CBA NEWS 中華會館通訊

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION **March 2012**

Inside this issue:

From the Editor	2
Peace Ark Naval Hospital	2-3
Gah San	4
100th Anniv. of the Chinese Cemetery	4-5
Spring Festival Garden Party	6-7
Goodbye & Hello	8
2012 Management Committee & Supervisory Board	9
New Year's Message from the President	9
Forum on Chinese Migration	11
Chess Kids	12
Thank You	12
Transition	12

Upcoming Events:

GAH SAN

Sunday, April 8, 2012

Gates open: 9:00 a.m.

Ceremony starts at 11:00 a.m.

at the Chinese Cemetery

访牙重庆艺术团会馆汇演

CHONGQING ARTS DELEGATION IN JAMAICA

Chongqing Arts Delegation visited Jamaica from January 28 to 31 as part of their performance tour of the Caribbean and Latin America. The tour itself was part of project Happy Spring Festival, launched by the Ministry of Culture of China on January 10 to promote Spring Festival (Chinese New Year), and more importantly, its variety of culture to the rest of the world. Under the project, Chinese art delegations are travelling to 82 countries and regions, providing a wide range of programs, including parades, folklore performances and book promotions during the Chinese New Year season.

The 23-strong Chongqing Arts Delegation included 2 singers, 12 dancers and 2 musical instrument players, all from Chongqing. During their stay in Kingston, they performed at the Chinese Benevolent Association on January 29th and at Jamaica College for schools and at the Courtleigh Auditorium for Diplomatic Week on the 30th.

Chongqing, situated in southwest China, is a municipality directly under Chinese Central Government with a population of 29 million and an area of 82,403 square kilometers.

First started in 2010, project Happy Spring Festival has become a cultural branding success and has been received warmly by communities around the world due to its focus on the pursuit of happiness, harmony and communion.

Members of the Troupe with special guests.

(See page 10 for more photos)

From the Editor 编者的话

This, the Year of the Dragon, is a special year for us Han Chinese! As descendants of the Dragon, we embrace its attributes of power, wisdom, strength and good luck and wish for you all these in much abundance!

We extend a warm welcome to President Dalton Yap and the members of the 2012 Management Committee and Supervisory Board. We thank Immediate Past President Vincent J. Chang and his team for their contribution in continuing to promote our culture and ensuring a vibrant Association.

So have you been supporting all our activities? If so, we hope our roving camera caught you; if not, perhaps the photos will encourage you to come out and participate at our future events.

Recently, China's specially built medical ship – the Peace Ark, sailed into the Port of Kingston and the CBA & our Community participated fully in the activities. We hope you were able to have your ailments treated during their visit.

The Chongqing Arts Troupe visited Jamaica during the New Year's celebration as part of their Caribbean tour. At the request of the Government of Jamaica, we were the main sponsors of their sole public performance at the CBA Centre. There were other appearances at Jamaica College for schools and at the Edna Manley College of the Visual & Performing Arts.

Gah San will be held on Sunday, April 8, 2012 (Easter Sunday). Please save this date and encourage others to come and keep their appointment with the ancestors. Our remembrance of our loved ones who have passed from this life is one of the cornerstones of our culture. The CBA takes this responsibility to the Community very seriously, hence our efforts to facilitate the need to maintain this aspect of our tradition.

As it is a new year, we ask that you bring your membership dues up to date; please feel free to call Miss Doreen Chin at CBA Centre to do so.

So how have you been keeping up with your new year's resolutions? We encourage you to exercise all the will power at your disposal to stick it out, especially the one about getting more involved with your Association!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Marcia Harford
marciah@cwjamaica.com

中国海军医院船“和平方舟”号访牙
ARRIVAL OF THE PEACE ARK NAVAL HOSPITAL

With great expectations and pride, we were very excited to hear that the **Peace Ark** would be docking at our local harbour. This Chinese medical ship – a symbol of hope for peace was journeying to Jamaica to provide humanitarian support, medical aid and foster international friendship between our two countries.

For such a presence, there must be a proper reception and the CBA would be there to welcome them. But what could we do to show our appreciation? It was simple, of course, – DANCE !!!

What better way to greet the ship's crew, than with our own local Lion & Dragon Dancers, and Drums? We began to quickly prepare for the arrival of the **Peace Ark.** It would take a lot of determination and hard work to prepare the programme to welcome our friends from China. At first our routines were a bit shaky, but, with the harnessing of our courage, strength and lots of practise, we prevailed!

We gathered at the CBA on Saturday morning, October 29, 2011, not knowing exactly what to expect, except that we knew we would be representing our Association and it would be an historic day! We arrived at Gordon Cay, and were escorted by the Jamaica Defence Force on a special bus to gain access to the Port.

At the Port, our challenges included strong winds and a short power outage (which affected the music), as the Dragon started out, but, the performance had to go on and it did.

The Lions paraded around fiercely and then, humbly greeted the ship's Captain and crew as they descended the stairs at portside. A bit of a challenge was faced from strong opposing winds, pushing against our Dragon's path. Drums beating in the background, the Dragon and its dancers met the winds head on.

The gathering included local government officials, the Chinese Ambassador and Chinese Embassy personnel, JDF soldiers,

Chinese soldiers, members of the Chinese community and CCTV crew. They all enjoyed our performances, especially, the Fan Dance performed by our beautiful girls, who had no problems standing up to the wind and while performing as if they were graceful birds in flight.

After the performances, there were greetings by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Dr. Kenneth Baugh, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Zheng Qingdian and the Commander of the **Peace Ark,** Rear Admiral Qiu Yanpeng. In recognition of our efforts we were given a grand tour of the ship. We later learnt that this tour, Mission Harmony 2011, a six day medical and goodwill visit to Jamaica, had already visited Cuba, and after leaving Jamaica, would sail to Trinidad & Tobago, and Costa Rica.

Of course many photographs and videos were taken to remind us of this eventful day when our brothers and sisters came to visit from the land of our ancestors. Mr. Dalton Yap and girls from the dance troupe were interviewed by the CCTV and pictures of the event were posted on Xinhuanet.com.

We were very impressed with the **Peace Ark Naval Hospital,** which is a large maritime medical care ship designed and built in the People's Republic of China. It houses state- of-the-art medical equipment, sophisticated medical care systems, and operates as a modern hospital floating on the ocean. We were able to see the emergency room, CT/MRI room, two operating theatres, two Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and a laboratory. There was also a designated area for doctors to practise traditional Chinese medicine, of which our own Matthew Auld (Wing Lung Kung Fu School) was the first patient to volunteer to try the ancient science of Chinese cupping therapy.

The following Sunday, many individuals from the Chinese community were treated to a free physical examination aboard the ship. In the days to follow, Chinese doctors and nurses would perform diagnostic tests on persons at the Olympic Gardens Clinic, and provided follow-up surgical care onboard the ship. They also provided treatment to Chinese nationals living in Jamaica. Some 1,500 patients were treated by the doctors during their short six (6) day visit. Many patients especially benefited from the free MRI and CT scans aboard the Peace Ark.

We were happy that this opportunity was afforded to us. It was a proud moment and an honour for us to share in this very historical and moving experience. We wish for the **Peace Ark** – harmony, calm seas and safe travels!

2012年4月8号 清明扫墓活动
GAH SAN – SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2012

Ching Ming- ching meaning clear and ming means bright. Combined together, Ching Ming means Clear Brightness. It is one of the two festive periods when the traditional festive Chinese custom of honouring the ancestors and the cleaning of the graves are observed. The other less popular one being Ching Young, which is observed at the end of September or early October. In Hong Kong, Ching Ming is officially celebrated on April 5th on the Western calendar and is designated a public holiday.

In Jamaica, Ching Ming (Hakka – Gah San) is observed on the Sunday following April 5th. On that day at the Chinese Cemetery, a table is placed in front of the monument. On it is placed a roasted whole pig, along with a boiled whole fresh chicken, complete with head and feet and three fishes along with a variety of fruits which symbolize the ceremonial offering of food. In addition, three sets of chopsticks, three Chinese tea cups, three glasses and a bottle of rum are arranged.

The official ceremony at the Chinese Cemetery always begins with an elder of the Chinese Benevolent Association introducing the President of the Association. The President or designated person then pays tribute to the ancestors on behalf of the Chinese Community translated as:

We are gathered here today, to pay homage to our loved ones who have departed. We have not forgotten you and wish to reaffirm our commitment to respect and maintain the society and the institutions that past generations have provided. Today we ask for your guidance and blessings for the future. May the souls of our loved ones find peace and generations today be blessed with good fortune.

An elder then calls out the items being offered while another points to the items as they are being called out and pours tea and liquor three times.

Afterwards everyone bows three times with the right hand cupped in the left. This is accompanied by the burning of incense, candles and paper money for the ancestors to use in the afterlife. The lighting of firecrackers drives away the evil spirits and also lets the deceased know that the family is here to visit.

The same ritual can be duplicated for individual families with the elder child (usually the oldest son) leading the procession. The tea and liquor are usually poured onto the area around the grave to be consumed.

Footnote: *Gah San. Gah is said to mean marry and San means mountain or hill. Together it means uniting oneself with the mountain area where the ancestors are usually buried. Traditionally, the family will carry a feast with the food and other items for the occasion.*

华人义山百周年纪念
Chinese Benevolent Association Celebrates 100th Anniversary of the Chinese Cemetery

The Chinese Benevolent Association celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Chinese Cemetery located at Waltham Park Road by hosting a Commemoration Ceremony of Thanksgiving on November 20, 2011 at the Cemetery.

In excess of 120 persons were in attendance and included members of the Chinese Community, representatives of the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT), Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture, principals of the schools in the area, residents of the area and a church leader .

President Vincent Chang did double duty by being the Master of Ceremony as well as providing an interesting historical background on the cemetery.

Prayer was offered by Father Alfred Lee. Selected passages from the King James Version of the Holy Bible were read by Mrs. Karen Hoo and Mrs. Fay Chang Allen.

Vincent J. Chang, Richard Tenn, Wilson Look Kin, Sandy Chung, Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, Karen Hoo, Mr. Xia, Prof Chen & Mr. Lu

Karen Hoo, Fr. Alfred Lee, Phyllis Kong & Prof Chen.

Renditions of *'Wind Beneath My Wings', 'Jamaica Land of Beauty' and the 'Greatest Love of All'* were given by Terry-Ann Chin who gave an excellent performance. Those attending sang *'Now Thank We All Our God'*.

Greetings were given by the Member of Parliament for South West St Andrew and Leader of the Opposition, Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller who promised that when she became the Prime Minister, she would have the cemetery declared a heritage site.

Greetings were also offered by Councillor Eugene Kelly who spoke a few sentences in Mandarin.

Commendations of appreciation were presented to all those who had contributed to the longevity of the cemetery throughout the years by Professor Anthony Chen. The awardees are:

Mrs Fay Chang Allen
Father Alfred Lee
Mr Vincent Chang
Mr Wilson Look Kin
Mr David Chang
Mr Richard Tenn
Mr Robert Lee
Mr Neil Yap Sam
Mr John B. Chuck
Mr Clarence Chen
Ms Alexandra Lee
Mr Achong Lee (deceased)
Mr Dalton Yap
Dr Parris Lyew Ayee Jnr.
Mrs Delores Look Kin
Ms Eldores Yap
Mr Mickey Lyn
Mr Wayne Chang
Mr Henry Lue
Mr Roger Chang
Mr Petius Chang
Mrs Karen Hugh Sam Lee (deceased)
Mrs Phylis Kong
Mr Thomas Lyew
Mr Tyrone Chen
Mrs Elaine Chang
Mr John Chen
Mrs Ann Marie Chen
Father Kenneth Kong
Mr Kenneth Chen
Mr Clifton Yap
Mr Clinton Wong
Mrs Karen Hoo
Mr Damian Hoo
Mrs Marcia Harford
Mr Damian Chin
Mr Lloyd Hoo

The caretaker, Mr George Cookhorne, was presented with a Plaque in recognition of service given to the Cemetery.

The vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Wilson Look Kin , a former President of the CBA.

Vincent J. Chang welcoming MP & then Opposition Leader Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller.

Fay Chang Allen, Chair of the Fundraising Committee with her husband Tony & Prof. Anthony Chen.

Past President Wilson Look Kin & Prof. Chen.

Mickey Lyn & Prof. Chen.

Spring Festival Garden Party -

CBA Choir

The Year of the Dragon! Jamaica 50! Our Spring Festival Garden Party celebrated these significant occasions in song and dance showcasing the extraordinary talents which reside within our Community. We were also extremely honoured and excited to bring to the stage of the CBA Centre international superstars and national icons of music. They were joined by one of our neighbouring school's award winning dance troupe.

Our CBA Choir opened with the singing of the National Anthems of Jamaica and China with Keith Lyn leading them in the former. Wing Lung Kung Fu School entertained with the Lion Dance, bringing good fortune and chasing away all the bad karma.

CBA President Dalton Yap and Charge d'Affaires Xia at the Chinese Embassy brought greetings and salutations. During the evening's proceedings President Yap distributed Hong Bao to the children.

The Dragon Dancers established their superior power and authority when they stormed into the Centre to thrill the audience. From the look of awe in their faces it was obvious that some persons were seeing the Dragon Dance for the first time!

President Dalton Yap.

Charge d'Affaires Xia.

Audience enjoying the Lion Dance.

Dragon Dance.

The Year of the Dragon 龙年春节庆祝晚会

The children of the Mandarin Class performed their New Year's greetings. They made way for Lisa Deng, Mr. Wan and President Dalton Yap who thrilled us with songs in Mandarin. Meilang Zhang's Mongolian dance – My Home, My Beautiful Pasture was well received. The CBA Dance Troupe closed the cultural segment with their beautiful interpretation of the Fan Dance.

The second half of the show opened with a short video presentation in tribute to Jamaica 50 and the contribution of our Community to nation-building and the role of the CBA.

Then Keith 'Empty Chair' Lyn took charge of the stage with his renditions which included "Portrait of My Love", "Empty Chair", "Julie on my Mind" and ending with his well-known ode to the beginning of Jamaican dance music – "Ska, Ska, Ska", at this point, he was joined on stage by some members of the Campion College Dancers who helped to demonstrate the Ska!

This only whetted our appetite to see more of the dancers and they did not disappoint as their performance demonstrated the fusion of dance throughout the era – starting with Kumina, moving into ska, rock steady, reggae and dancehall.

Finally, Ernie Smith made his entrance on stage opening with "Bend Down" and moving into all the favourites – "One Dream", "Duppy Gunman", "Sammy Dead" & more. The audience sang along, never missing a beat!

The icing on the cake was the closing duet with Keith & Ernie singing "Pitta Patta!"

It was a heart-warming and proud moment when the audience stayed until the final item and stood again for the playing of the current video of the National Anthem to close the evening.

Without question, the evening's entertainment exceeded our expectations as we demonstrated that Out Of Many, we are indeed, One People!

CBA Dancers - Fan Dance.

Keith Lyn - Ska, ska, ska

Keith Lyn, Janet & Ernie Smith

Meilang Zhang

Reggae

Christine Tse.

Rock Steady.

迎新欢送宴会
Goodbye & Hello

Recently, we said goodbye to a dear friend of the CBA – Mr. Lu Yuhui, Consul at the Chinese Embassy, who returned to China after his tour of duty here. Mr. Lu handled all requests for assistance on our behalf from the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office including our Mandarin classes and summer programme.

He and his family go back to China with our best wishes and warmest regards.

At the same time, we welcome Mr. Tian Zhenfeng who will replace him at the Embassy. He is already busy working on our request for our new Mandarin teacher who is expected to arrive in time for the Christmas semester.

L-R: *Vincent Chang, Damian Chin, Marcia Harford, Lu Yuhui, Dalton Yap & Tian Zhenfeng.*

More photos from **SPRING FESTIVAL GARDEN PARTY**

中华会馆董事会成员
2012 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE & SUPERVISORY BOARD

At the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, November 6, 2011, the Management Committee and Supervisory Board were elected to serve for the Year 2012.

Front Row: *Ian Chen, Lloyd Hoo, Sandy Chung, Dalton Yap, Paula Lee, Thomas Chin & Willie Chong.*
Second Row: *Robert Lee, Eva Young, Lucille Jones, Marcia Harford & Neil Yap Sam.*
Back Row: *Wilson Look Kin, Vincent J. Chang, Damian Chin, Johnny Chuck & Anthony Chen*

OFFICERS

Dalton Yap	President
Karen Hoo	Vice-President
Marcia Harford	Secretary
Damian Chin	Treasurer

MANAGEMENT C'TEE MEMBERS

Sandy Chung	Eva Young
William Chong	Neil Yap Sam
Johnny Chuck	Thomas Chin
Lloyd Hoo	Ian Chen
Robert Lee	

RESERVE MEMBERS

Roger Chang	Paula Lee

SUPERVISORY BOARD

Anthony Chen	Lucille Jones
Ruby Lee	Peter Hugh
Wilson Look Kin	

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Vincent J. Chang

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Enter the Dragon! As we bid farewell to the Year of the Rabbit and bring in 2012, the Year of the Dragon. On the occasion of the Chinese New Year Festival, may I take this opportunity to wish you happiness and good fortune for the year.

I am privileged and humbled to have been elected to serve you in this year of double happiness:

First, Jamaica is celebrating its 50th independence anniversary this year. Jamaica had previously been ruled by Britain and just half a century ago on August 6, 1962, attained independence and nationhood. We would like to join with all patriotic Jamaicans here and throughout the world to celebrate this important milestone in our history.

The year 2012 also marks the celebrations of 40 years of diplomatic relations between Jamaica and China. The official relationship between Jamaica and China began in 1972 and the brotherly bond between the two nations has deepened since then with economic, technical and cultural co-operation in several areas. More recently the presence of Chinese investments in Jamaica has increased significantly as companies from China are involved in many development projects here in Jamaica. We are hoping that China will continue to assist us to grow our economy but, more importantly, to develop our human capital and technical knowledge. *"Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime."* We can think of no better way to build on our independence than to emulate the economic growth and social achievements of our bigger brother.

May the Year of the Dragon bring health, prosperity and peace to you and to Jamaica.

Dalton Yap
President, Chinese Benevolent Association

CHONGQING ARTS DELEGATION IN JAMAICA (Continued from page 1)

Hon. Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth & Culture.

President Dalton Yap & IPP Vincent J. Chang welcome Charge d'Affairs Xia.

Emily Moo-Young, Christine Tse & Joey Chai.

President Dalton Yap with Beverley & Tony Lopez.

Mr. Lu Yuhui and his family.

Selina Chen & Joey Chai.

FORUM ON CHINESE MIGRATION TO AND FROM THE CARIBBEAN

Dr. Keith Lowe

Dr. Keith Lowe, Convenor of the Toronto Hakka Conference, saw the seed that was planted 2 years ago bear fruit on Friday, February 10, 2012. Dr. Lowe, through determination and his usual tenacity, saw his dream unfold with the holding the mini-conference termed the **Forum on Chinese Migration to the Caribbean Basin.**

The Forum was sponsored by the Miami Chinese Culture Foundation (MCCF) and the Confucius Institute of Miami-Dade College. It was held at the Kendall Campus of the College.

THE PROGRAMME:

1) TRADITIONAL EMIGRATION FROM CHINA TO JAMAICA/ CARIBBEAN
   Lecture by Dr. Keith Lowe.
   Discussants: Rev. Easton Lee, Dr. Christine Ho

2) CHINESE IMMIGRATION TO MIAMI/SOUTH FLORIDA FROM JAMAICA/CARIBBEAN
   Panel Presentation by Mr. Levy Wong and other community leaders in Miami; and by Mr. Vincent Chang, President of the Chinese Benevolent Society (CBA) of Jamaica.
   Moderator: Rev. Easton Lee

3) RECENT MIGRATION FROM CHINA TO JAMAICA AND MIAMI/SOUTH FLORIDA
   Panel Presentation by Mr. Vincent Chang, President of the CBA Jamaica; Dr. Xuejun Yu, director, Confucius Institute of Miami-Dade College; and Miami community association and city/state representatives.
   Moderator: Dr. Christine Ho

CBA Immediate Past President Vincent J. Chang was invited to participate. Of his presentation, Dr. Lowe had this to say via e-mail message to CBA News Editor:

We had a full house and some good discussions going here on Feb 10. Vincent was solid, both by his incisive comments and info, and just by his presence as CBA President up to recently. We had a good Trini presence too, with Dr. Christine Ho and also Wally Look Lai who came up from Trinidad to attend. I also arranged for my long-time associate Juan Tam to speak via SKYPE from Panama. In spite of starting late and not enough time, I was very satisfied with this breakthrough event. Now we must start preparing for next year here.

The Festival came off very well, most professionally, with Jessica Yap setting the place on fire. They have something unique here.

Keith

Vincent J. Chang with an attentive audience

***L-R** Dr. Jim Yu & Dr. Wally Look Lai.*

***L-R** Levy Wong, Dr. Carlos Barrazueta, Dr. Christine Ho, Dr. Jim Xuejun, Aston Lue, Dr. Keith Lowe, Gladstone Hoo, Rev. Easton Lee & Vincent J. Chang*

CBA NEWS

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chinese benevolent association of jamaica

CHESS KIDS

13th Annual Junior Orange Bowl Scholastic International Chess Championships at Embassy Suites in Miami, Florida from December 27-29, 2011.

Back Row: *Third from the left is Jason Lawson and Jordan Lowe*
Front Row: *Second from left is Justin Lowe, Michael Lowe and Nathan Chin far right.*

Our CBA children were part of a 22 member Jamaican team which won 13 trophies comprising of 5 teams and 8 individual trophies. The Jamaican A team won first place in the 9 and under section. Second place team prizes were won in the 9 and under, 10-12 and 13-15 sections and the 10-12 B team also garnered the fifth place prize. Michael Lowe came fourth and Nathan Chin came sixth in the 9 and under section and Jason Lawson came sixth in the 13-15 age group. Congrats to the children on a job well done !!

Thank You

We wish to thank Andrew and Patrice Bogues of Ultimate Creations for our new kitchen cupboards at the Old Age Home.

过渡时期

TRANSITION

The CBA regrets the passing of **CHIN, Sem Kun** who passed away on January 18, 2012, leaving sons Sing Fong and Sing Slun, (Super Valu Supermarket) grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends. She was the widow of Arthur George Chin.

May her soul rest in peace.