

December 1998

Message from the President - Joseph Wong

Greetings to all our members. I am indeed honoured to serve our alumni association as the president for the coming year and I would like to thank everybody for their confidence and support. For a number of years now, the structure of our association has been quite loose and the attendance of our functions has been gradually declining. The inspiration to restructure and to revitalize the association came this past August during the biannual Wah Yan International Conference in Calgary. Both our school supervisor, Fr. George Zee, S.J., and our former Principal Fr. Deignan, S.J., had expressed their concerns and had given us their support. Back in town, we are grateful to have our former Vice Principal, Mr. Anthony Ho, volunteer his full-time service. Under his guidance, a new Board of Directors was formed and new plans formulated. Finding so many old and new faces who can give up their valuable time to work for us is a surprise to me. Our successful AGM is a good example of their dedication and fine accomplishment. Our Wah Yan spirit is at work! The main goal of the current executives is to reorganize and strengthen the association. To achieve this, we need your support and input. This is an organization that belongs to us all and I want to stress that without your support and participation, it will exist in name only. We will be developing a strategic plan for the future and your feedback is needed. There will be monthly open board meetings and everybody is invited to attend. Please check the newsletters for time and location. I am looking forward to seeing and working with many of you. With the holiday season coming up, may I take this opportunity to wish every one of you and your families A Merry Christmas And A Prosperous New Year.

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Annual General Meeting, 1998

Our AGM was held on Sunday, November 29, at New World Seafood Restaurant in North York. Before the meeting began, we all sang the School Hymn. After the official business was done, there was a slide presentation of the history of our school from 70 Portland Street, Mongkok to our present campus. The course of time was witnessed by many of our members attending the dinner. Our most senior member, Tso Kwok Cheung, 90, started from the beginning and graduated in 1929 at Nelson Street. He proudly displayed the original diploma signed by the then Principal, Mr. Chow Ching Lam, whom many of the past students fondly addressed with respect as Fatty Chow. Jackie Mac spent all his school days at Nelson Street and graduated in '47. (Jackie is now retired and works as a volunteer at a community centre.) Then there were others from Hong Kong Wah Yan P.M. School moving to the new premises in Waterloo Road in 1952. As new buildings were being shown, the younger members of the '60s, '70s and '80s revisited their youthful days at Wah Yan. A delicious Chinese dinner was served, punctuated by games and prizes. All children of Wahyanites received Christmas presents when they could say the name of their father in Chinese. One little boy could offer only 'Tam Yee Sun' (Dr. Tam), drawing laughters from all present. Table prizes were given to the best matching line to

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Mr. Laurence Tam who had promoted the interest of students in art through his art club activities from 1956 to 1971 and who retired from Hong Kong Government three years ago as the first Chief Curator of Museum of Art, was invited to be the judge. Among all the returns, he picked:

one that drew most applause:

璫口綴) Mr. Wilson Hsueh, our music teacher who put on Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and who put our school choirs among the best in Hong Kong, was present. There were also Hong Kong Wah Yan past students and Maryknoll former girls among us. It was a fun-filled evening for over 110 people.

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Valentine Ball approaching! - Joseph Wong

On Saturday, February 6, 1999, we will be co-hosting the annual Valentine Ball together with the alumni of Wah Yan Hong Kong as one entity - the Wahyanites. The theme of this year will be "Millennium of Romance." As the host school, the best tables are reserved for us. It will be an evening of fine dining, entertainment and dancing to live music. Proceeds from the ticket sale and programme book advertisements remain our major source of revenue and are used to maintain our low membership fee and to subsidize our functions. With attendance of more than 1,200 people, advertising in the programme book presents a good publicity opportunity for your business. I ask every Wahyanite to support our very own function. Please join us for an evening of fun with your loved ones. Tickets and advertisement spaces are still available. Please call for information.

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80/75 School Anniversaries - Joseph Wong

1999 will be a milestone year for Wah Yan. It was in 1919 that our roots first began. Mr. Tsui Yan Sau founded Wah Yan College, Hong Kong. Five years later, in 1924, he crossed the harbour to start our alma mater, Wah Yan College, Kowloon. To celebrate WYHK's 80th and WYK's 75th anniversaries, together with our Wah Yan Hong Kong counterpart here and the New York Wah Yan Alumni, we are organizing our very own multi-day celebrations from July 1, Canada Day, to July 4, U.S. Independence Day, in 1999. The celebrations committee has been working hard for a while now. Details will be available soon.

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Membership

All Wah Yan College Kowloon students and staff are members of WYKAAO. There are also Honourary membership given to those who have helped the cause of our association. This year Lena Wong, wife of Peter, and Patsy Sie, wife of Sonny, became our first Honourary members for their effort to represent us to attend numerous meetings with other schools for various functions. The initiation ceremony was held at our AGM. The two ladies were presented a long stem rose each. Some in the audience remarked jokingly that it was cheap labour! Our membership directory is being updated continuously. We intend to have it in printed form once a year before the AGM. If you need one for 1998, please call us. The fresh updated list will appear in our Web site. Each member is assigned a year number, which is the year of finishing Form 5 in school. Members who left or joined school before or after Form 5 would be assigned a F5 equivalent year number. We hope this will help our database management. We would appreciate if you would let us know if the number after your name is incorrect. Staff are followed by ST. Our annual membership fee is \$10. Its purpose is to help defray the cost of postage, stationery and registration. We say `thank you' to those who had already sent in their annual membership fee. We appeal to others to do so. Cheques should be made payable to Wah Yan College Kowloon Alumni Association of Ontario.

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Board Meetings

The following board meetings are scheduled. They are all open board meetings. All members are invited to attend our monthly open board meetings. Please let us know if you are coming and the agenda will be sent to you in advance. The following meetings have been scheduled:

Jan. 6, 1999, Wed., 7 p.m.	at New World Seafood Restaurant, North York.
Feb. 9, 1999, Tuesday	TBA
Mar. 5, 1999, Friday	TBA
Apr. 6, 1999, Tuesday	TBA

Future dates will be announced later.

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Registration and Constitution

We are working to register our association as a non-profit and non-charitable corporation. At present, we are of the opinion that we are not qualified as a charitable organization. We are also working to have our first constitution ready to be adopted at the next AGM. It would lay a solid foundation for growth in future years. We hope the draft copy will be in the hands of members at the 80/75 celebration in July, 1999. Your ideas in these two areas will be much appreciated.

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Hiking

For people who love outings, Ambrose Leung of '57 announced at the AGM that there will be hiking every two weeks from April 18 to July 11, 1999. Ambrose can be reached at (416) 733-7618, 7-10 p.m

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Soccer

Members of the '60s are still playing! They were all stars of our school teams of years gone by. For more information, please contact Raymond Chan. (905) 887-5883 chanray@worldy.com

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Do you know?

Who said, "Able was I ere I saw Elba"? Tso Kwok Cheung, '29, posed this trivial quiz at the AGM dinner. He wanted those present to read it backwards. "The secret of my good health and clear-mindedness," he declared, "is the result of playing Mahjong!"

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New!

Come and visit our Web site. This is the first attempt of our IT team. We are working to get our own domain name. Ambrose Li would love to hear your suggestions and comments. Please send them to ai337@freenet.toronto.on.ca

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New features in our next issue

- Wahyanites teaching at WYK
- Social Services Corner

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This table shows the list of directors for 1998-1999

Directors (1998-99)	
Ambrose Li Cheuk Wing	(86)
Gabriel Wong Wing Kay	(85)
Patric Wong Kin Kei	(85)
Raymond Leung Wai Ming	(77)
Christopher Tam Ka Hung	(77)
Wilson Chiu Yu Leung, Secretary	(77)
Patrick Lai Chi King, Vice President	(72)
Simon Chau Kwok Keung, Treasurer	(71)
Victor Tong Wai Tak, Immediate Past President	(68)
Sandy Ng Chow Ngok	(67)
Joseph Wong Chee Chiu, President	(67)
Augustine Yeung Cho Hang	(66)
Dermot Chan Chung Cheung	(65)
Peter Wong Ka Kee	(61)
Wong Hin Shing	(61)
Anthony Ho, Staff Advisor	

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We are listening

Please drop us a note to help us improve on our future issues. Watch for the next issue in February 1999. Closing date for articles to be included is January 27, 1999

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