrazza and Albert Hosang.

- Lisa Biagiotti
May 12, 2009

http://worldfocus.org/blog/2009/05/12/generations-meet-in-jamaicas-chinese-cemetery/5353/

The relevance of Sun Yat Sen (1866-1925)

Sun Yat Sen was the revolutionary hero of China who overthrew the Manchu Dynasty and was the first President of the Republic of China in 1912. Sun Yat Sen's revolutionary ideals were the precursor to the successful founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and whose 60th anniversary is observed this year.

Following the Opium wars of the 1840s and the economic devastation of China, occasioned by the combined occupation forces of all European powers, Japan and Russia, China descended from being the middle kingdom, where the emperor had godlike status and reverence, to an abject impoverished nation. The Qing / Manchu Dynasty was ruled by the concubine Empress Dowager CIXI and its last emperor, the infant PU YI.

Sun Yat Sen was born in 1866 into a peasant household in Chung San, Guang Dong and whose HAKKA father was a revolutionary leader of the Taiping Uprising, which was crushed by the Imperial army and the occupying Western forces in China.

This period marked the era of Chinese indentured and slave replacement labour to the western world, including Jamaica and the Caribbean basin. In 1854, the first batch of indentured Chinese labourers arrived in Jamaica.

Sun Yat Sen qualified as a doctor in Hawaii and was imbued with the revolutionary spirit of the Hakka tribes and began organizing a series of revolutionary secret societies such as 'Revive China Society', whose aim was to overthrow the Manchu Dynasty and to establish a stable Chinese Republic.

Sun Yat Sen roamed the world, exhorting Chinese abroad to contribute money, fighters and intellectual power to the struggle with varying levels of support. Eugene Chen, a barrister from Trinidad, also heeded his call and became the first Foreign Minister of the Republic of China and held this position twice.

In Jamaica, membership of Get Min Dong and Chee Kung Tong also provided support.

Sun Yat Sen is frequently regarded as the "Father of the Nation" whose ideals are enunciated by his Three Principles of the People: nationalism, democracy and the people's livelihood.

With the help of the Soviet Union, he established the Kuo Min Tang and Whampoa Military Academy, whose principal was Chiang Kai Shek and the military director Mao Tse Tung.

Sun Yat Sen died in 1925 but his spirit and ideals lived on through the epic struggles between Chiang's nationalists and Mao's communists and, after the defeat of the Japanese by America and the return of Manchuria now known as Heilongjang, China entered a new nationalist phase through the Founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

In Jamaica, his memory and his ideals for the Chinese community were embodied in the establishment of the SUN YAT SEN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY (SYSBS) in 1973, which went dormant after 1993.

It became necessary, however, for the CBA to resuscitate the SYSBS in 2007 and to institute legal action to reclaim and recover our heritage, which was 'improperly' donated to the Anglican church by its trustee.

This year 2009 marks the formal closure of the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society and receipt of the 'Transfer of Engagements' to us—the Chinese Benevolent Association.

We at the CBA continue to recognize and honour this National Hero of modern China by establishing a library and an Education Trust Fund in his name, to provide tuition assistance for needy and deserving students of Chinese descent.

His Excellency Xi Jinping, Vice President of the People's Republic of China (seated 4th from left), met representatives of the Chinese community during an official visit to Jamaica February 11-14, 2009.

Message from newly elected President Carol Wong, Tsung Tsin Association of Ontario

As newly-elected President of Tsung Tsin Association of Ontario, I warmly greet you on behalf of the new Board of Officers serving our 13th. Term of Office.

As we celebrate our Silver Anniversary , we ought to reflect on our past quarter century of achievements and the positive effect made within our Hakka community enriching the lives of so many of us; plus, our contribution to the Canadian society as a whole.

We must honour and applaud our elder generation who, 25 years ago, upon settling in their new homeland, Canada, had the foresight and, needless to say, generosity to provide for our Hakka community, a Hakka home located in Scarborough, Ontario. They have maintained it until many of us are now retired and willing to do our part, appreciating our good fortune of owning our very own community centre of over 8,000 square feet for the enjoyment of our members and their guests.

Tsung Tsin Association of Ontario was founded in 1984 as an affiliate member of the world-wide organization of Tsung Tsin Associations. We are a non-profit, non-political association promoting and supporting charitable institutions and other community activities in Canada while protecting the welfare of our members.

It is apropos to admire the tenacity of the founding members, including our preceding Boards of Officers from the reign of our first President, Norman Ho Fatt, followed by Kiu Kwong Lau, Ronald Lee, Noel Ho Tom, George Phang-Lyn and Matthew Lyn.

Over the past 25 years, many people have come to know others with similar background and culture. Some have even discovered relatives they may not have known. Business contacts have been made and numerous friendships forged. Elder members have a place to meet, socialize, reminisce and enjoy themselves. Younger members have the opportunity to belong to a greater community linked by our Hakka heritage and Hakka -culture.

Now in this our 13th Term of Office, there has been a change of generation in the majority of Board members, combined with the stability and guidance of our experienced and wise elders. We are looking forward to the next quarter century, recognizing that we have a responsibility to maintain our Hakka home, preserve our Hakka heritage and perpetuate our centuries-old Hakka culture for generations to come.

To this end, we have been organizing a variety of cultural programs and social activities to satisfy and suit all ages. Hakka and Associate memberships are offered and we invite you to achieve this "sense of belonging" to an association serving the community of the Hakkas, descendants of the Han Chinese nationality.

In closing and on a personal note, I am honoured to be elected as the first female President of Tsung Tsin Association of Ontario and, moreso, to be accepted and welcomed by our older generation as a "Tu-sang" (native born) who is not fluent in our Dung-Gon Hakka dialect. Fortunately, my fluency in the English language will allow me to better communicate with the other Canadian Chinese and Hakka Associations and, most of all, reach out to the younger generation who will ultimately be our future members and officers to whom we will pass the torch.

Thank you all for your past support and for joining us to celebrate this special occasion.

Hakka proud!

Carol Wong, President
Tsung Tsin Association of Ontario

CBA Executive Committee and Supervisory Board 2009:

Front row (from left): Karen Lee; Phyllis Kong; Cynthia Lyew, treasurer; Neil Yap Sam, vice-president; Wilson Look Kin, president; Natalie Shim, honourary secretary; Eldores Yap; Sharon Wan; and Gregory Hugh Sam. Back row (from left): Lloyd Hoo; Tommy Lyew, supervisor; Melvin Chin, reserve executive; Clarence Chin Fatt; Wayne Chang, reserve supervisor; Willie Chung; Exley Hoo, reserve supervisor; Robert Lee, supervisor; James Lowe, reserve supervisor; and Vincent J. Chang, supervisor.

CBA NEWS

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events. Further details will be announced.

The Tianjin Song & Dance Theatre

Through the Embassy of

The People's Republic of China

Presents a musical performance

at the CBA Centre

on Wednesday, July 15, 2009

7:00—9:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE to the public

Members are urged to obtain free tickets early as seating accommodation is limited.

CBA Annual Badminton Tournament 2009

Takes place the last two weekends of October 2009:

Sat-Mon, October 17-19
Fri-Sun, October 23-25

Be there!

China National Day
60th Anniversary Celebration
of the Founding of
The People's Republic of China
Sunday, October 4, 2009
at the CBA Centre

Chinese Benevolent Association

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers 2010 takes place on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at the CBA Centre.

Members are urged to attend this important meeting.