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Jul 2017

Invitation

La Salle College Old Boys Global Reunion 2018 August 1 – 8, 2018

Deadline for Early Registration Quickly Approaching

Dear Old Boys,

In order to secure your cruise cabin and the current rates, please kindly RSVP and make your deposit by July 15, 2017. For more detailed information, please visit the GR website: www.2018lscgreunion.com.

Enclosed herewith is a cost table for your easy reference.

Cost Summary of Available Packages

		Miami Package *		Standard Package**	
		Plan A	Plan B	Plan A	Plan B
First and Second Person		\$ 250	\$ 150	\$ 1,200	\$ 900
Third Person		\$ 250	\$ 150	\$ 780	\$ 680
Fourth		\$ 250	\$ 150		\$ 680
Child		\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 630	\$ 530
Single Occupancy		\$ 350	\$ 250	\$ 2,069	\$ 1,769
1-Aug	Royal Palm Hotel	Yes	Yes		
	Mango' Café Dinner Show	Yes			
2-Aug	Everglade Park Tour & Lunch or	Yes	Yes		
	LSC Golf Tournament (w/extra \$)	Yes			
	2018 GR Registration Package			Yes	Yes
	Royal Palm Hotel			Yes	Yes
	Welcome Dinner (Quality Meats)			Yes	
3-Aug	Transfer to Cruise Terminal			Yes	Yes
	Norwegian Sky Cruise			Balcony	Inside
4-Aug	Norwegian Sky Cruise			Balcony	Inside
5-Aug	Norwegian Sky Cruise			Balcony	Inside
6-Aug	Transfer to Royal Palm Hotel			Yes	Yes

Notes:

Miami Package* - Double occupancy ONLY (except child shares room w/parents)

Standard Package** Plan A - 3 persons max. at average \$1,060 per person

Plan B - 4 persons max. at average \$790 per person

Please note that the total cost under Plan B of the GR2018 is slightly lower than the equivalent packages (Golden Tour) offered 10 years ago by the GR2008.

In short, we felt very good that we are providing the best values for your dollars, and hoping that everyone will have the best global reunion experience to-date.

Please kindly share the news and promote this important event for us. Your support will be deeply appreciated. If you have questions, please contact me directly at laip888@gmail.com and I will walk you through on your registration.

Best Regards,

Peter Lai (67)

Chair, GR Preparation Committee

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

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date Jul 7, 2017 (first Friday of each month)
Time noon
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓
Contact billshwong@shaw.ca

Annual BBQ

Date Sunday Aug 27, 2017
Time 5:00 pm
Venue 1406 Hodgson Way
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

Joint Schools Alumni Table

Tennis Tournament

Date July 22, 2017
Time 9:00 am
Venue Canadian Chinese Table Tennis Association
Address 1181 Denison St, Markham, ON L3R 4B2
Contact Kevin Kwok (88) Tel: 647 928 5880

Joint Schools Alumni Soccer

Tournament

Date August 13, 2017
Time 12:30 pm
Venue Benjamin Marr Park, Markham
Address 28 Cornell Common Rd, Markham, ON L6B 1C4
Contact Kevin Kwok (88) Tel: 647 928 5880

Annual Summer BBQ Picnic

Date August 27, 2017
Time 11:00 am
Venue Adams Park
Address 2 Rozell Rd, Scarborough, ON M1C 2L1
Cost Free
Contact:
Paul Khoo (71) klkakmk@hotmail.com,
Chris Fong (94) shihangfong@yahoo.com



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Chapter News

Toronto Chapter

Toronto Chapter Elects New Board for 2017 - 2019 !!!

Philip Wong ('67)

15 members were elected at the AGM on May 15 to serve on the Board of Directors for the next two years. The new Board, at its first meeting on June 19, decided upon the officer positions as follows:

President Peter Chan ('72)

Vice- Presidents John Yeung ('73),
Kevin Kwok ('88),
Chris Fong ('94)

Secretary Raymond Dau ('91)

Treasurer Francis Yeung ('71)

Sports Captain Gordon Tam ('77)

Immediate Past President Philip Wong ('67)



Photo of Officers (L to R)

Gordon Tam, Francis Yeung, John Yeung, Peter Chan (President), Philip Wong, Kevin Kwok, Chris Fong, Raymond Dau

Peter Chan has been active with the Board for many years, serving as Vice-President for the last 4 years. Peter played a major role in the organization of Global Reunion Toronto 2016 as key member of the organizing committee and was the MC for the gala dinner. He is the band leader/singer of the Synergy Band, performing regularly in our New Year Eve Dinners for many years.



Photo of full Board

Front (L - R): Michael Mau ('65), Albert Ho ('53), Kevin Kwok ('88) - VP, Philip Wong ('67) - IPP, Peter Chan ('72) - President, Peter Leung - Honorary President, John Yeung ('73) - VP, Chris Fong ('94) - VP, Michael Yuen ('74) - Advisor

Back (L -R): Ambrose Cheung ('69), Felix Leung ('85), Paul Wong ('73), William Chan ('69), Gordon Tam ('77) - Sports Captain, Francis Yeung ('71) - Treasurer, Peter Lau ('69), Raymond Dau ('91) - Secretary

Absent - Jimmy Chang ('66)



Special Contribution

This 10-part series, contributed by William Lai (1961), is based on his trip to Israel and Jordan in 2016. There are many Biblical quotes in the article. William wishes to note that he uses King James Version for the quotes.

Our readers are also encouraged to express their views here in the Newsletter any time. Please send your contributions to editors@lscobaedm.org. The Editorial Board of this Newsletter reserves the right to edit submissions to ensure quality and the right to make final decisions whether to publish any article or not to protect the integrity of this Newsletter.

Editors

The Promised Land (Part 2 of 10)

William Lai (1961)

The Dead Sea

There are several references to the Dead Sea, sometimes referred to as the "Salt Sea", in the Bible. But the most important ones relate to Moses' Promised Land, and the infamy of Sodom and Gomorrah.

God mapped out the southern boundary of the Promised Land and told Moses thusly: *"And the border shall go down to Jordan, and the goings out of it shall be at the salt sea: this shall be your land with the coasts thereof round about"* (Numbers 34:12).

The sin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Las Vegas x 2?) were supposed to have been located just southeast of the Dead Sea. God was so upset with the sinfulness of Sodom and Gomorrah that He wanted to destroy both of them and He told Abraham so (Genesis 18:16-33). Playing the devil's advocate, Abraham bargained with God and had Him agree that if ten guilt-free men were found in these cities, He would not destroy them. After that bargaining session, Abraham went home but was still a little concerned about his nephew, Lot, who was living in Sodom with his family, wife and two unmarried daughters.

As it happened, despite the bargaining outcome with Abraham, God sent two reps into Sodom with the mission of destroying the city: *"For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it"* (Genesis 19:13). A second objective of the visitors was to save Lot and his family, consisting of his wife and two daughters. When the time came for the escape, the Lord's headman told them: *"Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed"* (Genesis 19:17). So Lot and his family scrambled to rush out of town. *"Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven"* (Genesis 19:24). But for reasons still unknown, Lot's wife *"looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt"* (Genesis 19:26).

A modern interpretation of the event is that there was a coincidental geological eruption in that area and for a moment of hesitation in moving forward, Lot's wife was caught in a wave of molten lava and limestone or some form of pyroclastic flow, frozen in position. Another theory is that she was not caught at all, but that the escapees simply misidentified a column of salt and limestone as her.

In any case, it was questionable if Lot was worth saving. Before the escape, some townsmen had heard about the strange visitors and swarmed his house, wanting to find out what was going on. *"And they called into Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them."* (Genesis 19:5). Sensing a threat to him and his family, Lot pleaded with them: *"I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly"* (Genesis 19:7). Then without even a slight hint from the waiting men, Lot said: *"Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes; only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof"* (Genesis 19:8). In effect, Lot had done the most dastardly thing a father can ever do to his own virgin daughters – he had offered his daughters to be gang-raped in order to save the two strangers who had just come into his house. Lucky for Lot, the two strangers ended up defending him and they *"smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness"* (Genesis 19:11), and the girls were spared, for the time being.

Then after fleeing from Sodom, Lot engaged in incestuous sexual relations with both of his daughters, resulting in two offsprings (Genesis 19:30-38). There was something wrong with this guy. He was certainly not the model citizen that one would expect to be rescued from an evil world. Had there been proper child protection services, Lot would have lost custody of his daughters and likely ended up in jail. But why the Lord did not do something about this deplorable man is a mystery. He even reportedly described Lot as a *"righteous man"* (2Peter 2:8). One can only hope that the Lord did not reserve a place in Heaven for this child abuser.



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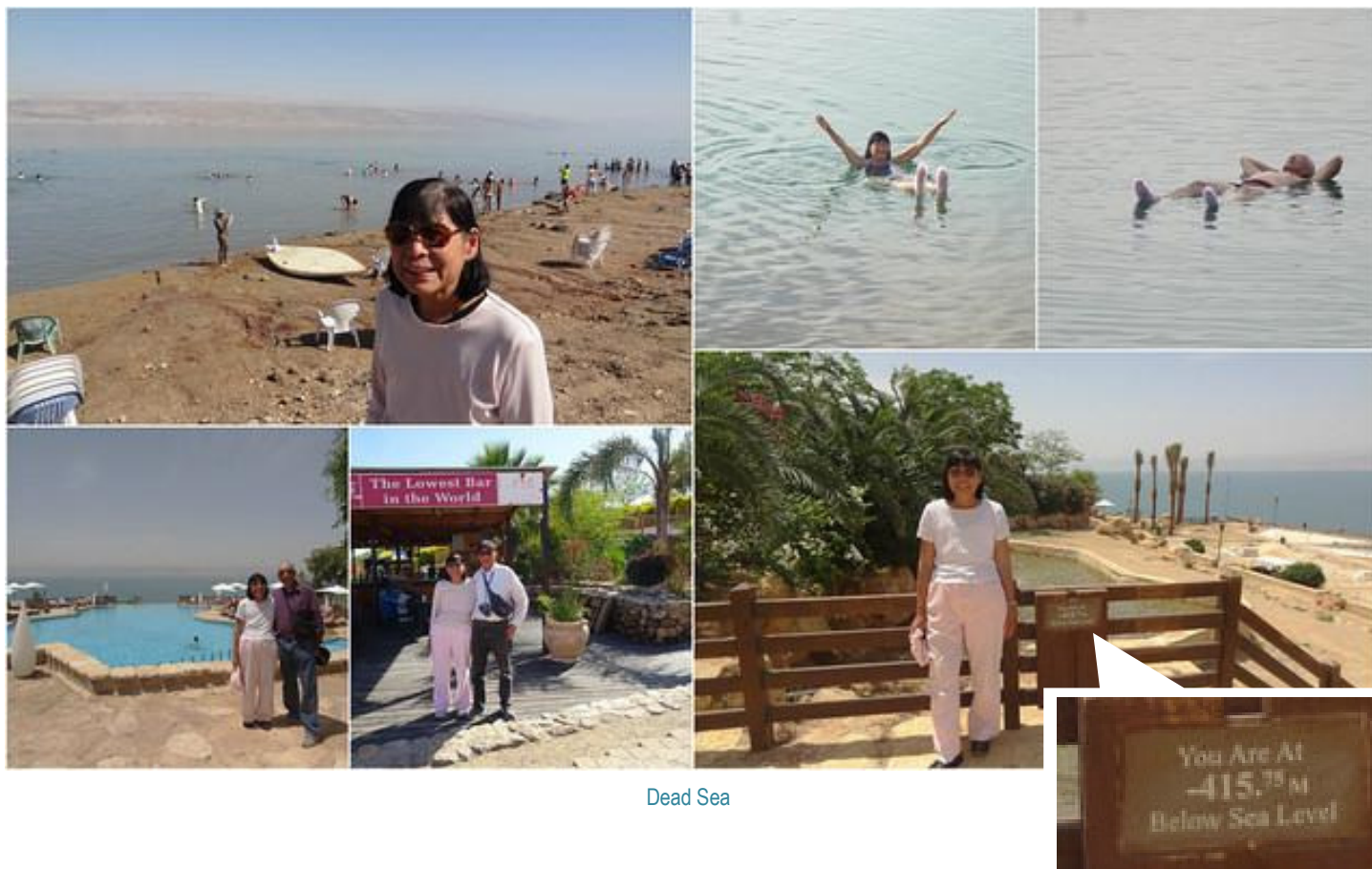
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The Dead Sea has been an economic engine for the area for millennia. The richness of salt and other minerals in the waters and lands around it has been exploited by all peoples who have lived there – until recently. We were told that the Dead Sea is, well, dying. The water level has receded quite substantially in recent years, the water itself has been diluted by more inflows, and the harvesting of minerals has not been very prosperous apparently. But in comes creativity that nowadays has brought hordes of tourists and replacement revenue. It was thought or theorized that the soil from the Dead Sea was supposed to have an anti-aging effect. People who visit the public sites smear themselves with the soil from the beach and soak in it for hours. Big businesses have been set up to sell you lotions and skin concoctions that allegedly will take years off your dermatological age. Whether that is more beneficial than Dr Barnum's snake oil is unknown.

Our tour itineraries brought us to two access points to the Dead Sea. One was the public Kalia Beach on the western, or Israeli, side of the Dead Sea. The other was the tour hotel resort on the Jordan shore. The public beach has a setting like any other public beach with food and drink outlets, gift shops, change facilities and lawn chairs etc. The difference is the beach itself is made of black mud which behaves like quick sand as you step into it and you get sucked up to your knees at some points, making it very difficult to extricate yourself sometimes. Going into the water from a hotel resort beach is a more pleasant experience than the public beach – the water is clearer, it's less crowded, and the facilities and services are better.

It was an interesting experience to float in the Dead Sea. You are not supposed to swim. You can't really swim anyway because of the excessive buoyancy. The warning is that you should not have the water enter your mouth or eyes. In large doses, the water can severely damage your eyes and can kill if you swallow enough of it. So everybody just floats and flaps around. Most people do not spend a lot of time in the water, just long enough to take a couple of pictures documenting their once-in-a-life-time dip in the legendary Dead Sea. You will also see some people scooping up the gooey mud from under the water to rub all over their bodies with it, believing they're engaging in an age-reversal act. One additional suggestion – bring water shoes as the beaches at the Dead Sea are either extremely mucky or very rocky.

At 423 metres below sea level, the Dead Sea area is the lowest land point on earth. All in all, it was a worthwhile experience. The advice is if you want to visit there, go soon before the Dead Sea is completely dead, so to speak.



Dead Sea



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Megiddo/Armageddon

Located some 35 km southeast of Haifa, Megiddo has been inhabited since about 7000 BC. It occupied an extremely strategic spot in the commercial and military routes linking Egypt, Israel, and Asia Minor. The place has been the scene of many epic battles throughout ancient to 20th century history.

The first great battle recorded in the area was between the Egyptian Pharaoh Thutmose III and the Canaanites in the 15th century BC. (The Egyptians won that time). Subsequent centuries witnessed many see-saw clashes between and amongst interested parties near and far, including Greeks, Romans, Crusaders, Mongols, Persians.

It was one of the key landmarks conquered by post-Exodus Joshua as he entered the land of Canaan. The King of Megiddo felt victim to Joshua's military might (Joshua 12:21).

Megiddo was most prosperous under King Solomon in the 10th century when he embarked on a building boom in the area, or just about most of what is now Israel, including Megiddo: *"And this is the reason of the levy which king Solomon raised; for to build the house of the Lord, and his own house, and Millo, and the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, and Megiddo, and Gezer"* (1 Kings 9:15).

Ancient Megiddo was eventually destroyed when Egyptian Pharaoh Neco defeated and slew Assyrian King Josiah in Megiddo (2 Kings 29-30; 2 Chronicles 35:20-25).

The place was still being fought over in the 20th Century. In 1918, the British forces, under the command of General Edmund Allenby, won a decisive victory over the Ottoman forces in the Megiddo area, effectively ending the Ottoman Empire.

But, to date, the most cataclysmic battle at Megiddo has yet to be fought. According to The Revelation of St. John the Divine (Revelations 16: 14, 16), the *"battle of that great day of God Almighty"* will happen in *"a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon"* (from Greek Harmageddon; har meaning mount - Mountain of Megiddo). This warfare will be the final combat between good and evil, before the Second Coming of Christ. The Book of Revelation gives a blow-by-blow account of this battle which ends with the defeat of Satan who will be chained and thrown into *"the bottomless pit"* for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3).

This final world war is referenced in other books of the Bible, e.g. Daniel, Zechariah, Isaiah, Ezekiel. Three major armies are mentioned, one from the south, one from the north, and one from the east. There is speculation in the literature asserting that Russia (from the north) and China (from the east) will be involved in this apocalypse. Believe it or not.



Standing on the doomsday grounds of Armageddon



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John the Divine wrote the Book of Revelation after he was banished by the Romans and exiled to the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. He lived in a cave. The island was small and barren. He was basically in some form of solitary confinement. It was under these circumstances that he wrote the Book. I visited Patmos and his cave a few years back. I can see how, in these conditions of social deprivation and lack of meaningful external stimuli, one's imagination and fantasy can run wild, particularly if the person has certain predispositions.



Cave of the Apocalypse in Patmos

Caesarea

Situated about 56 km north of Tel Aviv and about 36 km south of Haifa, Caesarea was a major maritime port and capital city built by Harod the Great between 25 to 13 BC. It was named after Caesar Augustus.

Caesarea was one of the most magnificently and elaborately designed metropolises of the ancient world, complete with palaces, temples, a hippodrome (for chariot races), an engineering marvel of an aqueduct, and an amphitheatre that is still used for special performances today. It became the headquarters or capital of the Roman province of Judaea. Pontius Pilot ruled from this location during the time of Jesus Christ.

Though colonized by the Romans, Caesarea was a very significant site for Christianity. Peter converted the very first gentile, the Roman centurion, Cornelius, to Christianity in Caesarea (Acts 10: 1-48). Philip, the travelling evangelist (Acts 21:8) eventually settled in Caesarea (Acts 8:40). Paul was incarcerated in Caesarea for two years and had what amounted to a preliminary hearing held by King Agrippa who decided to ship Paul to Rome for trial (Acts 23-26). It was also where Herod suffered a most gruesome death at the hands of God for allegedly making some blasphemy remarks: *"And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms and gave up the ghost"* (Acts 13:23). I guess the moral of this story is that if you don't glorify God, you are liable to be eaten alive by maggots or something.

But in any case, in the 3rd and 4th centuries, Caesarea became a major centre for Christianity within the Roman Empire. Then later in the 12th century, fierce battles between the Muslims and the Crusades took place in the area and Caesarea changed hands several times in the process.

It is also believed that Marco Polo stopped by at Caesarea on his excursions to and from China. This theory is supported by Chinese porcelain found in archaeological digs on site.



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Caesarea - the New York of the ancient world, complete with sophisticated buildings and harbour facilities, statues, theatres, race courses, ball parks, immigrants, transients, and public loos. Pontius Pilate used to live here.



The very spot where Paul was incarcerated and interrogated before being shipped to Rome for trial

to be continued...



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Lay Brother William Lai of Class '61 came as a pleasantry though not really a surprise - his "Promised Land" (1 of 10) is vivid proof of Lasallian brotherhood - fraternalizing through sharing. It's heart-warming to see C-Hing having always a heart for their fellow alums. Part 1 is evidently just the beginning of the fruition of long pre-travel research, and not forgetting the bible lessons he had in School. It's more than a travel log. But forgive my curiosity - was the Old Testament really taught in those days?

I hope the long years of labor of Chief Editor Calvin Chan and the cohorts are seeing results. In facts, blissful changes are steadily coming OB. Keep going! Best regards to all!

Thomas Yip (1967)

I thank Thomas for his compliments. It's always a pleasure to write for the Newsletter. All of us OBs "are sons of La Salle everyone" and share the same La Salle spirit that can never be taken away from us. And, yes, the Old Testament was taught in our Bible classes. La Salle was the only place where I acquired Biblical knowledge in my formative years. I welcome further comments as the series proceeds.

William Lai (1961)

Class 1987 Reunion

The Class of 1987 will celebrate our 30th Anniversary this year. We shall organize a Homecoming Celebration on 15th July 2017. Here are the details:

Venue	La Salle College
Date	15th July, 2017
Time	to be confirmed
Activities	School tour, sports, pre-dinner cocktail and Gala Dinner, and more
Ticket price	\$1300 for adult \$650 for children in secondary school Free of charge for children in primary school or below
Contact	Constantine Au at aucons@gmail.com or WhatsApp: +852 67721185

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.org-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	Nick Domingo (1963), Richard Choo (1977)