

Today's Program

Gloria Fung, President,
Canada-Hong Kong Link

Host

Geoffrey Johnson, *raconteur*,
past president 2004-05

Topic

**Gong Hay Fat Choy from
under the Yellow Umbrella** -
Chinese New Year Celebration

Location

Fairmont Royal York Hotel,
Imperial Room
A special Chinese Meal and
Entertainment is planned



The most precious and important date in the Chinese calendar is the Chinese New Year Spring Festival, which falls on the first day of the spring moon. The Festival lasts for 15 days until the Lantern festival. China comes to a virtual standstill as people travel home to visit family. In 2016 there were 2.9 billion trips, the largest human movement in the world. At this week's lunch meeting, our speaker Gloria Fung will explain the

traditions, importance, and happiness of Gung Hay Fat Choy and the sadness of the Yellow Umbrella Movement of Hong Kong; the loss of human rights and freedom, the disappearance of writers and intellectuals and the mainland government's strategic destruction of Hong Kong culture and language. The Yellow Umbrella Movement is so-called after the umbrellas they used to deflect pepper spray and tear gas.



Raised in Hong Kong and educated in England, Gloria Fung managed Danish government soft loan and World Bank development projects in China. Since immigrating to Canada, she has worked in residential and commercial real estate. She is currently the General Manager of Landpower Real Estate Brokerage.

As a social activist she has been a strong advocate for social justice, democracy, freedom and human rights in Canada, Hong Kong and China. She is a former National Vice-President of the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) where she promoted full participation of Chinese Canadians in all aspects of Canadian society. She was involved in the Head Tax Redress Campaign and was a recipient of the 2007 CCNC Community Leadership Award.

She is the President of Canada-Hong Kong Link and has helped co-ordinate exchange activities between Canada and Hong Kong. In 2015 she was involved in the successful lobbying of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development to conduct a parliamentary study on the democratic future of Hong Kong, which led to public statements supporting Hong Kong being issued by the House of Commons and the Foreign Affairs Minister.

Ebenezer Children's Home

- by C.J. (Cijay) Shah



I am travelling to Kenya on March 2, 2017 to spend two months providing supervision and "sweat equity" on the construction of a hostel/dormitory at the Ebenezer Children's Home near Nairobi. The Home was established 22 years ago to accommodate HIV/AIDS orphaned and physically and mentally challenged children. Currently 100 children live in the home but the need continues to grow. The additional building will allow for 20 more children to call Ebenezer home.

The trip is a personal endeavour and commitment to make a difference in a country worlds away from Canada. I return to help bring happiness and hope to children whose survival depends on the kindness of strangers.

Thank you to the International Service Committee for their support. They ensure the money arrives safely with the Rotary Club of Nairobi. My goal is to raise \$51,000 which will provide a septic tank, interior finishing, electrical installation, bathrooms, dining hall, landscaping, a paved path for children in wheelchairs, and furniture (tables, chairs, mattresses and beds). I have reached only 50% of my goal and want to do so much more.

You may donate by Credit Card Online <https://goo.gl/9keccN>
Designate your gift to: Ebenezer Children's Home
Or mail/drop off a cheque payable to: The Rotary Club of Toronto memoed Ebenezer Children's Home. You will receive a charitable tax receipt. Gifts of any amount are gratefully appreciated! Thank you!

Next Week – At the National Club

Come join us at "Bill's Place".

Congratulations to Kevin Power!



Kevin will be our president in 2019-20. A member of our club since 2000, he is the latest in the long line of presidents from Coutts Crane law firm. He received his Club Builder in 2005 and his Paul Harris/William Peace recognition in 2014. He has served on Youth & Children, Executive, Program, Argos 50/50, Environmental, Research and Appeals and District Global Grant Scholarship Committees.

He is completing his second round as a Board member and is currently liaison to the International Service Committee and a member of the Foundation Board.

His calm thorough manner of dealing with members and issues will do the club proud.

Upcoming Speakers & Events

January 2017

27 Steve Paikin - Bill Davis: Nation Builder and Not So Bland After All

February 2017

3 Black History Month, Singer Liberty Silver
10 Mark Trouyet, Consul General of France
17 No meeting - Family Day

Events

January 28 - FnE Lunch, Crème Brasserie Restaurant, 162 Cumberland St.
March 30 - Club Fundraiser, Steam Whistle

Editor of the week

Lorna Johnson

Editor, January 27, 2017

Don Bell

What You Missed Reporter for January 20

Terry Wray

Propose a Speaker - Contact

Mario Voltolina, Chair
mario.voltolina@gmail.com
Tel: 416-720-7236

Submit an article to the Voice Newsletter

therotaryvoice@gmail.com

Editor-in-chief

Maureen Bird

What You Missed January 13, 2017

- by Lorna Johnson



The Friday the 13th lunch meeting at the National Club, in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, was very well attended. After a thoughtful invocation and the singing of O Canada, President Susan introduced the head table.

Susan then conducted the second part of our Annual General Meeting and received approval for the Board appointments for 2017-2018. Congratulations to our new board members, elected to a four-year term; Don Brooks, Alex Brown, John Farrell and Mary Lach. Also congratulations to Treasurer James McAuley and our next Vice-President Kevin Power. Past President David Hetherington, Monitor for the Day, reported 18 guests and no visiting Rotarians.



Left to right: Host Geoffrey Johnson with our guest speaker, Knia Singh

Past President Geoffrey Johnson introduced our guest speaker, Knia Singh. Knia embodies the Rotary motto of Service Above Self. He has helped many youth-at-risk start their music careers through founding a hip-hop studio. As a law student at the Osgood Hall Law School, Knia helped create the Osgoode Society Against Institutional Injustice. He currently provides input and recommendations for the improvement of the Toronto Police Service community engagement policy.

Knia, the father of 2, holds to Martin Luther King Jr.'s "dream that one day little black boys and girls will be holding hands with little white boys and girls". Rotarians and guests alike stood in unison, with loud applause and appreciation for Knia's message, his optimism and his tireless effort to make life equal for all citizens, regardless of race.

President Susan thanked our guest speaker, providing a donation to PackH2O on behalf of the Rotary Club of Toronto's International Service Committee.

The Ace of Club's draw was for \$3000. Jay Littlejohn walked away with a nice bottle of wine.

Invitation to lunch at the Crème Brasserie restaurant, January 28, 2017

- Hosted by the Fellowship and Entertainment Committee and Anna Koneva

The Fellowship & Entertainment Committee is delighted to invite you to a Saturday lunch at the Crème Brasserie restaurant. A sophisticated, warm and cozy restaurant located in the heart of Yorkville serving French-inspired Canadian cuisine is offering an exceptional 3-course Winterlicious prix-fixe menu.

Please reserve your spot in advance, bring your family! We look forward to seeing you on January 28.

When: Saturday January 28, 2017 at 11:45am.

Where: Crème Brasserie Restaurant, 162 Cumberland Street, Toronto

Price: \$23.00 pp +tax +gratuity, beverages are extra, payment at the restaurant

Limit: 20 people

RSVP: Please send your reservation to Anna Koneva anna.y.koneva@gmail.com by January 24.

The Rotary Club of Toronto

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