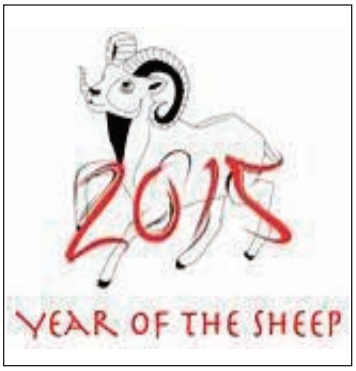

CBA NEWS 中華會館通訊

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION March 2015

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Upcoming Events:

Outreach to the Chinese Home for the Aged and Bun & Cheese Treat at Mustard Seed Communities
FRIDAY APRIL 03 (Good Friday)

GAH SAN
SUNDAY APRIL 05 (Easter Sunday)

STREET FEEDING PROGRAMME
SUNDAY APRIL 05 (EASTER SUNDAY)
*programme has been changed to take place every first Sunday of the month. New volunteers are most welcome.

SUEY MEIN NIGHT
SATURDAY JUNE 27

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATS
"British Connection"
SATURDAY AUGUST 01
at CBA CENTRE

延续我们的传统：2015新春游园晚会

OUR TRADITION CONTINUES

CHINESE NEW YEAR SPRING GARDEN PARTY 2015

It was a beautiful February day on Sunday the fifteenth when the CBA team swung into high gear for the staging of our Annual Spring Festival Garden Party to celebrate the year of the Sheep with the family and friends of our members. The New Year cuisine was prepared by Thomas Chin, Vincent J. Chang, Johnny Chuck and Timmy Yip and the audience who gathered in the CBA Centre Auditorium afterwards received an enormous treat as high calibre, back-to-back performances had them rocking in their seats.

The National Anthems of both China and Jamaica were played to formally open what was to be a well-organised series of music and dance. To get the show started, the traditional Lion entered the hall, danced up the aisle and took to the stage, exhibiting all the movements that make the Lion Dance famous for Chinese communities across the world, as the symbolic messenger of good luck and prosperity.

CBA President Damian Chin delivered the opening Welcome followed by His Excellency Mr. Dong Xiaojun, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Jamaica who brought good wishes for the New Year.

Young and upcoming talent was the order of the day as Miss Zhong Xia took centre stage while she played a Chinese folk song on the "guzheng", a traditional Chinese stringed instrument. This graceful young lady attends St. Andrew High School where she is a ninth grader and she has been studying the guzheng since she was ten years old.

Miss Zhong Xia plays the Chinese "guzheng" on stage.

(continued on page 4)

From the Editor 编者的话

This March 2015 edition of our CBA News is the first issue compiled by a new Editor, after a long tenure under the excellent direction of Mrs. Marcia Harford, who worked tirelessly to produce an attractive and informative newsletter over several years. We salute Marcia and her supporting team who created the foundation for an interesting and dynamic publication and so now we commit to continue in that tradition.

Our March 2015 issue speaks to the many festive occasions which were featured at the beginning of the Chinese lunar year – the Year of the Sheep. We are sure that you will enjoy the details we've captured regarding our Spring Garden Party, as well as the celebration of the New Year hosted by the Chinese Embassy.

We would also like to formally recognise and welcome the new Management Committee for 2015 who, under recently sworn in President Damian Chin, is working hard to bring our several annual events to fruition during the year.

Then there's the warm welcome to the Chinese students studying at GC Foster College on scholarship – whose command of English is growing better and better, a fact we observed while speaking with them at the New Year Reception.

Capturing the imagination even more is the development of the Chinese Garden at the Hope Royal Botanic Gardens. We look forward to the completion of this thrilling project and we urge all our readers to pay a visit to the new structure as soon as it becomes open to the public.

The Chinese Cemetery Restoration Project continues to generate enormous interest for both our communities here and overseas. Under the expert guidance of Robert Lee, David Chang and Robert Hew, we have an interesting update on the progress of the project.

As the Membership Committee moves into full gear under Vice President Michael Ho Sue, we take the opportunity to encourage members of our community to register as new members by way of our website. We invite you to visit our online page and to like us on Facebook. Especially for our younger members, stay tuned to our regularly posted online updates.

Do send me feedback on the newsletter at nhoofatt@yahoo.com
Xiexie!
Nicole (Nicky) Hoo Fatt, Editor

(Continued from page 1)

Immediate Past President Dalton Yap joins Mrs. Xia Zhishun and Ambassador Dong Xiaojun for a pleasant moment.

Our very own Dylan Chin was next in the lineup. Dylan, a fourth former at Campion College, took control of the piano on stage as he rendered a composition called Staccato Beans (No. 2 from Eight Memories in Watercolour) by the famous Chinese composer Tan Dun. Dylan's hands simply flew across the keyboard as this young man exhibited yet another of his many talents and gifts to the crowd's delight.

This was followed by Song Yao Hui, a China Harbour Engineering employee who played "Roving Guitarman" on the guitar. Interestingly enough, he has only been in the island for four months but handled his segment like a pro.

Another Campion College student, Jacqueline Wang who has a diploma in her music studies, played a classical piece entitled Sonata in C-minor Rondo by the legendary 19th century composer Beethoven.

After a well executed stage set change, it was time for the Spring Festival Dancers. The lights dimmed and the beautifully costumed young ladies emerged in golden, ankle-length cheong sam with red trim. Members of the group were Alysia Chin; Selina Chin; Shelby Stephenson; Dominique Chen and Leann Tsang. We are proud to add that this well done performance was choreographed by the girls themselves for the Garden Party.

Afterwards, it was time for that all-time favourite past time – Karaoke! This was where our Immediate Past President Dalton Yap showcased his well known singing talents, which was received with appreciation from the enthusiastic crowd.

Then came a true classic – Michael Yeng belted out that enduring favourite which transcends the decades, "Unchained Melody". This favourite from the Righteous Brothers had the ladies on their toes with shouts and applause! Originally from Jiangzu Province in China, Michael has been in the island for some ten years and for whom singing is a passion.

The grand finale was delivered by a trio of young performers who got several ladies up on their feet close to the stage, while they offered everything from current hits to classic reggae.

Our Management Committee Member, Mrs. Karen Hoo moved the vote of thanks and MCs Dervan Malcolm and Sophie Guo did the honours for the gate prizes: a LED television courtesy of ATL and four day passes to Turtle River Falls and Gardens in Ocho Rios, to the delight of the winners, both of whom were in the audience.

Brandon and Heather get the drinks menu ready.

(Continued on page 4)

享受中国新春招待会 – 中国大使馆致辞

ENJOYING CHINESE NEW YEAR RECEPTION 2015

Courtesy of the Chinese Embassy

Celebrating Chinese New Year is always an enjoyable occasion and this year - the year of the Sheep, was no different. Courtesy of the Chinese Embassy, the members of the CBA Board of Management were cordially invited to join the Chinese community in Jamaica at The Jamaica Pegasus on Wednesday February 11th for an evening of festivity.

At the entrance to the ballroom, His Excellency Ambassador Dong Xiaojun was first in the receiving line to offer welcome and good wishes followed by his wife Mrs. Xia Zhishun, who extended courteous greetings to all as they arrived.

After all greetings had been exchanged, so began the formalities of the evening. With a tremendous and beautiful backdrop of red blossoms decorating the wall behind the podium, the Ambassador delivered a presentation in Mandarin, in order to address the large audience of Chinese nationals who are living and working in the island, in their own language.

After he concluded his speech to his compatriots, His Excellency subsequently directed his attention to the translation of his address into English. He spoke primarily on the long and friendly bilateral relations which the two countries have shared, expressing the development and expansion of economic relations by way of infrastructure across the island. (For example, the highways and bridges which have been constructed at various locations across the country).

Then came the entertainment portion of the evening which saw our very own Jessica Yap performing on violin, including songs from famous artistes. The audience was completely taken and impressed by Jessica's own style and artistry as she did us all proud.

Also on the programme were two Chinese children who gave an entertaining spoken exchange in their language, which was appreciated by the grown-ups who listened eagerly to their contribution to the New Year celebrations.

Celebrating the New Year with Ambassador Dong Xiaojun is Willie Chong, Mrs. Xia Zhishun and Mr. Xia from the Chinese Embassy.

Needless to say, a sumptuous buffet dinner was served which was enjoyed by all the guests including delicious desserts.

We are most appreciative to the Chinese delegation for their very kind invitation to us to join them during this most important beginning of the year, as we all hope for prosperity and good fortune.

Special Guests at the New Year Reception are Captain Michael and Thalia Lyn.

Violinist extraordinaire Jessica Yap enjoys the company of Willie Chong .

Set Yoon and Robert Lee enjoy the New Year festivities.

在GC福斯特学院的中国学生
Young Chinese Students At GC Foster College

The New Year Reception hosted on Wednesday February 11, 2015 at The Jamaica Pegasus Hotel by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China was filled with guests from Chinese companies and organisations represented from across the island.

Among the gathering enjoying the warm greetings and excellent dinner were four young Chinese students, all 22 years of age, who are now studying at The GC Foster College of Physical Education and Sport, located in Spanish Town.

All four are the recipients of scholarships which were offered during the recent visit of a local delegation to China, with the objective to enhance friendship and bilateral relations between the two countries.

The students and their home cities are Junya Yang from Shandong; Hao Wang from Shanxi; Yilin Dong from Zhejiang and Hongsheng Qian from Henan. The students were accompanied at the Reception by Dr. Joyce Graham Royal, Principal of GC Foster College.

Speaking on behalf of her fellow students, Miss Junya Yang emphasised that they were all enjoying their stay at GC Foster, which was providing an excellent opportunity to learn about coaching while improving their command of the English language.

While enrolled at GC Foster College, the students are studying towards a specific qualification - a Coaching Diploma, which covers several courses including Principles of Coaching. Their Diploma Programme will last for two years. GC Foster College is well known to have produced some of the finest names in track and field and for sports in general.

CHINESE NEW YEAR SPRING GARDEN PARTY

(Continued from page 2)

Vice President Michael Ho Sue who was the force behind this successful programme of entertainment could finally rest easy as we all saw how, under his direction, the concert and decorations revealed our VP's even more masterful organising abilities.

Needless to say, the children enjoyed themselves on the swings and bounce-about, along with generous portions of popcorn.

Lucille Jones, the acknowledged master at leading the cake stall sales, was on the ball – busily dispensing delicious puddings and cakes of many types and tastes. Willie Chong, our star bartending leader took turns at keeping his team well stocked while he took numerous photos to be shared amongst everyone.

Altogether, with "all hands on deck", the Garden Party saw the hard work and dedication of our teams for yet another year.

2015中华会馆管理委员会
CBA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2015

The Board of Management and the Supervisory Board were formally sworn in on Sunday January 11. We wish them all a successful year of achievement.

OFFICERS 2015

President:
Damian Chin
Vice President:
Michael Ho Sue
Secretary:
Anna Young
Treasurer:
Thomas Chin

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Paul Anthony Tai
Robert Hew
William Chong
Lloyd Hoo
Robert Lee
Neil Yap Sam
Karen Hoo
Peter Hugh
Allasandra Chung

RESERVE MEMBERS
Paula Lee
Yvonne Chin
Kristalle Chin
Nicole Hoo Fatt
Sophie Guo

SUPERVISORY BOARD
Johnny Chuck
Vincent Chang
David Chang
Gregory Hugh Sam
Howard Chin

RESERVE MEMBERS
Wilson Look Kin
Phyllis Kong

一位参与者向中华会馆的感谢
A GRATEFUL RECIPIENT THANKS TO THE CBA

Dennis Brooks' story is one of gratitude and accomplishment. Now a radio journalist, a job which he loves, Dennis was the recipient of a grant from the Chinese Benevolent Association which helped to fund his exam fees for his CXC and for some of his A'level subjects, which he sat between 1996 and 1999.

Now 35 years of age, his narration of his young life is compelling. He attended St. Catherine High School from 1993 to 1999 where he was a dynamic student, participating in the National Schools Debate and where he was a member of the school choir and also enjoyed taking part in the performing arts. No doubt, he was a good student and ultimately achieved the post of Head Boy in 1998.

This dynamic youngster did not disappoint. He was selected to participate in the Youth Conference and United Nations Special Session on Population and Development which took place in Holland, where he was among students who represented youth globally.

In 1997, Dennis went to sixth form and in 1999, did his A'levels.

So where did the support from the CBA come in? One day, Dennis' Guidance Counsellor told him that the Chinese Benevolent Association was making funds available to cover the costs of sitting CXC and A'level subjects for deserving students. Dennis' name was submitted as a good candidate for the grant, as his efforts were seen as a good investment. Given his background with youth-based interests in the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), this created the foundation for Dennis' future achievements.

He successfully sat his CXCs and then did his A' levels in Sociology, Economics, Geography and General Paper. Dennis passed all of his examinations and went on to enrol at the University of the West Indies where he studied Psychology.

In 2002, he graduated from UWI and went to work at Queen's High School where he was the debating coach, until 2009. In 2010 he moved to the Immaculate Conception High School, where he remains until the present. And while he still teaches, he also conducts seminars as a gesture of courtesy.

Dennis says that he was first inspired by Mr. Lascelles Chin, Chairman of Lasco, who had addressed a forum where he had spoken on philanthropy. From that experience, this young man says that he has "an amazing respect for the Chinese community" which has helped him to get to where he is today.
Speaking of the financial assistance he has received from the CBA, he says, "I will never forget that. I will always remember. It was one less thing to worry about."

Dennis' professional path has taken him to Radio Mona and on to Newstalk 93FM where he was a producer for The Breakfast Club. He next joined Nationwide News as a producer, then became a presenter. He now hosts "Timeline", a programme which has a technology and social media focus. He is also an online editor and presenter as well as Nationwide's website and social media manager.

中国人的投资与移民：文化差异的挑战
CHINESE INVESTMENT AND IMMIGRATION: Cultural Challenges

For those who were unable to attend, a most interesting public forum on "Chinese Investment and Immigration: Cultural Challenges" took place on Thursday January 29 at the University of the West Indies, at the Faculty of Law Building in the Executive Seminar Room.

The presentation was hosted by the Mona School of Business and Management in cooperation with the Hugh Lawson Shearer Trade Union Institute.

Individual presentations were made by five panellists, key among whom were Mr. Xiao Yanming, Deputy Regional Manager of China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) for Latin America and the Caribbean and Dr. Mingwei Liu, Assistant Professor, School of Management and Labour Relations at Rutgers University.

(continued on page 11)

修辑中华墓园 – 来自多伦多的"家人与朋友筹款委员会"

CHINESE CEMETERY RESTORATION

FROM THE "FAMILY AND FRIENDS FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE" - TORONTO

We are all so very appreciative and grateful for the superb job that Robert Lee, David Chang and Robert Hew with their support team have been doing to complete the restoration of the Chinese Cemetery, located at 19 Waltham Park Road, Kingston 13. So it comes as no surprise that much of the support that the project has received to date is due in no small measure to our community in Toronto, Canada.

It is no wonder that Robert Lee's sister, Mrs. Joyce Wong (who is a Markham resident), has been working hard to coordinate fundraising efforts from her side. This group is called the "Family and Friends Fundraising Committee" and has the following nine Committee members: Mary Lai; Rose Chen; Sandra Yap; Lorraine Chin; Winsome Hoo; Roger Chen; Lily Chen; Joyce Wong and Alfred Lee. Importantly, there have been others who have also offered their assistance to this worthwhile cause.

The main fundraising activity is the Annual Fundraising Dinner/Dance which has been hosted in August for the last three years. This year, the fourth hosting of the event will take place on Saturday August 8th 2015. According to Mrs. Wong, some 250 persons attended last year, and so for 2015, the Committee is aiming to attract 300 patrons.

So how did it all begin?

Joyce's husband Stanford Wong is known to have a superb collection of music from the 1950s and 1960s with which he would host events. However, the first event in 2012 was not intended as a fundraising party, but a profit was made which was going to be donated to local charities in Canada, mainly to The Markham Stoufville Hospital.

Robert Lee who came up for the party, then asked if a part of it could be donated to help with the Chinese Cemetery Restoration Project back home in which he was involved. His request was honoured with the greater portion going to the Cemetery Restoration. And so, the successful 2013 function (called Oldies and Goodies) and the 2014 event which was called "Vintage Dance" will now be called "Vintage Plus", bringing together all types of much-loved music.

These events have received much support and were sold out by April/May, with proceeds shared between the Family and Friends Cemetery Restoration and the Markham Stoufville Hospital, located in Markham which has the largest resident population of Chinese Jamaicans.

Going back to 2012, the project started with the excellently designed walling and entrance archway along Waltham Park Road by Clifton Yap, architect, and Tommy Lyew, engineer, who freely contribute their services and time.

Robert Hew was "Special Guest Speaker" last year, explaining to a spellbound audience the new website consisting of a database system of information on the location of graves and other features.

In addition, Robert Lee had given a speech in Markham on the restoration project from which several enquiries were received, and approximately 35 graves were restored in 2012. Subsequently, at each function, Robert has delivered regular updates on the different phases of the project, starting with the excellently constructed perimeter wall.

Presently, some 15 families have registered for the "Gah San Ceremony Package" and some 22 requests have been registered in total from Toronto. The Package includes cleaning and painting of individual graves on the day of Gah San plus performing the ritual of burning incense, burning paper money, bowing three times, as well as a ceremony to honour the deceased, in the absence of their family members.

Mrs. Wong acknowledges that there are always several events taking place at or around the date of the Dinner/Dance, but the Family and Friends Committee is still dedicated to hosting a good turnout of patrons.

Increasing awareness about the restoration project is important, especially for the younger members and so Mrs. Wong recommends a "Movie Night" at the CBA with cultural themes as well as the showing of documentaries.

From left: *Stanford Wong, Joyce Wong, CC Chin, Vincent Chin (Caribbean Chinese Association Past President), Joe Lue, Ella Chang, Lorraine Chin (Family and Friends Committee) and Wally Chin.*

At front: *Caribbean Chinese Association Past President Hubert Lue and Pat Lue.*

2015年3月修辑中华墓园进度更新
UPDATE ON CEMETERY RESTORATION MARCH 2015

by Robert Hew

Over the last year, the Restoration Project has moved into a slightly different phase: now that the major infrastructure has been dealt with (e.g. the perimeter wall, roadways, caretaker's cottage and secure storage), we have now been able to start paying more attention to the grounds themselves.

Instead of attempting a major once-per-year clean-up immediately before each Gah San, we have adopted a regular spraying and maintenance schedule throughout the year, applying systemic herbicides that seem to be controlling the aggressive Coral Vine weed, but which allow the grass to grow. All the saplings and bushes have been cut down to ground level, and any new shoots from the stumps are being removed as they appear.

The net result is that all throughout the year you can see from one end of the Cemetery to the other, and make out all the tombs. In

Before

many places you can even walk on grass now, rather than bare earth! That also exposed the myriad of stones and other debris that had previously been hidden under the vegetation, but now most of them have now been collected and hauled away. We expect that from now on the monthly spraying and grass-cutting

After

expenses will be less than the cost of the major annual cleanup, and with the added benefit of making the tombs easily accessible the whole year round to anyone who wants to visit.

We have begun a few pilot projects involving re-seeding grass in the areas that did not have any, and planting decorative flowers and trees that are drought tolerant and low maintenance. The drought has hindered efforts to do much on that score this year, however.

A new set of aerial photographs of the Cemetery, with essentially all the tombs visible, was taken by Nikoli Yap. Based on those, we have now compiled a full set of maps in which every row and plot has been labelled. Armed with these aerial photos and the online charts (which give the names of all the people in a particular section), you can now locate every grave from the comfort of your living room, or when you are on the ground in the Cemetery.

Aerial view.

They eliminate the frustration of trying to find legible names on nearby headstones, since now you can use the shapes and sizes of the nearby houses or even empty plots to locate the plot you are looking for. Since the online database and Web Gallery went on live a year ago, we have been constantly updating them, both with new photographs of the individual tombs restored, and supplemental information that relatives have given us. This year we also translated all the legible headstones and have almost finished merging them with the handwritten records.

The number of individual tombs restored has risen from an average of about 25 per year to 40 in 2014, and we are on track for even more in 2015. A pilot project was started to offer a service to clean graves before Gah San and to conduct individual Gah San ceremonies at each graveside. We had been expecting about 20 requests, but have ended up with 70! Hopefully as the word spreads next year, we will get even more requests, and that will be able to fund a major part of the annual maintenance budget.

The organizers of the Chinese New Year's Festival in Miami kindly gave the CBA a booth at their recent event, and we expect that

Chinese Cemetery Maintenance Crew

once the large community in Florida learns of the progress we have made, we will be getting as many requests from them as we do from the community in Ontario.

Robert Lee has been mentoring the new caretaker (a grandson of the old one) and a maintenance crew of 12, including masons, who are given some work throughout the year, on a part-time, rotating system. They have been outfitted with red t-shirts with the CBA logo, and name badges, which you will see if you make it to Gah San. The hope is to develop more pride of ownership and involvement with the community to help reduce the amount of vandalism.

Many thanks to the Cemetery Team (Robert Lee, David Chang and Robert Hew), the Toronto fundraising group (led by Joyce and Stan Wong, Mary Lai and Alfred Lee), the individuals who have restored their relatives' tombs, and all the donors who have supported the project generously.

Gah San Ceremony and Tradition

Traditionally most Chinese, and especially the Hakka from Guangdong, take time out from their regular lives to pay respect to their ancestors on Ching Ming Jie 清明節, "Tomb Sweeping Day" or literally "Pure Brightness Festival". In Jamaica it is celebrated on the Sunday falling on or after April 5th, and is called Gah San (掛山, literally "adorn the hills", since for feng shui reasons the tombs were normally placed with good views of some nearby body of water).

Apparently wealthy citizens in China used to hold too many extravagant and ostentatiously expensive ceremonies in honour of their ancestors. In 732 AD, the then Emperor sought to curb this practice by declaring that such respects could be formally paid only once a year, on Ching Ming, which focused and concentrated the practice ever since.

The primary obligation to maintain the ancestors' graves falls to the eldest son, but the whole family should participate. It is an intimate, emotional and personal family affair, but also steeped in tradition. The festival is a time to reflect, and to honour and give thanks to our forefathers. In many regions the day culminates in a large feast to which the whole family is invited, and in that sense it is as much about connecting with the living family as it is with honouring the departed. Since it also falls shortly after the Spring Equinox, it is also associated with going outdoors and enjoying springtime.

The tomb is cleaned, swept or painted as the case may be, and offerings placed in front of it. Homage to the ancestors is given by family members present, in order of seniority, by respectfully bowing 3 times while holding lighted sticks in joined hands. This may be accompanied by prayers for the departed, and asking for blessings for the future. Little pieces of brown paper can be strewn about to signify that the dead have been cared for.

The customary offerings are made up of candles, incense, and specific dishes of food (in the Jamaican custom 3 dishes (三牲, sam sang): whole fish, whole chicken and whole roast suckling pig). A whole pig is more prestigious than cut-up pieces of pork. The chicken resembles a dragon or a phoenix, both believed to be auspicious, so it is steamed with the head attached to preserve the likeness. And since the head of the fish is regarded as a delicacy, it too should be offered to the ancestors.

Paper money, flowers, firecrackers, sweets, fruit (especially oranges and tangerines whose names sound auspicious), cakes, tea, liquor, their favourite snacks, even cigarettes if they liked smoking, can all be added. The act of burning items such as the imitation money makes them available to the ancestors on the other side, so in some countries people will burn paper and cardboard models of houses, cars, TV's, etc. as well.

The burning incense is believed to nourish the spirits. The other food offerings are left out for the ancestors to choose what they want. By tradition, before you remove them, e.g. for the rest of the family to eat, you should throw some red divining blocks to see whether the ancestors are finished. If one falls flat side up and the other flat side down, for 3 times in a row, the answer is "Yes".

在希望路的皇家植物园 – 一份中牙友谊的表述

THE CHINESE GARDEN AT THE HOPE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AN EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP

Work in progress on the 'square' or Presidential Garden.

A pleasant drive through the beautiful grounds of the Hope Royal Botanic Gardens (affectionately known to numerous families over the years as Hope Gardens), will reveal the now ongoing development of what is sure to become a landmark and most memorable feature of Kingston's verdant landscape.

This is the Chinese Garden at Hope Gardens, a generous gift from the People's Republic of China to the Government and People of Jamaica, to mark what was in 2012 the 50th anniversary of independence and the 40th year of the formalisation of diplomatic relations between both countries.

Local contributors to the project included the Chase Fund and the Chinese Benevolent Association.

Some of the other key objectives of this gift are to promote cultural exchange and for development of an additional leisure attraction for locals and more widely, for the local tourism industry. The local implementing partner of the project is the Nature Preservation Foundation (NPF), led by Chairman Mr. Leslie Chung.

The Chinese team is responsible for architectural design, preparation of working drawings and for providing construction machinery, equipment and materials. Chinese technicians with specific expertise manage and undertake construction, in conjunction with a team of local artisans.

A brief conversation with Mr. Chung indicated that some 80% of the civil works has been substantially completed, specifically the Presidential Garden and the surrounding gates. The laying out of firstly, the walkways and secondly, the irrigation and electrical lines were assigned for completion by local expertise.

The Chinese team also have the responsibility to lay out the contours for gardening purposes, while Hope Gardens is scheduled to complete the landscaping side of the project. Landscaping is scheduled for completion in 2015, as well as the formal handing over of the Garden to the people of Jamaica.

We have a great deal to look forward to as one of Kingston's best loved landmarks receives this wonderful gift of friendship!

Pagoda style architecture.

2014圣诞儿童款待会
Children's Christmas Party 2014

The little ones enjoyed their Christmas Party thanks especially to Auntie Karen Hoo and team. Santa hats were donated by Little Lai, toys were from Kirk Lee of Eustace Lee Ltd. and cake was donated by Sugar & Spice.

You'd like a dollyhouse THIS BIG?

Santa is for Moms, too!

CHINESE INVESTMENT AND IMMIGRATION: Cultural Challenges

(contunued from page 4)

CHEC is a well known, international contractor and the overseas operating division of China Communications Construction Company Limited. Over the past thirty years of operations, CHEC has spread its business activities to more than 70 countries with 10 Billion US Dollars worth of projects.

Many persons locally often question why China has chosen Jamaica to receive foreign direct investment, especially through infrastructure projects like the new highways across the island. As the Chinese representatives outlined at the forum, China has multilateral economic, social and cultural ties and relationships with several countries, not just with one country or with one region.

The most important reason for this is that there is an enormous demand in China for the raw materials and natural resources of many countries to supply the huge Chinese economic boom and its related activities. This especially applies to construction projects in China, given the rapid growth of buildings and infrastructure for new and existing cities (for example: bridges, highways, railways and ports).

Altogether, the public forum concluded that there needs to be a mutual embrace of differences and that learning the Chinese work ethic would be very important to achieve success in the delivery of local projects.

中华会馆牙买加会员会籍

CBA JAMAICA MEMBERSHIP

Become a CBA Jamaica Member Today!

For additional Info, see Contact on our Facebook page.

Get CBA Jamaica Membership Forms online:
Download, Print, Fill Out, Sign, Submit.

ATTENTION!
CBA Jamaica Members

We would like to keep the CBA Jamaica Membership Listing current and need your help to do so!

Kindly take a moment to provide us with your current Contact Information and the following information that you would like us to share. This would include:

Date of Birth, Anniversaries, Information on those who have passed away.

Also, if you have not yet done so, please renew your CBA Jamaica's Membership. Visit our page and look for: Contact

Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

CBA NEWS

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

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chinese benevolent association of jamaica

卜告

TRANSITION

VINCENT LAI

March 15, 1950 - February 13, 2015

The CBA regrets the passing of Vincent Lai and extends our deepest condolences to his family.

Vincent Lai passed away at his home in Richmond Hill on 13th February, 2015 after a brief illness. He was the beloved husband of Lorain Fay Lai (née Duncan) and proud father of son, Dr. Richard Vincent Lai (daughter-in-law Kari Drue Lai (née Abraham), daughters Melissa Katherine Lai (son-in-law Nishan Gageton Jeyarajah) and Camille Renee Lai.

Vincent is survived by loving brothers: Joslyn Lai, Cosmo Lai (sister-in-law Susan), Derick Lai (sister-in-law Valerie Hoang) and sister Patricia Hue (brother-in-law Frank Gary Hue), sister-in-law Mary Lai, and several nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his parents Austin and Edith Lai and sadly missed by sisters: Gloria, Myrtle and Shirley and by brothers: Ronald (Sonny) and Errol Lai.

Vincent was born in Kwantung, China, on 15th March, 1950 and migrated in 1954 to Jamaica with his parents. The family resided in the Montego Bay Area and Vincent attended and graduated from Cornwall College.

Vincent married Lorain Fay Duncan in August 1976 and shortly after migrated to Toronto, Canada.

In 1979, he purchased Nicey's Food Mart, a small West Indian grocery store in Scarborough.

He successfully built and developed Nicey's Food Mart into the largest Chinese West Indian Supermarket Group in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), with several locations (Brampton, Downsview, Mississauga, Pickering, Vaughn).

Vincent was well known in the Chinese and West Indian Communities and was recognized for his philanthropic involvement and work. He was the proud recipient of numerous awards including the BBPA Harry Jerome President's Award in 2013 and the Jamaica Observer Newspaper - Business Leaders Award for Promoting Entrepreneurship in 2010.

May his soul rest in peace.