



# 北美風沙 The North American LaSallians

Jun 2017

## Invitation

### La Salle College Old Boys Global Reunion 2018 August 1 – 8, 2018

#### Announcement of new Plan B Cost option

Dear Old Boys,

Based on the initial feedback from the Old Boys community, the GR Preparation Committee is pleased to announce the new "Plan B" cost options for the Standard Package and the Miami Package. Please kindly visit our website [www.2018lsc reunion.com](http://www.2018lsc reunion.com) for updates and details.

These Plan B options provide additional affordability and flexibility for everyone. However, under this arrangement, the cruise company will not be able to guarantee all our staterooms after July 15, 2017 as the cruise season for 2018 is getting a very hot start. Therefore, please review the options and let us know as soon as you can, because situation may get complicated after July 15, 2017.

Please accept our apology for any inconvenience caused to you. We are working continuously to make this Global Reunion a huge successful, but your participation is essential. Please help to spread the news to all Old Boys. Many thanks in advance.

Regards,

Peter Lai (1967)

Chair, GR Prep Committee

[WWW.2018LSCREUNION.COM](http://WWW.2018LSCREUNION.COM)

## About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication among La Salle College old boys residing in North America. However, it shall not be used as a tool to promote any personal agenda. The editorial board therefore reserves the right to review and edit all submissions to ensure that no inappropriate contents appear in any issue of this newsletter. The editorial board also reserves the right to reject any submission that is not in line with the objective of this newsletter. Please send all your communications to [editors@lscobaedm.org](mailto:editors@lscobaedm.org).

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

Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members :

East Coast (USA)	Christopher Tse (1965), Peter Lai (1967)
Edmonton	Calvin Chan (1971)
San Francisco Bay Area	Ephrem Fung (1976), Ambrose Lee (1998)
Southern California	Eddie Shek (1985)
Toronto	Felix Leung (1985), Kevin Kwok (1988), Jimmy Chang (1966)
Vancouver	Nick Domingo (1963), Richard Choo (1977)

## Reminders

### East Coast (USA)

#### Sunday Dim Sum Lunch

Date every Sunday  
Time noon  
Venue Asian Jewels Seafood Restaurant  
133-30 39th Avenue, Flushing NY 11354  
Tel. 718-359-8600  
Contact [dimsum@nylscoba.org](mailto:dimsum@nylscoba.org)

### Edmonton

#### Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date Jun 2, 2017 (first Friday of each month)  
Time noon  
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓  
Contact [billshwong@shaw.ca](mailto:billshwong@shaw.ca)

### Southern California

#### Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date every first Sunday  
Time noon to 2 pm  
Venue Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant  
111 N. Atlantic Blvd., 3/F, Monterey Park



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## Chapter News

### Toronto Chapter

#### La Salle Day Dinner and AGM

Submitted by Philip Wong ('67)

About 100 old boys gathered at the Golden Palace Banquet Hall in Markham on May 15 to celebrate La Salle Day as well as attending our Annual General Meeting. The range of HKCEE years of our attending old boys spans close to eight decades, with Johnny Yung ('41) being the most senior and several young graduates who left La Salle last year. We were very pleased to have a table of seniors, headed by Peter Leung, our Honorary President and one of the founders of the Toronto Chapter over 30 years ago. We also had the pleasure of being joined by several retired teachers: Joseph Yu, Lawrence Leung and Edmond Lau - all regular attendees of our chapter functions. The classes of 66, 69 and 71 showed their La Salle spirit by forming their own tables.



Senior members group photo



Junior members group photo

On the election of the Directors for the 2017 -2019 term, 12 existing directors Albert Ho ('53), Jimmy Chang ('66), William Chan ('69), Ambrose Cheung ('69), Peter Lau ('69), Francis Yeung ('71), Peter Chan ('72), Paul Wong ('73), John Yeung ('73), Felix Leung ('85), Kevin Kwok ('88) and Chris Fong ('94) decided to continue their valuable service to the chapter and they were joined by three new members: Michael Mau ('65), Gordon Tam ('77) and Raymond Dau ('91). All positions were acclaimed, and the new Board will meet in June to elect amongst themselves the various officers. Below is a photo of the new Board members.



Back: Raymond Dau (91), Felix Leung (85), Francis Yeung (71), Ambrose Cheung (69), Chris Fong (94), Gordon Tam (77), Peter Lau (70)  
Front: Kevin Kwok (88), Michael Mau (65), Jimmy Chang (66), Albert Ho (53), Peter Leung (53), Philip Wong (67), Peter Chan (72), William Chan (69), John Yeung (73)



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On a personal note, I am stepping down after 4 years as Chapter President. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve on the Board and my heartfelt thanks to everyone, in particular, those that worked very hard to make the Toronto Global Reunion 2016 a success. I wish the new Board the very best to carry forward its tradition of welcoming all old boys and connect them as members of the La Salle family.

Philip Wong ('67)

Immediate Past President

## Gathering with Nick Domingo from Vancouver







## Special Contribution

This 10-part series, contributed by William Lai (1961), is based on his trip to Israel and Jordan in 2016. There are a lot of Biblical quotes in the article. William wishes to note that he uses King James Version for the quotes.

Our readers are also encouraged to express their views here in the Newsletter any time. Please send your contributions to [editors@lscobaedm.org](mailto:editors@lscobaedm.org). The Editorial Board of this Newsletter reserves the right to edit submissions to ensure quality and the right to make final decisions whether to publish any article or not to protect the integrity of this Newsletter.

Editors

### The Promised Land (Part 1 of 10)

William Lai (1961)

*And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land.*

Genesis 12:7

And God said to Moses:

*And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan.*

Exodus 6:4

*And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for a heritage.*

Exodus 6:8

### A promising education

It has been over half a century since I left La Salle. It has been said that you can take the boy out of La Salle, but you cannot take La Salle out of the boy (or the septuagenarian). There are many aspects of the La Salle experience that will stay with us for life. For me, the indelible experiences included scouting and life-guarding. But the most valuable is the education I received at La Salle.

That education, by its breadth and method of delivery, had formed a solid basis for future intellectual development and understanding of world affairs. The religious component of the La Salle education, to me, played a significant part in allowing me to appreciate the world in its many forms and creeds. I still remember our Bible classes alternating with Catechism classes which were kind of a pain at the time as we had to learn passages from these holy books by heart. Failure to recite the assigned passages from memory ignited the wrath of a particular Brother who shall remain nameless. But, even to this day, the Biblical knowledge acquired in La Salle still enables me to relate to global events and places where I visit.

The Biblical education also engendered a great deal of curiosity about the occurrences and locales as described in the Bible. It had long been a desire of mine to visit these Biblical places. That desire became an item on my bucket list. My wife and I recently checked off that item by going on a "faith-based" tour to the Holy Land.

### Abraham

The concept of the "Promised Land" first appeared in Genesis as in the above quote, when God gifted "*all the land of Canaan*" (Genesis 12:7) to Abraham's "seed". The problem was that Abraham (known as Abram at the time) had no children.

Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were an aging couple of substantial means. But Sarah was barren and they were worried that they would have no descendants to inherit their wealth. (There was no IVF in those days). After some thought, Sarah urged Abraham to take in their housemaid, Hagar, an Egyptian, as some kind of concubine for the purpose of producing a child who would be a surrogate to what would have been Sarah's own offspring so that the fortune could be retained in the household. Hagar did bear Abraham a son who was named Ishmael.



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Several years later, as luck would have it, and against all odds, Sarah unexpectedly became pregnant herself and gave birth to Isaac. This turn of events completely changed Sarah's outlook on inheritance. Since Ishmael was the older sibling, he was entitled to most of the family fortune ahead of Sarah's own son, Isaac. To remedy the situation, Sarah persuaded Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. Abraham succumbed to her request and banished the two to *"the wilderness of Beer-sheba"* (Genesis 21:13).

The Lord, however, did not abandon Ishmael. Some time after they left Abraham, an Angel of God appeared to Hagar and advised her to *"Arise, lift up the lad and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation."* (Genesis 21:18).

The rest, as the saying goes, is history. Isaac's descendants became the Jews and Ishmael's the Arabs. Things have not been quiet in the Middle East ever since. Complicating the situation is the controversy surrounding the definition of "seed". God gave the land to Abraham's "seed". There was and is a contention that "seed" was used in the generic sense, meaning all descendants of Abraham. Some would, however, interpret the word in its strictest singular form, i.e. only one "seed", or one offspring. In that interpretation, only Isaac would be entitled to the land as he was the only legitimate child of Abraham. So now you can see how all these troubles originated in the Middle East. It all started with Abraham and the fights continue to this day. The millenniums-old conflicts between the Jews and the Arabs are basically a family feud gone wild.

## The tour

More about the Promised Land later. But first, back to the tour.

The organized tour, by Globus Tours, began in Tel Aviv which does not have much Biblical significance by itself. But nearby is Jaffa, known as Joppa in the Old Testament.

## Jonah and the Big Fish

In *The Book of Jonah*, the Lord asked Jonah, also called Jonas in other texts, to go to Nineveh to preach to its people *"for their wickedness is come up before me"* (Jonah 1:2). But Jonah was extremely reluctant to undertake this tasking because Ninevites and Israelites were adversaries and Jonah did not want to be involved. He tried to defy the Lord by attempting to sail to another city (Tarshish) in the opposite direction instead. In order to go to Tarshish, Jonah had to catch a boat from Joppa, or Jaffa.

But learning of his defection, *"the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea.....so that the ship was like to be broken"* (Jonah 1:4). Jonah's shipmates then found out that he had angered the Lord by disobeying Him. After some discussion, Jonah offered to be thrown overboard to calm the Lord and the seas. *"So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea; and the sea ceased from her raging"* (Jonah 1:15).

The Lord, however, had apparently prepared for this eventuality and He sent *"a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights"* (Jonah 1:17). While in the fish belly, Jonah started to pray to the Lord for help and repented.

All that was supposed to have happened in the waters off Jaffa, actually quite visible from our hotel in Tel Aviv.



Town of Jaffa with Big Fish and view of Tel Aviv



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Jaffa shoreline - Jonah was supposed to have been swallowed by the big fish in the sea around here.

The rest of the story was that the Lord had the fish spit out Jonah in Nineveh where he did eventually comply with the Lord's command to preach to the Ninevites who then rid themselves of their "wickedness" and won back God's mercy.

There are other references to Joppa in the Bible. For example, it was here that Peter performed his miracle of resurrecting the disciple Tabitha (Acts 9:36-42). A church commemorating St Peter built in 1642 is still standing.

Even Jesus himself relied on "The Sign of Jonah" to counter the Pharisees' demand for a "sign" that Jesus was qualified to do his miracles and other saintly deeds (Matthew 12:38). Jesus' reply: *"there shall be no sign....but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"* (Matthew 12:39-40). That referred to the three days and nights in his grave after the crucifixion, which meant that the sign that Jesus was indeed the Son of God would not be available until after his alleged death. He was drawing a parallel between Jonah spending time in the fish belly and then saving the Ninevites and his time in the grave and then saving mankind. The analogy seems rather bizarre, if you ask me, and really does not answer the question being asked. Or perhaps Jesus was just taking the opportunity to foretell his own demise.



In front of St Peter's Church, Jaffa





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## Masada

The tour also brought us to several historic and pre-historic sites. One was Masada.

Built by King Herod in 30 BC, the fortress was later captured by Jewish zealots about 66 CE in the Great Jewish Revolt Against the Roman Empire. Some 960 Jewish fighters holed up in the mountain-top fortress, besieged by some 8000 to 9000 Roman legionnaires below the cliffs. In 72 AD, the Romans decided to mount a final assault on the fortification, by building ramps to get up the mountain side so the soldiers could attack the stronghold at the same level as the defenders. The situation turned desperate for the zealots. The Romans were able to breach the citadel walls in early 73 AD. However, there was no way the Jewish combatants were going to surrender to the Romans. Finally, they determined suicide was the best approach under the circumstances and they cast lots to decide who would put whom to death and who would be the last one alive to commit suicide. When the Romans entered the fortress, they expected a fierce fight but instead found only dead bodies and two women and five children who avoided the suicide pact by hiding in a cistern.

The event was hailed as an epic tale of heroism and martyrdom for the Jewish people. It was further immortalized in the 1981 movie *Masada*, starring Peter O'Toole.



Masada



Qumran

## Qumran

Located on the north-west shore of the Dead Sea, Qumran had been a relatively quiet settlement for centuries BC. It suddenly rose to world and religious prominence in 1947 when some Bedouin shepherds accidentally discovered jars in the caves. The jars contained 2000-year-old scrolls in varying states of preservation with many in decipherable conditions. Research revealed that the scripts included books of the Old Testament, the Apocrypha and the works of the then local Essene sect. These ancient texts have provided invaluable knowledge of and new insights into the history of Judaism and the origins of the Hebrew Bible. It was totally amazing that the Old Testament found in these caves were almost identical to the one used for translation a thousand years later. The scrolls are kept at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. We visited both the Qumran caves and the museum. Unfortunately, no photography was allowed inside the museum where the scrolls are displayed. Research on the Dead Sea Scrolls is ongoing and you can find out more by Googling the subject.

*to be continued...*



## Special Contribution

### 53 Years On ... "The late Mr. Lawrence Chan, our Living Memory as a Teacher and Educator (1938-2017)"

Circulated at a Memorial Service at the Valtorta College on May 12, 2017

Thomas Yip (1967)<sup>©</sup>

Photos: LaSallite School Magazine, La Salle College



*The late Mr. Lawrence Chan in the 1960's.*

Time flies. In the mid-1960's, La Salle College (LSC) saw a new teacher joining its teaching staff. He was Mr. Lawrence Chan (陳學文老師) who was later to become a venerable teacher after a fifteen year stint. He proved himself to be versatile teacher in the senior forms teaching not only various so-called "arts stream" subjects like Chinese and English Languages, Translation and Geography, but for a short stint also Mathematics. In 1979, he moved on to till new soil at Tai Po when he became the first principal of (Bishop) Valtorta<sup>1</sup> College. At the time, Hong Kong was unfolding its golden era of overall development. The New Territories were rapidly urbanizing, making the need for education in the New Territories huge as the new population was mainly average income earners, with some from the lower social strata. It was in the light of such socio-economic changes that Mr. Chan came to head the new Valtorta College at Tai Po. His rare opportunity to actualize his ideals was enviable, but the challenges were huge.

Coming from a cultured and disciplined family with his father also a teacher, Mr. Chan must have decided on his future career along the same vein during his school days, Mr. Chan finished his secondary education at Queen's College and Belilios Public School. He went on to HKU to receive his BA and MA in Chinese Language. His debut teaching experience was at LSC that had its own unique organization culture, but he did not take long to adapt to the change. We saw his key to transformation of his pedagogy included interactive teaching rather than a monologue one and his ability to inspire his students to learn by themselves.

I cite a prose Mr. Chan used in a Form 4 dictation session. The contents and style of writing were like Greek to a class of students who had been groomed in the archaic colonial education system. It was until the very end when he read aloud: "... *government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth - Abraham Lincoln, at Gettysburg*" that the mystery was solved. I saw both smiling faces and some still bewildered ones. Personally, it was my first lesson in American democracy and gratefully do I say now that through his inspiration my learning process is still on-going after over 50 years.

The motto of Lasallian Education was "*Education for those who need it, especially the poor*". There is a strong sense of social justice in it, as it was conceived at a time when the poor in Europe could only attain upward social mobility through education. Mr. Chan must have realised that the educational ideals should always remain although times and environment could change. As public education in HK became free (and mandatory) in the 70's, traditional Chinese values had to be seamlessly fused with western ones. These goals he continued to pursue even after he left LSC to head Valtorta College.<sup>2</sup> He did it so well that by time of his retirement

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Enrico Valtorta, Vicar Apostolic and 1st Bishop of HK Diocese 1926-1951

<sup>2</sup> "Knowing and Doing in One" (知行合一, 明王守仁) was a highly debated education philosophy topic among the Chinese scholars at a blossoming period of Chinese liberal education. It is depicted on the wall mount tablet in the flyer photo distributed during the Requiem Masses.





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he had become a successful educator. Up to this day, his footprints are still in every corner at Valtorta College, which remains as a Band 1 School in Tai Po. Those present in this Memorial Service could bear witness to Mr. Chan's acts of charity through assistance to some of the needy students.



*The early days at LSC. School-year 1963-64 (1st Left at back row).*

Mr. Chan was a high flyer as his expectations could be high, albeit in his subtle and humble ways. He played a very active role in many community and social services. I quote a few memberships: Guangdong Province Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (廣東省人民政協), the HK Examination Authority, Catholic Diocesan Schools Council and various local district councils on cultural affairs, youth activities and social services. The Governor's Award for Community Service bestowed on him in 1993 was more than a recognition, but a testimony of his life-time endeavor for the betterment of a society.

Throughout the long years, Mr. Chan maintained close contact with his past students and colleagues at LSC. Exactly 10 years ago, as a guest speaker at a class reunion he cited a poem by 李商隱<sup>3</sup> expressing the Tang poet's hapless sentiments on parting after reunion. Mr. Chan's did so to express his earnest desire to meet old friends as much as possible. When we met him earlier at another occasion last November, he was apparently in good health. We were planning to have him again in the upcoming reunion in 2017, but as said in the poem: "life is ever filled with uncertainties." As we reflect on the legacy Mr. Chan left behind, the feeling of haplessness has to be erased. Let it be said: "Good teachers never die. They don't even fade away. Their genetic properties are passed on from one generation to the other."

More than 50 years ago, he lit a candle to show us the way forward. Today, we shall light a candle in remembrance of him. Someday, we shall meet again.

<sup>3</sup> 露如微霰下前池，月過回塘萬竹悲。浮世本來多聚散，紅蕖何事亦離披？

悠揚歸夢惟燈見，淩落生涯獨酒知。豈到白頭長知爾，嵩陽松雪有心期



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*Wedding photo of Mr. Lawrence & Mrs. Christine Chan.*

*He is survived by Christine, two sons and 1 daughter.*

*In Loving Memory of  
Mr. Chan Hok Man, Lawrence (1938 - 2017)*



I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them." (Revelation 14:13)

以後，我聽見有聲音從天上說：「你寫下：『從今而後，凡在主內死去的，是有福的！』的確，聖神說，讓他們勞苦之後安息罷，因為他們的功行常隨著他們。」（默示錄：14:13）



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## 悼陳校長

陳學文校長幼承父訓，謹小慎微，學言文行，莫不講究，並以聖儒為師。

「學而不思則罔，思而不學則殆」，這句話原為孔子提倡的一種讀書及學習方法。指的是只顧讀書而不思考，就不能合理有效利用書本的知識，甚至會陷入迷茫。但如果一味空想而不去實實在在地學習和鑽研，則終究是空中樓閣，一無所得。校長經常告誡我們要把學習和思考好好結合起來，才能學到切實有用的知識。校長有時講話很有深意，大概就是為了刺激我們多思考吧！

歐陽修說：「君子之所學也，言以載事，而文以飾言，事信言文，乃能表見於後世。」意思是說：文章沒有文采，就不能流傳很遠；語言是用來紀錄事情的，文章是由語言潤色加工而成，事情要如實表述成文章才能流傳於後世。語言所記載的事情全面而且精彩，才會流傳廣泛久遠。校長強調文道並重，他經常教導我們如何寫有文采的文章，講有深度和好聽的話。

校長早已過「從心所欲而不踰矩」之年，七十多年的修為，內心早已收放自如，卻從不踰世間規矩，所以為人良恭儉讓，溫潤如玉。

## 張世偉

君子與人為善，誨人不倦，校長任內二十三年育人無數。他尤喜歡幫助弱勢學生，自掏腰包，協助有經濟困難的學生，從不望回報。

校長喜歡草木，尤好蘭花，家中和學校也栽種了不少蝴蝶蘭、君子蘭。蘭花的淡雅色彩，給人帶來一種幽靜，清新的花香，冷艷而芬芳。它雖不艷麗也不張揚，卻像謙謙君子，代表一切美好的事物。校長喜歡綠化校園，任內在同事的協助下，廣植花草，生機勃勃。

知是行之始，行是知之成。校長服務天主教教區多年，公職無數，盡心盡力；基於基督的愛，校長愛他的學生、同事，用鼓勵代替責備；校長更愛國家，曾任多屆廣東省政協委員。校長也愛他服務的社區，多年來負責津中議會、減罪運動、音樂舞蹈運動等統籌工作，早在1993年已獲頒港督社區服務獎狀，為社會貢獻良多。

哀玉何人不以容，陳來寒食始知公，學風節亮都頭白，文水聲中悼管仲。

斯人已去，流金如水，校長書櫃中二十四史頓失主人，能不哀乎。思主教四十年來，樹人無數，我們定當秉承校長訓誨：學起越山丹鳳集，文章忠義聖儒鳴！多謝您陳學文校長。

The author of this Chinese article is a La Salle Old Boy of class 1972 and former Vice-principal of Valtorta College (恩主教書院) Hong Kong, formerly known as Taipo Catholic Secondary School.

## Class 1987 Reunion

The Class of 1987 will celebrate our 30th Anniversary this year. We shall organize a Homecoming Celebration on 15th July 2017. Here are the details:

Venue	La Salle College
Date	15th July, 2017
Time	to be confirmed
Activities	School tour, sports, pre-dinner cocktail and Gala Dinner, and more
Ticket price	\$1300 for adult \$650 for children in secondary school Free of charge for children in primary school or below
Contact	Constantine Au at <a href="mailto:aucons@gmail.com">aucons@gmail.com</a> or WhatsApp: +852 67721185