



Ontario Maryknollers

Official Newsletter of Maryknoll Convent Former Students (Ont.)

Letter from the President

Wendy Man

Dear Fellow Maryknollers,

I hope you and your family are enjoying the nice summer days.

We are only 14 weeks away from our 35th Anniversary Dinner. A huge thank you to the generous class of 1971, who is our Diamond Sponsor for the event!

The dinner will be held on September 7, 2019 at the prestigious Granite Club, and free parking is available. Tickets are \$138 per person and are selling fast. Alternatively, become a Gold Sponsor to sit at one of the prime tables; 10 tickets with a full page advertisement in our program book is \$1,800. The dinner is a great opportunity for you and your classmates to reunite and have some fun. If you are planning to join us, please contact one of our committee members or email us at contactus@mcsontario.org. Please register as soon as possible so our committee can coordinate your seating with your class.

We are also looking for donations to the silent auction for the evening. All proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the Sisters at the Motherhouse. We welcome items such as show or game tickets, dinner gift cards, and beauty salon gift certificates to name a few. If you would like to donate a silent auction item, please contact Jacqueline Lam Fong of Class 1974, Eva Wong Wong or Winnie Wong of Class 1973,

Another way to contribute to the event is to place an advertisement in our program book. All attendees will receive a copy of the program book to take home. This is an excellent opportunity to promote your business among our Maryknoll community. The letter size (8.5" X 11") color program ad is \$150 per page for inside pages and \$300 for the inside front cover or the inside back cover.

Last but not least, we will play a slideshow of past events and family pictures that will remind us of our past 35 years together. If you have any Maryknoll pictures that you would like to share with us, please email them to Miss Gertrude Chan (gchantrude@gmail.com).

Just like our previous dinner and dance events or Worldwide Reunions held in Toronto, our 35th Anniversary Dinner will be an unforgettable event for us to get together as one big Maryknoll family to make memories. We hope you will take the chance to spend a wonderful evening with us and your fellow friends.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful summer and see you all on September 7.

Yours truly,

Wendy Man



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We respected her austerity and adored her grace.

Patricia Wu

The MCS Former Students (Ontario) organized a memorial mass for our beloved teacher, Miss Nancy Yu, who passed away on February 5, 2019, in London, England at the age of 86. Miss Yu taught at Maryknoll from 1960 to 1986. She was Vice-Principal, Form 6 Homeroom teacher, Head of the History panel as well as the moderator of the Students' Association.

The Toronto memorial mass was held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at St Gabriel's Passionist Parish Church in North York. It was well attended by Maryknollers and former teachers. Rebecca Luk ('64) delivered a very moving eulogy.



Miss Yu was remembered fondly by Maryknollers who crossed paths with her. Memorial masses were held in Hong Kong, Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto.

In the MCS 73-74 yearbook, Miss Yu remarked "The way to get the most from living is not in keeping but in giving". Thank you, Miss Yu, for enlightening our lives. May you find eternal life in your final resting place, enriching the rose gardens in the Golders Green Cemetery in London, England.

Eulogy given by Rebecca Luk

March 30, 2019

Good Morning, my fellow Maryknollers. I am Rebecca Woo from the Class of 1964, in the Arts stream. I am honoured to be asked to say a few words about my history teacher Miss Nancy Yu. I have known Miss Yu for over 50 years and I was her student for four years till I completed the matriculation class in 1966.

Miss Yu taught at Maryknoll from 1960 to 1986. She was my F6 homeroom teacher. And, later on she was vice principal before her retirement.

Miss Yu was very knowledgeable and her lessons were very well planned and executed. She spoke fast and we could hardly catch up with her speed when we were taking notes. Sometimes, she wrote her notes on the blackboard and we had to compete with her to write down everything before she would erase them in a flash. Very often, we had to compare notes and fill in gaps after class. At times, she could be pretty harsh when we did poorly in tests. Some of us even burst into tears when our poor results were made known to the entire class.

Nonetheless, she was well known and loved for her dedication to her students to cope with the highly competitive education system in HK. Miss Yu tried her very best to prepare us for the open exams. She

drilled and tested us relentlessly every week. She was helpful in guiding us to focus on key areas of study. Needless to say, we were all overwhelmed. To look back, now, we all appreciate Miss Yu's unfailing efforts to spur us on to the road of success and graduated with excellence.

On the lighter side, Miss Yu was a very elegant lady, very well dressed in her signature Cheung Sam. While we were playful and naughty with other teachers, we dare not fool around with her. Yet, beneath her stern and serious appearance, she was soft enough to invite us to her beautiful home in HK and introduced her mom to us. What a privilege! We all remember unto this day!

The last time I saw Miss Yu was about 15 years ago when both of us were in HK. She did not change one bit! She was still the skinny, tall and elegant Miss Yu in her Cheung Sam. In the last few years of her life, I understand she had stopped travelling due to poor health.

This is my short account of Miss Yu and I am sure each of you have your own moments of her. To me, she is a great teacher!

Thank You, Miss Yu, May you rest in peace! We all remember you with love, affection and respect.

You will be missed more than you've ever known.



Bingo

We had a bingo afternoon on May 5, 2019 attended by 49 members and family.

As customary, all enjoyed themselves with a delicious buffet dinner.

Ludia Fong's daughter Jacqueline and her husband came towards the end of the afternoon with their baby daughter for a visit.



Also present was **Dr. Alan Joe**, auto-graphing his book **"Of Ox and Unicorn"**.



More pictures of the event can be viewed by clicking on the baby picture above, kindness of Lucy Leung (MCS class of

1969) who took the pictures.

We warmly welcome Lucy Leung to the Maryknoll Convent Former Students family, our newest member of the summer 2019.

Memoir of an Unforgettable 1969 MCS Reunion

Andrew Swanson

It was a lazy Saturday afternoon in September last year when my wife, Adeline, mentioned that several of her old school friends from Maryknoll were thinking of arranging a 50th anniversary reunion in Singapore – the class of 1969. She then asked if I would I be interested in coming to the reunion with the majority being ladies. I was a bit unsure at that



time as to what will all the ladies would get up to on a reunion and whether I would be in the way. I agreed and I am so glad that I did as the reunion was amazing, Singapore was fantastic and the food was out of this world.

The first thought that may cross your mind is, why a reunion in Singapore and not in Hong Kong. The answer to this question is an amazing woman, Irene Legay. Irene is also from the '69 Maryknoll class and was the driving force in arranging the reunion. Several years ago, Irene owned a French restaurant in Singapore and over many years the restaurant was synonymous for high quality fine dining at a reasonable price. As a result of being in the restaurant business and a Singaporean local at that time, who better to know what to see and what to eat - "Seafood" comes to mind, :) excuse my pun.

On 2 April, we all convened at the Carlton Hotel, next to the world famous Raffles Hotel. It was unfortunate that Raffles was closed for a major renovation, 130 years after its opening, an icon of the hospitality industry filled with history. It meant that Singapore Slings were sadly not on agenda. Approaching the Carlton Hotel, Adeline was worried if she would recognise everyone, let alone remember all their names. As we approached the foyer, I could hear the glee's and aahhs of people greeting each other after 50 years

We were all introduced to everyone and I didn't know how I was going to remember everyone's

names. All I could remember was, "Hi, I am Diana – just remember Princess Diana". That was Diana Ng. I was also pleased to see two other husbands, Margaret Tang's husband Gene and Emily Tsang's husband, Andrew – I was not alone, phew!

I was then introduced to Gertrude Chan, a former teacher at Maryknoll. Quietly spoken with a lovely big smile on her face. She said that I should call her Gertrude. As I was intermingling I bumped into Judy Yeung Beca and introduced myself. I pointed out that I had just met Gertrude and Judy said that everyone knows her as Miss Chan. It was so wonderful that after all these years, the respect for their teacher still remains.



The first day of the reunion was packed with sightseeing, eating, more sightseeing, eating and rounded off with more sightseeing. After herding everyone into the specially arranged bus, we kick started the reunion with the Singapore DUCKTour.



This is a converted WWII amphibious vehicle which cruises along Marina Bay where we admired the views of the bustling urban skyline, the Singapore Flyer, Gardens by the Bay, Esplanade Theatre and of course Singapore's most iconic landmark, the Marina Bay Sands Hotel. Little did I know at that time that we would be visiting

all those places in the next couple of hours. Irene knows how to organise.

After our water excursion, another bus picked us up and took us to the Singapore Flyer. This is the second largest Ferris wheel in the world standing at 165m tall. What a wonderful way to see Singapore in a relaxed, air conditioned environment.

Singapore Flyer flight also includes FLYER 360+, an interactive in-capsule experience that enhances your flight experience with its rich content on Singapore history, culture and iconic landmarks. From the top of the Flyer, one can see where the Formula 1 track circuit winds its way around the city.



Lunch was served at a lovely Indian restaurant and in the afternoon we headed to the Gardens by the Bay. Gardens by the Bay is a nature park spanning 101 hectares of reclaimed land in the Central Region of Singapore, adjacent to the Marina Reservoir. The park consists of three waterfront gardens: Bay South Garden, Bay East Garden and Bay Central Garden. There are eighteen Supertrees in Gardens by the bay in total, where twelve of them are put together making a cluster of

trees called the Supertree Grove.

Each Supertree collects its own water and powers its own lights from solar panels. After a wonderful night light show amongst the Supertrees, we headed to the Marina Bay Sands Hotel and the SkyPark which is located 200m above sea level at the top of the hotel. Wonderful views of the Singapore skyline amazed all of us. After a long and exciting fun filled day we all retired to recharge our batteries – our smart



The youth of today, always on their phones, Enid Tai Chow and Diana Ng

phones obviously.



The following day, we explored Little India and Arab Street. Of course we had a lot of experience amongst the ladies with regards to shopping and soon the bargain hunt was on. All we needed were lights camera and action. Soon the men were wondering where the ladies had gone.....They were soon found packed in a small establishment.

With eight Maryknoll ladies in a shop you know that they had picked up a scent of discount.

Irene Legay was eyeing out the beautifully painted elephants. Little did she know what was to happen in the coming days.

After a lot of laughs everyone came away with a little something of Little India.

All the shopping was hungry work and Irene skilfully navigated us through multiple floors of a shopping centre to a one of the best Chinese food courts in Singapore. It was truly amazing and no one wanted to leave in a hurry – there is always room for more dim-sum, or in my case yummy ice Cajun.

The afternoon was spent emptying our wallets in China Town and relaxing in the Singapore Cultural Museum. Towards the late afternoon, we were all feeling a bit tired. The only cure for this feeling, which has been passed down by generations of Chinese, is to go and eat more food. So with a renewed energy we were guided to a local Peranakan restaurant. Very different cuisine and exciting to try new flavours.



Early the next day, with fully recharged phones, we descended on Universal Studios on Sentosa Island. It was a free day to enjoy the sites and sounds of movie magic, roller coaster rides and lots of shade. Several of our party retreated to the beach whilst others, with the sun bearing down, a stop off at the American Diner was welcomed.

Dinner was served at the 60th Floor talk-of-the-town Sichuan Chinese Restaurant, with breath taking panoramic views of the city's fascinating architectural medley of the well preserved 'traditional' and the 'avant-garde'.



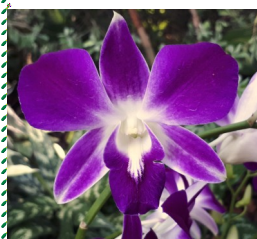
Our eyes were diverted from the panoramic views by a long spout tea pourer. In very old times, there were not many waiters in the old tea houses. Thus, long spout teapots came into being. They allowed the waiters to pour tea from a distance thus serving several tables from one spot.

The food was out of this world and highly recommended. This occasion was used to thank everyone attending the reunion, and also to thank



amazing Irene Legay. She was presented with an elephant from Little India to keep the elephant that Irene had bought company.

The last day of the reunion was spent in the Singapore Botanical gardens. The gardens are 160 years old located on the fringe of Singapore's Orchard Road shopping district. It is one of three gardens, and the only tropical garden, to be honoured as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hidden amongst the green splendour is the beautiful Orchid and Ginger gardens. Everyone was amazed by the thousands of different orchids with colours jumping out at you. Breathtaking and awe inspiring in every way.



The reunion was ended on a high note with **Chilli-crab** which was washed down with a fire breathing dessert.



The reunion would not be complete without special mention of our chief photographer, Lucy Leung. The words “group photo” resonate with me still today. On arriving at any destination, Lucy strongly coerced us all into place to grab the perfect photo. Lucy's infectious laugh let us all know that she was about and her smile makes the world a better place.

So my final thoughts is that on arriving in Singapore, I had no idea what to expect. Singapore is an amazing place which is close to Irene's heart. She loves her food and showed us what we missing at home. On leaving Singapore, I departed knowing that Maryknoll is a special school of beautiful people who have compassion, love and laughter.



To the next reunion!

Andrew Swanson

Friendship is like wine, the older the better.
陈酒味醇，老友情深。