

Letter for our late Cheetah brother Ambrose:

My dear Cheetah brother Ambrose (aka Roy),

It is with a great deal of sadness for us to write a letter to you in a post-humus fashion. After the sad news came from your daughters, the Tsang sisters (aka our Cheetah nieces) on February 10, 2017, we all knew that the inevitable time had come that our beloved brother Cheetah, Ambrose has finally crossed the river of eternity. We grieve and continue to love you dearly. We also lament the fact that we are no longer be able to enjoy a moment of fellowship with you except through our daily prayers and wonderful memories. Below is a brief remembrance of you and our incredible history as Cheetahs.

Among the Cheetahs, Ambrose, Patrick, Peter and Philip (me) are very close in terms of age as we graduated from Wah Yan College (Kowloon) in the same year (1960). Ambrose and Patrick were in the same class, Form 5B, before they left for their post-secondary education. Ambrose took the lead to leave for Pasadena Junior College while Patrick enrolled at the Technical College in Kowloon.

Ambrose's parents took him to Hong Kong when the communist government took control of China including the City of Shanghai in 1949. I was informed that Ambrose spent four years at Tak Sun School located at Austin Road. According to Ambrose's recollection, he and I were never in the same class at Tak Sun for he spent his four years in Tak Sun in classes K 1(kindergarten 1), Class 1(grade 1), Class 3 and Class 5 while I started out in K2, Class 2 and Class 4. It seems obvious Ambrose was never my class-mate at Tak Sun as he skipped Class 2, Class 4 and Class 6 while I skipped Class 1, Class 3 and Class 5 in our primary education. My faint recollection was that it was possible that Carmelo Leung could have been my class-mate in K2. Soon enough, the melting pot was at Wah Yan when Ambrose was in Form 1B under the guidance of our teacher, Mr. Choy Sing Pang (Choy Tow). The top notch students in Form 1B in those days were the two "Ips", namely Ip Tai Kwong and Vincent Ip Kay Lo while Ng Chun Bong (Do Si Chai) was a marginal student but was very good with soccer. I believe it was in Form 3 that Ng Chun Bong could not keep up his school work and had to repeat in Form 3. He probably spent too much time at the soccer field instead of being diligent with his school work.

During his year in Form 2, Ambrose (by that time we called him Roy or Ah Loy) became a young star at the Chapel under the control and management of Father Morahan, S.J. (nicknamed Chu Tow or Pig Head). As cheeky

teenagers, students at Wah Yan often invented very appropriate (or perhaps inappropriate) nicknames for the Jesuit priests and teachers. As a matter of fact, Fr. Morahan had a head looked that very much like a pig's head. Obviously, he did not like that nickname, but he promoted Roy to be a member of the Sodality as well as Sacristan of the College chapel on the second floor. The Sacristan is the person in charge of the sacristy and the Altar. However, Roy's status as the favorite God son of Fr. Morahan did not last long (maybe about 4 months), and Roy was fired by Fr. Morahan removing his Sodality pin as well. It was however no shame on Roy's part as there were several other predecessors such as Francis Lee, Robert Li (Len's classmate) and Martin Lee all went through the same firing by Fr. Morahan. The reason for the firing was sometimes so frivolous that one would accept the firing with a smile. I believe Roy was fired on account of him being stubborn at the Altar when Fr. Morahan wanted more red wine in his chalice, and Roy refused to refill it. That was our Roy, he was headstrong.

Sometimes, the loss of the status as the Sacristan can impact on the sibling as well. When my brother Robert was fired, Fr. Morahan rejected my application to join the Sodality because I was Robert's brother. Our favorite teacher, Father John Moran tried several times to intercede on our behalf but without success.

In the summer of 1956 before final examinations, Fr. Moran became closer to our group as he took us to watch professional soccer games and went to picnics with us. It was a few selected ones that Fr. Moran treated as favorites. They were Francis Lee (the fast running soccer player), Roy, Len Tsang, Michael Lai, Joe Li, Philip Lee, Philip Kam and Hilary Ku. These are the founding members of the Cheetahs. Patrick Yeung and Peter Lee joined our group in 1960. Noel Hui, Mike Lee and Carmelo Leung joined the group probably in 1961 when some Cheetahs left for overseas for post-secondary education. Between 1959 and 1960, the Cheetahs challenged many other soccer teams on the soccer field. Roy had the tall size of an ideal soccer player, but he was never aggressive in tackling the opposite players. Francis was the fastest runner and Joe (Merci) was most skillful with his foot-work. Both Francis and I scored many a goal because of the opportunities that Merci provided as a result of his skillful setting up the play. He simply delivered the ball right to the tip of my foot, and all I had to do was to tip the ball to pass the goal line and score. What a wonderful team-mate. Michael Lai and Philip Kam rotated to be the goal keepers. What a team of athletes and fraternity friends! Now, half of them are now in heaven. It leaves half of us missing our team but forever honoring them on earth.

In addition to playing soccer and dancing at parties, the mahjong table was the most favorite place for the Cheetahs, especially after we were introduced to Noel's Godmother, Mrs. Leung. We called and still call her "Kai Mah". Our gatherings were at least two times a week if not more frequent. One of the teachers at Wah Yan, Mr. Chu Chi Sing (who happened to be a neighbor of Mrs. Leung) knew of our activities at Kai Mah's suite and often said to us: "don't you guys ever go home to study at all". Kai Mah's place was practically our home for games and for us to have fun. She loved us very much and continues to be a member of the Cheetah family.

The rest of the story concerning Roy after 1960 was as legendary as his life. He often recounted his incredible life to help us fill in the blanks of the 48 years lost. While being a student at Pasadena under adverse situations, he was forced to work as a waiter of a restaurant in New York city. Later, with motivation and encouragement from his wife Emie, he attended night school and was eventually admitted to the Medical School in New York. His boss at the restaurant where he worked as a waiter never believed Roy would become a medical doctor. Roy was an under-valued student in high school and at College and University until he received his M.D. degree. He was a self-made winner among his friends, his class-mates in schools and universities on account of his motivation and hard work. He ended up being an incredibly successful nephrologist who made many contributions to the medical community. We are so proud of him. His most important accomplishment of course is his family. He loved his wife and daughters very much.

After Roy left for the United States in the fall of 1960, one by one the Cheetahs left for other parts of the globe for their post-secondary education. And some of us never reconnected until 2008. Roy and I connected 48 long years after Roy left Hong Kong for the U.S. It seems like a miracle that most of us eventually reunited thanks for the technology of communication by E-mails. I share a quote from Roy's E-mail to us shortly after visiting our beloved Patrick (whom we nicknamed Bai Ga as kids) for the final time on May 19, 2013:

"Prior to March 30, 2008 - I never dreamt I would have this day. Philip Lee's call embarked me on the journey of my life, and I once again touched my friends once lost to me. Yet again I stand to lose a friend, just as I did Carmelo and Philip. I implore you my friends to share many more touches with me, even if it is a mere meal, bowl of noodles, or a cup of tea. It was mentioned that we gather again in Winnipeg before the end of our LG's term. Let us plan something, anything. Take care, my friends. Cheetahs 4-ever! Roy"

Since that telephone call between us in 2008 and since that email in 2013, I am happy to say that we indeed had many "touches". If we as Cheetah brothers contributed to any of Roy's happiness in life, then we know we did our job as lifelong best friends. In the past 9 years, we made more memories than we could ever imagine possible. Some things just never changed, and it was like no time had passed. Like many of his Cheetah brothers, Roy loved to gamble. He never spent beyond his means, but it was something he truly enjoyed. He never said no to a trip to the casino or a marathon of mahjong with us. When the Cheetahs reunited after all those years, we never got a chance to play another soccer match. However, we spent many many hours playing mahjong and made new memories. It was a true gift to be reunited with each other. We all love each other dearly and our Cheetah family grew to include Patrick's brother (and now OUR little brother Gus who is now a full-fledged Cheetah), spouses (including our late Emie) and all the children and grandchildren. Personally, my entire family was deeply affected after the devastating phone call on November 28. Roy visited Manitoba 4 or 5 times and traveled to Hawaii with us on our family vacation in 2010. We are extremely sad but so thankful for the time spent with Roy and Emie. Time is a gift we will always hold dearly.

Roy, you were a man of intelligence, possessing all the great qualities of a good man, a true friend and brother. May God give you eternal peace. We, your Cheetah brothers and sisters and their children will all miss you. Say "hi" to Emie, your parents and to our brothers at the mahjong table in the sky (Joe aka "Merci", Carmelo, Patrick aka "Bai Ga", Philip Kam aka "Dai Fei" and Michael Lai). We love you now and always.

Sincerely,
Philip aka "Sai Fei"
on behalf of the Cheetahs

Jennifer, Margot and Carla,

We love you girls and are proud of you. You will always be our Cheetah nieces, and we will always be here for you. You are strong women with your mother's heart and your father's determination. We have compiled some videos taken by Uncle Gus over the years and a small sampling of photos for you to enjoy. Perhaps your father may have shared these with you in the past. If you ever want any more photos or want to hear more about your dad's days as a kid, we would love to share. He lives on in our hearts and memories.

Love,
Your Cheetah Family

Cheetahs Videos by Gus:

Mah jong (Roy, Tim and their Mom are in the video)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5S4q3o2k4_c&feature=youtu.be

Pre dinner 5 (Roy and Emie)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqFLi9JaUH0>

Dancing after dinner (Roy and Emie)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwVmRzNRsb4>

Memories going through old photos (Roy)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWrlQ0PquO0>

Taking of the Cheetah Group Photo - 1. (Roy)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGp6UgZOiPY>

Taking of the Cheetah Group Photo - 2. (Roy and Emie)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnncWVcd5mw>

Taking of the Cheetah Group Photo – 3 (Roy and Emie)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBBMr5hVwMs>

Signing the guest book. (Roy and Emie)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHMjfU4mG08>

Receiving Line (Roy and Emie)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc_28HxUdtc

Dinner at Michael and Helena Lee (Roy and Emie)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUblRhK0JXk>



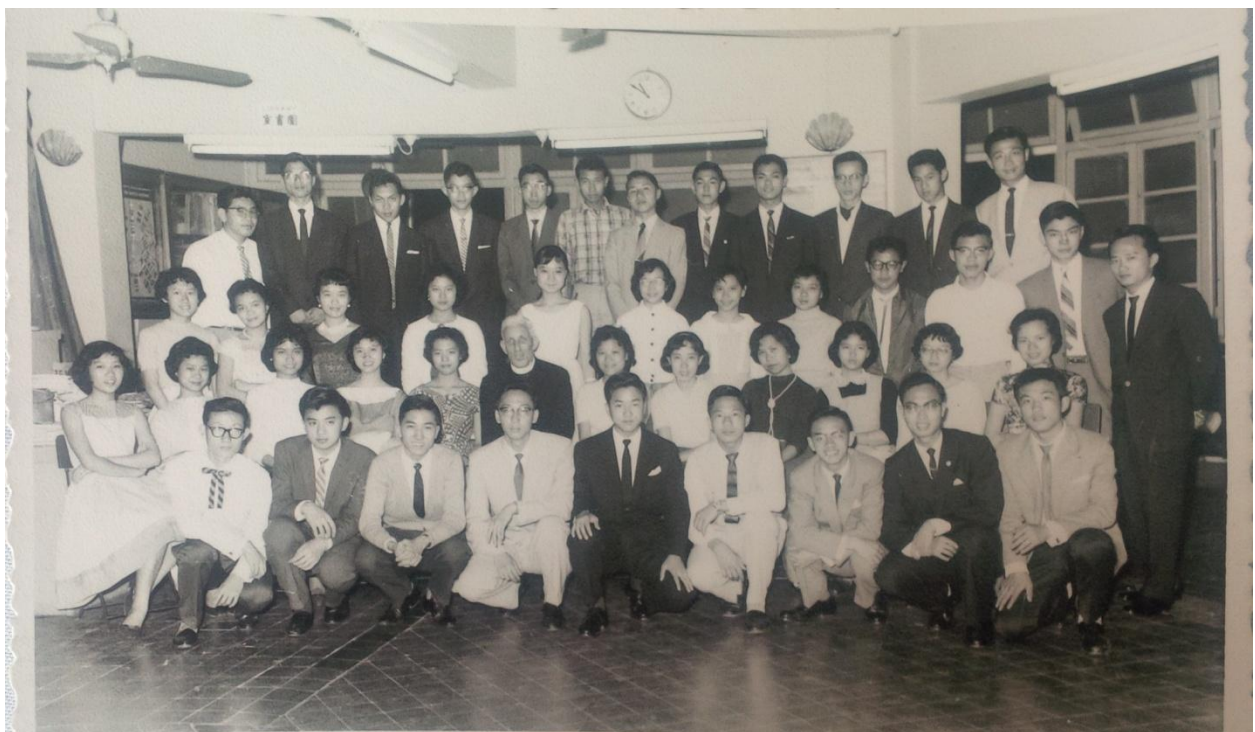
Michael Lai, Philip Kam, Ambrose Tsang, Francis Lee
Joseph Li, Father Moran, Hilary Ku
Leonard Tsang, Philip Lee



After a Cheetahs soccer match
Ambrose Tsang, Michael Lai, Joseph Li, Patrick Yeung
Leonard Tsang, Philip Kam, Philip Lee



Roy and the Cheetahs threw a party at Philip Lee's house to cheer him and his family up after Philip's father passed away. Philip's mother loved the Cheetahs and was grateful for these young friends.



Wah Yan College Dance Party with Cheetahs, Father Moran and Friends (including girls)



Lilian's confirmation with her brother and her Cheetah brothers
Philip Kam, Patrick Yeung, Peter Lee, Ambrose Tsang, Lilian, Michael Lai, Philip Lee, Joseph Li



Maritime Cruise (October, 2015)



Hong Kong Reunion (November, 2016)



Winnipeg Reunion (July, 2014)



Winnipeg Reunion (July, 2014)



Los Angeles Reunion (August, 2010)



Los Angeles Reunion (August, 2010)



Los Angeles Reunion (August, 2010)



Toronto Get-together with teachers, brothers and Mother Tsang (June, 2009)