CBA NEWS 中華會館通訊

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

July 2013

Inside this issue:

From the Editor	2
Sizzling Wok	2
The Chinese Cemetery Update	4
Gah San	5
In Search Of My Father	6-7
Suey Mein Night	8
Transitions	8

少林武僧团及杂技介绍
SHAOLIN WARRIOR MONKS AND ACROBATIC TROUPE

The Henan Cultural Performing Arts Group will visit Jamaica from August 4 to 9th. They are a combination of ShaoLin Warrior Monks and Acrobats and have performed many times in Europe, the USA, Asia and other countries and regions with excellent reviews and commendations. This is their first visit to Jamaica and the second stop in a 5-country tour which includes the Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Suriname.

The 12-member ShaoLin Warrior Troupe will give Shaolin Kung Fu demonstrations in fighting and with different weapons.

The 6 members of the Acrobatic Group will display their expertise in spinning, balancing and contortion acrobatics.

CBA Centre will be the venue for their Kingston performances with the possibility of one show being held in Montego Bay. Plans are being finalized, so stay tuned!

(Continued on page 3)

ShaoLin - Troupe Group Picture.

ShaoLin - Kung Fu Group Posts.

ShaoLin - Three Monks practising.

Upcoming Events:

Suey Mein Night
Sat., June 29, 2013
@ 6:30 p.m. CBA Centre

ShaoLin Warrior Monks & Acrobatic Troupe
@ CBA Centre
Entrance Fees:
7 o'clock shows $1,200.00
11 o'clock show $600.00

Mon., August 5, 2013
@ 7:00 p.m.

Tue., August 6, 2013
@ 11 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Wed., August 7, 2013
@ 7:00 p.m.

From the Editor 编者的话

As summer seems to have come knocking earlier this year with the heat wave we have been experiencing in Kingston, the temperature will be even higher in the CBA kitchen when we turn up the heat for **Suey Mein Night** to be held on Saturday, June 29th at CBA Centre.

The thermostat will definitely rise to new heights when the Henan Cultural Performing Arts Group comes a-calling from August 4 – 9th. Breaking down their official title further, they are the original ShaoLin Warrior Monks and Acrobatic Troupe who will demonstrate their skill and gravity-defying feats on the stage of the CBA Centre. In a nutshell – the Kickers will be in live and living colour! You cannot afford to miss this once in a lifetime experience!

In April, Hannah Lowe visited Jamaica in search of her Jamaican-Hakka roots. We were happy to assist her in her journey to walk in the footsteps of her Hakka ancestors. An unexpected thrill for her was finding her Grandfather's grave with the help of David Chang, Robert Hew & yours truly (please indulge me)!

The restoration work at the Chinese Cemetery is in full swing and will be further enhanced with the refurbishing of the main road. The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office has made a sizeable donation along with several generous donations from our members. Chair Robert Lee is excited and unable to contain his excitement and is all set to oversee this next phase.

We thank Lukkee Chong for sharing his time and talent in recording the recent Gah San proceedings for posterity.

You may view the video at http://vimeo.com/framebyframejm/gahsan or at http://youtu.be/VygmMxBKTm.

Congratulations to Oliver Chang on his new venture into the restaurant business with the opening of the **Sizzling Wok** in Upper Manor Park Plaza. So for delicious Chinese take-out do visit them. All lunch entrees will be served with a fortune cookie and your dinner orders will be served in the traditional Chinese take-out boxes which we only see in the movies nowadays or in foreign!

Stay cool and remember we are in the hurricane season, so stay safe and ensure you are fully prepared for all eventualities.

We look forward to seeing you at all our events at CBA Centre this summer!

Marcia Harford
marciah@cwjamaica.com

Sizzling Wok, the newest Chinese Take Out restaurant in Kingston is sizzling up a storm!

It opened in Upper Manor Park Plaza at the end of April. It is a small but cute location, simply decorated in white and red with cherry blossom motifs.

It is the brain child of Oliver Chang who said "I wanted to bring fast, delicious Chinese food to the Kingston 8 area." The restaurant offers take-out and delivery service for lunch and dinner, 7 days per week. The menu has a variety of meat, fish, chicken, noodle, soup and vegetable dishes. Customers can call ahead to place their orders so they are ready to pick up on their way home from work. Catering services are also available.

Chang says "I had the idea to open **Sizzling Wok** because when my wife wanted me to pick up something for dinner and not the typical fast food; I did not want to have to drive very far. So I saw the need for this type of restaurant in Manor Park. I am there to ensure that the food tastes good, as I do not serve anything that I would not eat myself." Chang wanted to bring back the Chinese theme serving dishes in Chinese Take Out boxes and offering fortune cookies. Their Grand Opening celebration held on Thursday, June 20th had sampling of their dishes and the Traditional Lion Dance performed by the Wing Lung Kung Fu school.

PICTURES OF THE OPENING

SHAOLIN WARRIOR MONKS

(Continued from page 1)

ShaoLin is the mother of Kung Fu! ShaoLin Kung Fu is an important part of Chinese martial arts. Shaolin monks' martial arts tradition dates back to the 6th century. Originally used as exercise to keep fit, Kung Fu eventually had to be used to protect the monastery's assets against intruders and assailants.

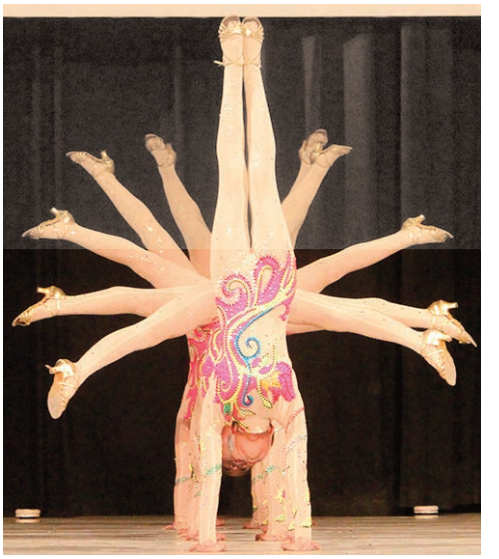
ShaoLin became famous for its warrior monks who were masterful in their practice of Kung Fu. Being Buddhist monks, however, they were bound by a set of principles called martial ethics, *"wude"*, that includes prohibitions such as "do not betray your teacher" and "do not fight for frivolous reasons" as well as eight "hit" and "do not hit" zones to ensure the opponent will not be too seriously injured.

Chinese Acrobatics is different from acrobatics elsewhere, in the same way that Chinese cuisine differs from the cuisine of, say, France.

Chinese Acrobatics focus especially on the waist and legs, since strong abdominal muscles are the key to all precisely controlled movement involving the bending, twisting, etc., of the torso – especially where this takes place in slow motion, as it were – while strong legs are essential for maintaining perfect balance when standing still (e.g. on a tightrope), perhaps encumbered with additional weight, or while engaged in movement, whether supporting additional weight or not.

It emphasizes the controlled strength and harmonious coordination of the various component parts of the body while maintaining infinite muscular flexibility, so as to achieve fluid, agile movement that exudes power under perfect control. It achieves this through conventional and martial arts exercises that relate to Qigong, or slow, deliberate and graceful movement, combined with proper breathing techniques, that are designed to harness the "qi", or the body's life force.

Flexible Little Monk.



Acrobats - Legs!

Qi Gong

Qi Gong Demo.

SHAOLIN WARRIOR MONKS & ACROBATIC TROUPE
TICKET OUTLETS

- **CBA CENTRE, 176 OLD HOPE ROAD**
- **MONARCH PHARMACY @**
  - SOVEREIGN CENTRE
  - TROPICAL PLAZA
  - BARBICAN CENTRE
- **TOWNCENTRE PHARMACY** (SAGICOR SHOPPING CENTRE, SPANISH TOWN)
- **MAYFAIR PHARMACY** (RED HILLS MALL, RED HILLS ROAD)
- **MANOR PARK PHARMACY** (MANOR PARK PLAZA)
- **ELECTRO WORLD** (MALL PLAZA)
- **LIGUANEA DRUG & GARDEN CENTRE** (LIGUANEA PLAZA)
- **FONTANA PHARMACY** (BARBICAN ROAD)

华人坟场新闻

THE CHINESE CEMETERY UPDATE

GAH SAN VIDEO

At this year's Gah San commemoration, we were fortunate to have Lukkee Chong of Frame by Frame giving of his services to videotape the proceedings. This is certainly a well needed addition to our records to share with the Community and wider society.

You may view the video at http://vimeo.com/framebyframejm/gahsan or at http://youtu.be/VygmMxBKTmQ.

We thank Lukkee for this gift to the Community.

THE CEMETERY TEAM

You will see from the video that the grounds are showing the results of Cemetery Chairman Robert Lee's tireless efforts to restore the Cemetery as a fitting resting place for the ancestors.

David Chang continues to give of his time to assist folks in locating loved ones graves and arranging to restore individual graves at their request for a very nominal fee to cover material and labour.

David along with Robert Hew are intent on mapping the Cemetery, translating the Cemetery Register and creating an easily searchable database to assist families to find their departed members buried at the Cemetery.

To this end, photographs are being taken of each grave to match the records in the Cemetery Register. Aerial photographs will also show the grounds and further cross-reference records and physical layout of graves.

Vincent J. Chang assists with Gah San every year and ensures that the traditions are maintained. During the year, he is the go-to-person and trouble shooter for a myriad of issues that arise.

Fay Chang-Allen, past Chair of the Restoration Committee, has come onboard again to assist with the fundraising efforts to solicit donations for the refurbishing of the graves and the laying of a new road.

Our band of volunteers continues to give of their time and effort to ensure that the final resting place of our ancestors reflects the high esteem in which they are held and in recognition of their contribution to our development.

We ask you to join us on this journey and be generous in your contributions in cash and kind.

WORK DAY AT THE CEMETERY

Any questions?

David Chang hard at work.

Craig Phang Sang enjoying lunch.

Quenching the thirst with coconut water.

Robert Hew giving instructions to volunteer photographers.

GAH SAN 清明扫墓

Getting ready.

Hospitality table.

Cemetery's looking good.

Vincent Chang preparing the offerings to our ancestors.

The centrepiece.

The table is laid.

Marcia Harford sounding the gong.

Our community.

L-R: Ian Chen, Damian Chin & Fr. Kong.

Fr. Kong blesses the Cenotaph.

Vincent Chang helping a Member.

Ian Chen lighting the fire crackers.

Lukkee Chong and Co. preparing to shoot.

David Chang in his usual chair.

Doreen Chin in her Hakkka hat

父亲父亲,你在哪里
IN SEARCH OF MY FATHER

HANNAH LOWE

Here's a photo of my father and oldest brother in London in 1954. My father was half Chinese, half black Jamaican. He left Jamaica for England in 1947. I've known my Chinese grandfather's name for as long as I can remember, but aside from his name – Lowe Shu On – I've known very little else. My father only saw him again once after he left Jamaica, sometime in the 1960s when he went back to visit. Lowe Shu On didn't treat my father well as a child, and I don't think my father ever forgave him.

I came to Jamaica in April 2013, on a search to find out more about my Chinese heritage, not only to satisfy my own curiosity, but also hoping for inspiration for the two book projects I'm working on – one a collection of poetry and one a part-fictional memoir. Both are concerned with the same theme and question – how do you construct your family ancestry across the distances of space and time? I'm interested in my grandfather – what his life was like, why he acted the way he did. Perhaps I want to find a way to understand his behaviour. I've imagined him from afar and written about him already, but in Jamaica, I hoped to flesh out these descriptions with real context and detail.

From England, I made arrangements to meet up with the academic Keith Lowe, who happened to be in Jamaica during my visit, and with Marcia Harford of the Chinese Benevolent Association. I'd also made touch with Victor Chang, former professor of Literature at UWI, whose family, like mine, had run a grocery store in Yallahs, St Thomas.

I should back track a little to say that my two friends, the novelist Kerry Young and the film maker Jeanette Kong were instrumental in helping me make these connections. I'd never met Jeanette, but made touch with her after reading of her documentary *"The Chiney Shop"* about the iconic Chinese grocery stores in Jamaica. My dad had left school at eleven to work in his father's shop, serving customers, so I was keen to see this film that might tell me more about their day to day lives. I'd made touch with Kerry after reading her brilliant novel Pao, loosely based on her Chinese father's life as an underworld businessman in Kingston's old China Town. Jeanette lives in Toronto and Kerry in Leicester, England, but it was because they'd both travelled to Jamaica to research their own projects that I was able to tap into their knowledge about who to speak to.

On my first day in Jamaica, Keith Lowe told me the history of the Hakka and their migrations to Jamaica, how family members had come to join other family members, working together to build up their businesses. He told me about the programmes that sent Jamaican born children back to China for education and acculturation. He also explained the spellings and pronunciation of my surname, and that it was likely that all the Lowes in Jamaica came from one of two ancestral villages in Guangdong.

This was fascinating to me and gave me a better idea of how my grandfather might have travelled to Jamaica. I should add here that a great source of information to me about my father's life has been a notebook he kept about his childhood in Jamaica. In a way, the notebook is as notable for what it leaves out as much as what it says, but he does mention that my grandfather came to join a cousin who was already living in Jamaica, and who, I assume, wanted my grandfather to work for him in his shop.

That same day, I paid a visit to the headquarters of the Chinese Benevolent Association on Old Hope Road. As a creative writer, I'm as much interested in finding inspiration as historical fact, and so I photographed some of objects there, in hope these might later become the basis of poems. Of particular interest to me, as a long standing reggae fan, were the 7" reggae singles, made by Chinese record producers in the 1960s and 70s.

Later in the week, Vincent Chang kindly gave me a tour of the old China Town around Barry Street and Orange Street in downtown Kingston. Some sections of the prose book I'm writing are set there, in the 1930s and 40s when this area was home to the Chinese. It was there that my grandfather came to play Mah Jong, and on two occasions, pledged and lost his shop in a game.

I loved seeing the old Chinese Temple on Barry Street – such an atmospheric place. I could picture the beds that Vincent described where those in need would sleep. He was incredibly knowledgeable about the history of the Chinese in Jamaica, and it was wonderful to see the echoes of China Town still visible in the Chinese names painted on shop walls.

This is me as I stood at the head of my grandfather's grave in the Chinese Cemetery on Waltham Park Road. Grateful thanks to Marcia Harford who arranged for me to go down there with a group who were mapping the cemetery (ensuring the records of who is buried there are accurate) and to David Chang and Robert Hew who located my grandfather's grave within minutes of knowing his name and approximate year of death. I had no idea there was a Chinese Cemetery or that he was buried there, so it was wonderful to find the grave.

That same day, I was invited to read at an event on the Chinese-Jamaican experience at UWI, alongside Victor Chang and Courtney Hogarth. This felt strange in some ways, since it is not my direct experience, but that of my father. The way in which he passed culture on through food has become a theme in my writing, and one of the poems I read was *"Sausages"* about the Chinese sausages he made once a year and hung on our washing line. Ilford in England, where I grew up, is a very multicultural place now, but at the time my parents met, it was a white working class community, and those sausages may well have caused a stir. Here's the poem:

David Chang with Hannah Lowe.

Sausages

They hang from the washing line
between the tea towels and bleached sheets.
He has pegged them in neat clusters,
dark fingers of blood and gristle
with twisted ends and oily skins.
They flame against the trees.

She smells them from the backdoor -
ginger, clove and fennel.
The house is quiet.
He is hiding from her.
Her mother told her
not to marry a foreigner.
You always wanted to be different
she hissed.
Now this. He's black and old enough to be your father.

The sausages are Chinese dragon red,
the red of a chilli or a shamed face.
They gather fire, drying on her line.
This is Ilford, Essex, 1965.
The neighbours eat mince and cabbage
and talk about her.

She asked him not to do it
but they taste like home to him
and he is like good food to her.
Tonight they will eat sausages together
and she will lick oil and spice
from his hands.

Hannah Lowe was born in Ilford to an English mother and Jamaican-Chinese father. She has lived in London, Brighton and Santa Cruz, California. She studied American Literature at the University of Sussex and has a Masters degree in Refuge Studies. She has worked as a teacher of literature and creative writing and is now living in Newcastle studying for a PhD. Her pamphlet The Hitcher (The Rialto, 2011) was widely praised. Her first book-length collection Chick was published by Bloodaxe Books in 2013.

Hannah Lowe at the Chinese Cemetery with volunteer photographers on a work day.

CBA NEWS

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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水面夜
SUEY MEIN NIGHT

The Chinese Cemetery Restoration and Road re-surfacing projects will again benefit from the proceeds raised at this year's Suey Mein Night.

We will gather at CBA Centre on Saturday, June 29, 2013 at 6:30 pm to enjoy an evening of friendship, food and fun! Tickets are available from CBA executives and from the CBA office.

There will be the usual spot prizes, so brush up on your general knowledge, trivia and come prepared to exercise your vocal chords in case we get the Karaoke machine to work!

We will also have light entertainment from Justin Lowe on steel pan and the CBA girls dance troupe.

See you there!

讣告
TRANSITIONS

LEE, Dr. David Alexander, passed away on April 2, 2013 at the age of 75 years. Leaving brothers Alfred (Mae St Rose) and Robert (Emilia) and sisters Mary (Lingson) and Joyce (Stanford), in-laws Junor Chin, Millicent Lee and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

CHA-FONG, Leslie Joseph - Formerly of Fah Sin Chinese Cooking School on Waltham Park Rd., Kingston, Jamaica, passed peacefully on Tuesday, April 30, 2013 at Kennedy Lodge Long Term Care Facility, Scarborough.

He leaves his wife Suke Chin (Ho Chen), his and her children: Frederick, Lurline, Patrick, Betty, Richard, Anthony, Shirley, Johnny (predeceased), Margaret and Sandra, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Cha-Fong was a former Board Member of The Chinese Benevolent Association.

CHIN, Gwendoline Mary (CHANG Siw Dzin), passed away June 5, 2013 in Orlando, Florida, having suffered a stroke. She leaves husband John R. Chin, son Ric (Fritzie), daughters Melanie (Glenn Peffers), and Mary; grandchildren Brian, Richie, Edward, Cindy, Alexa, Derek; and brother Larry Chang.

CHIN YOU, Yvonne (nee Chong) died on June 7, 2013 in Toronto. From Seaforth, St. Thomas and formerly employed to Barclays Bank, Morant Bay. She leaves husband Albert (Butty), son Bradley (Sophie), daughter Alana (Derek), sisters Beverley (Little Moy) and Gladys Ionie, brother Winston, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and numerous relatives and friends.

May their souls rest in peace.