



Merry Christmas



About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication among La Salle College old boys residing in North America. However, it shall not be used as a tool to promote any personal agenda. The editorial board therefore reserves the right to review and edit all submissions to ensure that no inappropriate contents appear in any issue of this newsletter. The editorial board also reserves the right to reject any submission that is not in line with the objective of this newsletter. Please send all your communications to editors@lscobaedm.org.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email (with subject line: subscribe) to newsletter-lscobaedm-subscribe@lscobaedm.org.

Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members:

East Coast (USA)	Christopher Tse (1965), Peter Lai (1967)
Edmonton	Calvin Chan (1971)
San Francisco Bay Area	Ephrem Fung (1976), Ambrose Lee (1998)
Southern California	Eddie Shek (1985)
Toronto	Felix Leung (1985), Kevin Kwok (1988), Jimmy Chang (1966)
Vancouver	Victor Leung (1977), Richard Choo (1977)

Reminders

East Coast (USA)

Sunday Dim Sum Lunch

Date: every Sunday
Time: noon
Venue: Asian Jewels Seafood Restaurant
133-30 39th Avenue, Flushing NY 11354
Tel. 718-359-8600
Contact: dimsum@nylscoba.org

New Year's Eve Gathering

Date: Dec 31, 2014
Time: Happy Hour starting at 5:00 pm
Venue: 176 Northfield Ave, Edison, NJ 08837
Contact: dimsum@nylscoba.org

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date: Dec 12, 2014 (*please note dates changed to 2nd Friday in December and January*)
Time: noon
Venue: Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓

Christmas Party

Date: Dec 13, 2014
Time: 7:00 pm
Venue: Urban Shabu Hot Pot Restaurant
168-9700 105 Avenue
Contact: billshwong@shaw.ca

Southern California

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date: every first Sunday
Time: noon to 2 pm
Venue: Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant
111 N. Atlantic Blvd., 3/F, Monterey Park

Toronto

New Year's Eve Dinner

Date: Dec 31, 2014
Time: Reception 630 p.m.
Event 7:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.
Venue: Casa Deluz Banquet Hall
1571 Sandhurst Circle, Unit 107
Scarborough, Ontario
Ticket: \$88 ea.

Vancouver

New Year's Eve Dance Party

Date: Wednesday, December 31, 2014
Reception: 5:30pm
Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel
7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond
Price: \$110.00 (ticket before Nov 30, 2014)
Info: <http://nye2014.lscobavan.org>



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Chapter News

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

October Luncheon 2014

Ambrose Lee (1998)



Top Picture

Lawrence Lei (1975); Memie & Ephrem Fung (1976), Yolanda & Chris Ngai (1978); Franco Chan (2010); Andy Choi (2013); Tin Yau Ngai (2013), Jesse Lim (1985);

Lower Picture:

Andrew Sien (1963); Cathy & Philip Leung (1961); Derek Choy (1993); Ambrose Lee (1998); Andy Yip (2014); Ryan Lam (2014)

Not in the picture: Homer Yau (1985)

Oct 4th 2014 (Sat) was a great day with nice weather. 15 Bay Area LaSallians gathered at Cooking Papa Restaurant in Mountain View. "It was a great dim-sum lunch and nice catch up" said one of our LaSallians." It is an enjoyable get together!"

The Chapter would like to welcome Andy Yip and Ryan Lam (both from the Class of 2014) to the Bay Area and wish them every success in their academic advancement.

Yours in La Salle,

LSCOBASF (Bay Area) Chapter

The pictures will be posted on our official facebook webpage: www.facebook.com/lscobasf



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Toronto Chapter

Joint School Alumni Golf Tournament 2014

Kevin Kwok (1988)

The annual Hong Kong Joint School Golf Tournament took place on September 20th at the Mandarin Golf Club. 76 players, mostly alumni of various Hong Kong secondary schools, competed in the event, and a number of the players were La Salle old boys.



This is the 6th year our Chapter has officially participated in this tournament. John Yeung (1973) and Peter Ma (1981) managed to win the longest drive titles. Well done!

The prize presentation and dinner banquet were held at the same venue with 100+ guests, with our representative, Kevin Kwok (1988), serving as MC of the event.

The Joint School Alumni commit thanked our chapter President, Philip Wong (1967) and John Yeung (1973) for their great support, and Chris Fong (1994) for administering/monitoring the scoring system.





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East Coast (USA) Chapter

Autumn Gathering

New York/ East Coast Chapter

Chis Tse (1965) continued the tradition of hosting our annual Autumn Gathering on October 4 at his residence at Redding, Connecticut. Over 40 old boys and family members attended the event. We had old boys travelling from as close as just 15 minutes away, but we also has an old boy who was visiting NYC from Ireland. During the gathering, some old boys sought ought other old boys that they had long wanted to meet in person. We all had a great time.

We shot the breeze chatting about the good old days, talking about brother and teachers behind their backs, and discussing about the current HK events at Admiralty and Mongkok. There were also people playing mahjong and cards.

Lots of "drinks" and plenty of food were served. For starters, in addition to party snacks and cheeses, we had a whole slab of Italian prosciutto ham and a large tray of beef stew. From the barbecue grill, we had grilled steak, BBQ ribs, raw clams and oysters, among others. There were also fresh salmon, and veggies, pastas and rich dishes. Among others who brought dishes from home, on site, John Ng demonstrated his skillful art on shucking oysters and clams, and Bel Baptista showed his culinary talents on the grill. All the food was great and we all left with a satisfied and full stomach.

After dinner, we had a mini-concert featuring a duet performed by Che Ho on violin and Philip Lo on piano. Impromptu opening acts and preludes were performed by our second and third generation young performers, and one of their friends.

We all had a wonderful time and enjoyed the evening. Once again, our appreciation goes to Nancy and Chris on their hospitality, and for hosting such a memorable gathering.



The gang



Part of the drinks



The oysters



Mingling before dinner



After-dinner concert



LSC Performer

Trivia and Useless Fact:

For those who played the Monopoly board game before, you may remember there is a Redding train station on the game board. There is also a Redding train station not far away from Chris' home; but it is not the one featured by Monopoly. That trait train station is the Redding train station in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving one of the main train lines carrying tourists and vacationers to Atlantic City, where the game was crafted and created. Hence, it earned a spot on the game board.



Special Contribution

This article was written by William in April, 2014. The editorial committee wants to apologize to William for the delay.

Horsing Around in Las Vegas

William wishes to thank his 61er buddy Francis Siu for arranging the photographic collages in this article.

William Lai (1961)

Year of the Equine

This year, our near-annual pilgrimage to Sin City (and yes my altar-boy career in La Salle was short-lived) coincided with the Chinese New Year (CNY) festive season.

CNY is a big deal in LV, apparently due to the huge Chinese clientele. Most large hotels and casinos are lavishly adorned with CNY decorations and festooned with CNY lanterns and greetings in Chinese. This being the year of the horse, rather elaborate hippo statuesque representations in various forms are erected in hotel and casino lobbies. There are horses in gold, silver, jade, crystal, papier-mâché, and pure muscle projecting enormous horsepower. It's very amazing to me that this Chinese tradition is adopted so whole-heartedly in a place where, not so long ago, Sammy Davis Jr. had trouble finding suitable accommodation when performing with the Rat Pack.

I thought I'd share some of the images with those who might be interested in or who may consider visiting LV during the CNY period.



Horses Galore



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Non-horse CNY Symbols

Besides horses, other symbols of CNY were abundantly displayed. Because LV hotels are not normally Chinese-themed, the attempt to honour CNY sometimes results in some interesting incongruities. At Ceasars Palace, you can see half-naked Roman Goddesses with a Chinese fortune sign (福) hanging from their elbows. At the Venetian, a big banner of CNY greeting in Chinese characters ran the whole length of the replica San Marco Square bell tower built in a version of the Venetian-Byzantine architectural design.

Horsey tidbits

In Chinese folklore, horses were mythical and powerful creatures that could fly their riders into immortality. In practice, horses had played an imperative role in the rise and fall of Chinese empires and dynasties. The most prominent place in history of the Chinese horse is that of the Terra Cotta.

From time immortal up to the present time, horses have figured critically in human warfare, indeed human history. Horses were, and still are to some extent, essentially combat vehicles enabling military operations that shaped the world. We are quite familiar with some historical battles involving horses such as the Charge of the Light Brigade. Not so well known is the fact that the Mongols had women warriors highly skilled as horseback combatants. Some historians believe that they were the first ever female fighting units in the world.

Cavalry units with horses were used in World War I amidst the then modern weapons of mass destruction such as tanks, artillery and chemical agents. Horses were still used in WWII, but more as means of local transportation rather than as fighting vehicles. However, the horse moniker of military units survives to this day, though the character of the units bears little relation to the equine names these units carry. In Canada, for example, the artillery units, with self-propelled guns, are still referred to as the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA) in recognition of the historic fact that artillery pieces were horse-drawn. In Alberta, the South





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Alberta Light Horse Regiment (SALH), affectionately nicknamed as Sally Horse, is a reserve tank unit whose predecessors had seen critical action in Europe during WWII. The “horse” part reflects its lineage from cavalry at the turn of the 20th century.

Apart from military operations, horses also bear significance in our daily parlance. The phrase “from the horse’s mouth” indicates something of authority. The saying originated from horse-racing where gamblers would seek some advantage by procuring tips from race-horse owners or handlers. To make themselves appear credible, the tipsters would use the metaphor that the information was allegedly provided by the horse itself; hence, from the horse’s mouth. As a side note, the use of this phrase was first reported in a Canadian newspaper, the Manitoba Morning Free Press, later renamed the now Winnipeg Free Press.

The stuff that comes out the other end of the horse, however, is in stark contrast to that from the mouth. Very often the horse product coming out the rear is lumped, so to speak, with the same stuff that comes out of the rear end of bulls, used to denote uselessness. But for some avid horticulturalists, horse dung is a much-valued form of fertilizer. Beauty, of horse manure in this case, is in the eyes (and nose) of the beholder.

The Chinese word for horse (馬) is a very well-known surname, variously spelled as Ma, Mah, or Mar. This clan has a very prominent history in the Province of Alberta extending back over a hundred years. There are noted restaurateurs, media personnel, professionals, lawyers, La Salle Old Boys, and politicians by a version of that surname in the Province. A well-known and well-liked of the latter, Mr Gary Mar, QC, is a former Alberta Minister of Health for whom Vivien once worked. Mr Mar is now the Alberta envoy to Asia based in Hong Kong. Besides politics and public service, Mr Mar has another talent – he does a very realistic impersonation of Elvis Presley. We had the fortune of seeing him perform once in a social gathering. So if you ever see him in a social occasion, ask him if he would oblige with an Elvis impression.



Horses and chariots from the Terra Cotta army

Shows

Vivien and I are not really gamblers. We enjoy the shows there more. We saw a few this time.

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson rivals Elvis Presley in making more money after death than when alive. There are at least three Michael Jackson tribute shows in Vegas. We saw one of them, the MJ Live at the Rio. This show was much better than expected. The impersonator was a virtual MJ double, moonwalking and performing other moves exactly as MJ himself as seen on TV. I was curious as to how much cosmetic surgery this guy had gone through in order to be a Michael Jackson double. No, I didn’t ask him the question even the chance presented itself at the end of the show. But I would recommend this show as a very entertaining performance whether or not you are an MJ fan.

This show was one of few that did not prohibit photography during the show, and I took a few pictures. At the Mandalay Bay where the Cirque du Soleil Michael Jackson One is, you can see Jackson’s famous authentic red pseudo-military jacket and black leather shoes with shiny Swarovski Crystal socks in which, presumably, he did his original moonwalk.



Shania Twain

This show at the Caesars Palace was to be the highlight of this Vegas trip, and she did not disappoint. The show was superbly choreographed and the stage set scene for every song matched perfectly with the theme of the song. Depending on the song, she



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entered the stage in several ways, including by airlift, on a motorbike, and on horseback. “*From this moment*” evoked a great deal of emotion from the audience, especially women who used the tune as their wedding song.

For me, the most satisfying aspect of her show was the fact that she sang every one of her hits, with little deviation from the original, which I assume is what people pay good money to see. In this respect, her programme is unlike that of her fellow countrywoman, Celine Dion, whom we saw last year. Even though she has a huge number of hits that could fill an entire evening, Dion spent a large part of her show singing Frank Sinatra as a tribute, seemingly oblivious to the fact that people pay to see her, not Sinatra. And she would not do her biggy Titanic song until the audience clamoured for an encore, effectively making the fans beg for her to sing her signature tune, which I didn’t think was very nice. In contrast, Shania Twain appeared to be more down-to-earth and approachable, even mixing with the audience in the middle of the show, shaking their hands and hugging them. She did shake Vivien’s hand.



I would say this show is a must-see if you’re in Vegas, whether or not you’re Canadian or a country and western music fan.

Unfortunately, no photos were allowed during the performance. We had to settle for a picture with her poster outside the Colosseum.



Santana

Carlos Santana began his music career at the 1969 Woodstock music festival. He became noted for his feverish guitar plays. His guitar tunes sounded strong, intense, high-pitched, loud, melodic (kind of), and psychedelic. He garnered a few Grammys along the way but lost his popularity in the 1980s. His career saw a second coming with the hit “Smooth” in 1999/2000. He played his old and new numbers, sometimes sounding like the Santana of old. His guitar wizardry was very much in evidence. But while admiring his guitar skills, one couldn’t help but actually feel that many of the tunes had been drug-induced. Many of his earlier musical works were admittedly created under the influence, a fact to which even President Obama jokingly referred in his tribute to Santana last year.

In this show that we attended in Vegas, the sound level was deafening. I don’t know what the decibel level was, but it was obvious to me that hearing impairment would result had the concert gone on for longer than the hour and half or so it played. We attended the show hoping to see some neat guitar work, and got more than what we had bargained for, in a negative way. Even “Smooth” was not very well done. I would not recommend this show unless you are a twice-over die-hard Santana fan, and if you do, bring several sets of ear-plugs.

Panda

We found this Chinese show almost by accident. It’s not very well advertised for some reason, though it’s apparently the first ever Chinese show to be resident in Las Vegas. It tells the story of Long Long, the Panda, who had his bride abducted by the evil empire, Demon Vulture. Long Long sought the help of the famed Shaolin fighting monks (少林武僧) who defeated the Demon Vulture and rescued his wife. They then lived happily ever after.

While the story line was simple, the performance was anything but. There were elaborate sets for every scene, amazing choreography, extremely artful gymnastics and acrobatics, realistic martial arts demonstrations, and captivating dances. Some of the management and performers are said to have been involved in the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics. I do strongly recommend this show. You’ll be thoroughly in awe of the presentation.

What happens in Vegas

We also did and see other things while in LV, but these other things fall into the saying: “what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas”.

