



筲箕灣官立中學 校友會通訊



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筲箕灣官立中學校友會
SGSS Alumni Association

會長的話：

SGSS 45th ANNIVERSARY

陳少珠

近期校友會的工作目標重點是透過不同的渠道接觸筲官的校友，在全體理事及執委會成員衷誠合作下，張佩玲副會長努力不懈地和有效地管理及經常更新網頁，接受校友的電郵查詢及回覆；郭壽光司庫全方位接聽熱線及處理傳真熱線，加上向80年代入學的同學發出過千封呼籲函件；定期製作會訊，專訪校友及報導母校消息等，反應令全體執委會成員極之鼓舞。有部分接到呼籲訊息，立即加入成為永久會員的，而在今次的會訊中，各位校友可讀到有關幾位透過上述方法與我們 Reconnected 的舊同學，有親自撰文或專程回港出席同學聚會及接受訪問的，從而勾起我們對母校、老師和同學等各樣的回憶和思念。我期待著有更多的校友與我們 reconnect，希望各位透過上述方法與校友會重新接上，或推動你您熟悉的同學回歸，一同迎接母校四十五週年的來臨。

“GETTING RECONNECTED BY ALL MEANS” Alumnus from the Canada, Mr Albert Wai, Year 1964

After writing the article the last time, I then really took some time to enjoy our SGSS AA newsletters which were indeed pristinely produced. Much effort of many could be seen behind the pages.

Reading Shirley Chan's article really shocked me. I remember meeting Ma Toh Toh [who was shown in photo in Shirley's issue] when I was one of those canvassing for a caterer to our graduating F. 5 "Thank the Teachers Banquet". If I recall correctly, she had just returned from studying for a hospitality degree in Paris/France and was taking up a senior position with a reputable hotel. We were directed to her just for price comparison, and of course her hotel's price blew us all away. What was really shocking was that I probably had spoken with Shirley on the phone during her Continental Airlines' days over a good fare offer for their Nyack/New York to HongKong flight! [I should have e-mailed Shirley to confirm before putting this in writing but time is never on your side when the editor is after your material.]

Looking just at my SGSS years, I could be called quite an irresponsible student. However, the academics I did and the extra-curricular activities [ECA] I participated in did help my career for years up to today. I was enjoying it, but as F. 4 approached and the reality of family needs became overbearing, I sort of used that enjoyment to numb myself and I don't think I'd put in my best to get the best graduation grades so that I might get a better job. In the very first exam at F. 1, I was third - behind Susan Pao [in Canada, according to our very own 1969 Head Prefect and Head Boy Li KiKit (Morcar) who is in Toronto for some 30 years, married to beautiful Sylvia, both enjoying their 4 children] and second another female student probably Cynthia



Family Photo

Chu [was in Canada, now working in China also per the same source] - wonderful! That meant just among boys, I was first! Wow!

But of course, my ego brought me down and I could just never get anywhere close. While I wasn't altogether doing that bad, the fact was in the year following the first heart transplant was successfully done in Cape Town/South Africa by Dr. Christian Barnard, in 1968 the teachers had to transplant the marks from my best subject to cover the failure I ACHIEVED in Chinese Literature! This cost me a second prize in Chemistry for that year! That of course had top approval. But I am not sure if the "statute of limitations" for such an issue had expired or not, so I would rather not disclose the good but broken-

hearted teacher who had to handle my case.

To make your memories keep coming back, I will dwell on this in honour of SGSS, certainly not personal glory. It wasn't a thing that was done to every student, I was told. Because since F.1 [1964], like Shirley in this respect, I was pulled to participate in many Inter-school Music Festival competitions and other speaking contests, solo speaking and choral, English [mostly] and Chinese, all the way to F.4, bringing for SGSS many awards comparable to Shirley. I think I participated only in one solo contest in F. 4 because that year I was chosen to lead the inter-school "Right You Are!" English news contest team on the then Rediffusion English TV! Along with me were the female continents of Cynthia Chu and Cheung YuenMei as members, plus one more in reserve [sorry I just cannot recall who it was!]. Somehow, SGSS did not have to go to the basic round and went straight to the second round. That did not give us too much of a break because our opponent had defeated one school already, had the experience, and must be good themselves! It was St. Joseph's Boys Secondary School [mid-levels] and I am sure everyone thought it was a done deal before the contest even began - St. Joseph will go to the quarter-final! But at the last question, St. Joseph was incorrect in their answer and so was turned over to us. I don't recall who gave the answer but was the correct answer. And we won by that answer, getting a full score!

Into quarter-final we went. But then again my [not the other team members'] ego was at work and we were defeated by Maryknoll Girls' Secondary School [I think]. But given the fame of both opposing schools, we considered ourselves "well done" anyway. Going into F.5 and the short-lived L.6, I was elected the secretary of practically every association and society, of Lion House, and of even the Folk Music Club even though I'd never [even up till now] played a guitar before! I chaired one or two. My lunch and after-school hours were basically between adjudicating debates, or in bridge tournaments, or as librarian. Where did I find time to study? That's exactly the

scenario I put myself in. "Mak Sir" I am sure you older folks like me will recall, used to be in charge of the school library for quite a few years. He later told me after the graduation exam result was out, that my gifts would suit more as an Arts student than Science. But then, you all will agree, most of us were succumbed to a biased mentality in those years.

One more setback was on me. I was very fond of aircrafts - commercial, military and helicopters. I was living in North Point along the tram tracks, which means that I had a full view of planes going through Kai Tak Airport. In a nutshell, from across the harbour, I could still tell the difference between a Boeing 727 and a Trident. Insiders would know how difficult that was. I had read widely on propeller and jet engines before we were taught that in our Physics class, and acquired all badges of Boy and Senior Scouts' pertinent to air mechanics and aviation as a member of the 81st HK Island Group. For a while, I was confident that even if I could not get into matriculation/university because of the low score of my exam result or my family financial background, I could get into HAECO and be an air apprentice. But alas, of the only three subjects they tested us on, I got through with English and Maths. but failed in physics. I really dropped like a bomb on me. But then a consolation prize from a South China Morning Post contest on the life of 5-star General and past US. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who died that year, gave me an uplift. Jackie Kam [later married to Amy Lai, both renowned athletes of SGSS], David Wong KaKui, Lee JunYan, and probably more.

But as I said in the previous article, though thankfully SGSS was gracious enough to accept me into L.6 in spite of my deficient grades, that lasted for two months and I began my working career in November. Any glimpse of post-secondary school education was lost, to me at the time.

■ *By Albert*

Brief Pertinent Bio:

- North Point Government Primary (P.M.) School, P. 1-6, 1958-64.
- ShauKeiWan Government Secondary School, F. 1-L.6, 1964-69.
- Award recipient of numerous Chinese and English Music Festival and speech contests from F.1 - F.4; and active in debate competition and adjudication.
- Leader of SGSS school team to compete in "Right You Are!" English Rediffusion TV news contest in 1968.
- Member of 81st HongKong Island Scout Group.
- Had been secretaries and chairs of many school club/associations and Lion House.
- Graduate of HongKong International School of Accountancy, 1970-71.
- Master of Theological Studies [神學碩士], 1990-2001
- Ontario Theological Seminary [now known as Tyndale University College & Seminary].
- Chair, Alumni Association - Chinese Chapter, OTS/TUCS; 2004-6.
- Founding Board Chair, Herald Monthly Canada, 1991-1992.
- Advisor, Herald Monthly Canada; since 1999.
- Board Member, Showers of Blessing Evangelistic Ministry, 1993-2004.
- Board Chair, Ad 2000 & Beyond Advertising Inc., since incorporation in 1993; and holding honorary directorship and other capacities in various organizations;
- Wife Daisy: President, Ad2000 & Beyond Advertising Inc., since incorporation;
- recipient of Queen Elizabeth II's 50th Anniversary Coronation Medal, 2003; and holding chair and directorships in various organizations, including Herald Monthly Canada, York Region Police Services Board; etc.