

Remembering Liang Kit (2) !

[A PhotoEssay of Chris' Last Culinary Journey in HK]

As befitting the CEO (Chief Entertainment Officer a.k.a. Chief Eating Organizer) of WYK62 HK, my memory of Christopher's last year with us can be all summed up by the meals we had together when he joined our big or small gatherings in dinner banquets, lunches or suppers.

Looking back over half a century ago in WYK, even though I was in the same class with Chris in P.6C, F.2B & F.3B – we did not mix much. He appeared to me then as a bit of a low-profile “pale-faced scholar 白面書生” type, somewhat nerdy in today's terms, whereas yours truly was already developing into a rowdy happy-go-lucky extrovert, an enthusiast of ad hoc football on the sandy field. Chris and I were as different as oil and water and so our paths did not cross much at school, not having a lot in common.

Maybe fate somehow tried to compensate for that during 2016, a year which Chris seemed to have more time to be spent in Macau in his English teaching volunteer work and we therefore

saw him in HK more than any other years. The fact that he promised his wife he would come to visit & stay in his father-in-law's flat in North Point every weekend meant we had many more chances to organize short-notice ad hoc casual meals. Another pertinent change being the Macau abode of his 2016 work has change from the previous one located in out-of-the-way districts to an easily accessible downtown address, making even attending our dinner events possible for him without facing transportation problems afterwards.

Knowing I am the mover and shaker, it had been Chris' habit to always make sure I was well informed when he came to Macau so that I can add him to the loop for local events.

WYKs in HK, therefore began 2016 by seeing Chris when he attended our April BD Party banquet on 19 April (see below).



後排左起：梁啟雄, 潘禮儀, 梁萬載, 李志明, 李基誠, 麥基耀, Irene Choi, 朱飛龍, Vicky Tsui, 劉簡樞, Tracy Leung, 譚志, 林德鈞, Cindy Lam, 李立本, 李汝大, Claudia Ip, Raymond Cheung, Florence Lee
前排左起：楊華基, 潘柏軒, 林鴻鈞, 黃成榮, 李德彰

2016年4月19日攝於銅鑼灣, 皇庭皇, 稻香酒樓為5位同學慶祝生日





The evening, by my standards, can only be rated 6,5 out of 10 due to the crowded room and inadequate service personnel etc.

But for Chris, the “perfect gentleman” throughout, he concentrated his comments on the tasty dishes instead.

But this shaky start of his 2016 life in HK with us was soon to be rewarded by a number of closer packed events which culminated in establishing the main theme of Chris’ culinary adventures last year i.e. rediscovering tastes of his youth – the search for nostalgic dishes !

Mid-August saw him joining a few of us in Shamrock Café of the over half a century old Shamrock Hotel on Nathan Road near Jordan for an excellent value-for-money buffet lunch, full of hot Cantonese dishes, not Western ones as in other hotels – but all so tasty and well cooked. The surprise came at the end when I revealed that it was only \$160/person including service ! A number of us have been there on several occasions in mini-groups before and not one voiced any negative comments at all ! Chris sang it’s praises throughout.



{The Shamrock Café buffet - The female is Silas' girlfriend from China and the young guy is Wilson Lee Tak-cheung's son, David.}

A few days after this lunch, Chris was introduced to his favorite meal of all in 2016– the hot fresh out of the oven Roast Duck (掛爐大鴨) and Halal Curry Mutton (清真咖哩羊腩) which meal we managed to round up people to repeat for Chris 2 or 3 times hence-after. In fact, his very last one in HK with WYK62s was here, with Silas Yeung, James Li & Poon Lai-yeung which Chris paid for was a lunch on Wed 25th January (I was ill and could not attend) before he left one last time around midnight

on the 1st day of CNY on 28th January. However, I digressed.

Meantime, lets rewind back to 22 August and Chris' first lunch in this establishment of Roast Duck and Curry Lamb – a family run establishment which began serving its two very popular signature dishes right after the Japanese left HK in WWII in the same location – all the way to the present day, opening daily only from 11:30am to 6pm.

<https://www.openrice.com/zh/hongkong/r-%E6%B8%85%E7%9C%9F%E6%83%A0%E8%A8%98-%E7%81%A3%E4%BB%94-%E5%A4%9A%E5%9C%8B%E8%8F%9C-%E5%92%96%E5%96%B1-r10049/reviews>

This place is also notable for being very down-to-earth, located in Wanchai's Bonington Street Market's floor for Cooked Food Stalls which is usually jam-packed at meal times. But to it's eternal credit, the standard of its dishes more than made-up for the uncomfortable environment and it's magical spell soon draw you back time and again – even though not too frequently. Suffice to repeat here that after I took WYK62 Peter Ng Tsung-kin (Portland OR) to sample these two dishes for lunch

with the now late Bill Mok in Nov 2012, Peter thought it the best of all the meals he had in Hong Kong during his 10 days stay here for the 2012 Reunion – Gala Dinner included ! Now that’s saying something, isn’t it ?





[The quality never disappointed].

As I said, Chris had two or three meals here after this one and took stuff home to his father-in-law every time ! He enjoyed it so much here !

After the above on 22nd Aug, a few days later saw a few of us – with Chris – in Congress Plus, a well-known buffet style restaurant in the old premises of the HK Exhibition & Convention Centre, again in Wanchai, for a buffet dinner because it was doing a HSBC card promotional discount + discount for seniors at the same time which meant we can have our dinners at \$2XX instead of the normal \$6XX ! A few of us were hastily assembled to take advantage – and Chris agreed to

join us too !



[Everyone was so happy with this one, Chris was no exception.

Excellent buffet with plenty of choices but oh-so-inexpensive

for us ! A few of us went back again on 12 Sep.]

So, Chris went home to the US around the beginning of

September and told me he would be back again sometime in

October – after missing our WYK62 23 Sept BD Party

Extravaganza !

The following exchanges then took place beginning of October:-

Date: 7 October 2016 at 16:04

Subject: Re : Are You in Macau Yet ?

Dear Chris,

If and when you are in Macau, can you please tell me what is a good day for either Lunch or Dinner during the 1st 2 weeks of November ?

I want to plan an event especially for you as you've missed our 23 Sep big do and will miss our 8th Dec one too !

Please revert as soon as you can, thank you !

Cheers,

Alex

Subject: Re: Re : Are You in Macau Yet ?

To: Alex Mak <alexkymak@gmail.com>

Hi Alex

Thank you very much for your letter. I have just gotten into Macau yesterday afternoon.

I am pretty much in Macau from now until the end of Nov, with 9,10 & 11 Nov having to return to Suzhou briefly. My "best" times would be on the weekends as there is no school. But I can understand you guys have families to be with on weekends. So may I propose Wednesday 2 Nov - its a public holiday in Macau. But I would prefer majority rules. I can take a leave of absence for one day - I guess one of the privileges of not drawing a salary.

I am truly honored and humbled by all the trouble you are going through to arrange for this gathering. I was just thinking a simple get-together meal with whoever is available and interested. **That lunch at the Wanchai Market was great.** Have said all this I probably have to come to HK anyway for the

coming 2 weekends in October. If it's OK with you, I'll give you a call ahead of time to see if you are free on those weekends.

Kind regards

Chris

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Date: 8 October 2016 at 06:48

Subject: Re: Re : Are You in Macau Yet ?

To: christopher liang <liangkitchris@att.net>

Hi Chris,

Thanks your long reply.

Anyway, Wed 2nd Nov would be good as it is NOT a P.H. in HK, only in Macau. I am thinking the Dickens Bar, which provides a casual affordable lunch venue with easy access and should yield a decent headcount. The date is good - nicely fitting in between dinners of 23 Sep and 8th Dec. I shall be announcing it on email early next week. As to your HK weekends, not this one but I shall be OK Oct 15/16 and I am thinking Wan Chai market - duck and curry, but being a weekend, I don't expect many would turn up, but it should be OK even if it's just the two of us at the end of the day, no ?

Call me when you are in town and we can have a chat, OK ? Cheers,
Alex

The above exchange, if my memory serves, yielded another

Wanchai Market Duck and Curry meal (without photo records),

as well as the 2nd Nov Dickens Bar buffet lunch get together.



後排站立左起：李汝大, 李立木, 潘禮謙, 麥國瑞, Clement Lee ('61), 梁杰, 梁萬龍, 林鴻鈞, 李基誠(李德彰之子)
前排坐左起：李白明, 李達安, 楊華赫, 朱振國
學姐：梁啟雄, 顧麗舟

2016年11月2日攝於銅鑼灣, 怡東酒店地庫Dicken's Bar



[Everyone was happy – the Dickens Bar is an old haunt and stands ready to serve as our reserve venue for casual lunches without disappointment every time.]

After this lunch, I remember two more meals with Chris before

he went back to the States end of Nov 2016. First, there was an early supper with me and Stephen Lee Chee-ming because when having Roast Duck in the Wanchai Market, Chris spotted a menu on the wall advertising a dish he said he had not had since school days and would very much like to try again - **砵仔蒸焗魚腸** – served by Wing Kee (next door to the Roast Duck place) which only opens at 6pm everyday. As not many people like this dish, there were only the 3 of us – but Chris liked it so much that he ordered it twice and finished both dishes with only a little help from us – there were also two other dishes as well. This nostalgic dish was so popular that its daily limited supply was already sold out when we left around 7:15pm ! I also remembered that during the meal, Chris mentioned another nostalgic dish called **金錢雞** – and we managed to find it on the phone at **蓮香酒樓** in Central and promised to make a point of going to try it with him – but alas, now not to be ! An eternal regret !

This supper happened between the Dickens Bar lunch of 2nd Nov and his last meal with us in HK this period i.e. a dinner with

David Koo, Henry Leung and James Li at the coffee shop of the Dynasty Club on 30th Nov, a couple of night before he flew home again.

As Chris had stated that he might not be back in Macau/HK during the whole of 2017 because his grandson would be in the States for schooling together with Chris' daughter-in-law, he needed to look after their welfare and would most probably take the whole year off his volunteer work in Macau.

But lo and behold, I unexpectedly received a local call a little after mid-January 2017 from Chris telling me he was back again – apparently he had to escort his father-in-law back to HK from the States, where the old gent went visiting. Chris said he would be staying this time for around 10 days in North Point and fly back on the night of 28 January, CNY's day. When I asked him what he would like to eat, he stated **砵仔蒸焗魚腸** again ! So, I asked Stephen Chu to join us for an early supper on Friday 20th Jan but I had to cry-off at the last minute, not feeling well that afternoon. So, the two of them had their supper, with telephoned advice from me to assist in their choices of the

other two dishes. Guess what ? They both took home some Roast Duck because they arrived before 6 pm and it was still open !

As I mentioned before, on Wed 25th Jan – Chris, James, Poon LY and Silas had another Roast Duck and Curry lunch and that was the very last meal of all time with WYK62's in HK for Chris, with me sadly missing all opportunities to see him during his last period here, but managed to have two long telephone chats with him before his “final departure” – mostly inquiring with worries and concerns after my health and well-being ! He also confided to me that of all the meals he had with us in 2016 – the one he would like most to have had again was the inexpensive buffet lunch at The Shamrock Café of The Shamrock Hotel in Nathan Road – surprised ? I was !

All in all, Chris was an extremely kindhearted and GOOD person - a person so full of virtues that we all admired and loved ! I am sure we were all honored to be able to be his friend – our very own WYK62 Gentle Giant in everyway !

We will all miss you so very much Chris ! You will be in our

minds, our hearts and our prayers forever more !

Ciao, my dear beloved classmate, Rest in Peace & 一路好走.

To the Laing family, our deepest sympathies and condolences

保重身體 節哀順變 !

END