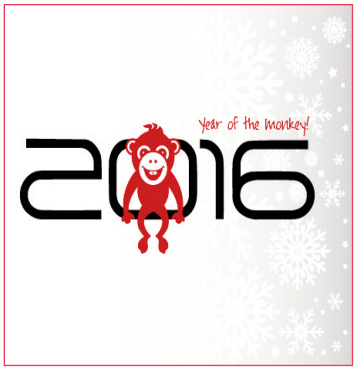

CBA NEWS 中華會館通訊

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION **March/ April 2016**

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Upcoming Events

The Toronto Hakka Conference will be held at York University in Toronto, Canada, July 1-3, 2016.

The Conference takes place every four years. This will be the fifth conference; the first conference was held in the year 2000. It starts with a reception at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Scarborough, then lectures and panels at York University, and closes with a banquet at Casa DeLuz in Scarborough.

Please see the website for further information:
www.torontohakkaconference.com

Photography Credits:
Willie Chong, Damian Hoo and Robert Lee

一个难忘的日子：2016春节联欢会与北京归国华侨联合会艺术团

A MEMORABLE DAY: Spring Festival 2016 and The Beijing Art Delegation Cultural Performing Troupe

We enjoyed a lovely shower of rain on Sunday February 14, even though we were hoping that the weather would relent and give us clear skies for the 2016 rendition of our annual Spring Festival Garden Party, hosted at the CBA Centre. We were not to be disappointed. During the afternoon, the rain eased up nicely and we had a wonderful time, making sure that all our families, friends and other patrons and guests who spent their Sunday with us, enjoyed themselves as well.

The other consideration was that the Garden Party coincided with Valentine's Day. If the turnout was anything to go by, then just as we had hoped, many persons attending the Spring Festival with their loved ones made the event their Valentine's Day gift.

Everyone agreed. The Garden Party was a huge success. Under President Damian Chin's lead, CBA teams were all geared up to make sure that every aspect of the event was well organised and equally well presented. From Lucille Jones and her team's sold out cake stall to Willie Chong and his volunteers at the bar, all the attention to detail paid off well.

(Continued on page 3)

Shi MeiYu and Shi MeiRu demonstrate acrobatic flexibility and graceful movements at the CBA Spring Festival Garden Party on Sunday, February 14.

编者的话
From the Editor

As this edition of your CBA News took shape over the last few months, it gave me time to reflect on the wonderful outcomes that become possible when teamwork is the formula we apply to everything we try to accomplish.

With President Damian Chin taking the lead, all our Garden Party planning came together, well coordinated and well presented. Congratulations to all the volunteers who made it happen in such a positive and memorable way, especially to Mike Ho Sue who created a superb setting, and his team.

The Beijing Art Delegation Cultural Performing Troupe gave us an excellent display of traditional Chinese talent, in a complete package of humour, acrobatics, music and song. Our audience loved it.

Chinese New Year was enjoyed all round, not only here at home but also among our friends and families overseas, which made for some stunningly beautiful photography, much of which we have shared on this month's pages.

We convey our thanks to our reliable photographers Willie Chong, Damian Hoo and Robert Lee, all of whom helped bring our articles to life,

And speaking of sharing, we have excellent material on Chinese migration to the Caribbean Basin, courtesy of Dr. Keith Lowe in Toronto. As for overseas Chinese, we caught up with Marsha Renfurm who comes from Suriname, and who shares her family experiences with us.

Robert Lee brings to our attention roadways formerly hidden by vegetation at the Chinese Cemetery, revealing yet another achievement by the Restoration team as they get this area ready for use.

Finally, a farewell to our friend and colleague Ray Chen, photographer extraordinaire. He will be greatly missed.

A warm thank you to all those who made our first 2016 edition possible.

Xiexie!

Nicole (Nicky) Hoo Fatt
Editor

2015年12月 -- 非常开心的中华会馆圣诞派对
GREAT FUN AT THE CBA CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 2015

Two are twice as nice!

The annual Christmas Party at the CBA Centre was another success for the CBA, due in no small part to the hard work and planning of Karen Hoo and her very helpful team. Directed by Karen, they transformed the auditorium into a joyous and festive atmosphere, which was especially inviting for the children of CBA.

Hosted on Saturday December 19th 2015, not only did the children enjoy the games outdoors, but there was the very popular Santa Claus, seated in his customary armchair, waiting to hear the wishes for presents from the very little ones while taking photographs with their moms and dads.

We especially acknowledge the work of Damian Hoo, who took many fantastic photographs, (many of which you can view and/or download from the online photography website Shutterfly)!

There was another special feature for Christmas 2015 – the dance floor area which was ingeniously constructed in vibrant Christmas colours in a corner of the CBA Auditorium, complete with "disco lights", which some of the CBA teenagers and grown ups thoroughly enjoyed.

Altogether it was a fun start and fun part of the holiday season, one which our members look forward to every year.

Thank you, Karen!

(See page 4 for more pictures)

A MEMORABLE DAY:

(continued from page 1)

With the guidance and hands on hard work by our former Vice President Michael Ho Sue, who led a team which aced all the elements, the auditorium's interior featured an amazing collection of vibrant colours – from the dragon mounted on stage, to the lion heads and lion dance drums, and the Year of the Monkey mural, it was absolutely beautiful.

Most importantly, as for the meal served, everybody's feedback was that the dinner was delicious and no wonder, we expected nothing less than that with Johnny Chuck at the controls.

But the biggest treat of all was yet to come. After dinner, the CBA Auditorium had an eager crowd awaiting the Beijing Art Delegation Cultural Performing Troupe. The Troupe was much anticipated as their performance was a one-time-only in Jamaica presentation and they certainly did not disappoint.

Coming to the island direct from China, the 16-member Troupe originated from the Chinese capital and was visiting the island in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Their programme included Chinese folk songs played on traditional instruments with Chinese opera music and classical dance presentations with beautiful, colourful costumes.

Playing a classical Chinese musical instrument – the Pipa or lute, Wang Jingjing (from the Beijing Song and Dance Theatre) performed two pieces; the first one depicting the "Spring of Tian San Mountain" while the second one was fitting for Valentine's Day – "A Rose For You".

The lovely Wu Chunyan, a lead singer of the famous Beijing Song and Dance Theatre, sang Hǎo yùn lái or Best of Luck, which was most appropriate for the New Year, wishing everyone good luck and good fortune for 2016.

A member of the famous China National Acrobatic Troupe, Mr. Liu Siwei then showed the audience how to juggle, followed by Miss Han Ting of the China Railway Art Ensemble who performed a very famous Chinese folk song from the Xinjiang Region of Western China called "Singing with the Tambourine", which was a bouncy, happy melody with lyrics depicting the life of prairie people.

Wu Chunyan sings Hao yun lai or Best of Luck at the CBA Spring Festival Garden Party 2016.

Yu Hai Yin played the Erhu, a Chinese two-stringed musical instrument held in the lap and played with a bow somewhat like a small cello, while there were acrobatics by two sisters, Shi MeiYu and Shi MeiRu from the Chinese Acrobatic Troupe.

His Excellency, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Niu Qingbao, accompanied by his wife Madame Yuan Jun brought warm greetings for the Chinese New Year which was well received. Also welcomed were Chinese Embassy officials, Mr. Xia Guoshun and Mr. Duan Jun Long who were also in attendance.

Other special guests during the evening were the sister associations of the CBA, including Mrs. Irena Cousins, President of the Jamaica China Friendship Association; Dr. Courtney Hogarth, Director of The Confucius Institute; Mr. Eaton Chung of Chee Kung Tong; Professor Anthony Chen, President of the Chinese Cultural Association and Mr. Patrick Cheung, President of the China Dongguan Hometown Association.

The actors and actresses of the Troupe have visited over thirty countries across five continents, from which they have earned enthusiastic responses from audiences who enjoy all kinds of classical Chinese culture.

Singing a famous Chinese Folk Song

Wang Jingjing plays the Pipa or lute, a classical Chinese musical Instrument

CBA President Damian Chin (right) warmly greets Ambassador Niu Qingbao (left) from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China at the Spring Festival. At centre is Mr. Xia Guoshun of the Chinese Embassy.

THE CBA CHRISTMAS PARTY 2015 *(Cont'd from page 2)*

Great guys deliver great music - Brandon Chang and Mike Ho Sue at the controls

Mr. David Chang at the cotton candy machine much enjoyed by the children

Me first, Santa! Me first!

Santa Claus embraces the little ones

圣诞关爱街道救济日与中华养老院的志愿者们
Christmas Treat for Street Feeding and Volunteers for Chinese Home for the Aged

Karen Hoo, Grace Hoo and Pres. Damian Chin lead the CBA teen volunteers preparing the supplies for Street Feeding while organising Christmas gifts for the Chinese Home for the Aged.

Teen volunteer Dominic Forte gathers some supplies for Christmas Treat

在澳门博彩酒吧酒廊的中国新年
CHINESE NEW YEAR AT MACAU

Tony Lue and Anna Young at Macau

Gregory Hugh Sam and Delores Look Kin

Gassan Azan and Lorraine Fung

Gregory Hugh Sam and Lilly Kong

The usually busy Lindsay Crescent location of The Macau Gaming Lounge and Bar was especially crowded on Monday February 8th when friends, families, colleagues, patrons and guests all converged at the popular establishment for an evening of great food, great company and great festivity, all to celebrate the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Monkey.

It is interesting that the name of the venue comes from a territory located just off the coast of China, some one and a half miles from Hong Kong; and which is very well known as one of the most popular gaming capitals in the world.

Managing Director Matthew Chinn and Director Rory Chinn were at the venue extending strong handshakes and conveying warm greetings to all present. One of the large dining tables had a full contingent of CBA members who enjoyed each other's company immensely, as they took the opportunity to meet and greet friends not seen in a long time.

It is estimated that some 800 persons attended the event. While Chinese New Year had been celebrated with dinners in former years, this was the first time the occasion was hosted on a large scale.

Shuttle vans transported guests from the parking area across the road at Dunrobin Primary, right to the very well decorated entrance area, where guests headed over to the dinner queues, well provided for by the inhouse kitchen and personal chefs. The event was well organised and many expressed their satisfaction with the delicious Chinese dinner and generous wines.

With the location's anniversary coming up in October/November 2016, other events are coming up which should be equally well organised and entertaining.

Karen Hoo, Doreen Chin and Pam Chang make excellent company at Macau

Mike Ho Sue, Patrick Lee and guest

Miranda and Leo Lue, Roy Lynshue and Leon Lue

Willie Chong, Alma Chin and Lilly Chinn

来自迈阿密的庆贺 （附图）
MESSAGE FROM MIAMI - Chinese New Year Festival

Editor's Note:
It so happens that Valentine's Day was extra special this year, because both the Chinese Benevolent Association here at home, as well as the Chinese Cultural Foundation in Miami, Florida celebrated Chinese New Year in fine style on the same day. Family and friends were there in great numbers and shared with us some amazing photography. Alpha Academy past students were also out there with their own booth, to celebrate Chinese New Year. Enjoy!

Message from Miami – "The Chinese Cultural Association presented a double whammy celebration for one and all: The Year of the Monkey and Valentine's Day! Alpha Florida Chapter, got the opportunity to rack up sales on the "baking" end of the spectrum. It was pure fun and on the go with nuff food, music and positive vibes! What a lovely show - pitchaz galore! CCA outdid themselves again. Thank you so much for being so gracious and for all your kind support!" (Photos taken at Miami Dade College Kendall Campus)

The lion leads Chinese New Year celebrations in Miami organised by the Chinese Cultural Foundation

Acrobatic skill on display

Traditional Chinese dress at Chinese New Year in Miami Florida

Alpha Academy Florida Chapter forms part of the festivities at their booth

A demonstration of agility at Chinese New Year in Miami

(See page 11 for more pictures)

关于中国人移民加勒比区域的年度论坛

ANNUAL FORUM ON CHINESE IMMIGRATION TO THE CARIBBEAN BASIN

(A LUNAR NEW YEAR EVENT AT MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE, FLORIDA)

COURTESY OF DR. KEITH LOWE (BASED IN TORONTO)

Left to right: *Dr. Keith Lowe, Co-chair Toronto Hakka Conference; Mr. Shaun Chen, MP Scarborough North; Prof. Narda Razack, Associate Dean, Global & Community Engagement, York University, and Associate Professor Jane Ku, Sociology Department, Windsor University.*

The annual forum on Chinese Immigration to the Caribbean Basin began in 2012 in order to focus attention on the influx of Chinese into the region as a result of China's policy of reform and opening up since 1979. The start of Chinese immigration dates back to the 1850s when indentured workers were recruited to work on Caribbean plantations and to build railroads across the isthmus of Panama and across other Central American countries.

The forum aimed to create a network of scholars and community leaders across the English and Spanish-speaking countries who would not only review the past but analyze the present and offer projections of the future. The present was shaped by the shopkeeper class who paid their passage to join relatives who arrived during the period of indenture. The future is being shaped by an entrepreneurial class which set up free-zone factories and by a technocratic class which staff the large projects won or donated by China's state-owned enterprises.

The forum draws on the cultural dynamism generated by the diverse population of Miami and South Florida, many of whom continue to dwell spiritually in the post-colonial countries of birth and a few of whom travel regularly back and forth from Miami to the Caribbean. They are intensely interested in the political changes taking place in their home countries, and in the role of China in the region, both economically and politically.

The first forum in 2012 compared traditional and modern immigration, and discussed recent migration to Miami and South Florida. The second forum looked at the transition from indentured labourers to free shopkeepers, and at projects being undertaken at present by corporations from China. There was also a survey of Chinese communities in Central America.

The third forum focussed on connections between Jamaica and Panama, beginning with the transfer of workers from the Panama Railroad to plantations in Jamaica in 1854. The current widening of the Panama Canal was seen to be promising to Jamaica, Cuba and the Bahamas, if they could gear themselves in time to serve as logistic hubs for the much bigger container ships to come.

The fourth forum proposed strategies for making the widened canal work for the benefit of Caribbean islands and South American countries. There was a preview of the forthcoming Nicaragua interoceanic canal, and an introduction to Caribbean identity in Cuba.

The fifth forum addresses political challenges facing the Caribbean Chinese. There are projects to revive Chinese culture, notably in the restoration of cemeteries and their records. New highways, bridges and other infrastructure continue to be built. Old Chinese and New Chinese try to reconcile their perceptions of each other.

The forum has attracted speakers from both academia and the community, such as:

1. Dr. Keith Lowe, researcher and community activist born in Jamaica and based in Toronto. He is the founder of this forum, and co-founder of the quadrennial Toronto Hakka Conference.
2. Dr. Walton Look-Lai, professor emeritus of history, University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago.
3. Dr. Kathleen Lopez, Rutgers University, an authority on identity issues in Cuba.
4. Dr. Martin Tsang, research scholar on Cuban culture and religion, University of Miami.
5. Dr. Ramon Arturo Mon, psychiatrist and community leader in Panama.
6. Mr. Robert Hew, archivist and "translator" of cemetery records.
7. Ms. Paula Madison Williams, former NBC and GE executive, now author/producer of the book and film Finding Samuel Lowe: Harlem, Jamaica, China.
8. Mr. Dalton Yap, entrepreneur and former president, Chinese Benevolent Association of Jamaica
9. Mr. Vincent Chang, bakery executive and former president, Chinese Benevolent Association of Jamaica
10. Mr. Neville Hoo and Mr. Michael Lee, civil engineers in Miami.
11. Mr. Lukkee Chong and Ms. Jeanette Kong, documentary filmmakers
12. Mr. Franz Hall, Consul General of Jamaica in Miami

采访MARSHA RENFURM – 在苏里南遗留的中国文化

CHINESE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SURINAME WITH MARSHA RENFURM

We recently had the pleasure of speaking with Ms. Marsha Renfurm – Consul General of Suriname in Miami, who kindly shared with us the various influences of her Chinese heritage in Suriname. The following responses are the result of an e-interview with her from her office in Miami.

Q: When and where were you born and where (if different) in Suriname are you from?

A: I was born in Suriname on January 19th, 1977.

Q: According to the Chinese Zodiac and lunar calendar, under which animal sign were you born?

A. I'm a dragon.

Q: Do you have any children? If yes, what are their names and ages?

A: I have a beautiful nine year old boy. His name is Nathan-Scott Renfurm.

Q: Do you have any siblings? If yes, what are their names?

A: I do. I have 3 older brothers: Frank, Steve, Patrick and one older sister, Ann.

Q: Please give us some idea of your country's geographic and cultural history, especially regarding its Chinese community. How large or how small is the Chinese community there?

A: Suriname is located in the North of South America. It borders the Atlantic Ocean in the North, Brazil in the South, Guyana in the West, and French Guyana in the East. Through the years we have had a lot of different cultures making Suriname their new home, thus contributing to our rich culture.

Ms. Marsha Renfurm
Consul General of Suriname in Miami

The Amerindians were there first, and then came the Europeans, Africans, Chinese, Javanese, Indian and more recently Brazilians, Haitians and people from other parts of the world. We currently have a lot of Chinese immigration as well. These "new" countrymen come from different parts from China than the earlier ones.

Q: Please tell us from which side of your family your Chinese heritage originates.

A: My mom was born in Suriname from Chinese immigrants. Her father went to Suriname first. My mom's name is Foei-Len Vera Liao-Yen married to my dad Alfonsus Edward Renfurm. I was raised in traditional Suriname fashion with bits and parts of the various cultures.

Q: Tell us about your childhood and the major influences you experienced from your parents/family.

A: I had a happy childhood. My parents, who were both educators and Roman Catholics, were very strict. But they were very understanding about the paths we chose for our lives.

Q: Are there any Chinese customs which continue to be practised by your family? For example, do you observe the festive Chinese New Year? If yes, in what ways?

A: We do not really practice many of the Chinese customs. We do observe Chinese New Year and also the honouring of our relatives who have passed. We like our Chinese food and eat a Chinese dish once a week in one form or another. I drink tea every day.

Q: As a person of mixed heritage, do you have any anecdotes to share about your cultural background which are humourous?

A: The one thing that is always funny to me is that people cannot really tell what ethnicity I am or how I can identify with so many different cultures. It is just how the Surinamese culture is.

Q: What made you decide to be a professional diplomat?

A: I was always intrigued about the profession. Even as a young child, I see it as an honour and a privilege to be able to represent my country; letting the world know about my beautiful country is my passion.

Q: Please summarise what are your routine professional responsibilities.

A: I am responsible for everything.

Q: In which country did you have your first diplomatic posting? In which other countries and/or cities, if any, have you served?

A: My first diplomatic posting was in Trinidad & Tobago, I was the Deputy Head of Mission. Miami is my second.

Q: Do you find it challenging to adapt to foreign cultures? If yes, why? If no, what are the methods you use to adapt readily?

A: Not at all. I love it. I first read up about the new place I'm going to, the customs, its people and life there in general. I explain it to my son on his level and voila, we're ready. I find all cultures so fascinating. It is always an adventure.

Q: Do you find that your mixed heritage helps you to adapt in your professional life?

A: Absolutely. I can relate to so many different cultures, and fit in almost everywhere.

Q: Have you ever visited China? For a holiday or for business purposes?

A: Yes, I have. It was a semi-official visit. It was one of the best experiences. I have never felt Chinese; Portuguese, German or African really. I've always just felt Surinamese. But while I was visiting the various sights and cultural shows, I cried and felt Chinese for the first time and felt great knowing/ feeling that this is the place my grandparents are from.

Thank you!

...boundless Hakka Spirit

客家研討會

VISION

The Toronto Hakka Conference started with the dawn of the millennium, in the year 2000. It dawned on the Hakka, the most diasporic of Chinese ethnic groups, that an era of global peace and prosperity was possible.

The vision was especially strong among those who migrated from the former European colonies to the New World, and who settled finally in countries like Canada and the USA where ethnocultural equality was enshrined. Conservationist, studious and thriving wherever they sojourned, they could become a leading edge in a world where material energy was diminishing as dramatically as human communication was increasing. It dawned on the Hakka or "guest people" that they were becoming global citizens. The guests, wandering no more, could become hosts. To secure the future, Toronto Hakka and international associates have convened every four years since 2000. The fourth Toronto Hakka Conference (2012) gave birth to the New York Hakka Conference (2015), and after the fifth Toronto Hakka Conference (2016), a Hakka Conference of the Americas will begin to activate other cities.

耕讀

MISSION

We will convene conferences in key cities of the Americas to transmit to Hakka and non-Hakka persons our traditional culture so that they can create the best of lives in the contemporary world. We study together to build global consciousness, to unite humanity as one family and to be ever closer to the earth which we inherited.

More available at www.torontohakkaconference.com

修复中华墓园的通道

RESTORED ROADS AT CHINESE CEMETERY

BY ROBERT LEE

While continuing the successful restoration work on the Cemetery site, the Restoration team recently "unearthed" the access road within Resting Section A-D.

After clearing and disposal of the vegetation and other debris, the road was found to be in excellent condition, including the concrete kerbs which needed only painting.

Another "hidden" road that was restored was the "back exit" road running along the West boundary wall leading towards the Exit gate. This helped to alleviate the vehicular traffic that usually takes place at Gah San. It is hoped in the near future, that this section will be asphalted similarly to the main roads.

After: Side road cleared 2

Before: Side road B

Back exit road

MESSAGE FROM MIAMI

(Cont'd from page 6)

Holding the Lion's head aloft at Chinese New Year hosted by the Chinese Cultural Foundation in Miami

The drummer prepares to display both talent and strength

Costume from the Chinese Zodiac Cultural Foundation's New Year celebrations

Entertaining a keen audience are the Lion and Dragon onstage at Chinese New Year in Miami

Beautiful ladies in an elegant dance

Meditation through movement with Tai Chi

CBA NEWS

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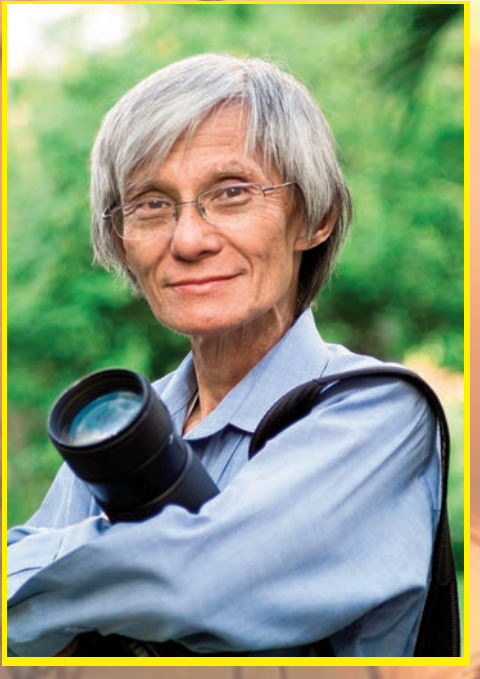
Your dues are paid up to the year printed beside your name above. "No Info" means that we have no contact phone number or email for you, that we need you to confirm whether this address is current, or whether you prefer a colour pdf version to be sent via email.

Please contact the CBA office to pay membership dues ($1,000 per year or $200 for seniors), update your records (or email membership@cbajamaica.com), and confirm whether you prefer a printed version of the CBA News.

卜告
TRANSITION

We are saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague **Raymond (Ray) Anthony Chen.** Ray was born on August 15 1939 and left us on February 7 2016, surrounded by his loving family. Ray's final resting place is the Elgin Mills' Cemetery. The burial service took place on February 20 2016.

A Mass of Thanksgiving for Ray's life took place at Stella Maris Catholic Church on Saturday March 12 2016. Tributes were given by Mr. Wayne Chen and by Ray's brother Mr. Roger Chen. The Remembrance was given by Mr. Lascelles Chin.



Ray was a renowned and highly respected photographer whose work spanned decades of achievement both here in Jamaica and in Canada. In his words, "Photography...it's in your blood and you can't get it out."

Speaking of his profession, Ray also said, "It is indeed an honour to have been granted the opportunity and the privilege to document the unquestionable beauty of the land and the wonderful people I've met on my journey of love across this island we all call home – JAMAICA."

Rest in peace, Ray and may light perpetual shine upon you.