



東風

Rotary 
Club of
Hong Kong Island East
TUNG FENG

Vol.64 No.29

08 Feb 2017

President's Message - Kung Hei Fat Choy



Greetings all. So CNY is almost over (after our luncheon today) and it is now that I always feel the year really begins, as business starts to get going after all of the festive activities. I always feel lucky living in a society which celebrates all traditional festivities around the same time. Although I'm not Chinese (you might have noticed although when I perform my Mandarin song some actually do wonder..) CNY has come to have

meaning for me as I married into a Chinese family, and like many expats in a similar situation, have come to celebrate CNY thoroughly with family year after year. It does seem somewhat different to me now than when I first came to Hong Kong (1987). My first CNY came along just a few months after I had arrived here, and I remember my colleagues telling me what I had to prepare. Make sure I stock up on food because EVERYTHING shuts down over CNY (very different from today) and make sure I prepare my lai see packets in advance. It was very new and very novel to me, and just one of the reasons I began to set my heart on this wonderful city. Nowadays CNY is like second nature to me. So, I'll enjoy today's luncheon with you all in traditional fashion. And I wish all members a happy and successful Year of the Rooster.



**COMING
SPEAKERS**

15 Feb 2017

Speaker
Mr. Gary Lau
of
Primo Model
Agency



**LAST WEEK'S REDBOX
COLLECTION \$900.00**

THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST

香港東區扶輪社週報

Club 16340 District 3450 Chartered on 06 April, 1954 by Charter President

PDG (Uncle) John Yuen

Spotlight On - Casablanca - A true story



The whole world knows Casablanca from film starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. A romantic story of love, set in the city of Casablanca as it was in the crossfire during the 2nd World War. Romy Serfaty, who grew up in Casablanca, began by sharing with us her family history, including some genuine old photos of her ancestors, who can be traced back hundreds of years. Today Casablanca is a modern metropolis, and the financial and economic port of Morocco. Probably it is the least historical city in Morocco. Morocco is at the tip of North Africa and most Moroccan people would make sure you don't get confused between the culture of North Africa and the culture of the Middle East. Morocco in context is a country at the crossroads of two continents and two cultures. It was historically the last country on earth where Jews

and Muslims could co-exist peacefully Sephardic Jews are the Jews expelled from Europe, chased and exterminated, they took their belongings and left the country. In 1492 at the end of the fifteenth century they were expelled from Spain. Some of them came down to Morocco. They started constituting community while being integrated into the society and the economy of Morocco. How could they do that in Morocco where everywhere else in the world there were addicts forbidding to the Jewish left in Spain? In Spain you had to convert, or leave or be burned. That has been the history and unfortunately up to the twentieth century and the Holocaust in Germany where Jews were persecuted and exterminated. So how come they found peace and cohabitation in a Kingdom of Morocco that was actually Muslim? Morocco is a country that practices a tolerant and inclusive Islam, a very hospitable society who practices Islam like a very sweet and tolerant religion, the only country who tries very hard to keep its identity, to keep away of what is happening from external radical influence in particularly the status of women, they can be anything they want, they are not tied down by law, by regulation. Through fashion, through cuisine, through thinking and through all the cultural aspects, the Jews and Muslim have integrated with each other particularly because the Kings throughout the ages were protecting the Jews, making sure the Jews were not massacred or chased away. They were living in their own section of the city, very near the King's Palace. They became involved in Finance, in trading. Mutual tolerance impregnated every aspect of life to the point that you could not recognize people with the naked eyes. Which is all really extraordinary when you think most synagogues have been destroyed or closed or bombed throughout the second world war in many many places in the world, and you see at the heart of a Muslim country in Casablanca, a world temple was being inaugurated in 2015 presided by the King of Morocco.

Nowadays there are less Jews in Morocco than there are in H.K., only 4,000 left. The Jewish populations integrate well and are very strong where they are. The prosperity of the Jewish presence was in the nineteenth century, with the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, many Jews thought they have their own land and emigrate out of the country. All in all, this was a very educational story, which gave us a very different perspective on a place we know so well from the movies!

About the speaker

Romy Serfaty is a regional marketing & communications senior executive with over 20 years of experience in Asia Pacific both as an in-house expert as well as a consultant and account director for private corporations, governments and IGOs. She was Head of Regional Campaigns in APAC MEA for Aon Hewitt for the Human Resources, Retirement and Health business of AON Plc., and Head of Marketing with Towers Watson in Hong Kong for 9 years. She is a frequent speaker in the conference circuit in Asia on matters related to Marketing, Communications and Talent Engagement. She holds a Masters' degree in Political Sciences and a Post Graduate degree in International Communications from the University of Paris – La Sorbonne.



Last week's Proceedings - 25 Jan, 2017



It was pre-CNY and perhaps a little subdued as everyone was preparing for the festive period, but a nice gathering of some senior members. President Chris began by welcoming our guest speaker Romy Serfaty, and her husband Howard who was there to give moral support. This was a week of minimal activities, there being no birthday to celebrate. P Chris read out the announcements, and then gave us all a quick overview of some recent events. He noted that January had been quite busy with events such as the Rotary Foundation Centennial, and the Blind Bowling. Now we are

moving into February and we have events such as the Rookie stars Dance Contest to look forward to. P Chris then introduced the guest speaker, who gave a fascinating talk on growing up Jewish in a predominantly Muslim society in Morocco. This led to quite a few questions from the audience, who found it something different to learn about. Afterwards PP George was invited to formally thank the speaker. Then it was time for the Lucky Draw, and PP Eddy was the winner. P Chris then asked all to rise, give toast to RI and HKIE, and join for the group photo. Meeting adjourned.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

These are the following announcements for our club:

1. The 2nd Happy Lunch will be on February 16th. Venue to be advised. Pls inform PIC John Poon if you will attend.
2. The Uncle John Golf Tournament is set for March 2nd, please advise Pic Kevin if you will take part.
3. Our club dinner and dancy party '6 Decades of Island East' is set for Saturday April 8th. Please mark your diary and look out for further updates.

District Announcements

1. The District Vocational Service Committee and Rotary Clubs in Area 6, invite you to join the Rotary Mock Interview Workshop held on Saturday, 11th February, 2017 (Saturday) at 9:30 a.m. in Lung Cheung Government Secondary School. The Mock Interview Workshop is the first programme in our series of Rotary Life Planning Programmes co-organised with EDB. Should you have any interest, please contact PP Norman LEE at 94257203 or PP Daniel Tsoi at 93674741.
2. 2017 Rookie Stars Hip Hop Dance Contest: this will take place on Saturday February 25th. As we are a major sponsor club, and P Chris is Chair for the OC, we encourage all members to come out in support. With 1,000 participants from 7 different countries, it's going to be the biggest Rookie Stars ever. Please mark your diary.
3. DG Eric chin has formally declared that PP Wilson Cheng of Rotary Club of Kowloon Tong has been elected our District Governor (2019-2020). The official title of PP Wilson now is District Governor Nominee Designate ("DGND") from now to 30 June 2017. Please join DG Eric to congratulate DGND Wilson Cheng and the Rotary Club of Kowloon Tong for their success.

THE LAST LAUGH

Insurance...

Larry's barn burned down and his wife, Susan, called the insurance company.

Susan spoke to the insurance agent and said, "We had that barn insured for fifty thousand, and I want my money."

The agent replied, "Whoa there, just a minute. Insurance doesn't work quite like that. An independent adjuster will assess the value of what was insured, and then we'll provide you with a new barn of similar worth."

There was a long pause, and then Susan replied, "If that's how it works, then I want to cancel the life insurance policy on my husband."



OFFICERS

President
Chris Kyme
President Elect
Stacy Ho
Secretary
Heman Lam
Treasurer
Jason Chiu

DIRECTORS

Club Administration
Andy Wong
Fellowship
Kevin Leung
International Service
Laurence Chan
Membership
Norman Lee
Service Projects
Leo Yu
Youth Service
Jonathan Lamport

CHAIRS

Rotary Foundation
David Li
Service Project
John Poon
Membership
Eddy Wong
Youth Service
Charles Man
Fellowship
Stacy Ho
International Service
William Wong
IT
Angus Leung
Sergeant-at-Arms
John Poon

PP COUNCIL REP.

George Leung

EX-OFFICIO

William Wong

CLUB ADVISOR

John Kwok
Y. K. Cheng
Eric Chin
Andrew Chen
Henry Chan
Hubert Chan

Club postal address : P.O.Box 47064, Morrison Hill Post Office, Hong Kong
Meeting Venue : Regal HK Hotel, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
Meeting Schedules : Every Wednesday at 12:30 pm
Website : <http://hkie.rotary3450.org/>
Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubHKIslandEast>