CBA NEWS 中華會館通訊

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION **September /October 2016**

Inside this issue:

From the Editor	2
China National Opera and Dance	1, 3
International Children's Day 2016	2, 5
Anniversary Dinner Dance	4
Dr. Linda Chen	6
Kuan-Kung Temple Tour	7
Chinese Cemetery Restoration: The Transformation continues	8

中国歌剧舞剧院：众多的回味！
CHINA NATIONAL OPERA AND DANCE DRAMA THEATRE: MUCH TO ENJOY!

With brilliant, bright colours and beautiful costumes, the China National Opera and Dance Drama Theatre performed in an unforgettable programme at the CBA Centre on Wednesday, September 28.

Billed as their one-time-only public performance in the island, the troupe was in town to celebrate the China National Day holiday under the auspices of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, which brought the theatre show to the island in cooperation with the Chinese Benevolent Association, which is marking the 125th anniversary of the founding of the CBA.

Under the expertise of Artistic Director Cheng Tao and Performance Supervision by Li Xiang and Zhang Lei, the Chinese troupe had also performed privately at the Embassy's China National Day reception the previous evening at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston.

(Continued on page 3)

A member of the China National Opera & Dance Drama Theatre beautiful all in gold to celebrate the CBA's 125th Anniversary and the 67th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, on Wednesday September 28 at the CBA Centre.

The opening number "Spirit in Water" in silver and blue.

Upcoming Events

Suey Mein Nite
at the CBA Centre
Saturday, November 12, 2016
Serving from
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Contribution $1,300

From the Editor 编者的话

We have just celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Benevolent Association, which happens to coincide with the 67th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, two major milestones in the history of our CBA.

As well as providing excellent photographic coverage of our people and places, Willie Chong helped us celebrate with a great idea which was much enjoyed – our Anniversary Dinner Dance hosted at the CBA Centre on Saturday October 1st. Veteran entertainers Keith Lyn and Sonny Wong brought us into yester year with greatest hits from the 1960s and 1970s – notwithstanding the pending bad weather from Hurricane Matthew (which fortunately did not materialise).

In this edition we're bringing you stories which span the summer months right into October, including the very successful Barry Street Temple Tour during the Kingston On The Edge (KOTE) festivities.

Our equally successful International Children's Day was another enjoyable celebration for our precious children (lots of cake and cotton candy!) which enhanced the cooperation between the Chinese Embassy and our CBA. Congratulations to President Damian Chin for not only great team-building, but for leading one successful event after another in 2016!

In our efforts to feature members of our community who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments, we introduce Dr. Linda Jane Chen, a surgeon who has made tremendous strides in her chosen profession.

And speaking of successful occasions, who can forget the ultimate burst of colours in song, dance and music displayed by the China National Opera and Dance Theatre, who were in town for the two anniversaries. If you missed it, take a look online on our Facebook page for images by Willie Chong or at cbasquadphotos.shutterfly.com for photos by Damian Hoo.

Importantly, please send in your ideas for articles you would like to see in your CBA News, so that we can cover them for you. Your editor is just a click away at nhoofatt@yahoo.com

As we move into the year's last quarter, we thank all contributors for making our newsletter a publication to look forward to!

Xiexie!

Nicole (Nicky) Hoo Fatt

Editor, CBA News

国际儿童节：一切为了所有的小朋友
INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY 2016: ALL FOR THE LITTLE ONES

During the month of May, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Benevolent Association invited children ages 16 and under to the celebration of International Children's Day at the CBA Centre on Sunday May 29.

Usually in China, Children's Day is celebrated at the beginning of June which is observed as a very important day.

CBA President Damian Chin delivered a warm welcome to all present, especially to the children, followed by greetings from His Excellency Ambassador Niu Qingbao.

Funding for the local celebration was provided courtesy of the Chinese Embassy and the event was held between the hours of 5 to 8 p.m.; just enough time to get ready for school the next day.

The event was a joint effort which demonstrated the close cooperation between the Chinese Embassy and the CBA, for the Chinese community and Jamaica as a whole.

(continued on page 5)

Ten year old Christy Dai of Sts. Peter & Paul Prep is pretty in pink.

Yes, I'm just enjoying the fun!

CHINA NATIONAL OPERA AND DANCE DRAMA THEATRE

(continued from page 1)

This year, China celebrates the 67th Anniversary of the Founding of The People's Republic of China (1949 to 2016), a commemoration observed by Chinese communities worldwide.

Opening the show were female members of the group in a rendition described as "Spirit of Water", where dancers moved in rhythmic harmony imitating the movement of water in sparkling blue and silver costumes.

Male and female dancers Liu Bin and Luo Xi exhibited the softer side of theatre in a warm embrace called "Tender Love Under The Moon"; while solo performer Yang Wen Na played "Grapes Harvest" on the erhu, a two-stringed traditional Chinese instrument played with a bow, like a violin.

Gorgeous golden robes closed the presentation with "Drunken Concubine" as a fascinated, full capacity audience showed their appreciation with warm applause. The group had been brought to the island with the kind courtesy of the Chinese Embassy.

Western Union provided part sponsorship participation for the event.

We are sure that this was one of the best performances which has ever graced the stage at the CBA.

Colourful shades in the dance "Picking Vicia Sativa"

Men's Solo Performer Hou Meng in "Chant Maple Tree in a Bleak Autumn"

Liu Bin and Luo Xi perform "Tender Love Under The Moon".

President Damian Chin (centre) hosts Chinese Embassy representatives. At left is Mr. Junlong Duan (Consul) and at right Mr. Wenxu Yang (Counselor).

周年餐舞会成功举办

ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE IS A SUCCESS

Even though there was Hurricane Matthew on its way to the island, that did not stop members and their guests from enjoying themselves thoroughly at the Dinner Dance held at the CBA Centre on Saturday evening October 1st.

Calls came in from patrons who were busy preparing their homes for the storm, but nevertheless the occasion saw a reasonably sized crowd who rocked and swayed to the music of yester year. This was no surprise as great music came from star performers Keith Lyn and Sonny Wong, who came down just for this musical treat with selections from the 1960s and 1970s. Bobby Wong was at the controls for Sparkles.

Keith Lyn is famed as a former member of Byron Lee and The Dragonaires and Sonny Wong is well known as a band member of the former group Mighty Vikings; two favourite bands whose work mark the evolution of popular music here at home and across the Caribbean.

The success of the evening was due in no small part to the planning and organising of a strong team of volunteers, led by Willie Chong and Marcia Harford.

In fact, we offer special congratulations to Willie, who came up with the idea of hosting the Dinner Dance.

Willie's brainchild was held to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese Benevolent Association, as well as to mark the 67th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

As always, emcee Marcia Harford ably navigated through the programme for the guests as they moved from a delicious buffet dinner organised by Timmy Yip and team, to the long awaited entertainment.

President Damian Chin hosted special guests including His Excellency Niu Qingbao, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Jamaica and his wife Madame Yuan Jun; Mrs. Irena Cousins, President of the Jamaica China Friendship Association accompanied by Mr. Leo Cousins; French Ambassador to Jamaica His Excellency Jean-Michel Despax and his wife Line Despax; Professor Anthony Chen, President - Chinese Cultural Association and Mrs. Rheeta Chen.

Madame Lu Jun, Third Secretary of the Chinese Embassy and other well wishers. The gate prize of dinner for two was kindly donated by Dragon Court Restaurant.

As the oldies were belted out, as well as some of the more contemporary hits, there was enthusiastic dancing well into the night. Truly a great anniversary celebration!

Special Guests at dinner looking forward to the dancing.

President Damian Chin, Sonny Wong, Ambassador Niu Qingbao and Keith Lyn.

Sonny Wong, Dr. Juliet Lee and Keith Lyn.

Volunteers Marcia Foo and Anna Young are ready to organise tickets for drinks..

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY 2016

(continued from page 2)

The Children's Day event was held under the patronage of His Excellency Ambassador Niu Qingbao and attended by representatives from the Chinese Embassy and their families. Part of the Embassy-sponsored funding will go towards future tuition for Mandarin students under the age of 16 who are attending classes at the CBA.

Oliver and Laura Chang have delicious cake for the children.

There was plentiful food and attractions for the kids, including the bounce-about, pop corn, and snow cone. Games for the children included sack races, egg and spoon races and musical chairs.

Laoshi (Teacher) Lui's Mandarin students presented a Poem in Mandarin as well as a Chinese song. One of the most impressive parts of the programme was the cello delightfully played by one of the children in the CBA's Mandarin class.

Gifts were organised for three age categories: 1-5 years, 6-10 years and 11-16 years. The children who participated were excited by gift bags containing pencil cases and pencils, colouring books and crayons and activity packs.

Kid-friendly food was also served to make sure that the little ones enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The evening's festivities were guided by emcee Eva Young who kept the programme moving in Mandarin and English.

The Children's Day celebrations were featured in "The Children's Own" newspaper in the September 12 – 16 edition, the first edition for academic year 2016/2017, and the first published after the paper's usual summer interval of several months.

A child and his cello lead the children from CBA's Mandarin Class.

You are all winners in the sack race!

Mr. David Chang prepares the cotton candy for the little ones.

STRIDES 医生LINDA CHEN：向着国际迈进

Dr. Linda Chen: Jamaica-Born Doctor Makes International Strides

(Article sourced for CBA News from The Gleaner Archives. Article originally from Bureau of Gender Affairs)

(Link: http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20110307/flair/flair3.html)

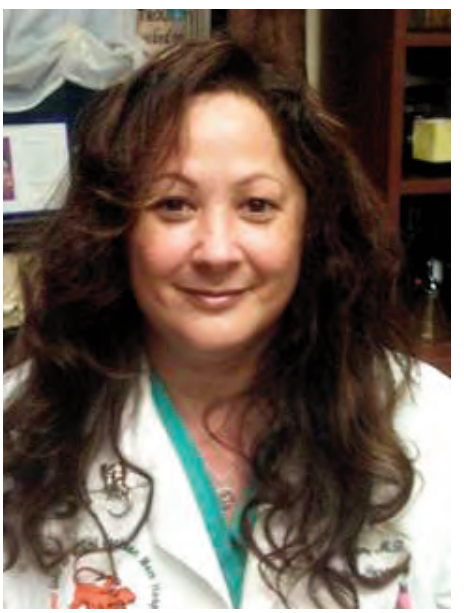
Assertive, assiduous, caring and persevering are only a few attributes which capture the essence of Dr. Linda Jane Chen.

A great listener, she is blessed with an unrivalled passion to serve. Dr. Chen underscores the importance of empathy and humility as critical components for success. She endorses humanism in a demanding and time-consuming scientific-based field. She believes that, "You have to have the ability to step outside of yourself and objectively review an experience, that is honest self-analysis. In doing this, you can either replicate behaviours that lead to success or change behaviours that don't. In all things, you have to have the ability to get yourself up and dust yourself off and move on. If I can go to work and change or save someone's life, then every day is a success for me."

Born and raised in Kingston, she is the product of a Chinese-Jamaican father and British mother. She credits St Hugh's High School for Girls and Campion College as the reasons for her hard-work ethic, sense of pride and drive to always do her best.

"I always knew I was going to be a physician since I was a little girl. My father always taught me generosity to others. My mother taught me the value of altruism, volunteerism and gentle compassion. I have taken these important lessons and tried to incorporate them into my life and my work," she explained.

She pursued further studies in England and later attended the University of Miami. From there, she worked as a science teacher for a year in Miami at an all-girl Catholic school. Subsequently, she received a medical degree from the University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine. Dr. Chen moved to Oakland, California, where she spent seven years training in general surgery at the University of California, San Francisco, and is a board-certified general surgeon. She is currently an assistant professor of clinical surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and surgical director of the Live Kidney Donor Transplant Programme.



Dr. Linda Chen

"I have been a physician for 15 years and I wouldn't say that gender concerns have a negative impact on my work. However, both unconscious and conscious biases exist for every professional working woman. Some environments are better than others." Dr. Chen is committed to the growth and expansion of the Living Kidney Donor Program through service excellence and superior outcomes. Live donor kidney transplants serve to fast-track patients toward transplantation instead of enduring long wait times on the deceased donor list. She is also active in clinically performing deceased donor kidney and pancreas transplants.

Dr. Chen is engaged in distinguished original research which has filled an important role in medical literature. An accomplished writer and co-author, her work has been published extensively. In this regard, she has made a distinctive contribution to educational practice and curriculum development through publications, abstracts and other pieces of ground-breaking research. Dr. Chen is also actively involved in outreach activities, particularly those that affect the lives of the vulnerable. She has participated in radio talk shows to promote organ donation awareness and in fund-raising endeavours for the Transplant Foundation.

"Medicine also allows me to incorporate my core values. The reward of transplant surgery is to save lives or positively change them." Over time, her extensive and ongoing contribution to medicine, education and development has provided valuable insights and significant understanding of the complexity of the human body and the importance of equal opportunity afforded through education. As a member of the diaspora, she continues to contribute significantly to development at the international level.

Dr. Chen approaches all hardships with dignity, resilience and integrity, while living with the highest ethical standards. She explains that world travel provides her with the opportunity to experience other cultures, food, interesting conversations and humanity. For relaxation and escape, she also reads historical fiction.

Her invaluable contribution to humanity has not gone unnoticed. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Outstanding Resident Teacher of the Year award, the Annual Surgical Resident Award, and the Transplant Program Supporter of the Year award.

We are proud to call her one of our own.

我们来自何处：浆果街关公庙一游

FROM WHENCE WE CAME: KUAN-KUNG TEMPLE TOUR AT BARRY STREET

The Chinese Temple at 129 Barry Street.

Traditional figure standing guard at the entrance to the Temple.

As part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Chinese Benevolent Association, the CBA hosted a guided tour, free of charge, of the Chinese Temple, a Kingston landmark which dates back to 1897.

It was an opportunity for visitors to learn about the history, culture and experiences of Chinese in Jamaica and was organised as part of Kingston On The Edge (KOTE) Urban Arts Festival 2016.

The Kuan-Kung Temple is located at 129 Barry Street and saw a big turnout by members of the public, who were fascinated by all the Temple had to offer as a symbol of the Chinese experience in Jamaica.

The tour was brilliantly conducted on Sunday June 26 by CBA Past President Vincent J. Chang.

The Temple was once the tallest building which dominated the Barry Street skyline and was the core meeting place for the Chinese merchant community which resided in downtown Kingston. It was formerly a multi-functional building, serving the retailing and wholesale shopkeepers as well as providing accommodation for those with relatives who were out of town.

Today, the Temple is not in active use and efforts have been made to help preserve this historical site.

If you would like to learn more about the Temple on Barry Street, a good place to start is on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/v/gKfMr90X0k0?start=22&end=1455.5&version=3

It is a good reminder of the places from whence we came.

An iconic figure at the Temple spanning the generations on the guided tour.

Yvonne Chin (left) and Monica Chen (right) at the entrance of the Chinese Temple.

CBA NEWS

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

176 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6, Jamaica, W.I.

Phone: (876) 977-3059, 977-6053
Fax: (876) 977-4364

E-mail:
cbajamaica@gmail.com

Website:
www.cbajamaica.com

Visit us on facebook@
chinese benevolent association of jamaica

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.

中华墓园修复：改造进行中

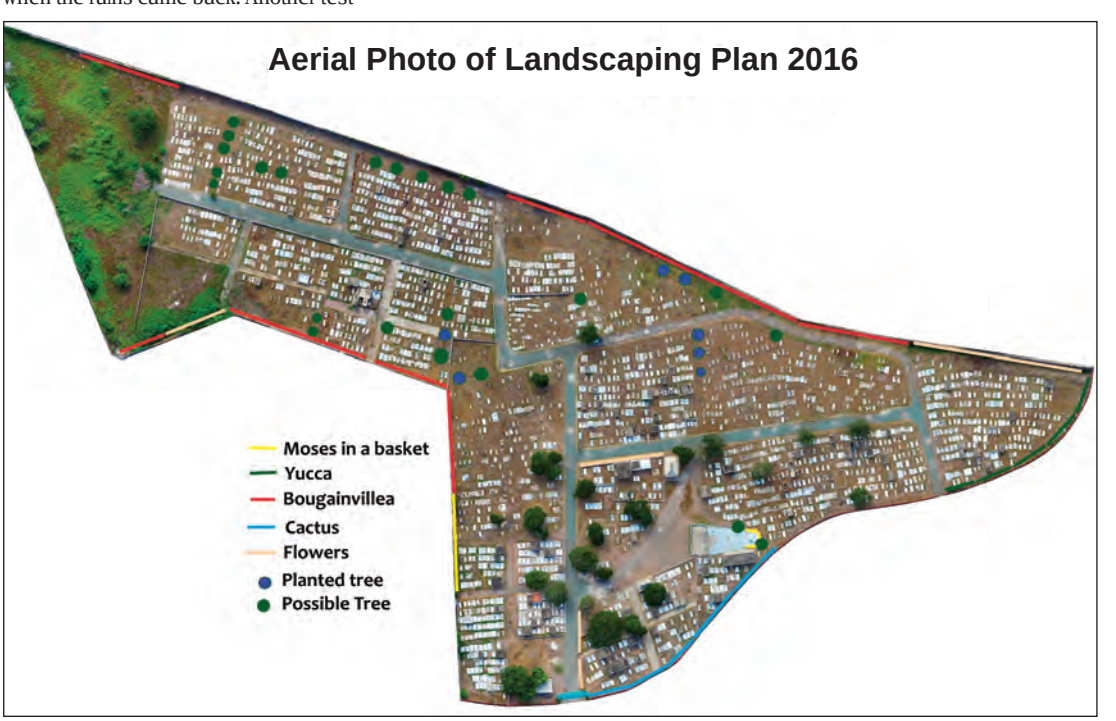
CHINESE CEMETERY RESTORATION: THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES

By Robert Hew

The Cemetery has turned the corner and is slowly being transformed into a beautifully landscaped area, thanks to our hardworking, indomitable Cemetery Committee. Now that most of the Coral Vine weeds are under control, the focus has turned to more decorative landscaping. This recent aerial photo shows how clean the Cemetery is being maintained year-round, not just at Gah San. Click and zoom in to see the landscaping plan: bit.ly/Landscape2016-1.

Experimental plots of Bahama grass and Zoysia grass were planted and monitored to see whether they could survive the very dry climate downtown, without irrigation. Unfortunately, after the supplemental watering was withheld, they both withered and did not recover when the rains came back. Another test plot of Seymour grass is planned.

So far, most of the tall concrete perimeter wall has been planted with 300 bougainvillea vines, now being trained to run up the walls on wire supports. The blooms will add colour and the prickles will help deter fence jumpers. Similarly, 300 cactus and Yucca plants have been planted just inside the Waltham Park Road front wall. Select drought-tolerant but colourful plants like Moses-in-a-basket and blue Plumbago are being planted inside the cemetery. In the few areas where grey water can be harnessed, the goal is to plant flowers from which the local community can make Gah San bouquets, thereby creating another source of income for them. If the right mix of hardy flowers can be found, eventually you could have your family graves beautified and tended year round at nominal cost.

And finally, shade trees are being planted at strategic points where their roots will not affect nearby graves, yet their canopies will provide cool sanctuaries from which visitors can soak up the newly re-established serenity of the Cemetery. These include Poor Man's Orchid, Pouie, fragrant Frangipani and Lignum Vitae. Care is being taken to avoid dense vegetation which might create blind spots.

Check your own backyard, consult your relatives/friends, etc. … If you have any drought-tolerant trees to donate to our landscaping efforts, let's make future Gah Sans even more pleasing and memorable for our visitors.