

ywwLink



Romans 2:6-7 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Apr - Jun 2013

A quarterly newsletter of the YWCA—Young Women's Christian Association of Singapore

www.ywca.org.sg

Highlights



Youth Centre Opening
Page 2



Chinese New Year Shopping
Page 4



Workz on Wheels
Page 6

Editor's Note

Women of Substance

This year's Annual General Meeting was held on 25 April 2013 and I am pleased that we have women who agreed to be elected or appointed as Board members for the term 2013-2014. We are also pleased that the Board will have new Board members for this term. We hope that they will find service on the Board rewarding, as the YWCA will certainly benefit from their experience and talents.

The YWCA is blessed with women who are willing to serve in the Association with their time, contribution and talents. We wish to record our grateful thanks to Mrs Jennifer Ng who retires from the Board in 2013 as she has finished her term. This issue's Spotlight features Jennifer who has served on the Board for the past six years and had been a volunteer of YWCA for over 40 years. Although she is no longer a Board member, Jennifer will doubtless continue to volunteer for the YWCA in the many committees and activities.

We are saddened by the recent passing of Mrs Helen Hwang, a past President (1968-1972) and a long serving volunteer of the YWCA. Mrs Hwang was a woman of substance and would always be remembered for her contribution in all areas of the Association. She certainly was a woman "clothed with strength and dignity" (Proverbs 31: 25) as expounded in the article by Mrs Esther Wong on Christian Living in this issue.

As we move into the new year for YWCA, we remember Colossians 1:10 expounded in Mrs Esther Wong's article – "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [to Him], bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God".

YWCA has launched a new project in the Youth Centre located in the Outram Road Centre and you can read it in this issue. There are plans for another new project to be launched later in the year. Keep reading our newsletter for information and become a volunteer! As Ralph Waldo Emerson had said "do not follow where the path may lead, Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail".

Editor
Tan Kee Leng, PBM

Contents

Editor's Note/Highlights	01
Upcoming Events	02
YWCA News	
Opening of the Youth Centre on 1 st March 2013	02
Completion of renovation at McNair CDC	03
Events	
Chinese New Year Shopping 2013	04
Investment Talk 2013	04
Ms Tsoi's visit to YWCA KL	05
YWCA Annual General Meeting	05
Community Services	
Workz on Wheels	06
Meals on Wheels for the children	06
Meals on Wheels for the elderly	07
CNY Cheer for Meals on Wheels for the elderly	07
Spotlight	
Mrs Jennifer Ng	08
Christian Living	
Mrs Esther Wong	09
Announcements	10
Child Development Centre	
Pasir Ris CDC Eye Care week	11
Nurturing Good Values	11
Compliments to Our Staff	12

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Upcoming Events

EVERY LAST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

JOY TALK

Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge,
Grace Room (Level 2),
6 Fort Canning Road
Singapore 179494

Time : 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm

17 AUGUST (SATURDAY)

YWCA FLAG DAY 2013

Venue : Island wide
Time : 9.00 am – 1.00 pm;
1.00 pm – 5.00 pm

For more information, please visit our website at www.ywca.org.sg.

YWCA News

Opening of YWCA Youth Centre

After months of anticipation, hard work and busy preparations, the youth centre was officially opened on 1 March 2013. The youth centre aims to reach out to youths between the ages of 13 to 18 years old living within the vicinity of Outram. We hope that this will be a venue for youths to hang out, relax and learn new skills.

Pastor Ivan Lee was invited to do the opening prayer and blessing of the youth centre. Guests for the opening include the YWCA Board of Management and representatives from YMCA, AG Home, Prison Fellowship Singapore, and Social Health Growth. Light refreshments specially prepared by the Projects team were served at the opening. Youths who came for the opening enjoyed the refreshments and made little cute plush toys to bring home.

The youth centre is opened from Wednesdays to Fridays, between 2.00pm to 6.00pm. In the pipeline are a series of workshops to be conducted at the youth centre. We are looking for volunteers with expertise in life skills such as jewelry making, grooming, and culinary to facilitate workshops. If you have the passion to work with youths, please contact Ms Nicole Chua at email: nicolechua@ywca.org.sg or tel: 6223 1227/6226 3416.



Activities at YWCA Youth Centre

A series of life skills workshops were held in February and March at the youth centre:

In the month of February, baking workshops were conducted for the youths from AG Home. They learn to bake muffins with M&Ms and butter cake with cream cheese frosting. The girls also made chocolate marshmallow pops and enjoyed eating all of the marshmallow pops shortly after. In March, Culinary Workshops were conducted for the youths. At the Easy Peasy Appetizers Workshop, the youths learn to prepare scrumptious and crunchy toasties, egg and tuna sandwiches and mini crescent hot dogs.

Other than Baking and Culinary Workshops, a Jewelry-making workshop was conducted whereby the youths learn to make simple crystal bracelets.



To engage and build rapport with the youths, we have also Fun time with the youths, playing board and card games.



Cyclical Maintenance at McNair Child Development Centre

The YWCA McNair Child Development Centre has undergone a cyclical maintenance to make improvements to the centre's environment.

Cyclical maintenance is carried out to preserve the facades of our buildings and ensure that the fittings and fixtures remain in good condition. The works are completed in February 2013 and the children are happy with the brand new look of the centre.



Events

Chinese New Year Shopping 2013

The bus was fully occupied with about 40 participants who went for the Chinese New Year shopping trip on Saturday, 2nd Feb 2013. After a short opening morning prayer from Mrs Jennifer Ng, one of board members, the participants arrived at their first stop – Seng Hua Foodstuffs. Over here, many brands were selling at discounted prices. It was followed by a trip to Asia Myriad where a huge variety of Taiwan sweets and snacks were available for selection. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch at Guilin Restaurant.

Next stop, Woodlands Terrace! It was one of our main highlights for the trip as the participants were able to get good discounts on seafood delicacies and tempting desserts for their preparations for the Lunar New Year celebrations.

We thank God for an excellent sunny weather and this had made trip more enjoyable for everyone. We hope to see more of you next year for this fun filled event!



Investment Talk 2013

On Tuesday 5th March 2013, YWCA organised an investment talk by Dr Tan Kee Wee. That evening, about 60 participants attended the Investment Talk.

Dr Tan has recently established a Managed Futures Fund with a few partners. This Fund invests in various global indices and future products. Before this, Dr Tan started off his career in 1988 as a journalist with the Business Times. He had then just secured his PhD in Economics from the University of East Anglia in Britain.

Dr Tan's presentation was both easy to understand and entertaining at the same time. Using the recent Academy Award winning movie "Les Misérables" to illustrate his insights on the financial outlook of 2013, a very entertaining slideshow was presented. He explained on the different kinds of bubbles around the world that unexpectedly burst and how it had impacted the worlds' economy overall. He also shared on the risks to be considered when investing our money into various investment tools such as the bonds and shares.

At the end of the presentation, our YWCA 1st Vice President, Ms Mavis Tsoi presented a gift to Dr Tan, as a token of appreciation for his time to conduct this entertaining workshop. Many of the participants felt that the talk was informative and it was an evening well spent.



Events

Ms Mavis Tsoi's visit to YWCA Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

On 31st March 2013, our Vice President Ms Mavis Tsoi made a special trip Kuala Lumpur to join the YWCA Kuala Lumpur Centenary Celebrations High Tea Event. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the programmes and services that the YWCA Kuala Lumpur offers as well as to foster closer ties with our overseas Sister Associations.

Ms Tsoi accepted a copy of the commemoration book on YWCA Kuala Lumpur History titled "Our Utmost for the Highest" on behalf of the YWCA Singapore. She also had the chance to meet up with President YWCA (KL) Ramani, Datuk Rasammah Bhupalan, as well as board members of the YWCA KL and Bahan at this event.

Annual General Meeting 2013

The Annual General Meeting was held on 25th April 2013. We are pleased to announce our new Board of Management below:

POSITIONS	NAMES
President	Tan Kee Leng
1 st Vice President	Janet Tan
2 nd Vice President	Dancy Thong
Honorary Secretary	Mavis Tsoi
Honorary Treasurer	Maureen Nguee

POSITIONS	NAMES
Members	Gan Soh Huan Ho Lay Hong Vivien Lai Loh-Chiam Shock Yuen Ma Kheng Min Dorene Yeo Evelyn Yeo

Community Services

Workz-on-Wheels (WOW)

Our YWCA President Ms Tan Kee Leng facilitated a Friendship Bracelet Workshop on 19 January 2013 at the Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home. A total of 15 children participated in the workshop with the assistance of 7 volunteers. The children learned how to make colourful friendship bands for themselves and their friends.

In conjunction with Chinese New Year, volunteers from OBS alumni facilitated an Arts and Craft Workshop on 26 January 2013. The children not only enjoyed befriending the volunteers, they also had fun making Chinese New Year ornaments and Chinese New Year cards for their caregivers.

An Etiquette workshop was also conducted for girls between 13 till 18 years old at CSLMCH. Ms Vivien Lai coached the girls on social and dining etiquette.

As part of WOW expansion plans, we are collaborating with AG Home, a home for troubled teenagers to conduct workshops. In January 2013, the projects team headed to the home for a Baking Workshop. The girls learned to bake butter cookies and honey cornflake cups for the Chinese New Year festival.

A string of workshops have been planned out throughout the year to impart skills to the underprivileged children and youths at CSLMCH and AG Home. Workshops are conducted at CSLMCH on the 3rd and 4th Saturday of each month while workshops are conducted at AG Home on alternate Tuesday mornings. If you have the passion to interact with the children and youths, please contact Ms Alice Chua at email: alicechua@ywca.org.sg or tel: 6223 1227/6226 3416.



Meals on Wheels for Children

The Croods Movie Outing

To celebrate the March holidays, YWCA organised a movie outing for 11 kids from underprivileged families to catch *The Croods* at Golden Village, Vivo City. It was a timely opportunity for these kids who, unlike the average kid in Singapore, do not have the luxury of enjoying such activities due to their families' financial situation. The usual March holidays, or any other holiday for that matter, would not have meant much to the kids if not for the outing that was planned specially for them.

The day began with lunch that was kindly sponsored by McDonald's. Each child received a four-piece chicken nuggets meal with a packet of Ribena, and piping hot apple pie. After having a good lunch, the children proceeded to the cinema for the 90-minute prehistoric comedy adventure. What had began as a hilarious, animated comedy that got the children roaring with laughter eventually turned into a heart gripping story with rich values on the importance of embracing unity within a family. At the end of the day, the father and daughter tension that was portrayed through the plot had taught the children a valuable lesson about sticking together through thick and thin.

The day concluded with fun colouring activities of the main characters from the movie, and as the kids made their way home, each of them beamed with joy as they relished in the rare holiday treat. It is little treats like these that carve happy memories for the less privileged children.



Community Services

Meals on Wheels for Elderly

The YWCA Meals-on-Wheels for Elderly programme currently serves 238 elderly residents living in the vicinity of Outram. Our goal for 2013 is to increase our outreach to more needy senior citizens in the other heartlands of our community.

Held on 9 March 2013 at SilverACE Taman Jurong, the staff of YWCA organised an on-site enrolment session for over 35 elderly residents living in the rental apartments at Corporation Drive.

At the end of the interview sessions, the elderly enjoyed a treat of Nasi Lemak while the staff engaged in deeper conversations with them.

Moving forward in the second quarter of 2013, YWCA looks forward to the launch of our first Meals-on-Wheels programme beyond the boundary of Outram.



Chinese New Year Visiting

On the 8th February 2013 two days before the official Lunar New Year, the programmes team made a special trip down to the homes of our elders on the Meals-on-Wheels programme to deliver lunches and mandarin oranges along with homemade cookies baked with love from the projects team. The team was received warmly by the elders who commented that it was very nice to meet the people behind the programme. They also provided some valuable feedback for improvement. In the end it was a great learning experience for everyone and the team was happy to be able to bring the Chinese New Year cheer to our elderly beneficiaries.



Interview with Mrs Jennifer Ng

At YWCA, Mrs Jennifer Ng has been more than a household name since she began her voluntary service 44 years ago. From the early days of the Association, Mrs Ng has been selflessly giving her time to serve the community through her contributions as a position member of various committees including the Jurong Centre Committee, Personnel, Training and Administration Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, and the list goes on. To date, Mrs Ng is celebrating her 6th year on the Board of Management after stepping down for one year in 2006. YWCA commends Mrs Ng for her enormous and faithful contribution over the years and had a short chat with her to find out what keeps her voluntary spirit alive.



Over the years, you've taken up a fair number of roles to serve the community. How do you manage?

"Serving the community is what I enjoy doing. Since it is part of my commitment to YWCA, I organize my time. If it is my duty to chair the committee, I will really serve to the best of my abilities."

How would you describe the experience you've had thus far? Were there any challenges or memorable events?

"The most vivid memory has to be the day I first began serving as the chair of the Y House Jurong Hostel for single, factory girls. Back then, I was very involved and enjoyed the rapport that I had with the girls. More recently, I was very much involved in the planning of our Adult Daycare Centre, and I really miss the times I chatted with the elderly at the Centre. I would have to say that I truly enjoy doing groundwork and not just to be involved with the planning stages at meetings."

Where do you see yourself heading in the next couple of years?

"Although I may be getting on in years, I see myself continuing my involvement in any way I can until the day I am no longer able to give. My grandmother was a missionary and I started dedicating my time to YWCA at a young age. I suppose her commitment to humanitarian efforts rubbed off me and is here to stay."

On the catwalk

Ephesians 5:8 “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of Light ... Holman (SB).

The other day, I was watching some girls walking on the catwalk – the girls were beautiful but I’m not sure I like the clothes they wore. The clothes look good on them, but I can’t picture myself wearing them! I walked away from the show and these thoughts came to my mind.

We probably will never be asked to model on the catwalk, but we all are walking on the catwalk of life. Three things struck me when you are walking on the catwalk of life.

Firstly, you are being watched.

Secondly, what you wear is of paramount importance to the audience.

Thirdly, how you walk or carry yourself on the catwalk will exhibit something of your personality.

Let me expound on these 3 points.

1. You are being watched, whether you like it or not especially when you declare that you are a believer – a “Jesus person” – guess where you are being most watched? Most often it is in the home where you live, in your workplace, and in the places where you socialize. How you respond to adverse situations – (none of us are exempt from stress,) but take note what cause stress in our lives and more importantly, how we deal with stress in our relationship with others. A life of purity and integrity is a life worth watching.

2. What you wear is of paramount importance

Proverbs 31:25 – “she is clothed with strength and dignity” (R.S.V)

I had the privilege of visiting an old friend in her home, as she is housebound and is in her 90’s. I was “strangely warmed” and strongly encouraged by this visit. She had gone through the hard knocks of life and I was impressed on how strong she is in the word and her dignity that comes from an uncompromised lifestyle based on her love relationship with the Lord. To quote her “you must read the Bible and reflect on what you read and savour each word...”. “You must cultivate the love relationship with our Saviour, then as a consequence you will readily TRUST and OBEY” – no compromise in life.

She demonstrated to us in a strong loud voice how she glean treasures from the Word of God by reciting The Lord’s prayers, and at every phrase, she paused and added her reflection on it. [wow, so much wisdom!] “Strong in the word” – that was visibly demonstrated.

“She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue” Prov 31:26 (RSV)

Clothes are the visible part of the person and I walked away from her home with these words in my thought – “they will still bear fruit in old age” Ps 92:14

3. How you walk

Paul’s advice to the Ephesians “Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk – not as unwise people but as wise ...” Eph 5:15 (Itolman CSB)

How do wise people walk?

Colossians 1:10 – “that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [to him] bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God.”

How do we please Him? When we “walk by faith and not by sight” because without faith we cannot please God. We are told to walk in the Spirit, thus displaying the fruit of the Spirit. We are to walk in the Truth of the Word – anchoring our lives to a strong foundation. We are to walk in love, so as to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another – imitating God our Father as dearly loved children of Him.

As God’s children on the catwalk of Life, are we living the message of the Gospel effectively, so that others are attracted to our Lord Jesus. Or do we discourage others from walking in Christ because of our inconsistent, unattractive lifestyle?

When God put us on this catwalk, He also gives us the empowerment to walk His walk, holding on to His hand and when we stumble, He is there to pick us up and to gently put us back on our feet. When we have no strength, He gently lift us up and place us on His strong shoulders and carry us through. What a Saviour!

Esther Wong has ministered in Singapore together with husband Canon James Wong for over 40 years. She also taught in many Bible study classes and is a mother of 2 sons, one of whom is an ordained pastor of the Anglican Church.

Announcements

Welcome on Board

The YWCA is pleased to welcome new staff to the team. We welcome Sharon Regina Kulasekaran as Executive (Youth Development), Lee Wan Yui as Executive (Corporate Affairs & Fund Raising), Chua Lai Ying as Executive (Youth Development), Khoo Xin Hui as Childcare Executive at National Office; Philomina Anandam Nee DCruz as Teacher, Pauline Kwang Meng Choo as Para Educator at WCC, Tan Suchada as Attendant at MPD, Brenda Lee Dai Lin as Teacher at JRE, Li Xue as Language Teacher at PSR, Chen Qundan as Language Teacher at BDK, Chong Suk Ying as Teacher at ORK, Barbara Boh Swee Lan as Para Educator at ORK, Tan Soong Lan as Para Educator at MPD, Koh Li Li as Attendant at CPA, Tan Bee Hoong as Cook at AMK, Lin Ju as Language Teacher at BDK, Ng Ah Geok as Attendant at ORK.

At Fort Canning Lodge, we welcome Billy Yeo as Assistant Director of Sales, Steven Lai as Sales Manager (Rooms), Ahmad Dzulhafez Bin Radzali as Guest Relations Assistant, Chai Min Fang as Technician, Liew Chuen Chi as Food & Beverage Waiter.

Condolences

MRS HELEN HWANG 1917 - 2013



We are saddened to report the passing of Mrs Helen Hwang, a long serving volunteer and strong supporter of YWCA.

Mrs Hwang was President of the Association for 2 terms from 1968-1972. During her term, the girls' hostel in Jurong which accommodated 600 factory girls known as "YWCA House" was set up.

Mrs Helen Hwang joined YWCA in her early 30s and had been serving the YWCA in one way or another since then until her 80s. As a young mother and wife in her early 30s, Mrs Hwang was brought to the YWCA by a friend and she had proclaimed "YWCA and I grew together". With her children studying overseas and her husband busy with his business, Mrs Hwang would have been lonely without her involvement in the YWCA. She said "I served YWCA but YWCA also saved me". Being fluent in both Chinese and English, she was in demand in giving talks in Chinese to students in the early years.

She served many committees throughout her 50 years of service, including the Finance Committee and the Child Care Development Centre, and held many positions throughout her service, her last position being a Committee Member of the Kindergarten Management Committee in 2005-2006.

Elegant in her cheongsam, Mrs Hwang was a familiar face in all the events of YWCA which she participated and we will miss her staunch support of YWCA. Years ago, she donated the baby grand piano which is presently in the lobby of Fort Canning Lodge and right to the end, she remembered the YWCA and donations were given to YWCA in her memory.

Psalm 23:6 (NIV) Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Child Development Centre

Pasir Ris CDC-Eye Care Week

Our K2 children learnt about the different ways of taking good care of their eyes to prevent myopia (short-sightedness). For example, they learnt about the importance of spending more time on outdoor activities and less time on playing hand-held games such as computers, iphones, and ipads.

To reinforce on this, we brought the children outdoors to draw sketches of their surroundings. What a meaningful way to extend their learning beyond the four walls of the classroom by getting them to observe and appreciate the nature! Each child became a young artist who sees things from different perspectives...

We also extended the children's learning into their homes by working with parents to bring their child outdoors and for them to draw about their outdoor experiences. Thank you parents for your involvement and support! We really appreciate it. The children stood in front of the class to present their "stories" through a show-and-tell session. Their courage and efforts were indeed commendable!

We look forward to the next show-and- tell session to help our children develop confidence and public-speaking skills. Meanwhile, let's continue to remind our children about good eye-care habits!



Nurturing Good Values

"Nurturing Good Values" is a series of books aimed at cultivating self-awareness, self-confidence, and a strong sense of right and wrong in children from ages 3 to 7. Dr Florence Teo, Author of the books, conducted a teacher training session for all English teachers on the importance of cultivating the right values in children. Through real examples, Dr. Teo shares the key to nurturing and leading our children today to become the loving, confident and healthy adults of the future. Tips on how to use the books were also shared during the two hour training held on 13 April 2013.



Compliments

Pasir Ris CDC

Dear Mdm. Ho, teachers and staff at YWCA Pasir Ris,

I am writing this letter to thank you for all the care, love and attention you have showered on my both children, Vanessa and Leon Ow.

From Dec 2010, a two year old Vanessa has grown up to be a little mature young girl now. Thank you for assisting us in taking good care of her and teaching her. Thank you, Mdm. Ho for encouraging her to attend YWCA Pasir Ris as she moved from N2 to K1. Today, she is so motivated to go to the Centre and she enjoyed being there every day.

My little boy, Leon Ow, has joined YWCA 3 months ago. From the beginning, he is pretty adaptable to the Centre's environment. Due to his eczema condition, he receives constant care and attention from Mdm. Ho, teachers and aunties who cook and bathe him at the Centre. Thank you, Mdm. Ho for allowing us to bring his own food to the Centre. Thank you, Teacher Farida and other teacher at N1 for the effort of putting moisturizer to his affected skin.

Once again, my husband and I thank all staff from YWCA Pasir Ris for all your love and guidance given to Vanessa and Leon Ow.

Thank You
Best Regards,
Parents of Vanessa Ow Lixian (K1) & Leon Ow Jun Heng (N1)
Mr. & Mrs. Ow KL



Fort Canning Lodge

Hi

I would like to commend YWCA Fort Canning Lodge for its excellent service and quality of food. Especially the service and positive attitude of Mr Jonathan Tay, the Food & Beverage Manager.

We organised an event on the evening of 13 March 2013. And even though it was a small session for 30 pax, Jonathan and his team ensured that all our needs were catered for and were comfortable for the evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Jonathan and his team for making our event a success. Even our guests commended positively on the quality of the food and the venue setting.

Keep it up and thank you once again.

Warmest regards
TJ
Mr Lim Ting Ji
Team Leader (Corporate), South West Community Development Council

