

To Hin Shing Wong ('61 Grad), on the second anniversary of his passing

Fong Ying Yu ('61), February 6, 2026

Dear Hin Shing,

This is the second memorial email I am sending to you, hoping that somehow you will be cognizant of its content.

First of all, I would like to tell you about the centenary book of our school in English, *A Centenary With Youth for a Hope-filled Future, Wah Yan College Kowloon 1924-2024* 立己同行百年樹人, 九龍華仁書院百年印記. (Photo 1) I ordered a copy and was given another one by Chiu Hei Kaw, which I donated to the Richard Charles Lee sub-library at the Library of the University of Toronto. There, I hope it will blazon forth to many readers.

A second event of interest to you is the passing of a retired principal, Mr. Wah Yam Fook (華任復, “復哥” to you, the second son of your dear Tak Yan teacher “Fung Madam”). He died on 6 January 2026. You held him in great respect and always asked Chiu Hei Kaw to say hello to him for you, for he was not only a famous educator, he helped you get into the residential May Hall and thus to enjoy three very happy years of university life. A memorial gathering will be held in a church in March when his students and friends will remember him. He donated his dead body to the University of Hong Kong Medical School.

Most of all, you would be concerned about the affairs of '61 grads, so here's what I have gathered in the past year, from Chiu Hei Kaw as well as my trip with May to Toronto from 29 September to 12 October 2025. At long last, we were able to go to St. James' Cemetery to pay proper last respects to you, with a bouquet also paid for by Ho Kar Wing who sent you his respects through us. (Photo 2) Your name was not yet on the grave stone, not sure if it would be, but the grave and the grave stone had been kept clean and clear. (Photo 3) Ray Pong was there too; he drove us there. It was a Sunday. We had had a sketch map from the Office with a simple direction. Strange to say, May, who had no idea of where the grave was, asked Ray to stop and park at a tree so as to allow for two-way traffic. It was a spot near your resting place! I had little doubt you guided us there. You are now resting in peace with your beloved family members: Dad, Mom, Sister Ho Kok. Considering the way you cared little about your ending, it was a miracle and as good a situation as you could wish for. I grieved but was happy for you. Thus it was that Ray, May, me and Kar Wing visited you on 5 October. Ray drove back to Sudbury two days later.

Stephen Lam and Peter Wong arranged a lunch reunion, with Michael Chan, Sonny Sie, Lena Wong, Peter Chang and wife present. As we did not meet either Mrs Bernad Wong or Mrs Martin Lee, we had no update about their conditions. Stephen did show us a photo of him and Martin taken just a while ago, the latter sleeping in bed. Stephen said Martin slept a lot but had good appetite. David Chan had gone into an old folks' home and did not join us. However, he participated by having dim sum delivered to him afterwards by Peter Wong (Bless him!). David was delighted. There was a rather blurry photo of Peter and David who seemed to have become quite thin. Hope he would be rested, healthy and happy in the old folks' home. Peter Chang was taking some acupuncture and massage treatments. Otherwise all those who attended looked to be in excellent shape. The mini reunion was in fact the only group gathering among them since my last visit in 2023! It just shows reunions are not easy to organise. (Photo 4)

Happily. Peter and Lena Wong came to Vancouver and met up with Gilbert, Margaret, Kar Wing, May and me on 18 October. (Photo 5) Again the couple's presence brought together the WYKers in Vancouver who had not met for a year or more.

Of course, I do not know about all the mini reunions taking place from Jan 2025 to now Jan 2026. The following information about reunions in HK is gathered largely from Chiu Hei Kaw,

- 1) Andrew Cheung and Grace met Hei Kaw and Homun before and after their trips to China.
- 2) Harry Aitken went back to HK in November to visit his parents' graves at the Catholic Cemetery Happy Valley and took a picture of the new grave of Fr. George Zee, S.J. there who passed away half a year ago. (Photo 6) The photo was uploaded onto WYKAAO.
- 3) Kenneth Chan Man Bun went back to HK in Dec 2025 and met Chiu Hei Kaw, also had a nice phone chat with Freddy Fong when the latter was on the way to Singapore.
- 4) Wu Homun, Ho Ping Kwong, Liu Kwok Chee, Cheung Chi Keung, Chiu Hei Kaw met in January 2026.
- 5) While the Vancouver group seldom meet, Ho Kar Wing and I have had coffee chats a few times a year.

Besides reunions, there was Bobby and I-Yu Chen's yearly newsletter which keeps us abreast of the welfare of the Chen family. Their efforts are much appreciated. Patrick Tai emailed occasionally to reminisce or pose questions about WYK for which his happy memories revolve over time. Regular responders include Bobby, Lung, Leonard, Yum Sing and me.

I continued to enjoy the new friendships of Jolie Tse (colleague at BHSJ), Ivo Zivkov (friend) and Godfrey Chan (DBS). May and I had dinner with Ivo and his wife from Hong Kong at our hotel in Toronto and spent a happy chatty evening together. Godfrey and I made an arrangement to meet but unfortunately he could not make it in the last minute. A similar thing occurred with Jacob Chow who said illnesses of different kinds prevented him from coming out for coffee like the last time among us and HS, on October 2, 2023. I still harbour the hope of seeing both Jolie and Godfrey in person. Thank you, HS, for their new and continued friendship.

Now some personal health notes. I would have phoned and talked to you about my health knowing you would be most sympathetic and often knowledgeable. The annual physical check-up in late 2025 turned up some unexpected issues: prostate, a torn tendon on the left shoulder, sleeplessness, checking of the heart, and illnesses like flu and infection of the urethra. I am tackling them one by one and they are now under control. The shoulder pain is something you could enlighten me about tho mine is nothing as severe as yours. I remember you having to take 6 tylenols or more a day to restrain the pain. I shuddered at the thought of it. On prostate, both Man Bun and Godfrey gave me useful information and good advice. May, as you knew, is beset with different kinds of illnesses more than mine. We are both sustained and kept tolerably well by Medicare. I had a glimpse of the extent of your physical pain when I saw May tortured by gout for a fortnight not so long ago.

Enough of my troubles. You knew about two of my grandchildren. Now the four of them are 6 (the first two boys), 2 (girl) and 1:10 (boy) years old. They bring us joy as well as tiredness and worries.

I miss you now and again, whenever things about '61 grads and WYK come into my purview. When I think about your devotion to family and school, I feel like in the presence of a better person. Here are some lines that came to my mind when I was writing about you. Goodbye dear friend, and rest in peace.

顯誠兄二年祭七言句

黃菊一束獻汝墳
何龐余梁悼故人
寂寂墓園安汝息
莽莽草木伴王魂
牽掛猶有九華事
同學手足安康無？
神甫老師長記憶
六一有否相聚頻？
留名真誠華仁仔
好友君子聯絡人
時遙難免記憶淡
校風輕拂歲月塵
苦痛已隨風消逝
摯愛家人左右陪
一生家校兩相得
心頭夙願應無求

Memorial Lines on the Second Anniversary of Hin Shing's Passing

A bunch of yellow mums we placed on your grave.

Ho, Pong, May and I bowed in respect.

Quiet the graveyard, deep your repose;

The expansive grass and trees surround the Wongs' souls.

Still there are things tugging at your heart, I dare say –
Are the classmates well and connected?
The fathers and teachers are long remembered,
But are the '61 grads reuniting often?
Such constant concerns earn you the names of a loyal Wahyanite,
A true friend, a gentleman, and cement that seals the schoolmates.
Distance in time imperceptibly blurs memories
And the dictates and spirit of Wah Yan blow but lightly on our consciousness.
Your pain has evaporated with your non-existence.
Now your beloved relatives are beside you.
In the domains of family and school, you are fulfilled.
No longer should there be any burden dwelling in your heart.

Yours sincerely,

Fong ying

6 Feb, 2026

END

Photo 1 WYK centenary history

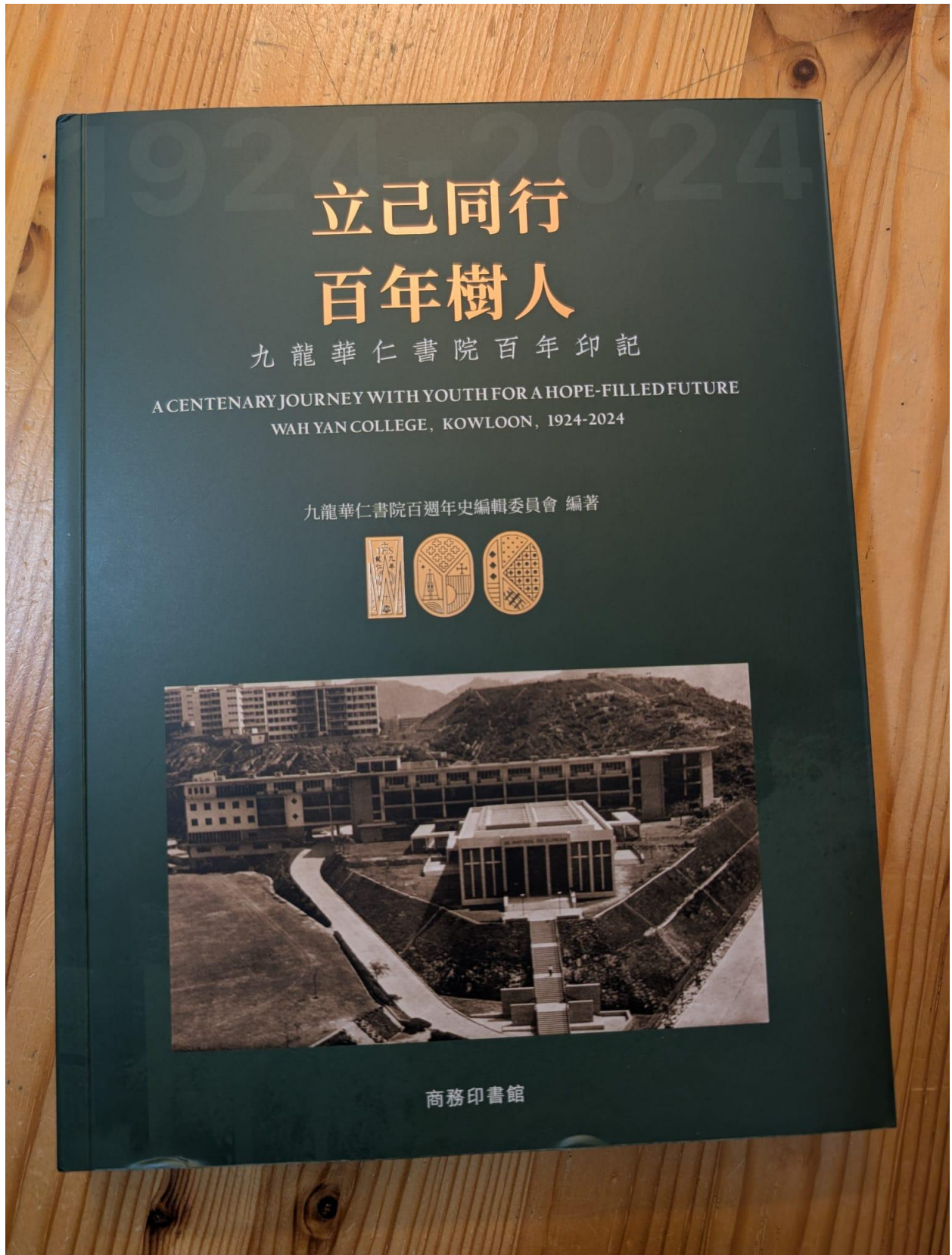


Photo 2 Paying last respects



Photo 3 Gravestone



Photo 4 Mini reunion in Toronto, visitors Fong Ying and May.



Present from left – May, Peter, Fong Ying, Stephen, Michael, Sonnie, Lena (the Changs had left)

Photo 5 Mini reunion in Vancouver, visitors Peter and Lena



Present from left – May, Fong Ying, Kar Wing, Peter, Lena, Margaret, Gilbert

Photo 6 Fr. George Zee, S.J.'s grave

