



ywLink

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Jan - Mar 2010

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

www.ywca.org.sg

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President’s Note

New Beginnings

The start of a new year is an opportunity for us to reflect on the past year and reviewed past programmes and activities. This issue, the first for 2010, does just that, and helps us to look back at what YWCA had done in the last quarter of 2009 – K2 Graduation Concert, Christmas Bazaar, Christmas Outreach, Kids’ Club, to name a few.

Recognising our volunteers took place at the Volunteers Appreciation Dinner and we are grateful to these volunteers for their contribution of time, talent and donations. We continue to remember our past volunteers in our regular column of Profile of Women Who Cared and in Spotlight which features our current volunteers.

A new year is also a time when resolutions are made and plans are laid out for the coming year. The Board and senior staff prepared for this year by attending a leadership development workshop cum retreat which combined learning with bonding. Participants had the opportunity to learn more of their personality profiles and leadership styles and those of others.

The beginning of a new year is also a time for us to look forward to the future. 2010 is the year that we will celebrate the 135th anniversary of YWCA in Singapore. The YWCA originated in

England in 1877 after 2 women, Lady Kinnard and Emma Roberts met over a cup of tea to discuss their mutual goals which led to the formation of YWCA. It is therefore fitting that we mark the 135th anniversary of YWCA of Singapore with a special edition of Earl Grey tea blended by the TWG Tea Company for YWCA. There will be other events and activities during the year to commemorate YWCA’s 135 years of service to the community. Anniversaries mark where we have been, what we have done, as well as where we are. The Board plans to set time to review our projects and programmes in connection with a review of the vision and mission of YWCA.

As we begin this new year, we thank God for His many blessings and His guidance for the YWCA through the year.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3: 5-6

I wish you peace, health, happiness and God’s blessings throughout the year.

Tan Kee Leng, PBM
President, YWCA of Singapore

Profiles of Women Who Cared

MARY CHEN (1893 – UNKNOWN)



Miss Mary Chen (Seated second from right)

Mary Chen was the first Chinese Secretary in the Singapore YWCA from 1929-1951. A graduate of Ginling College, Nanking, China with a B.A. degree in 1921, she studied social work, psychology and religious education in England for a year. She came to Singapore in 1922 and worked as head teacher at a school in Singapore until 1929, when she joined the YWCA. In 1938, she was Malaya's delegate to the World YWCA Council in Muskoka, Canada. During her service in the Singapore YWCA, she also served on various committees, such as the Poh Leung Kok, After-Care of Prisoners Organisation, Anti-Opium Association, Social Welfare and Family Planning.

When Singapore fell to the Japanese in 1942, during the Japanese Occupation, Mary Chen, being a graduate, was singled out by the Japanese authorities as being useful for the dissemination of propaganda. When she refused to co-operate, she was made to work in the fields. She suffered hardship as a prisoner of the Japanese during the war which affected her health.

Her trust and faith in God was so strong that she never allowed the lack of money to hinder her in the work for the YWCA and trusted God to supply whatever they needed.

Mary played an active role in fund-raising for the hostel. She was a firm supporter of the hostel of the Singapore YWCA and opposed the decision by the Hostel Committee in 1934 to auction off the hostel because of lack of funds. She trusted in God's power and guidance and started a students' quarter in the hostel to carry on the work. She also started night classes for under-privileged girls, including the girls who worked in the factories.

She was instrumental in raising the necessary funds for the airfare for Miss Owen's trip from England to Singapore to talk to the British authorities for a piece of land to build a Chinese hostel and kindergarten and she was successful. YWCA was given the right to the land at Outram Road which became the headquarters of Singapore YWCA and is still the headquarters today. Mary Chen also worked hard to raise the necessary funds to enable a building at Outram Road which was completed in 1951.

Mary was awarded a Certificate of Honour by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, in June 1954 in recognition of many years of service and work for Singapore and the community.

In her testimony, a booklet written by Rev Ding Bing Hoe of Hinghwa Methodist Church on Mary Chen and published in 1983 on Mary's 90th birthday, Mary said,

"I have loved God and I have loved Jesus ever since I accepted Him. I must write and testify of His great love which is in Christ. I want the world to know His love. My whole being is moved by the Holy Spirit to do things that will please God".

As she celebrated her 90th birthday in 1983, Mary Chen wrote

"God assured me that He would be faithful to the end. Sometimes men failed to give me the help that I needed but God was always there to deliver me. Praise the Lord! Despair, worries, problems, difficulties, hardships and even failures appeared in my life many times but each time, I was able to claim victory through Christ. I praise and thank my God as He is still guiding, helping and blessing me"

Christmas Bazaar @ YWCA Fort Canning Lodge



Hot on the heels of last year's successful inaugural Christmas Bazaar, the YWCA organised its second one on 12 December 2009, this time, at the Sophia Cooke Ballroom.

There were more than 30 stalls selling a wide range of products such as food and drinks, jewellery, clothes, bags, books, diaries and calendars and decorative ornaments for shoppers to do their Christmas shopping. For bargain hunters looking for good deals, there was also an Ali Baba Stall which sold secondhand and unused items such as clothes, household items, books and toys at reasonable prices. Even Santa Claus went around mingling with the crowd, providing great entertainment for the young and old alike!

By God's grace and provision, more than \$6,000, inclusive of donations was raised during the Christmas Bazaar, thanks to all who have contributed and helped out in one way or another.

Kids' Club Christmas Party

November and December 2009 was an exciting period for the children from the YWCA Kids' Club. The celebratory atmosphere of Christmas was evident in the 3 sessions held on 21 November, 5 and 19 December respectively. Each week, the children looked forward to Kids' Club with excitement and anticipation. With guidance from the CapitaLand volunteers, the children made Christmas decorations to decorate the room. They were also delighted at the opportunity for their first attempt in making and decorating cookies. During the Christmas Party on 19 December, the children were treated to a magic show and played many fun games. It was indeed a memorable Christmas for the children this year!



"Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him." 1 Corinthians 7:17a

Leadership Training Workshop cum Retreat



On 27 – 28 November 2009, the YWCA organised a Leadership Training Workshop cum Retreat for the Board of Management and key staff from the National Office and Fort Canning Lodge at the Raffles Marina Country Club. Over the course of 2 days, the participants did the DISC personality profile for a better analysis of their strengths and possible weakness of their character traits, they were also introduced to the different leadership styles and also how to give positive feedback to others. There were also role-playing exercises where the participants could put into practice what they have learnt earlier.

It was not just all ‘work’ and no play for the Board Members and staff. On the first day, a friendly bowling match was organised and at the end of the game, prizes were awarded to everyone for their participation and not just the winning teams. It was indeed a good opportunity for the Board Members and staff to bond and get to know one another in a relaxed and casual setting.

Volunteers’ Appreciation Dinner 2009



The YWCA held its Volunteers’ Appreciation dinner on 31 October 2009 to pay tribute to a group of dedicated volunteers who have served faithfully and contributed significantly to the Association, whether in terms of time, money or resources, over the past year. The theme ‘Masquerade’ was chosen and guests were encouraged to dress up to the nineties according to the theme and don a mask.

The Multi-Purpose Hall of the YWCA Fort Canning Lodge was lavishly decorated with a sea of red and purple balloons and silver stars floating on the ceiling. A huge balloon arch made up of the same red and purple balloons woven tightly together graced the entrance of the room as the guests entered. This also served as an excellent backdrop for photo-taking sessions among the guests.

As the time drew closer till the start of the event, the sky darkened and a heavy downpour soon ensued. Most of the guests who were on their way were caught in the rain and had to seek shelter nearby before making their way to the Fort Canning Lodge when the rain lightened up. Despite the heavy downfall earlier, this did little to dampen the spirits of everyone.

The event kicked-off with an opening speech by our YWCA President, Ms Tan Kee Leng and then followed by the opening prayer by our Chaplain, Rev Melvin Huang. While the appetizer was being served, the emcee divided the guests into two teams to participate in a fun ice-breaker game which required the two teams to look for as many items as they can find in the room starting with the letters M-A-S-Q-U-E-R-A-D-E. The game set the right party mood and atmosphere and got everyone all excited and in a cheery mood. The two teams came up with creative and interesting items like ‘menu’, ‘money’ ‘shoe’, ‘salt’ and ‘ribbon’.

Other than the fun, games and laughter, there was a video testimony by some of the YWCA’s service users from the Adult Day Centre, thanking the volunteers for taking the time to teach them qi gong exercise every week, two song items by the staff from Fort Canning Lodge, a dance item and a testimony by the youth volunteers from Kids’ Club and a song and dance item by the principals from our Child Development Centres and Kindergarten.

The highlight of the event was the ‘Best Dressed Contest’. Many of the volunteers had taken the time and effort to dress up for the night and came in wonderful and colourful costumes. The selected candidates of the contest paraded on stage as the audience clapped and cheered wildly for them.

As the event drew to a close, the staff of the YWCA presented a ‘Thank You’ song as a form of tribute to all the volunteers, thanking them for giving of their time, effort and resources to faithfully serve with the Association. It was no doubt that everyone had a good time that night and enjoyed themselves!



Mrs Jennifer Ng

Interviewed by Karen Chay

Mrs Jennifer Ng is a familiar face in the YWCA and definitely no stranger to the volunteering scene. Having served in various areas in the YWCA for over 40 years, Mrs Ng has earned for herself the unofficial title of the Association's "longest serving volunteer" since its heyday. In recognition of her selfless giving of her time, her contributions to the Association and her dedication in serving the community, Mrs Jennifer Ng was recommended by the YWCA to receive the Public Service Award in 2007.

Now in her 60s, Mrs Jennifer Ng is still actively serving in many Committees of the YWCA such as the Community Outreach & Fund Raising Committee, Fort Canning Lodge Committee, Membership & Programmes Committee and Human Resource & Administration Committee. Other than keeping her time occupied and her hands tied with volunteering activities, Mrs Ng also enjoys relaxing at home and traveling to various countries with friends.

1. When and how did you come to know about the YWCA?

My husband and I were then serving as Board Members of the Jurong Lutheran Church (now known as Jurong Christian Church). At that time, there were plans to build a new Church building. A temporary location was found and the church then operated out of a shophouse in Jurong. The YWCA Children's Centre happened to rent the ground floor of the shophouse hence sharing the same premises as the Church. That was how I first came into contact with the YWCA.

Subsequently, when the new Church building was completed in 1967/1968, the Church moved back to its premises in Taman Jurong and offered the YWCA a permanent location within the church compounds to house the YWCA Children's Centre. As a gesture of goodwill, the Church did not collect any rental from the YWCA and the Association need only pay a token sum for the utility bill. In return, the Church sent a representative to sit in the committee for the running of the YWCA Children's Centre and I was elected to represent the Church in attending the meetings held by the YWCA Child Care Committee in the premises of the Church.

2. Back then, what other areas in the YWCA were you also involved in?

When the YWCA wanted to set-up a hostel to provide lodging for foreign girls working in factories in Jurong, the staff, who was in-charge of the start-up operations, happened to be my school mate. I bumped into her in a social gathering and she asked me if I would like to be involved in this project. I agreed and that was how I officially became part of the YWCA. The hostel consisted of two blocks of 3-storey building with its own compound was rented from the Jurong Town Corporation. The hostel was known as Y House and housed 600 young factory girls.

I was first roped in to be part of the Programmes Committee of the Y House. Subsequently, I moved on to become the Chairperson of the Programmes Committee, Chairperson of the Child Play Centre, Chairperson of the Y House and eventually the Chairperson of the Jurong Centre, which oversaw the running of the Child Play Centre and the Y House.

In 1987, the Y House ceased operations when the building was returned to the Jurong Town Corporation. I also served in the Fort Canning Centre where I had the opportunity to work and associate with people from all walks of life. The Centre was closed and the Fort Canning Hostel was demolished in 1994 to build a bigger and better Lodge with more facilities to offer. I was also involved in the setting-up of the Adult Day Centre for the elderly in 1996.

3. What are some of your best memories of the YWCA?

I enjoyed my time as the Chairperson of the Jurong Centre. I specifically remember the annual funfairs which we would hold at the Centre every year for about 10 years. As the Jurong Army Camp was then located near the Centre, every year, the army boys would enthusiastically volunteer their services to help us collect donated food items were also very dedicated and put in their heart and soul to help out in various ways, without expecting anything in return. We all had such a fun and enjoyable time organising and preparing for the funfair.

4. Do you see any differences between volunteers of the past and those in the present days?

In the past, there seem to be more direct involvement and groundwork done by the volunteers. There was also more freedom for volunteers to organise events and programmes but these days, there is so much red tape involved. With the changing times, that there has also been a change in strategy where volunteers now take the backseat while the staff are more directly involved in the operations. The volunteers now are more involved in the brainstorming processes and making vital decisions during Committee meetings.

5. With the changing times, what is your wish for the YWCA in the future?

I foresee a continual improvement and positive changes in the YWCA in the years to come because of the new wave of younger leaders among the Board of Management who have so much more creative ideas and expertise to offer to the Association. My wish for the YWCA is that she would continue to prosper in her good works and provide more programmes and services to help more needy people in our community. I also hope that the YWCA will be able to attract and recruit and more new and young volunteers.

World YMCA/YWCA Week of Prayer and World Fellowship

The week-long prayer event kick-started on 9 November 2009, with a breakfast devotion meeting hosted by the YWCA. After a hearty breakfast, Pastor Ivan Lee of International Baptist Church showcased his music prowess and led us in a meaningful time of worship of some catchy worship songs. Then he delved into this year's theme "Beyond Global Citizenship" by conducting a sharing session regarding what citizenship in the Kingdom of God encompasses. The areas touched on included developing the fruits of the spirit, thus being more Christ-like in our characters and actions; giving God first priority in all aspects of our life; and turning to the God-given Holy Spirit for guidance and wisdom when making choices and decisions instead of relying on our own reasoning.

On 11 November 2009, at the Lunch Fellowship hosted by the YWCA, we had an excellent turnout of more than 100 participants consisting of staff from the 3Ys, YWCA members and the public. Pastor Ivan was invited again to deliver another inspiring and anointed message on the theme "Higher Culture, Counter-Culture." By using the innovative axiom of C.U.L.T.U.R.E, Pastor Ivan defined what it meant to be a citizen of God's kingdom.

In line with the theme of serving God as citizens of his kingdom, our appointed beneficiary for this event, VisionTrust Asia Limited, gave us an awesome presentation on the scope of their mission work, which included providing necessities, health care and a chance for education for the less fortunate children in various countries such as India, Myanmar and Thailand. It was indeed heartening to know how the offering collected from the week-long event will be utilised to help these children break out of the trap of poverty.



Christmas Outreach at the YWCA Adult Day Centre



On 2 December 2009, the Christian Growth Sub-Committee organised its annual Christian Outreach Programme for the elderly in ADC. An invitation was also extended to the Joy Talk attendees, Golden Y Fellowship members and friends of the YWCA to join in the Christmas celebration. The event started with the singing of a medley of Hokkien worship songs and Christmas carols led by the worship team from Covenant Evangelical Free Church. After the worship session, the invited speaker, Pastor Gilbert Sng from Covenant Evangelical Free Church, presented an inspiring message of hope to the audience, bringing across a meaningful Christmas message to all who were present. Finally, the event concluded with a sumptuous feast and everyone had a good time of fun and fellowship.

HR Announcements

Welcome New Staff

The YWCA is pleased to welcome new staff joining the team. We welcome Christopher Roy s/o A Nelson (Attendant) at NOF; Lim See Hoon (Teacher) at Bukit Gombak CDC; Li Zhaomei (Language Teacher) at Bishan CDC; Li Xiao Jie (Language Teacher) at McNair CDC, Fazirah Billa Bte Abdul Aziz (Assistant Teacher) at Marine Drive CDC; Amadea Yee Wai Min (Assistant Teacher) at Outram CDC; Seow Geok Mooi (Teacher) at Outram Kindergarten; Chu Bee Hiang and Joanna Loo Poh Choo (Attendants), Ong Siew Beng (Teacher, Ooi Liang Hwee and Ganesha Jessie (Assistant Teachers) at West Coast CDC.

At Fort Canning Lodge, we welcome Ramasamy a/l Kuttiappan (Technician), Joachim a/l Antony Dass (Public Area Attendant), Ho Siew Sun (Chef De Partie), Zurainah d/o Abdul Basheer (Duty Manager), Putri Nur Afzan (Guest Relations Assistant), Joo Yan Ling and Joycelyn Amelia Lee (Waitresses) and Johnny Chua (Executive Sous Chef).

Be Involved! Yes, that means you!

Life Time of Memories

We are looking for past YWCA mementoes and collectible items such as old newsletters, newspaper articles, souvenirs, etc. as part of our efforts to preserve the YWCA's heritage. If you have any old mementoes which you would like to contribute towards this cause, we would love to hear from you! For more information, please contact Ms Karen Chay at 6223 1227.

Volunteers Needed for our Community Services!

Join us as **VOLUNTEERS** and make a difference in the lives of the needy in our community!

CRAFTWORKS

CRAFTWORKS seeks to enhance the livelihood of disadvantaged women in Singapore, who are unable to find work due to their role as main caregivers of their families. These women are taught handicraft skills and are given materials to make marketable handicrafts for sale. Volunteers who have a passion for craftwork

and possess a keen interest in helping the disadvantaged are welcome to:

- Join in the regular handicraft sessions to make handcrafted items for sale at charity stalls and the YWCA Christmas bazaar to raise funds for disadvantaged families.

- Teach the participants a range of craftwork such as sewing, cross-stitch, knitting, embroidery and jewellery-making.

Please contact Ms Linda Loo at tel: 6223 2604 or email: lindaloo@ywca.org.sg for more information on the dates and times of the handicraft session.

For more volunteering opportunities, please visit our website at www.ywca.org.sg or contact Ms Chu Wai Puay at tel: 6223 1227 or email: wai puay@ywca.org.sg.

CapitaLand Hope Foundation (CHF) Lunar New Year E-card campaign

Riding on the wave of our country's economic recovery, the YWCA has been blessed with a large Lunar New Year "angpow". The CapitaLand Hope Foundation ("CHF") has picked the YWCA's "Meal-on-Wheels" programme as its beneficiary for their Lunar New Year e-card campaign. Under this campaign, CHF will donate S\$2 to YWCA for every e-card sent from the CapitaLand corporate website (described below) from 27 Jan – 28 Feb 2010, such donations to be capped at S\$50,000.

Hence, you can do your part for charity by sending the free e-cards via this link (www.capitaland.com/greetingcards) now! Every card sent counts and will go a long way to help us reach the maximum donation amount of \$50,000! We hope that you can also help us to disseminate this information to your family and friends so that more people can also contribute towards this worthy cause!

Updates on Membership Privileges!

Berjaya Holiday Marvels

Berjaya Holiday Marvels is offering a 10% discount on the tour packages listed in the "TRAVEL MARVELS" booklet, which are valid from 1 March – 31 October 2010. For more information on the tour packages available, YWCA members can collect their copies of the "TRAVEL MARVELS" booklet from the YWCA National Office, Programmes Department, located at 254 Outram Road.

History of the YWCA

Apart from organising classes for young girls, Miss Sophia Cooke also took in boarders who might otherwise have been forced into prostitution or leading the life of a concubine. This was very much in keeping with the YWCA's aim of "welcoming into the fellowship women and girls without distinction of race, nationality, class or religion, and to offer them a programme which will enable them to grow in body, mind and spirit and lead them to a better understanding of the problems of the day and to the service of their fellowmen."

Some time later, Miss Cooke also pioneered the first YWCA team visits to hospitals and prisons. Her compassion and energy knew no bounds and she even started Bible Study classes for policemen, soldiers and sailors. The fact that the pall-bearers at her funeral consisted of members of the local police force and the presence of many people, including clergy of every denomination, government officials and even the Governor himself, who mourned for her death, testified of Miss Cooke's selflessness and charitable spirit.

"But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips." Colossians 3:8

What's On

Programmes/ Events	Dates (Day)	Time	Venue	Fees	For registration or enquiries, please contact:
Joy Talk – Lunchtime Fellowship	Every last Monday of the month (starting from Mar 2010)	12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Quiet Room (Level 2), 6 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179494	Admission Free	Ms Tan Wenhui Email: wenhui@ywca.org.sg
Bible Study (For Ladies)	Every 1 st and 3 rd Wednesday	6.30 pm – 8.30 pm	YWCA Outram Centre, Room 8 (Level 2), 254 Outram Road, Singapore 169051	Free	Ms Tan Wenhui Email: wenhui@ywca.org.sg
Golden Y Fellowship	Every Monday	10.30 am – 1.00 pm	YWCA Outram Centre, Room 8 (Level 2), 254 Outram Road, Singapore 169051	\$4 (Home-cooked lunch)	Ms Wendy Ngo Email: wendyngo@ywca.org.sg
Swimming For Ladies (8 sessions per module)	Every Tuesday or Thursday	7.00 pm – 7.45 pm (Tuesday)/ 6.45 pm – 7.30 pm (Thursday)	YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Swimming Pool(Level 3), 6 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179494	\$123 (Member); \$143 (Non-Member)	Ms Chu Wai Puay Email: waipuay@ywca.org.sg
Aqua Aerobics For Ladies (8 sessions per module)	Every Wednesday or Friday	6.45 pm – 7.45 pm	YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Swimming Pool(Level 3), 6 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179494	\$80 (Member); \$90 (Non-Member)	Ms Chu Wai Puay Email: waipuay@ywca.org.sg
Pre-School Aquatics/ Children's Swimming Programme (4 sessions per module)	Every Saturday	3.15 pm – 4.15 pm	YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Swimming Pool(Level 3), 6 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179494	\$165 (Member); \$180 (Non-Member)	Ms Chu Wai Puay Email: waipuay@ywca.org.sg
Investment Talk by Dr Tan Kee Wee	25 February 2010 (Thursday)	7.00 pm – 8.15 pm (Registration starts at 6.15 pm)	YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Pool Terrace (Level 3), 6 Fort Canning Road, Singapore 179494	\$3 (Member; without dinner); \$5(Member; with dinner); \$6 (Non-Member; without dinner); \$10 (Non-Member; without dinner)	Ms Chu Wai Puay Email: waipuay@ywca.org.sg



LUNAR NEW YEAR PROMOTIONS

This Lunar New Year, gather together with your family and loved ones at the Fort Canning Lodge for the Reunion Dinner. This tradition is a good time for family members, far and near, to come together and catch up with one another over a scrumptious meal and usher in the New Year!

A. LUNAR NEW YEAR YU SHENG PROMOTION

Available from 8 - 28 February 2010 @ the Coffee House from 11.30am to 10.00pm

Traditional Toss with Ikan Parang \$29.80++ [small] / \$34.80++ [large]
 Traditional Toss with Salmon \$32.80++ [small] / \$40.80++ [large]

Small – 4 to 6 pax / Large – 7 to 10 pax

10% discount for YWCA Board Members, Members and Staff

For take-away, there will be no 10% service charge

All the above discounts are not valid in conjunction with any other promotions or discounts.

B. LUNAR NEW YEAR SET MENU @ \$32.80++ PER PAX [MIN 4 PAXS]

Available from 8 - 28 February 2010 @ the Coffee House from 11.30am to 2.30pm (lunch) and 6.00pm to 10.00pm (dinner).

Traditional Toss with Ikan Parang Yu Sheng
 Winter Melon Broth with Sea Treasures
 Crispy Roast Chicken with Garlic
 Deep-fried Seabass with Yellow Bean Sauce
 Wok-fried Prawn with Macadamia Nuts and Celery
 Seafood Fried Rice with Silver Bait
 Chilled Almond Beancurd with Six Treasures

The above is served with complimentary Chinese tea, Mandarin oranges and soft drinks.

10% discount for YWCA Board Members, Members and Staff

All the above discounts are not valid in conjunction with any other promotions or discounts.

C. REUNION DINNER & LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Available from 13 February 2010 [Reunion Dinner] to 28 February 2010 @ the Coffee House or in the privacy of our *function rooms from 11.30am to 2.30pm (lunch) and from 6.00pm to 10.00pm (dinner).

- Lunar New Year menus at \$368.00++ per and \$468.00++ per table of 10 persons with complimentary Chinese tea, Mandarin oranges and Soft drinks
- Prior reservation is required. Please contact the Banquet Sales team:

- Jonathan Tay @ 6335 8050 / 9751 3371
- Yogy @ 6335 8018 / 9751 2638

*subject to terms and conditions

10% discount for YWCA Board Members, Members and Staff

All the above discounts are not valid in conjunction with any other promotions or discounts.

8 Course Lunar New Year Menu for Table of 10 Persons @ \$368.00++

MENU

Traditional Toss with Salmon Yu Sheng

Braised Shark's Fin Soup with Crabmeat

Golden Shine Chicken with Crispy Prawn Crackers

Deep-fried Whole Seabass with Nonya Sauce

Buttered Prawn with Cereal and Curry Leaves

(Eight Treasures Vegetables Delight Broccoli, White Fungus, Gingko Nut, Red Dates and Assorted Mushrooms)

Braised Ee Fu Noodles with Assorted Mushrooms and Yellow Chives

Sweetened Red Bean Paste with Lotus Seeds

9 Course Lunar New Year Menu for Table of 10 Persons @ \$468.00++

MENU

Toss to Greater Heights Yu Sheng with Salmon and Abalone

Hot & Cold Dish Combination Platter (Oriental Roasted Duck, Seasoned Baby Octopus, Marinated Jelly Fish, Prawn Fruity Salad and Abalone Top Shell)

Shark's Fin Soup with Crab Meat & Dry Scallops

Traditional Emperor Chicken (Di Wang Ji) Steamed Whole Chicken with Chinese Herbs

Steamed Garoupa in Superior Soya Sauce (Hong Kong Style)

Wok-fried Asparagus with Prawns and Scallops in XO Sauce

Braised Dried Oyster and Black Moss with Garden Green Vegetables

Fragrant Rice Wrapped with Lotus Leaf (With Chinese Sausage, Prawn, Scallop, Chestnut and Dried Mushroom)

Yam Paste with Gingko Nuts

Testimony by Mr and Mrs Steven Lim (Pasir Ris CDC)

Finally, the K2 graduation ceremony is over. Our son, Marcus Lim, has graduated from the Pasir Ris YWCA Child Development Centre! It's a wonderful feeling and we, as Marcus' parents, are very proud of his achievement!

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Principal, Madam Ho; Secretary, Jessie Phua, 潘老师, Teacher Jeremy, and other teachers and staff for taking care of Marcus ever since he joined the Centre in mid May 2007.



Before joining the Centre, we had informed Madam Ho that the doctor had diagnosed Marcus as having a mild Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). However, Madam Ho did not hesitate to accept Marcus into the Centre but welcomed him instead. She showed a lot of care and concern for Marcus and even went to the extent of getting feedback from his teachers with regard to his academic and motor skills and even monitoring his social behaviour and getting him to interact and mix with the other children in group activities.

As such, we observed that Marcus has become more cheerful, well-mannered and does not feel left out by others. He is also able to read and write, do well in his spelling and Mathematics and also take care of his personal hygiene independently.



Besides that, Marcus is also blessed with the love and care by the staff at the Centre too - Jessie Phua, the Secretary, always carries a great smile and is very helpful; the pantry aunties who always provide nice and delicious food for the children; and teachers from the other classes who are very friendly too. This is why Marcus feels very much at home and likes to go to school everyday. It is like a big, happy family filled with warmth, love and joy.

Not forgetting Ms Elizabeth Tan and Teacher Nita Ho, the 1-1 intervention class teacher, who are very professional in providing a lot of teaching aids and ideas to reinforce Marcus in his weaker areas. They will hold meetings together with us, Madam Ho and his teacher to discuss how we can help Marcus to improve and progress.

During the recent K2 graduation concert, the Centre has put up a very glorious, exciting and wonderful performance! Children wearing glamorous glittering costumes, dancing away with the music, every step, every move, is fantastic! They are very committed, very unique and very natural. It is a joy to watch. We're also very amazed that Marcus is able to blend into the performance as well, following the sequence well and the dance steps are near to perfection. This shows that a lot of hard work, effort and commitment that have been put in by Madam Ho and her fellow teachers and staffs. Great Show! Well Done!

Last but not least, we deeply appreciate the Pasir Ris YWCA CDC for providing Marcus with a very good and clean environment to learn and develop. He has improved tremendously during the last two and a half years under the care and guidance of Madam Ho and everyone at the Centre. Thank you very much!

Best wishes to everybody in the years to come. God Bless!

To a child , **LOVE** is
spelled **T-I-M-E**



YWCA K2 Graduation Concert 2009

“Once Upon A Time In SINGAPORE ...” was the theme of our K2 graduation concert, which was held at The Drama Centre on Friday, 26 October 2009. There were 197 K2 graduates that evening and the entire theatre was filled with invited guests and parents from our 10 child care centres and one kindergarten.



From the Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports (MCYS), we had Mrs Ismail Ellias, MCYS Deputy Director (Family Care Branch), as the Guest-of-Honour, and three officers from the licensing/planning division grace the event. Mrs Ismail, together with the Chairperson for the Child Development Programme Committee, Mrs Ma Kheng Min, presented the K2 children with their graduation certificates.

In her opening address, Mrs Ma spoke of two major projects in progress, The Joy Of Reading Programme (JRP) and the IngoT Preschool Project. Parents were updated on the milestones of the JRP programme and given details of the IngoT Preschool Project, a million dollar partnership project with LIEN Foundation, which will prepare our children to be IT savvy when they move on to mainstream schools at the end of their pre-school years. In addition, this project also aims to enable our teachers to have more time with the children and reducing their time spent on administrative tasks.



The young performers looked cute and adorable in their costumes. There was 'Phua Chu Kang' "Samsui girls", "Coolies" and even a "Merlion". The audience traveled back in time to the days when Sang Nila Utama discovered Singapura, when Sophia Cooke first arrived in Singapore and also the period when SARS struck our nation.



The children had much fun putting up the performances because they could easily relate to the storylines such as showing courtesy on the MRT, exercising and keeping fit, cultivating a healthy lifestyle and being a good neighbour.

The YWCA would like to thank everyone present during the concert for their support and participation, the children for putting up such a wonderful performance and the principals and teachers for the hard work and effort put in to ensure the success of this concert.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

Hong Kong Outstanding Youth Volunteer Scheme (HKOYVS) - Exchange Visit to YWCA Singapore 2009

20 youth volunteers, who were on the Hong Kong Outstanding Youth Volunteer Scheme (HKOYVS); along with 2 officers from the Social Welfare Department (Volunteer Service) and 1 official representative from the Adjudication Panel, were on an exchange tour to Singapore from 27 – 31 December 2009 to broaden their horizons and widen their exposure to the volunteering scene in a multiracial and multicultural society.



HKOYVS was established in 2004 and their objectives are:

- 1) Promote volunteerism through organisation and participation of various volunteer service
- 2) Promote active participation of volunteering among students and youth

These outstanding youth volunteers are aged between 16 and 24 and have extensive experiences in volunteer service (i.e. a total of 150 service hours in the past 5 years). They are recommended from their service organisations, schools or institutions as suitable candidates to be sent for 2 rounds of selection interview conducted by the adjudication panel before they can be considered as part of the Hong Kong Outstanding Youth Volunteers' Association (HKOYVA).

On Wednesday, 30 December 2009, the group visited the YWCA Singapore for an exchange and sharing session with our youth volunteers from the YWCA Kids' Club. The Hong Kong youths were first given an overview of the YWCA and her programmes and services before they shared with our local youths on the HKOYVS and the HKOYVA. The Hong Kong youth volunteers also planned many activities for the elderly at the YWCA Adult Day Centre. There were exercises, sing-a-long sessions and fun games like charade and passing the ball around. From the happy faces of the elderly, it was clearly evident that they were all having a fun time and enjoying themselves. The Hong Kong Youth Volunteers also took time to chat with the elderly and get to know them. Apart from the games and sing along session, the Hong Kong youths also prepared goodies bags for the elderly.

After spending about an hour at the centre with the elderly, the last programme for the day was an informal sharing session between the youth volunteers. The youths were split into groups such that there will be a mixture of youths from both sides. The aim of the sharing session was for the youths to learn from one another their volunteering experiences in their own community and the difficulties and challenges faced. It was indeed a good exposure and learning experience for not only the YWCA Youth volunteers but the staff as well and we look forward to their next visit to the YWCA Singapore in the future!



Special Limited Edition Of Earl Grey Tea by TWG for YWCA

To commemorate the YWCA's 135th Anniversary of serving the community and as another YWCA's fund raising initiative, YWCA has collaborated with the prestigious TWG Tea Company, known for its fine quality and exclusive collection of tea blends, to offer an exquisite blend of Earl Grey Tea for sale.

This special limited edition of Earl Grey Tea will make a lovely gift for your family and loved ones, and at the same time you can do your part for charity, as all proceeds from the sale of the tea will go towards the support of the YWCA's community services and programmes to advance the development of women in body, mind and spirit, following her motto "By Love Serve One Another".

For enquiries or purchase of the tea, please contact the YWCA National Office at tel: 6223 1227 or email: admin@ywca.org.sg.

Each tin is priced at \$32 (YWCA member) and \$38 (non-member).