



# 北美風沙 The North American LaSallians

March 2018

## Urgent Reminder – Your Registration For GR2018

This is a last minute reminder for anyone who forgets to register for the upcoming 2018 Global Reunion (August 1-6) in Miami FL. If you are still interesting or need additional information, please contact Peter Lai (67), the Committee Chair, at [laip888@gmail.com](mailto:laip888@gmail.com) immediately. He will assist you to catchup with the overall process. Thanks for your support.

- From New York / East Coast Chapter – Host of the 2018 Global Reunion.

## Class of 88 Reunion

The Class of 1988 will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary this year. A Homecoming Celebration will be held on 30th June 2018.

Here are the details for the upcoming reunion event:

**Venue:** La Salle College  
**Date:** 30 June 2018  
**Time:** To be confirmed  
**Activities:** School Tour, Sports, Mass, Gala Dinner, and more  
**Ticket Price:** \$ 550 for adult, \$400 for spouse,  
 \$300 for children in secondary school, and  
 \$100 for children under 12.

For details, please contact:

Kevin Kwok: [kevinkwok26@gmail.com](mailto:kevinkwok26@gmail.com) or Whatsapp 1 (647) 928 5880

## 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](mailto:editors@lscobaedm.org).

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

## 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](mailto:dimsum@nylscoba.org)

### Global Reunion 2018

**Date:** August 1 – 8, 2018  
**Website:** [www.2018lscoreunion.com](http://www.2018lscoreunion.com)  
**Contact:** [laip888@gmail.com](mailto:laip888@gmail.com)  
**Final Payment Deadline: March 31**

### Edmonton

#### Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

**Date:** March 2, 2018 (first Friday of each month)  
**Time:** Noon  
**Venue:** Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓  
**Contact:** [billshwong@shaw.ca](mailto: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

#### Louis Pomeroy Memorial Cup Mahjong Tournament

**Date:** March 11  
**Time:** 12 pm  
**Venue:** Emperor Fine Chinese Cuisine  
 君臨天下高級粵菜  
 9019 Bayview Avenue, Unit 9, Richmond Hill  
**Contact:** Kevin Kwok (88) [kevinkwok26@gmail.com](mailto:kevinkwok26@gmail.com)  
 Danny Au Yeung (67) [daueyung8@gmail.com](mailto:daueyung8@gmail.com)  
 Tony Pomeroy (71) [tpomeroy@leeli.com](mailto:tpomeroy@leeli.com)



## Chapter News

### Toronto Chapter

#### HKJSAA Chinese New Year Celebration Party

Reported by Chris Fong '94

On Saturday February 10, Hong Kong Joint Schools Alumni Association (HKJSAA) celebrated Chinese New Year with the joint school friends and family members in Toronto.

The party started late afternoon with karaoke fanatics mingling and singing till just before dinner; we booked the exclusive dining hall at Golden Court Abalone Restaurant to do just that. It was followed by dinner and group games, and lucky draw for gifts and red pocket money.

LaSallians were no strangers to the joint school community in Toronto. Quite a few alumni associations were founded in 1980s, including LSCOBAs. The joint school community has been organizing collective activities to celebrate Valentine's Day/Chinese New Year, as well as hosting sports events, barbeque etc. While this event was organized by seven hosting schools, attendance from non hosting schools such as Good Hope was also high. It was a noisy, friendly and fun-filled evening with sumptuous food, games, performances and lucky-draw prizes. The joint school alumni thanked Chris Fong (94) of LSCOBAs and Alex Cheung of St. Joseph College alumni for cohosting the event, and Ida Chiu of St Francis Canossian and Kevin Kwok (88) of LSOBAs for emcee.

The HKJSAA Organizing Committee (Toronto) members meet several times a year and consist of representatives from the following alumni associations in Ontario:

- La Salle College
- Paulinians
- St. Francis Canossian College
- St. Joseph's Anglo-Chinese School
- St. Joseph's College
- Wah Yan College, Hong Kong
- Wah Yan College, Kowloon



**Impressive turnout at the Dinner Banquet**





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## *The Fun and Game....*



2018-02-10 Joint Schools CNY Dinner

**The games....**

***Very special red  
pockets***



## **The La Salle and St Joseph Jai**



2018-02-10 Joint Schools CNY Dinner



***Those lucky  
game winners***

2018-02-10 Joint Schools CNY Dinner





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**A BIG thank you to the hardworking organizers**



***Selfie with  
joint school  
friends***



2018-02-10 Joint Schools CNY Dinner



***Karaoke and performance....***

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪





## Toronto: Table Tennis players

**Contributor: LSCOPA Toronto Table Tennis Team**

We are a small group of old boys residing in Toronto, and we share the passion of table tennis. Some of us have retired and therefore can afford the time to “play up, play up, play the game”.

We have been playing together side by side for quite a few years, and against friends and rivals from other alumni associations, for the past 6 years. We managed to win one Championship title, one First runners-up and two 2nd runners-up titles. This is no small sweat! No other alumni association in Toronto has achieved that. But other teams are playing up, and they have earned our respect.

We would like to thank the LSCOPA Toronto Chapter for their support over the years, as well as financial contribution and compliments from a few old boys young at heart. Come check us out in July, and cheer us up!

**July 14, 2018 09:00 AM**

**Joint School Alumni Table Tennis Tournament**

**Venue:** Pan Am Center, Markham

**Address:** 16 Main St Unionville, Unionville, ON

**Inquiries:** Kevin Kwok (88), 647-928-5880

### Participating schools:

01. La Salle College
02. Raimondi College
03. St Joseph Anglo Chinese School
04. Tsung Tsin College
05. Cheung Chuk Shan College
06. Wah Yan College Kowloon
07. St. Joan of Arc College
08. Kings College
09. Ying Wa College
10. Munsang College
11. Kiangsu-Chekiang College
12. St Joseph College
13. New Method College
14. Diocesan Boys' School
15. Confucian Tai Shing College
16. Wah Yan College Hong Kong





## 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](mailto: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 10 of 10)

William Lai (1961)

#### Jesus the saviour and survivor

There seemed no doubt that Jesus was risen. Question is, from the dead or just from coma? The gospels relate that Joseph of Arimathaea asked Pilate to give Jesus' body to him. You will recall that this uncle Joseph was rumoured to have brought young Jesus to Scotland. This Joseph became a secret admirer of Jesus. He was a rich man with high enough social standing that he could simply call Pilate up about taking Jesus' body. Pilate had no qualms granting this wealthy guy his request. *"When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered"* (Matthew 27:57-58). This account is repeated in Mark (15:42-45), Luke (23:50-52), and John (19:38), with Mark (15:42) noting: *"And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath"*. It's like saying it's late Friday afternoon (and it was a Friday), let's pack up and go home for the weekend. It looks like the scheme to quit work early on Friday afternoon has not changed much in over 2000 years. It has been suggested that Jesus was taken down from the cross sooner than the normal practice because of Joseph's entreaty to Pilate and the guards' desire to end their working day early to prepare for the Sabbath. Perhaps Joseph had plotted to save Jesus' life. John (19:38) disclosed that *"this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews"*. By these accounts, "this Joseph" had the motivation and means to effect a save-the-saviour mission. His slogan could have been "Save Jesus", instead of "Jesus Saves".

If you believe this Joseph-rescuing-Jesus story, you may also be inclined towards believing the Da Vinci Code story. Perhaps Jesus did survive his ordeal and did not die on the cross, and did appear before his disciples after his supposed death, only that he did not show up in spirit, but in actual physical form. According to the survival theory, Jesus and Mary Magdalene escaped to southern France and raised a family there. Do we dare to believe Jesus' bloodline still exists today?

As a side note, it was also thought that after rescuing Jesus, Joseph of Arimathaea fled to Glastonbury again, this time with a piece of Jesus' crown of thorns and, more importantly, the chalice used by Jesus in the Last Supper, or the Holy Grail. Somehow, the Holy Cup got lost in time. Enter King Arthur some centuries later, and he and his knights made it their mission to find the Holy Grail. But that's another whole legend for another day.

Another observation. While Jesus appeared to have died young, I can't help but notice in my travels that images of Jesus as depicted in classical paintings, statues, church stained glass windows etc., mostly show him as a middle-aged or older man. The most striking examples of this misrepresentation are the Shroud of Turin and the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, both of which give the impression of an elderly Jesus.



Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro

#### A formulation

The profound impact of Christianity on human existence needs no reiteration. The Bible portrays Jesus Christ as the ultimate Superstar of all humanity. It is even more amazing when one considers the fact that Jesus' ministry lasted for only three years. He



was only 33 years of age when crucified. During his ministry, he showed himself to be quite a scholar of ancient and Hebrew history. He had the intellect to integrate ideas from other faiths into his own teachings. He was a very intelligent and insightful man.

There are, however, bits of information from the gospels that when pieced together could give a glimpse of Jesus from a different angle. Throughout his ministry, Jesus often proclaimed that he was the Son of God and that he was sent by the Almighty to save mankind (I'm paraphrasing). The New Testament records of his preachings sometimes give the impression he was a bit of a loquacious talker. Many of his sayings were great professions of knowledge, vision and revelation. But as noted earlier, sometimes there appeared to be something of a cognitive slippage and tangential thinking where some of his sayings seemed to defy logic.

There were instances where Jesus seemed to be seeing and conversing with fictitious characters, such as Satan in the desert and Moses and Elijah on Mount Taber. In today's terms, he was hallucinating. He also seemed to be quite preoccupied with his own death – what we now call suicidal rumination. He experienced major depressive attacks in the desert and in Gethsemane.

When he entered Jerusalem on that fateful Passover week, he chose to do so in an attention-getting fashion. The gospels call it a "Triumphant Entry" into Jerusalem. But as suggested earlier, the entry was really a provocative one, raising the ire of the local authorities. Before he went into Jerusalem, he knew he was going to be betrayed, denied, and arrested. He entered the city knowing and expecting that he was going to be killed by the authorities. He could have turned away and returned to fight another day. But he didn't and proceeded to meet the fate he himself had predicted. In modern parlance, this kind of action is known as suicide by proxy, or more commonly known as suicide by cop. If Jesus was remanded in custody today, he would be put on suicide watch.

In the Gospel of Judas, there is some suggestion that the so-called "betrayal" of Jesus by Judas was actually a pre-arranged agreement between the two; hence lending more credence to the suicide-by-cop theory.

Right after he entered Jerusalem, he immediately lashed out at the vendors both verbally and physically. It was not an isolated incident. He had pounded on others with rage before. He was displaying manic episodes.

There's also a touch of narcissism in some of his words. For example, the comment "I am the way, the truth, and the life" is basically a narcissistic statement. Jesus seemed to have a strong need to be glorified as in his transfiguration and in statements like "*Father, the hour is come, glorify thy Son.....And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with glory which I had with thee before the world was*" (John 17:1-5). He was seeking self-aggrandisement.

Actually, there are hints in the Bible that other people had expressed concerns about Jesus' mental state: "*And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself. And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelsebub (devil)*" (Mark 3:21-22).

It's quite likely that Jesus suffered from manic-depression. The symptomatology that can be culled from some Biblical passages is consistent with the diagnostic criteria for a bipolar condition as shown in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association, Fifth Edition, abbreviated as DSM-5, the bible (no pun) of western psychiatry. Some of these diagnostic features include: inflated self-esteem or grandiosity, more talkative than usual or pressure to keep talking, flight of ideas, psychomotor agitation, depressed mood, feelings of worthlessness or excessive or inappropriate guilt, recurrent thoughts of death, recurrent suicide ideation, a specific plan for committing suicide. The tentative primary diagnostic hypothesis for Jesus would be: Bipolar Disorder 1 with psychotic features.

In this light, one can also wonder if the 12-year-old Jesus' disappearance from his parents and engaging in what seemed like incessant discourse with city elders might be childhood prodromal signs of an adult bipolar condition.

In addition to manic-depression, Jesus might also have a Narcissistic Personality Disorder. The main diagnostic criteria include: a grandiose sense of self-importance; preoccupation with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love; belief that one is "special" and unique and can only be understood by special or high-status people; requiring excessive admiration; a sense of entitlement.

These diagnostic hypotheses are all provisional, of course - provisional because they are based on prima facie and not necessarily complete information - until the presenting symptoms can be substantiated. In this case, the diagnoses will forever remain provisional because the subject is no longer available for verification.

Other labels have been used on Jesus, such as megalomania (delusional feelings of omnipotence), or theomania (religious madness in believing one is the deity). But these are not formal DSM-5 diagnoses.



## Jesus drug or stoned

Jesus was crucified and did not die by being stoned, another popular method of execution in ancient times. But that's not what I meant by the section title. Take the other meaning of "stoned".

The question was raised earlier if Jesus partook in certain substances in his travels. Given the clinical picture as described, it would not be unusual for those thus afflicted to self-medicate, if not properly treated. The fluctuating mood disturbances in a bipolar condition can be extremely unpleasant. Substance abuse is a common co-morbidity of bipolar disorders. Sufferers are known to take any kind of legal or illegal substances to modulate the wildly dysthymic moods. Some become drug addicts. The recently deceased Princess Leia, AKA Carrie Fisher, is a celebrity in point. Thus it would not be surprising at all that Jesus had taken some form of home-brew concoction to control his disturbed moods.

There is some speculation to the effect that Jesus might have taken a natural form of DMT or dimethyltryptamine, also known as the Jesus drug. DMT is a naturally occurring substance that also exists in humans. The effect of the drug is basically a psychedelic one, producing hallucinations of encounters with beings from other worlds, or gods, or sometimes Jesus himself; hence "Jesus" drug. It has been suggested that either Jesus took a manufactured form of this drug or his brain chemistry produced an abnormal amount of the substance naturally.

## Hold your fire

I am quite aware that some readers would not be pleased by this seemingly trifling treatise of mine, which some may perceive as blasphemy. But before you cast any aspersions, just remember that I am still one of the "boys of courage, boys of daring" – in this case, daring to put a psychiatric spin on the Bible.

But actually, the notion that Jesus had a psychiatric condition is not new. It's not my original idea. I just put the pieces together in my own way.

One can also note that the existence of a psychiatric condition and contribution to human value are not mutually exclusive. Many historic figures and more contemporary ones were/are afflicted with mental disorders; yet their conditions did/do not stop them from exerting influence that would change the course of human history in their respective fields of endeavour. These names include: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Charles Darwin, Abraham Lincoln, Mozart, Isaac Newton, Vincent van Gogh, Edvard Munch, Beethoven, Edgar Allen Poe, Winston Churchill, Pablo Picasso, Buzz Aldrin (second man on moon), Princess Diana, Kurt Cobain, Heath Ledger, and the aforementioned Princess Leia AKA Carrie Fisher, former Beach Boy Brian Wilson, etc, etc. The list goes on and on. Jesus was not the only one who managed to change the world while carrying a mental health condition.

## Faith matters

In any case, if you are a believer, it really doesn't matter what I say, because it is a matter of faith. After all, none of the classical arguments for the existence of God - the ontological (that God exists because God is the greatest conceivable being), the teleological (that there must be an intelligent designer of this world, namely God), and the cosmological (that there must be a First Cause, i.e. God, who brought this world into existence) - stands up to logical analysis. Yet people will believe whatever they want to believe. There are as many interpretations of the Bible as there are readers of it. There are downsides to blind and fanatical beliefs. But for most people, a belief system does have the merit of letting them organise their world around them in a meaningful way, which in some cases is essential for survival as expounded by Viktor Frankl in his *Man's Search For Meaning*.

*And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.* Mark 5:34

*And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.* Mark 10:52

*And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.* Luke 7:50

*And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.* Luke 17:19

*And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.* Luke 18:42

**Amen**

**And May the Force Be With You**





## Jordanian Wonderland: Petra and Wadi Rum

The extended Holy Land tour also brought us to two world famous non-Christian-related historic sites – Petra and Wadi Rum.

### Petra

Perhaps the most widely known and most spectacular archaeological sites in Jordan is Petra, capital of the Nabataean Arabs. It is not known exactly when this magnificent city was built, but it is believed that the place was already a prosperous metropolis in the first century BC. It sits on a central trade route linking Arabia, Egypt, Syria and further east.

The wonder of the site is of course the huge buildings carved out of the rocky mountain side. There are quite a few such structures on the site. The entire site is very big, and long, about 4 km one way. To visit all the attractions in the compound would require at least a day, more if you want to be thorough. If you don't want to walk, you can hire a camel, a horse or a horse-drawn carriage to transport you to many but not all of the scenic spots. But be prepared to be bounced around a bit because the roads leading into and inside Petra are very rocky.

Petra was also featured prominently in the movie *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Indiana Jones was looking for the Holy Grail here. It is also believed that it was around here that Moses hit the rock to produce water for his thirsty people.

Words cannot do justice to this awe-inspiring site. Enjoy the photos.



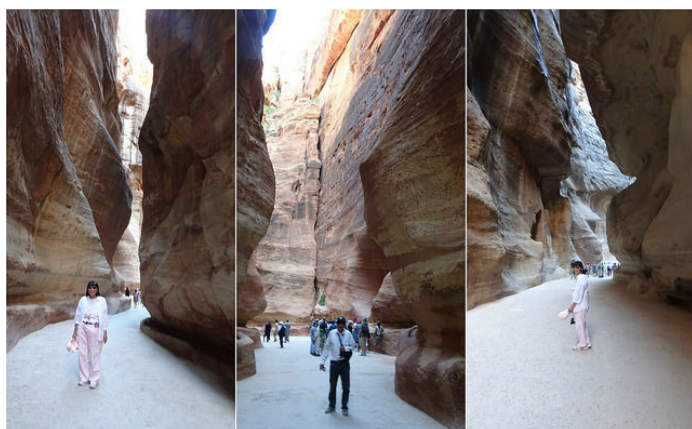
Do you believe these edifices were carved out by hand? Or were there ancient aliens with power tools?





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Narrow gap entrance to Petra



The Treasury

## Wadi Rum

Located in southern Jordan, this desert area was the site of Lawrence of Arabia. I remember watching the movie of the same name in Hong Kong. It was 1962 and I was still in La Salle.

The movie, starring Peter O'Toole as Lawrence, was based on actual historical events that the author T.E. Lawrence personally experienced as a British Army officer in WWI. He was sent to the Middle East to help the Arabs fight the Turks. He immersed himself so completely with the Arabs that he lived amongst them and dressed as if he himself was an Arab. He was captured by a Turkish commander at one point and was sodomised. Peter O'Toole's acting portrayal of Lawrence's agony was superb, winning him the Best British Actor Award 1963 in the UK and a nomination for Best Actor in the Oscars (Gregory Peck won for *To Kill a Mocking Bird*). The Lawrence of Arabia movie, however, won the Oscar for best picture of 1962.

Both the actual historical events and some of the movie filming occurred in the areas we visited. The enclave where Lawrence once had his headquarters is now a prime tourist spot, complete with souvenir hawkers.



Lawrence of Arabia's former HQ is now a tourist trap. Note his image carved in stone.





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The other claim to fame for this area is a more recent event also related to a motion picture. *The Martian* (2015), starring Matt Damon, was filmed here. Some of the terrain is very Mars-like. This area, inhabited by mainly Bedouins, is a prime location for movie-making. A movie was being filmed as we were touring the place.



Mars on earth

*End of the series*

## Special Acknowledgement

This last series of articles appearing in this Newsletter is the longest piece of writing that I have done since my graduate school. In those days, my professors had the unenviable task of pouring over my draft papers and dissertations, and rolled their eyes towards heaven as they tried to edit/correct my submissions. Forty some years later, it's Calvin Chan's turn to roll his eyes. The original manuscript I sent to Calvin was in the form of a rather long continuous essay, accompanied by some 85 pictures and collages. It was a daunting task to sort out my lengthy composition and piece together the pictures with the appropriate text. It involved many many hours of editing work, plus back-and-forth e-mails with me regarding editorial corrections etc. Throughout this process, Calvin had been very diligent, patient and, most of all, non-judgmental in effecting the publication of my articles. He made me look presentable.

Could I ask readers to put their electronic hands together and join me in giving Calvin a levitated standing ovation and a resounding round of cyber applause. Thank you very much, Calvin.

**Editor note:** I treat the 40+ hours work on this article as a FREE University course on history of the Holy Land. Thanks for giving me the chance. It is a great honour to be trusted with the editing work on this great writing. Thanks William. -- Calvin