



# ywwLink

“and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.” 1 John 3:22

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

www.ywca.org.sg

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## President’s Note

**Change!** Individuals experience many changes throughout their lives and likewise, organisations go through changes. After the Annual General Meeting on 30 April 2009, YWCA has a change of officers, Board members and committee chairpersons. A list of the new leaders is set out in this issue. I wish to thank the volunteers for giving of their time, expertise and treasures. It is the spirit of giving that has held this Association for the past 134 years. There is also a change of personnel in Fort Canning Lodge and we are pleased to welcome our new General Manager, Mr Louis Than, and new Chef, Mr William Tan, to YWCA Fort Canning Lodge.

Change comes not only in us as individuals, but also to others when we serve the community, as lives are changed through our service. “Touching Hearts, Changing Lives for the Last 100 Years” was the theme of the Centenary Celebration of the YWCA of Penang. The YWCA of Penang was set up in 1909 and on 13 June 2009 she celebrated her 100 years of service. I was honored to be invited to participate in the centenary celebration in Penang YWCA.

The Penang YWCA’s centenary celebration was graced by the attendance of Ms Susan Brennan, the President of World YWCA. In her keynote address in Penang, Ms Brennan talked about change and the role of YWCA as the bridge between feminist movement and ecumenical movement. The World YWCA’s theme is “Women Leading Change” and is committed to increase the resources and opportunities for the leadership development for women and girls. A Power to Change Fund is set up to help YWCAs globally to develop women’s leadership.

The Singapore YWCA plans to continue our work in changing lives and changing communities with the projects and programmes for the new term 2009-2010. We have to create change and to help others to change. I urge you to keep in touch with the YWCA’s many programmes and participate actively whenever possible. The YWCA is a faith-based organisation and it is the C in us and in the YWCA which motivates us to continue to serve one another and the community.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

**Tan Kee Leng, PBM**  
President, YWCA of Singapore

# Profiles of Women Who Care

## Sophia Cooke 1814 -1895



Ms Sophia Cooke, the founder of the YWCA of Singapore, was born in Hilsborough, Norfolk, England in 1814 and was a governess for over 20 years with a strong interest in mission work. In 1853, she decided to enter the mission work and was sent by the Society for the Promotion of Female Education in the East to head the Chinese Girls' School (now known as St Margaret's School), which was a boarding school for orphan Chinese girls. She arrived in Singapore on 29 July 1853 and for the next 42 years devoted her life on her work in the Chinese Girls' School, better known as Miss Cooke's School. One of the first things that Sophia did on arriving in Singapore was to learn the Malay language. She was concerned with the lack of education of women in those days and held self-improvement classes for women. In 1875, she started the YWCA in Singapore and the members had Bible studies, regular meetings with discussions on home life and made visits to the needy and the sick in hospitals.

Sophia Cooke was not only concerned with the status of women, she also cared for the men – the sailors, soldiers and policemen of the colony. She was one of the founders of Sailors' Rest in 1882 at Neil Road. Sophia organised weekly worship services in Chinese and these lead to the establishment of the first Anglican and Presbyterian Chinese churches in Singapore.

A woman ahead of her time, Sophia Cooke was a woman who cared. She passed away on 14 September 1895 in Singapore after a prolonged illness. Sophia Road was named after her.

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## Madam Normalah Binte Abdullah

A feature on Madam Normalah Binte Abdullah appeared in World YWCA's December newsletter 'Common Concern' under an article profiling three women from different countries who provide care with love and commitment.

Madam Normalah, 52 years, is a grandmother of three children and is also the legal guardian of her ex-husband's sister-in-law's daughter. Normalah and the four children ranging from three to eight years old live in a one-room flat. The four children are beneficiaries of the YWCA's Meals-On-Wheels for Children Programme. Despite her health, as she has high blood pressure, diabetes and persistent aches in her joints, Normalah takes the responsibility of taking care of the four children and survives on the monthly allowance of US\$500 provided by her 23-year old daughter who works as an accountant's assistant.

When she was asked how she was affected by the caregiving for such a large family, Normalah replied that although at times she felt worn out, she has a great sense of satisfaction and her family is a source of her joy and happiness. Normalah also said that her greatest wish would be for her dependants to grow up healthy and become contributing members of the society.



## World YWCA Programme Director for Asia Pacific, Ms Juli Dugdale, Visits Singapore



Following World YWCA President, Ms Susan Brennan's visit to Singapore last October 2008, the YWCA of Singapore welcomed yet another visitor from the World YWCA in May 2009. This time she was Programme Director for Asia and the Pacific, Ms Juli Dugdale.

Ms Dugdale was in Singapore from 24 – 26 May and stayed at the YWCA Fort Canning Lodge during her three-day visit. Ms Dugdale was here for both a social visit as well as an unofficial visit to the YWCA Singapore to better understand the work of the YWCAs in the Asia Pacific region and the issues faced and to identify possible partnership opportunities between YWCAs in this region.



On 25 May 2009, Ms Dugdale visited the YWCA Outram Centre. She was received warmly by the children from the Outram Kindergarten and Outram Child Development Centre, who put up a medley of song and dance performances to entertain our delighted guest. Ms Dugdale was then given a short briefing followed by a tour around the centre's facilities such as the Educational Support Unit and the Adult Day Centre. In addition, Ms Dugdale also visited the homes of two families who are on our Meals-on-Wheels for Elderly and Meals-on-Wheels for Children programmes. Through the site visits and her interaction with the disadvantaged families, Ms Dugdale had a firsthand encounter of the living conditions of the less fortunate in affluent Singapore and the problems they face.



In the evening, a welcome dinner consisting of a sumptuous spread of local cuisine was hosted for Ms Dugdale at the YWCA Fort Canning Lodge which was attended by 14 Board Members and 4 staff. Ms Dugdale took the opportunity to brief everyone on the work of the World YWCA. There was also an exchange of gifts and our President, Ms Tan Kee Leng, presented Ms Dugdale with a copy of our 120th Anniversary Book, Cookbook, Calendar, an information kit, 2 pairs of chopsticks and a YWCA Brooch.

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## Charis Crafts Charity Stall

As part of its on-going mission to better the livelihood of disadvantaged women in Singapore, the YWCA launched its initiative Charis Crafts on 14 February 2009. Charis Crafts aims to help these women by imparting skills and providing materials to them so that they may fabricate marketable handicrafts for sale. Since the first session commenced on 14 February 2009, the ladies have since come a long way!

On 29 June 2009, Charis Crafts participated in a charity stall organised by UGL Premas at Technopark @ Chai Chee. The ladies had the opportunity to showcase their skillfully made items at the bazaar which were well-received by the crowd. Although proceeds from the stall were a modest amount, it exceeded the expectations of the planning committee.

The inaugural stall had been useful. Apart from being a strong note of encouragement to the planning committee and an affirmation of the direction of Charis Crafts, it gave us valuable "consumer" feedback as to which items were more popular and saleable. With this valuable information, it will hopefully ignite the passion of the planning committee and volunteers and enable them to continue growing Charis Crafts to bear more fruits.

We invite more volunteers to join this project and help to grow Charis Crafts.



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"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

## Centenary Celebration of YWCA Penang



From left to right: Ms Susan Brennan, Ms Tan Kee Leng and Dr Marina David

The President, Ms Tan Kee Leng, attended the Centenary Celebration of the YWCA of Penang on 13 June 2009. The celebration was graced by the World YWCA President, Ms Susan Brennan, and attended by representatives from the National Association of YWCA Malaysia and local associations. The celebration started with the participants from YWCA of Malaysia and the local associations and invited guests being driven in trishaws from the City Hall Penang along Penang's heritage trail.

After the trishaw ride, the delegates moved to the premises of YWCA Penang for a talk by Mr Martin Jalleh on Trends, Threats, Transition & Transformation. This was followed by the Centenary Praise and Worship led by The Antioch Song Ministry. Ms Susan Brennan then gave an inspiring message and the Thanksgiving service ended with a delicious lunch.

The celebration continued in the evening with a fund raising dinner with the Chief Minister of Penang, YAB Tuan Lim Guan Eng, as the Guest of Honour. YWCA of Penang donated RM 50,000 to Children's Protection Society and Hospice (National Cancer Society) from the fund raising dinner. The evening started with a welcome performance by the children of the YWCA's child care centre. During the dinner, a coffee table book on Penang YWCA's 100 years was launched by Ms Susan Brennan and Dr Marina David, President of the Penang YWCA. The book described the history and activities of the Penang YWCA and a page was devoted to the Singapore YWCA as it was after the Singapore YWCA was set up in 1875 that the YWCA was established in Penang in 1909. Ms Tan presented to Dr Marina David a pewter plaque from Singapore YWCA to commemorate Penang's centenary.

## Overseas Visitors to YWCA Singapore

In July, the YWCA Singapore played host to two overseas guests who were in Singapore for a short visit.

On 4 July 2009, Ms Yusmiati Rambe, President of the South East Sulawesi Region of Indonesia, accompanied by our Executive Director, Mrs Leung Yee Ping, visited the YWCA Outram Centre (ORC). Upon arrival, Ms Yusmiati was warmly received by our President, Ms Tan Kee Leng, and Board Member, Mrs Ho Lay Hong, at the National Office Meeting Room where Charis Crafts was being conducted.



Ms Yusmiati (centre), together with Ms Tan Kee Leng (left) and Mrs Leung Yee Ping (right)



Dr Marina David (right) and Ms Tan Kee Leng (left)

An exchange of gifts took place and Ms Yusmiati was presented with a cookbook, a calendar, a YWCA brooch and an information kit. Ms Yusmiati was then briefed on the work of Charis Crafts and was also shown samples of craft work produced by the ladies. She was also given a briefing on the other programmes and services of the YWCA Singapore. Ms Yusmiati was then given a tour around the Centre where she learnt more about the Educational Support Unit and the Kids' Club. After the short visit, Ms Tan Kee Leng and Mrs Leung Yee Ping took the guest out for a welcome lunch.

On 10 July 2009, the YWCA Singapore was graced with the visit of Dr Marina David, the President of YWCA Penang. A dentist by profession, Dr Marina had been actively involved in the YWCA in various capacities since 2000 before becoming President.

Dr Marina called on the YWCA Singapore with the aim of getting to know the operations of the YWCA Singapore. Hosted by our very own President, Ms Tan Kee Leng, together with our Executive Director Mrs Leung, and some of the Board Members, Dr Marina was briefed on the various programs and activities of YWCA Singapore including the various community service programs and the major annual and/or ad hoc events. Dr. Marina showed keen interest in learning more about YWCA Singapore and invited us to visit YWCA Penang. She was given a tour of ORC before adjourning to the Fort Canning Lodge for lunch at the Coffee House. As a post-lunch work-out, Dr. Marina was given a tour around the Fort Canning Lodge as a finale to her visit.

The President and the Board Members would like to thank Ms Yusmiati and Dr Marina for taking time to visit the YWCA Singapore and hope that they had enjoyed their visit.



## Mr Louis Than General Manager

Interviewed by Karen Chay



Having joined the Fort Canning Lodge as General Manager only in May 2009, Mr Louis Than may be new to the Y but he is definitely no newbie to the hotel industry. With more than 14 years experience under his belt, Mr Than is not only experienced in hotel management but also specialises in setting up new hotels and service apartments such as the New Majestic Hotel and Hotel Re! in Singapore and Fairlane Service Residence in Kuala Lumpur, among others. Mr Than comes from Myanmar but has lived in Singapore since 2003.

### How would you describe yourself in three words?

Ambitious, simple and innovative.

### How long have you been in Singapore? What do you like and dislike most about Singapore?

Almost 7 years. I like Singapore because it is a clean city which is filled with opportunities and possibilities. Though Singapore may be a small country, yet it is able to gain the respect of neighbouring countries as well as the Giants of the West. There is nothing that I dislike about Singapore.

### What challenges did you face when you first started out?

The hotel industry is a competitive and fast-paced industry. Having no prior experience, one challenge I faced was to gain recognition in this industry. There were also many things which I had to learn on the job. I had to think on my feet, learn how to solve problems effectively and make quick and good decisions. Having lived and worked in Singapore and Malaysia, I also had to learn to adapt to new environments and adopt the business culture of the different regions.

### How did you get to where you are today?

I started my career in the hotel industry in 1995 as a Concierge at Summit Parkview Hotel, a three-star business hotel located in Yangon, Myanmar. Continuous learning on the job and knowledge accumulated from classroom-based training have greatly enhanced my skills, knowledge and experience and enabled me to advance to become where I am today.

### What are some characteristics which an effective leader ought to possess?

A strong personality, charisma and an exemplary character.

### In your opinion, what makes a good hotelier? What do you think constitutes a good hotel?

A good hotelier is someone who has a good understanding of the needs and expectations of the guests and is able to provide them with what they want while a good hotel is one which is able to provide professional, friendly and efficient services to the guests.

### What are your plans and goal for the YWCA Fort Canning Lodge?

The challenge for the future will be to reorganise the existing team to increase team performance and to maximise productivity. Other than developing their skills, I also hope to set a strategic direction for the team and guide them towards this course. My goal will be to increase the Lodge's rating to one notch higher.

### If you were not in this industry, what would you be doing right now?

I am sure I would be in a job which fits my personal interest.

## Mr William Tan Head Chef

Interviewed by Karen Chay



Renown in the local culinary scene, Chef William Tan Ka Heng is another new addition to the YWCA, joining the Fort Canning Lodge as its Head Chef in 2009. Chef William, whose culinary career spans over an impressive 38 years, was formerly the chef of leading hotels under the Shangri-La and the Intercontinental Groups in Singapore. He has also participated in many international competitions and has won many prestigious awards, bearing witness to his culinary talent and his passion

for food. Chef William's culinary philosophy is to always use the finest quality ingredients coupled with innovative cooking methods in the preparation of food. Although his specialty is Western cuisine, Chef William is also well-versed in Asian cooking and can whip up palatable local dishes such as chicken rice, chicken curry, bak kut teh, seafood pan-cake, Nonya lor bak and crab meat ball.

### How would you describe yourself?

Creative, a team player & adaptable.

### What do you enjoy most about your profession?

My greatest satisfaction comes from being able to provide a wonderful and pleasant dining experience for my customers. I enjoy creating wonderful and delectable dishes for them and seeing their happy and satisfied faces after their meal. I also enjoy offering personalised services to my customers by meeting their preferences and special dietary requirements.

### When did you develop an interest in cooking?

I first became interested in cooking because of my mother who was a great cook herself. She was a huge influence in my decision to pursue a culinary career.

### What is your claim to fame?

I was a frequent participant of world culinary competitions and have bagged medals from competitions held in New Zealand, Switzerland, Vancouver, Frankfurt, Luxemburg and various Asian countries. I was also a judge for the biennial Food Asia Salon Culinary from 1992 to 2006.

### What are your signature dishes? Where do you draw your inspiration for your award-winning creations?

All my award-winning dishes are my signature dishes such as veal loin stuffed with king prawn, lobster terrine & lemongrass flavoured creamy seafood soup and many other dishes. In my career, I have travelled extensively and I draw my inspiration from around the world. I like to experiment with the different flavours and elements of the best of world cuisines. With a skilful combination of the right ingredients, I am able to create unique fusion dishes.

### What are your favourite local dishes?

Chicken rice, chicken curry, Hokkien prawn mee.

### If you were not a chef, what would you be?

I was born to be a chef.

## BBQ for YWCA Kids' Club's Volunteers

On 20 June 2009, the Youth Sub-Committee organised a BBQ for the volunteers from Kids' Club in the evening at 5pm. The BBQ was held at the YWCA Kids' Club premises. Although it was a small gathering of about 12 people, it was a great opportunity for non-stop eating, fellowship and getting to know one another better. No BBQ will be complete without good food and fun games!! There was a sumptuous spread of food consisting of stingrays, prawns, sotongs, crabstick, sausages, chicken wings, lava cakes, marshmallows, potato chips and a variety of flavoured drinks. Everyone had such a wonderful time eating and playing games with forfeits such as 'truth or dare' and 'water parade' that the volunteers played for hours and only left for home at 12.15am!



## Kids' Club's Fun Day Out

With Volunteers from MDA's Care Connexion Department



30 children from the YWCA Kids' Club were treated to a 'Fun Day Out' on Friday, 25 June 2009. This outing was jointly organised with the Care Connexion department of Media Development Authority (MDA). The volunteers brought the children to West Coast Park where they played at the playground and several mass games as well. Lunch was at McDonalds where the children were pleasantly surprised by a magic show presentation and a 'blessed dip' where many presents were given away. Many children squealed in excitement when the volunteers distributed goodie bags for everyone. The outing ended with an educational visit to the Science Centre. The children shared that they enjoyed themselves tremendously and were overjoyed to receive so many goodies.





# Building Homes, Building Lives – Habitat for Humanity Singapore's Batam Build Project

By Karen Chay

Most of us probably have never set foot on a construction site and engaged in sweat-inducing laborious menial tasks under the scorching hot sun. I had the opportunity to experience working on a construction site when the YWCA partnered with Habitat for Humanity Singapore for a three-day home building project in Batam from 4 – 6 June 2009. The aim of this project is to eliminate homelessness and poverty housing by constructing simple, decent and affordable houses for low-income families in Batam. Because of Lee Foundation's kind and generous donation of \$8,000 towards the participation costs for the entire team, the YWCA was thus able to send a team of 10 consisting of two staff and eight volunteers from different walks of life to participate in this meaningful home building project.

A week prior to the trip, we were given a pre-departure briefing by a staff of Habitat for Humanity Singapore on the dos and the don'ts at the worksite and the cultural background of the Batam people so that we won't commit any cultural taboos. We were also shown a video which gave us a better idea of what to expect on this trip.



*Removing all the nails on the wooden doors and walls*

Our home partner was Parlin Rambe, a housewife, and her husband, Nurbaiti Rambe, a labourer with a monthly income of IDR 2,200,000 (approximately SGD 315.00). The Rambes have two young children, Ernawati and Suci Ramahdani, who are 5 years old and 2 years old respectively, and they are expecting their third child. As we were the first team of volunteers to start on the construction works for the Rambe's new house, we had the privilege of laying the foundation for subsequent building works. Our immediate task was to demolish the old house to make way for the new house. After we were briefed on safety instructions and given a demonstration on how to remove the nails, wooden boards and doors from the house, we put on our gloves, used whatever tools were available – crowbar, hammer, spanner, screwdriver - and started enthusiastically on our first task of the day. It did not take us long to remove all the wooden boards and doors and all that were left standing from the original house were the wooden beam structures, which were left to the professional construction team to tear down.

Next, we were taught how to use pieces of wires to tie reinforcing steel bars together to form the foundation beams for the new house. After a few hours of bending down as we tied the wires to the bars, our backs started to ache and our fingers were sore. At the end of the first day, we were all exhausted after a day's of hard work and retired early to conserve our energy for the next day.



*Digging the septic tank Tying of wires*

As we were ahead of our schedule for the construction of our home partner's house, over the next two days, other than working on the foundation beams for the Rambe's house, we also assisted in the construction works of another house nearby, which was also under the Habitat programme. Together with the other team of Habitat volunteers from Amazing Grace Presbyterian Church, we divided ourselves into groups – some of us tied wires around the steel bars, some took turns to dig a septic tank, others mixed cement, yet others dug soil for the levelling of the ground and transported the soil using wheelbarrows, while some formed a human chain to pass bricks for the construction of the wall. Regardless of the task we were engaged in, whether great or small, each of us contributed to the building process. Even our home partners were working diligently alongside us providing the required hours of sweat equity into the building of their new homes. Despite the occasional language barrier between us and the local community, it was heartening to see this barrier broken down as we set aside our differences and worked towards a common goal. The local community was also helpful and friendly and made us feel at home with their hospitable spirit.

On the last day, each of us received a certificate of appreciation from the Habitat for Humanity Indonesia, which was a tangible symbol of our accomplishment and a reminder that we had survived three days at the work site. I came expecting to change lives but little did I expect to be changed instead. The joy and satisfaction of being able to make a difference in our home partner's life are immeasurable. As I observed the simple lifestyle of the local community, I understood what "true joy comes from contentment" meant. The locals may not possess much material comforts or wealth but they were grateful for what little they had. This trip was a humbling experience and I took home important lessons on gratitude, thankfulness and contentment. Instead of having a discontented and complaining spirit, we can take time to give thanks for the small pleasures in life.



*The YWCA team together with Habitat for Humanity Batam Staff and our Home Partner*

# YWCA AGM 2009



The Annual General Meeting of the YWCA was held on 30 April 2009 at the YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Sophia Cooke Ballroom. An Award Ceremony was conducted earlier for recipients of the Long Service Awards and the Kindergarten and Child Development Centres, which received awards in recognition of their outstanding achievements and performance over a period of five years. This year, the Most Improved Centre Award was awarded to three centres namely Outram Child CDC, Outram Kindergarten and West Coast CDC. Bukit Gombak CDC was once again named Centre with Consistent Performance and Ang Mo Kio CDC was crowned the

Best Centre for having shown tremendous improvements as reflected in its ability to turnaround quickly and its increasing enrolment. Congratulations to all the award recipients and keep up the good work!

This year, the YWCA called for an Extraordinary General Meeting to approve changes to be made to the YWCA Constitution. Members who were present gave their vote of approval to the proposed changes after which the Annual General Meeting was called to order. Our YWCA President, Ms Tan Kee Leng, delivered a report on the activities and the achievements of the YWCA for the year 2008/2009 which saw yet another eventful year for the Y where new programmes were started and more members were recruited. After the announcement of the new Board of Management for the year 2009 – 2010, Reverend Melvin Huang, our YWCA Chaplain, delivered a short meditation before dedicating the Members of the Board to the Lord as they renewed their commitment to serve the community.

We would like to thank God for blessing the YWCA abundantly over the years. May the Lord continue to grant the new Board of Management wisdom, strength and courage as they spearhead the Association to achieve even greater successes for His glory. We look forward to yet another exciting and fruitful year for the YWCA in spite of the tough times ahead!

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND COMMITTEES (2009 – 2010)

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

<b>President</b>	Ms Tan Kee Leng
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Mrs Ma Kheng Min Ms Mavis Tsoi
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Ms Gloria Tan
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	Mrs Gan Soh Huan
<b>Members</b>	Mrs Margaret Chew Ms Foo Chek Chiang Mrs Ho Lay Hong Ms Vachila Marimuthu Mrs Jennifer Ng Mrs Maureen Nguee Ms Janet Tan Ms Nancy Tan Mrs Dorothy Tessensohn Mrs Dancy Thong

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>Chairperson</b>	Ms Tan Kee Leng
<b>Members</b>	Mrs Ma Kheng Min Ms Mavis Tsoi Ms Gloria Tan Mrs Gan Soh Huan Mrs Margaret Chew Mrs Jennifer Ng

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mrs Margaret Chew
<b>Members</b>	Mrs Jennifer Ng Mrs Dorothy Tessensohn

### APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

<b>Chairperson</b>	Ms Tan Kee Leng
<b>Members</b>	Mrs Ma Kheng Min Ms Mavis Tsoi Ms Gloria Tan Mrs Gan Soh Huan

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

<b>Chairperson</b>	Ms Gloria Tan
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	Mrs Ma Kheng Min
<b>Members</b>	Mrs Maureen Nguee Ms Nancy Tan Mr Teo Ser Khiam

### BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mrs Gan Soh Huan
<b>Members</b>	Mrs Loh-Chiam Shock Yuen Ms Mavis Tsoi
<b>Resource Consultant</b>	Ms Anne Chua Mr Ng Jit Chin

### NATIONAL COMMITTEES

#### Child Development Programme Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mrs Ma Kheng Min
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Ms Foo Chek Chiang
<b>Members</b>	Ms Chin Phaik Sue Ms Pearl Tan Ms Dorene Yeo

#### Community Outreach & Fund Raising Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Ms Foo Chek Chiang
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Mrs Jennifer Ng
<b>Members</b>	Ms Gan Meng Meng Mrs Ho Lay Hong Ms Ong Bee Yong Mrs Ow Ay Giok Ms Angeline Tan Mrs Wee Kung Ling Mrs Janet Yee

#### Finance & Investment Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mrs Gan Soh Huan
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Ms Mavis Tsoi
<b>Members</b>	Ms Foo Chek Chiang Ms Vachila Marimuthu Ms Dorene Yeo

#### Fort Canning Lodge Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Ms Mavis Tsoi
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Mrs Gan Soh Huan
<b>Members</b>	Mrs Loh-Chiam Shock Yuen Ms Vachila Marimuthu Mrs Jennifer Ng Ms Gloria Tan Mrs Dancy Thong

### Human Resource & Administration Committee

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<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Ms Gloria Tan
<b>Members</b>	Ms Foo Chek Chiang Mrs Ma Kheng Min Mrs Jennifer Ng Ms Nancy Tan
<b>Resource Consultant</b>	Ms Charlotte Thng

### Membership & Programmes Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mrs Dancy Thong
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Mrs Maureen Nguee
<b>Members</b>	Mr Chia Yong Jian Mrs Jennifer Liaw Mrs Anne Loh Mrs Jennifer Ng Ms Janet Tan Mr Wallace Zeng

### Projects Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Ms Tan Kee Leng
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Mrs Dancy Thong
<b>Members</b>	Ms Anne Chua Mrs Ho Lay Hong (in charge of Charis Crafts) Ms Janet Tan

### Publicity & Publications Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Ms Tan Kee Leng
<b>Vice-Chairperson</b>	Ms Janet Tan
<b>Members</b>	Ms Foo Chek Chiang Mrs Ma Kheng Min Mrs Dancy Thong

### SUB-COMMITTEES

#### Bazaar Sub-Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mrs Dancy Thong
<b>Members</b>	Mrs Ho Lay Hong Mrs Jennifer Liaw Mrs Anne Loh Mrs Jennifer Ng Mrs Maureen Nguee Mrs Dorothy Tessensohn



# HR Announcements

## Welcome New Staff

The YWCA is pleased to welcome new staff joining the team. We welcome Goh Soo Hong (Finance Manager), Peng Hock Lai and Razalee Bin Dolah (Attendants) at NOF; Yin Min Thu (Health Care Attendant) at ADC; Noorhaini Bte Mohamed (Teacher) and Leow Nyuk Phin (Teacher Aide) at Ang Mo Kio CDC; Oo Ai Choo (Assistant Teacher) at Bedok CDC; Grace Chan (Principal), Ang Poh Lian (Attendant) and Nurizan Bte Osman (Assistant Teacher) at Bukit Gombak CDC; Chua Swee Keow (Learning Support Teacher) at ESU; Jiang Xu and Lai Mui Woon (Assistant Teachers) and Eunice Tan (Office Secretary) at Jurong East CDC; Deng XiaoYan (Language Teacher), Gao Jie (Assistant Teacher) and Joyce Wong May May (Teacher) at McNair CDC; Nor Azah Bte Mohd (Teacher) at Marine Drive CDC; Kamini d/o Jeyakumar and Yeo Siew Lay (Teachers), Lee Choon Ing and Visalini d/o Tana Paling (Assistant Teachers) and Cynthia Lee (Teacher Aide) at Outram CDC; Merkaren Taig Kwai Ying (Teacher) at Pasir Ris CDC and Sivarangini d/o Singarasu (Teacher Aide) at West Coast CDC.

At Fort Canning Lodge, we welcome Louis Than (General Manager), Queenie Cheong (Linen/Uniform Supervisor), Khor Wei Ming (Chef De Partie), William Tan (Head Chef), Thomas Teoh (Duty Manager), Evelyne Leong (Sales Manager – Rooms), Xie Cong Cong (Night Cleaner), Ananthi d/o Gunasegaran (Housekeeping Supervisor), Latifa Bte A. Hadi (Room Attendant), Perabagaran a/l Patmanathan (F&B Junior Captain) and Abdul Hanis Bin Abdul Karim (Technician).

## 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!

### Charis Crafts

Charis Crafts 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 Celest Ling at tel: 6223 127 or email: [celestling@ywca.org.sg](mailto:celestling@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](http://www.ywca.org.sg) or contact Ms Chu Wai Puay at tel: 6223 1227 or email: [waiPuay@ywca.org.sg](mailto:waiPuay@ywca.org.sg).**

### Christian Growth Sub-Committee

**Chairperson** Ms Janet Tan  
**Vice-Chairperson** Mrs Maureen Nguée  
**Members** Mrs Catherine Chan  
Mrs Heng-Lim Gaik Kee  
Mrs Jennifer Ng  
Mrs Yap-Liao Siew  
Keam

### Golden Y Fellowship Sub-Committee

**Chairperson** Mrs Jennifer Ng  
**Vice-Chairperson** Mrs Yap-Liao Siew  
Keam  
**Members** Mrs Catherine Chan  
Mdm Maureen Chan  
Mrs Heng-Lim Gaik Kee  
Mrs Ho Lay Hong  
Mrs Magdelene Lee  
Mdm Susan Lye  
Mdm Wendy Lye  
Mrs Christina Ong  
Mrs Mona Soh

### Kindergarten Management Committee

**Chairperson** Mrs Ma Kheng Min  
**Vice-Chairperson** Ms Foo Chek Chiang  
**Members** Ms Chin Phaik Sue  
Ms Pearl Tan  
Ms Dorene Yeo

### Connexion Committee

**Chairperson** Ms Janet Tan  
**Members** Ms Anne Chua  
Mrs Ma Kheng Min  
Mrs Dancy Thong

### Youth Sub-Committee

**Chairperson** Mr Wallace Zeng  
**Members** Ms Rosemary Chan  
Ms Sharlene Chang  
Mr Ho Weijie  
Mr Kliff Lee  
Ms Alice Lin

### YWCA Book Committee

**Chairperson** Ms Tan Kee Leng  
**Members** Ms Foo Chek Chiang  
Mrs Jennifer Ng  
Ms Janet Tan

### YWCA Cookbook Committee

**Chairperson** Ms Tan Kee Leng  
**Members** Mrs Jennifer Ng  
Mr Jeremy Nguée  
Mrs Maureen Nguée  
Ms Janet Tan  
Mrs Dorothy Tessensohn  
Mrs Dancy Thong

## History of the YWCA

In 1974, in order to meet the growing need for expansion of the work of the Association in Jurong, seven units in another block were rented to provide services for children and adults. A library was also set up in Jurong. However due to the changing needs in the community, the flats were subsequently returned to the Jurong Town Corporation and the Jurong Centre office shifted back to the YWCA House at Yung An Road.

In 1975, the YWCA celebrated 100 years of faithful and dedicated service to the community. That year also happened to be the International Women's Year, adding on to the joyous occasion. In celebration, a range of activities was organised including a Thanksgiving Service, a Forum, a consultation with YWCA leaders in ASEAN, an International Food Festival, a Pageant and a Dinner.

## Joy Talk – Lunchtime Fellowship

Date : 31 August 2009 (Mon)  
- Ms Lucy Lim (VisionTrust)  
: 28 September 2009 (Mon)  
- Dr Matthew Lim (International Baptist Church)  
: 26 October 2009 (Mon)  
- Mr Hambali Leonardi (St Andrew's Cathedral)  
: 30 November 2009 (Mon)  
- Pastor William Wong (Covenant Evangelical Free Church)  
Time : 12.20pm – 1.30pm  
Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Quiet Room (Level 2)  
Fee : Admission Free

For enquiries, please contact Wenhui @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: wenhui@ywca.org.sg.

## Bible Study (For Ladies)

Date : Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday  
Time : 6.30pm – 8.00pm  
Venue : YWCA Outram Centre  
Fee : FOC

For enquiries, please contact Wenhui @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: wenhui@ywca.org.sg.

## Golden Y Fellowship

Date : Every Monday  
Time : 10.30am - 1.00pm  
Venue : YWCA Outram Centre  
Fee : \$4 (Home-Cooked Lunch)

For enquiries, please contact Wendy @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: wendyingo@ywca.org.sg.

## Swimming For Ladies - Beginners (8 Sessions Per Module)

Date : Every Tuesday OR Thursday  
Time : 7.00pm - 7.45pm (Tuesday)  
: 6.45 pm – 7.30 pm (Thursday)  
Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Swimming Pool (Level 3)  
Fee : \$123 (Member); \$143 (Non-Member)

For registration or enquiries, please contact Wenhui @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: wenhui@ywca.org.sg.

## Aqua Aerobics Classes (8 Sessions Per Module)

Date : Every Wednesday OR Friday  
Time : 6.45pm - 7.45pm  
Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Swimming Pool (Level 3)  
Fee : \$80 (Member); \$90 (Non-Member)

For registration or enquiries, please contact Wenhui @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: wenhui@ywca.org.sg.

## Pre-School Aquatics/ Children's Swimming Program (4 Sessions Per Module)

Date : Every Saturday  
Time : 3.15pm – 4.00pm  
Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Swimming Pool (Level 3)  
Fee : \$165 (Member); \$180 (Non-Member)

For enquiries, please contact Wenhui @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: wenhui@ywca.org.sg.

## YWCA Monthly Lunchtime Talks

Date : 2 September 2009 (Wed) – Ageing Gracefully (Senior volunteer from Tsao Foundation)  
: 7 October 2009 (Wed) - Why we make poor decisions and how to overcome them (Mr Ian Dyason)  
Time : 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm  
Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Joy and Peace Room (Level 3)  
Fee : Admission Free

For registration or enquiries, please contact Wai Puay @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: waipuay@ywca.org.sg. Please check our website [www.ywca.org.sg](http://www.ywca.org.sg) regularly for updates.

## YWCA Sports' Day cum Family Day

Date : 26 September 2009 (Sat)  
Time : 9.00 am – 1.00 pm  
Venue : Toa Payoh Recreation Sports Hall

## K2 Graduation Concert

Date : 23 October 2009 (Friday)  
Time : 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm  
Venue : 100, Victoria Street, 3rd storey, National Library, Singapore 188064  
Theme : Once upon a time in Singapore ...

## YWCA Senior Citizens' Lunch

Date : 20 November 2009 (Fri)  
Time : 11.00 am – 2.00 pm  
Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Sophia Cooke Ballroom (Level 2)  
Fee : To be confirmed

There will be a special talk conducted by Tsao Foundation entitled "Creating a happy mind in your golden years". This talk covers the importance of mental well being in ageing, the psychological impact of the ageing process and the skills and abilities to manage this impact.

For registration or enquiries, please contact Wai Puay @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: waipuay@ywca.org.sg.

## YWCA Christmas Bazaar

Date : 12 December 2009 (Sat)  
Time : 10.00 am – 3.00 pm  
Venue : YWCA Fort Canning Lodge, Sophia Cooke Ballroom (Level 2)  
Fee : Admission Free

For registration or enquiries, please contact Renu @ tel: 6221 4335 or email: renuwinson@ywca.org.sg.

## Chinese New Year Shopping Trip

Date : 30 January 2010 (Sat)  
Time : To be confirmed  
Venue : To be confirmed  
Fee : To be confirmed

For registration or enquiries, please contact Wai Puay @ tel: 6223 1227 or email: waipuay@ywca.org.sg.



# Acts of Kindness

By Linda Loo  
Principal, Outram Kindergarten

"Mommy, daddy. Today I learn to show compassion," is probably something different from the typical things you expect to hear from your child.

ABCs and 123s are not the only important things in your child's growth. Compassion is a quality which so many of us lack today – even adults. Although the world constantly neglects people who are in need and are crying out for help, we are often not moved to show a little compassion to those around us.



The children from Outram Kindergarten get a head start and they learn how to show love and compassion to those around them through a programme "In love, serve one another". This programme teaches the children valuable lessons beyond their colourful classroom and they learn to spread joy to others rather than playing with their toys; to bring smiles to the faces of others rather than just having their favourite candy by themselves.

On some occasions, the children are brought to the YWCA Adult Day Care Centre to mingle with the elderly and spread some warmth and cheer into the lives of the elderly. During the Chinese New Year period, on "Acts of Kindness" day which was held on 29 January 2009, the children participated in the distribution of canned food to the elderly beneficiaries of the YWCA Meals-on-Wheels for Elderly programme. Through this event, the children witnessed for themselves that not everyone was as fortunate as them and this was a good opportunity for them to learn how to show compassion by caring for others and through a simple act of kindness.

On another occasion, in celebration of the Lion Befrienders' 10th year anniversary which was held on 28 March 2008, the children were invited to put up a performance for the elderly at Mei Ling Street Neighbourhood Link. The children had put in time and effort to make the performance a wonderful and enjoyable experience for the elderly. As the elderly watched with much enthusiasm, smiles were spotted on their faces.

The world today is very much different in comparison to what it was like a few years ago. Tomorrow, it will be different once again. However, one thing which will remain forever would be the compassion which we cultivate in our hearts.



*The world might be filled with torment & pain,  
it is up to you to make it change.  
Let us pass the spark Jesus made,  
let us be the guardian against its fade*

"But godliness with contentment is great gain." 1 Timothy 6:6

# Whole Language Approach to Reading

By Jane Wong  
Principal, West Coast CDC

YWCA West Coast CDC started using the whole language approach for our structured reading programme since 2008. We realised that children, especially the K1s and K2s, still have problems with reading hence we incorporated this approach into our reading programme to help children get a head start in their reading.

We are using the Ginn's reading programme and the children will start reading with phonics. The centre has been turned into a print rich environment so that the children will have opportunities to interact with reading and writing to build up their literacy skills. Using words from the Ginn's reading books, the children compose songs and play words games such as bingo, snap, scrabble and snake and ladder. The reading corners are also filled with prints of words that the children are unable to read.

Outdoor activities are also planned for the children to aid them in their learning. For example, when the children were reading the book, "Come for a ride", they were brought to a nearby park for a ride on various modes of transport such as tricycles and scooters with played flashing word games with the words "fast", "go", "come" and "stop". The children rode towards the teacher when they saw the word "come" and moved away when they saw the word "go". After the outdoor activity, the children were encouraged to write their own songs using the words on the flashcards.

The children enjoyed the activities and the reading programme and showed improvement in their reading. Parents were also pleased to learn that their children have gained confidence and have developed an interest in reading.



## Thank You Note from Parent:

My son has been studying in the YWCA West Coast CDC since nursery one. He was in the integrated programme with mild autism. When he first started, he had a hard time adjusting. Thanks to the teachers' patience, he adjusted slowly into the programme.

I want to thank Ms Jane for her confidence in Trusten's ability and persuaded me to let him perform in the concert. At first I was skeptical but gave it a try anyway. During the rehearsals, Ms Jane would encourage and assure me that Trusten was doing well and he was able to follow the steps. It was indeed a success for Trusten to be able to perform in the concert. My son, Trusten, had a very good learning experience in the YWCA West Coast CDC and I am very grateful to all the teachers and Ms Jane for their patience and the help rendered to my son and me.

Mrs Ng