

THE NEW EURASIAN

Jan – Mar 2024 | eurasians.sg

Back-to-School Magic

Not Your Typical 'Doctor'

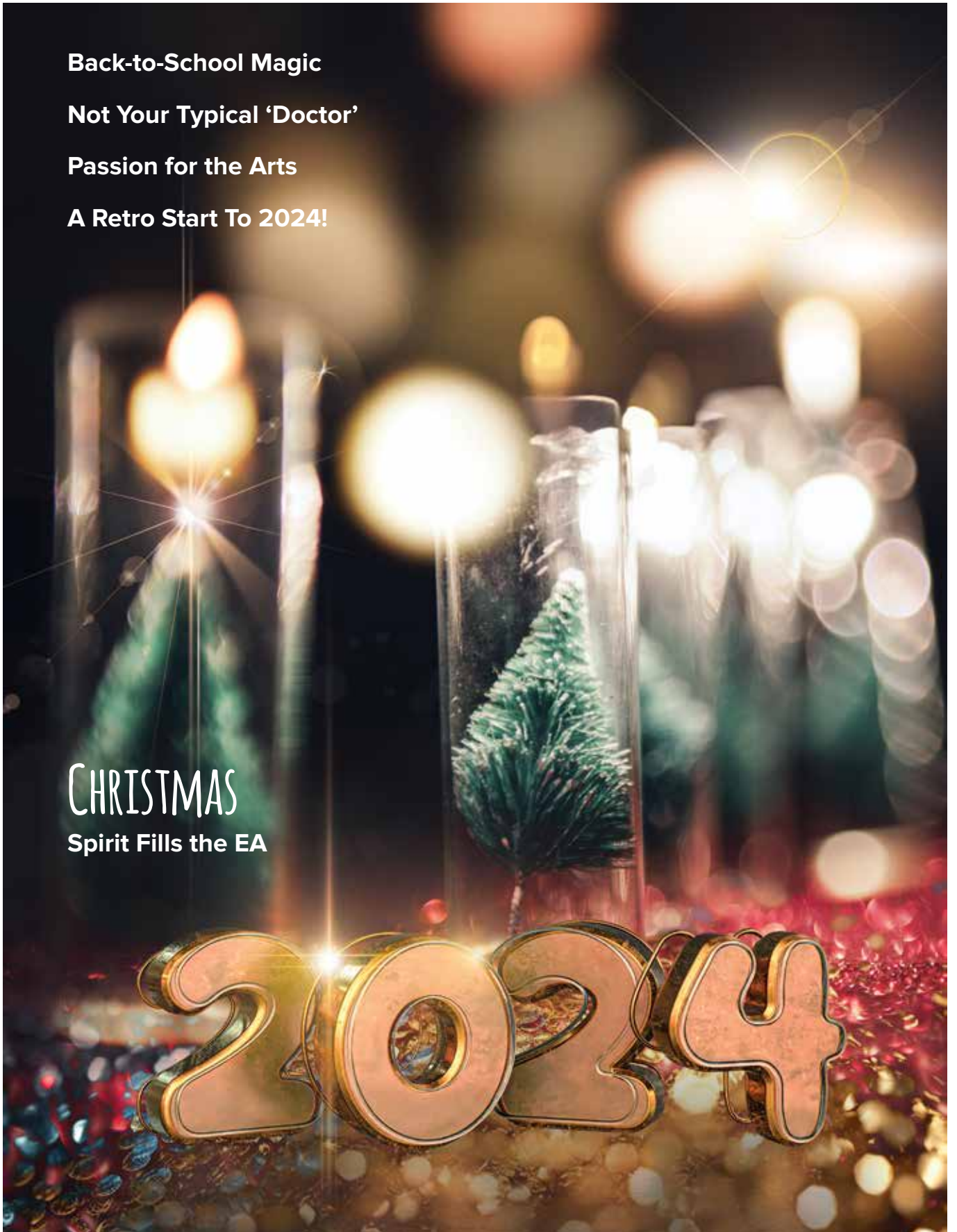
Passion for the Arts

A Retro Start To 2024!

CHRISTMAS

Spirit Fills the EA

2024



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✉ If you have an interesting story to share, email lester@eurasians.org

🌐 Read The New Eurasian magazine online at eurasians.sg/neweurasian-magazine



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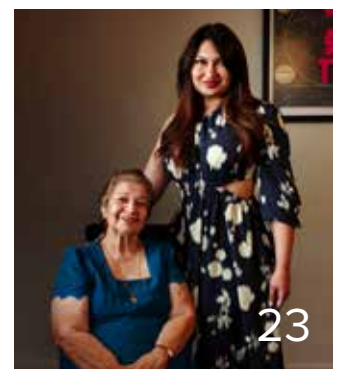
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The New Eurasian

Magazine of the Eurasian Association, Singapore

The New Eurasian is published quarterly and read by more than 17,000 Eurasians in Singapore. It is circulated to senior government offices, various ministries, statutory boards, community organisations and self-help groups.

Advertising Rates

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President's Message

Dear EA members

Happy New Year! I trust you've had a wonderful start to the year.

The EA wrapped up 2023 with festive celebrations, featuring the Christmas and New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance, each drawing over 100 guests, including young families. The last quarter featured a series of children's events, such as the Kids' Science Workshop organised by EA Youth in partnership with Victoria Junior College students, and EA Education's kidsREAD year-end party and Board Games Bonanza Café. Our Children's Christmas Treat welcomed nearly 80 children from the four Self-Help Groups and the community. It was lovely to have children's voices and laughter fill the Eurasian Community House.

At the Project Ray of Hope ceremony in October, students enjoyed a Harry Potter-themed experience and received vouchers for school supplies, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. The Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund award, sponsored by Ambassador Simon de Cruz and EA Trustee Justice Judith Prakash, supported two students.

In November, EA Youth, in collaboration with OnePeople.sg and the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations, organised an important dialogue themed 'Racial Harmony: Building Bridges in a Digital World'. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering understanding and unity within our diverse community.

In this issue, we also recognise Jason Dendroff, recipient of the Legal Assistance for Capital Offences (LASCO) Long Service Award for his dedicated service of 25 years in providing pro bono legal assistance to those charged with capital offences. His commitment is a good example of the meaningful contributions volunteers can make in supporting individuals facing challenging circumstances.

As we head into the rest of the year, we look forward to more family-friendly events, and our ongoing commitment to supporting the less fortunate in our community. Do consider volunteering, donating, or participating in the EA's activities. Together, we can build a stronger and more vibrant EA community. We invite all EA members to join us at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on 20 April; details are on page 22.

Wishing you and your families joy and prosperity in 2024!

Sandra Theseira
President



In Touch The New Eurasian

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Alvin Goh

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

SUB-COMMITTEE

Ion Danker (Chair)

Michele Minjoot

Sheena Conceicao

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Noel Longue

2 DEC CHRISTMAS SPIRIT FILLS THE EA

The EA's Christmas Light Up Dinner & Dance on 2 December was a night of joy and community spirit. The lobby of the Eurasian Community House sparkled at the Christmas tree light up, and 120 guests came together for live music, dancing, and delicious Christmas food.



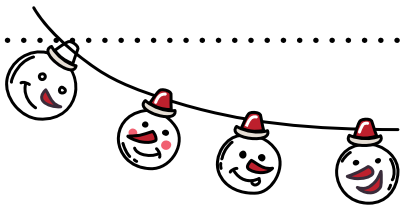
One lucky winner took home a sugree cake.



The Rangers' live music filled the hall, to keep energy high on the dance floor.



Guests ushered in the spirit of Christmas during the tree light-up at the lobby of the Eurasian Community House.



10 DEC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREAT

Christmas treats, fun game stalls, an entertaining stage performance by The Amazing Toybox, goodie bags and Santa's gifts – that's what close to 80 children from the four Self-Help Groups and the community had the opportunity to experience at EA's Children's Christmas Treat, held on 10 December at the Eurasian Community House.

from diverse backgrounds together in the shared celebration of Christmas, and to ensure that each child feels the joy of the season.

The EA thanks all volunteers and sponsors for their generosity: Focus Network Agencies (S) Pte Ltd, Allswell Trading, Gardenia Foods, Frosts Food and Beverage Pte Ltd, Charlene Marie Pereira, and Kenneth Wicker.



This event has been an EA tradition for more than a decade since 2010, to bring children



Kids tried their hand at a variety of fun games at the Children's Christmas Treat.



Families and friends at the FSS Christmas lunch created wonderful memories over sumptuous food.



3
DEC

FSS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH & HAMPERS

Family Support Services welcomed 90 FSS beneficiaries, family members and caregivers to the Eurasian Community House on 3 December for its Christmas lunch, where guests enjoyed food, games and live music. Close to 40 FSS primary recipients received lucky draw prizes of varying NTUC voucher amounts.



25 FSS volunteers also helped to pack and deliver 85 Christmas hampers, which contained festive items such as sugee cake, fish pickles, pineapple tarts, Christmas ham, fruit cake, biscuits and more.



Guests went home with NTUC vouchers as lucky draw prizes.

The annual gathering and hamper gift delivery serves to celebrate the festive season with FSS beneficiaries, and to foster inclusivity for the vulnerable among us. Special thanks to the Christmas hamper sponsors Keith Nicholas Minjoot and Gerard Pereira, and donors who contributed to the FSS Christmas party.



Each child went home with a gift from Santa (Percival Shepherdson) and Santarina (Sophiea Tupaz).



The Amazing Toybox brought Christmas joy to life with their dynamic song and dance.

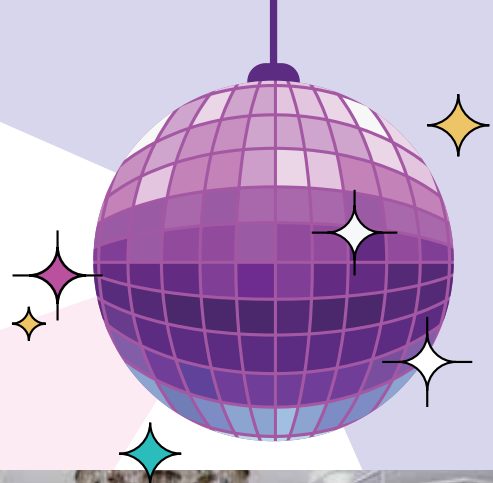


FSS volunteers came together to pack and deliver Christmas hampers, to bring holiday cheer to 85 FSS beneficiaries.



31
DEC

A RETRO START TO 2024!



EA's New Year's Eve bash at the Concorde Hotel took 170 guests on a nostalgic journey with a retro-themed night with dance music from the 70s and 80s, by live band The Rangers. The event featured country singer Leonard De Cotta and deejay Bernard Jeremiah, and Tejas Hirah and Gandi performed a tribute to Michael Jackson, bringing 'MJ Lives On' to life on the dance floor. Guests welcomed the new year with laughter and dance, in the company of family and friends.



It was a blast from the past and an unforgettable start to 2024, at the EA's NYE Dinner & Dance.



The evening's performers made it a retro night to remember.



Father Time (EA MC member Percival Shepherdson) gearing up to lead the countdown into the new year!

EA Education Schemes 2024

The EA offers several awards, bursaries and scholarships for primary, secondary and tertiary students. For details on the available education schemes, eligibility criteria, and application deadlines, refer to the table below.



S/N	Education Scheme	Level & Quantum	Income Criteria	2024 Deadline
1	Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards A one-time monetary reward to recognise academic achievements. Bursary*: Improvement in 2022-2023 academic results Merit: Band 2 or B-average for final exams Excellence: Top 25% of students in 2023 national exams Distinction: Top Eurasian student in national exams	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary \$100 - \$300	GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200 *Applies only to Bursary Awards.	30 April
2	EA Merit Bursary Award Tuition fees and book stipends for a 2 or 3-year course.	Polytechnic & ITE Cap: ITE: \$1,600/yr, 2-yr course Poly: \$3,600/yr, 3-yr course	GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200	30 April
3	EA University Bursary Tuition fees and book stipends for a 3-year university course.	University (NUS, NTU, SMU, SUSS, SIT, SUTD) Cap: \$10,000/academic yr, 3-yr course	GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200	31 May
4	Edward D'Silva Scholarship Tuition fees and a book stipend for one academic year.	Polytechnic & ITE Cap: ITE: \$1,600/yr, 1-yr only Poly: \$3,600/yr, 1-yr only	GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200	30 April
5	Irene Joseph Memorial Fund & P.K.P Nair Memorial Fund A one-time award to recognise primary students' academic progress.	Primary \$200	PCI \$626 - \$1,200 *For students not under MOE FAS	30 April
6	Mads A. Lange & Pansy Theseira-Lange Education Bursary School fees, uniforms and books and a transport and meal allowance.	Primary \$250	PCI ≤ \$800	30 April
7	Minnie Leicester-D'Rozario Award A one-time award for Eurasian students who score A1 for English Literature at the O-Level examinations. (For >1 candidate, the Education Sub-Committee determines the quantum per student)	O-Level English Literature \$1,000	Nil	30 April
8	Joseph Schooling Sports Grant A one-time grant to defray sports training and equipment cost.	Ages 14 -19 in calendar year of application \$5,000	Nil	30 September
9	School Pocket Money Assistance Pocket money assistance for school meals.	Primary, Secondary, Tertiary	GHI ≤ \$3,000 or PCI ≤ \$1,200	Ongoing

NOTE: GHI = Gross Household Income : Total monthly income of all working adults in the household
PCI = Per Capita Income : Total monthly income divided by the number of people in the household

Apply online at <https://forms.eurasiang.sg/> or scan the QR code to download and print the application forms.

Hard copy forms are also available at the Eurasian Community House reception counter:
139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744.

For queries, contact **Shareen Galistan** at **6447 1578 (ext 205)** or email shareen@eurasiang.org



Project Ray of Hope: Back-to-School Magic



At this year's Project Ray of Hope ceremony held at the Eurasian Community House on 28 October, students were treated to a magical experience inspired by the world of Harry Potter. Over 60 students received Bata and Popular vouchers to gear up for the school year.



Vincent Schoon, EA 1st Vice-President and Education Chairperson, addressed the award recipients.

A game of Quidditch as part of the immersive Harry Potter experience.



Two students also received the Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund award, generously sponsored by Ambassador Simon de Cruz and EA Trustee Justice Judith Prakash. Named in memory of their mother, this fund covers school fees and necessary school items.

Two students were presented the Coral de Cruz Memorial Fund award by Ambassador Simon de Cruz, to fund school fees and other back-to-school items. Left photo: Aeden Corey Ravichandran Beins Right photo: Nur Natasha Fatin Nabila binte Sahrudin

As part of the experience, students were sorted into Hogwarts Houses, and brought the wizarding world to life, with Harry Potter games like Quidditch, Wizard Chess, an 'Ordinary Wizarding Levels' exam, and a 'Craft your own butterbeer' activity.

Project Ray of Hope is funded by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. This year's ceremony not only equipped students with school supplies, but created memories that went beyond the usual back-to-school routine.



More than 60 students received Bata and Popular vouchers from Project Ray of Hope, to fund school items for the coming year.

19
Nov

Splashes of Creativity at The Learning Centre

Students from 7 to 16 years old transformed The Learning Centre by EA Education during a mural painting workshop on 19 November, led by artist Huijun Lu. The walls came alive with colour, and each child also crafted their own unique artworks for display.



Students painted strokes of colour on the wall of The Learning Centre.



All smiles with their personal art masterpieces.



EA Education Chairperson Vincent Schoon and artist Huijun Lu with the completed wall mural.

25
Nov

kidsREAD Year-End Bash

The kidsREAD year-end party, hosted on 25 November at the Eurasian Community House, was a lively celebration where children engaged in crafts, painting, songs and snacks. It was a great way to end the year with children's laughter, and the joy of reading as participants left with storybooks as gifts.



kidsREAD's year-end celebration at the EA was a morning of smiles, crafts, and storybooks for Christmas!



Friends, food, and board games fun at The Learning Centre.

9
Dec

Board Games Bonanza Café

The Learning Centre hosted its first Board Games Bonanza Café on 9 December, bringing together 20 students. They spent an enjoyable afternoon making new friends over food, and playing a variety of classic and modern board games.



Scan the QR code to view more photos.

Eurasian Heritage Gallery (EHG) Tours

NOVEMBER



Two **SASCO Senior Citizens Home** centres enjoyed guided EHG tours on 7 November and 5 December, led by Mike Hogan (featured photo) and Tan Hui Kheng respectively.



EA Heritage Committee meeting on 10 November. From left: Jacqueline Peeris (EA Heritage Manager) with volunteers Geoffrey Morris, Sharon Miller, Gerardine Donough-Tan, Percival Shepherdson (EA Heritage Chairperson), Samantha Santa Maria, Christian Eber, Misha Monteiro-Benson and Cedric Pereira.

(Not in photo: Alyssa Minjoot, Geraldine Gomes, Tejas Hirah)

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER



The EHG hosted three **Christmas tours** on 25 November, 2 and 9 December, led by docents Gerard Chua (right), Chloe Stewart (left), Tay Siew Khim and Cecilia Martin. Each tour, with 9 to 15 participants, featured a guessing game about the red baubles on the lobby's Christmas tree. The closest guest in each tour won a jar of salt fish pickle from Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant.



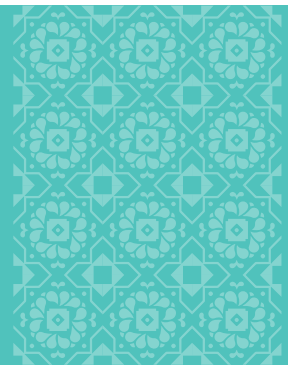
EHG docents Gerard Chua and Mike Hogan led a tour programme on 16 December, for **Vibrance @ Yishun Student Care Centre** run by the four Self-Help Groups (CDAC, MENDAKI, SINDA and EA). Yarn@EA's Loretta Santa Maria and Bella facilitated the totebag craft segment.

Exhibitions

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER



The **Eurasian Cultural Exhibition** at City Square Mall's B1 Fountain Square from 13 October to 12 November highlighted Eurasian community history, culture and contributions through display panels. Families were engaged through interactive elements like a cookbook, church puzzle, and a traditional Eurasian house.



One Community Fiesta Celebrations

OCTOBER



EA dancers (from left) Tejas Hirah, Sophiea Tupaz, Jacqueline Peeris and Ignacio Estioco, shared Eurasian culture at **Senja-Cashew Community Club** on 14 October.

NOVEMBER



EA dancer, Sophiea, and her sister, Catalina Tupaz, facilitated the Eurasian heritage booth at **Woodlands Galaxy Community Club** on 5 November.



EA dancers (from left) Rio Beins-Au, Laylabelle Beins-Au, Sophiea Tupaz and Janeiro Beins-Au performed at **Sengkang North** on 11 November.



Batik-Kebaya Talk by Sabine Bolk at EA on 14 November.



EA dancers (from right) Azalea Oliveiro and Chloe Roberts enriched the cultural experience at the EA booth during the **Kids Inc. Carnival at Toa Payoh West Community Club** on 18 November.



Sophiea and Catalina Tupaz engaged participants at the EA booth at **Singapore Discovery Centre for Ang Mo Kio GRC** on 18 November. Sophiea (2nd from right) shared in the interview with the organisers that the EA had been participating in the One Community Fiesta since 2013, then known as the Integration Carnival.



EA dancers (from left) Ignacio Estioco, Sophiea Tupaz, Chloe Roberts and Jasmine Oliveiro performed at the **Family Carnival for the Pasir Ris-Punggol Cluster** on 25 November.

One Community Fiesta Celebrations

DECEMBER



At the event organised by **Macpherson Seasons Residents' Network** on 2 December, EA held a heritage booth with sugee cake sampling and a dance performance. From left: Jacqueline Peeris (EA Heritage Manager), guest-of-honour MP Tin Pei Ling, with EA volunteers Troy Lee De Silva and Francisca De Costa.



EA dancers Ignacio Estioco, Sophiea Tupaz, with brothers Janeiro and Rio Beins-Au.



Eurasian dance by (in the middle) Sophiea Tupaz, and siblings Laylabelle, Rio and Janeiro Beins-Au at **Anchorvale Community Club for Sengkang West** on 3 December.



Eurasian dance by Sophiea Tupaz, Ignacio Estioco, Janeiro and Rio Beins-Au at **Hougang Community Club for the Aljunied Cluster** on 3 December.



From left: EA Heritage Sub-Committee members Misha Monteiro-Benson and Samantha Santa Maria, with EA dancers Florabelle Beins and her three children, Janeiro, Laylabelle and Rio Beins-Au, at **Telok Blangah Community Club** on 16 December. EA contributed a dance performance and cultural booth with sugee cake sampling.



EA dancers Sophiea Tupaz, Janeiro, Rio and Laylabelle Beins-Au performed at **Kaki Bukit Community Club** on 10 December.



EA dancers Sophiea Tupaz (2nd from right) and siblings (from left) Rio, Laylabelle and Janeiro Beins-Au brought cheer to the **St. Vincent's Home** beneficiaries with their Eurasian dance performance at the EHG tour on 19 December.

Not Your Typical ‘Doctor’

Lawyer Jason Dendroff, a legal ‘doctor’ recognised for 25 years of pro bono service defending those facing capital charges, advocates for more volunteer legal support in the community.



Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon presented Jason the LASCO Long Service Award at the Judiciary Volunteers Appreciation Lunch.



Apart from work, Jason enjoys taking strolls and cycling at Bishan Park.



Each month, Jason Dendroff spends close to 10 hours at various clinics. However, he is not a doctor in the traditional sense; rather, as a lawyer, he likens his work to that of an Oncologist.

“People come to me with their legal problems and I prescribe them a solution. But it depends which stage they come to me that determines how much I can assist them.”

Jason, who has German and Peranakan heritage, told the *New Eurasian*, “The passion that I derive from my job is to get the best solution for my client’s legal challenges based on the facts of their cases. They come to me saddled with their legal problems and are unsure of the next steps.”

Outside of the workplace, Jason has been an active contributor to the community for over two decades. His long-term commitment was

acknowledged at the Judiciary Volunteers Appreciation Lunch held last November at the Raffles Town Club, where the Singapore Courts recognised the sterling contributions, time and dedication of court volunteers who support the work of the Courts. Jason received the Legal Assistance for Capital Offences (LASCO) Long Service Award from Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon at the ceremony, for lawyers who have served 25 years or more representing accused persons charged with capital offences at trial and on appeal.

Apart from LASCO, Jason also volunteers at various legal clinics – Community Justice Centre Legal Clinic, Pro Bono SG’s Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) as a CLAS External Remand Merits Tester, volunteer lawyer in the Catholic Lawyers Guild Pro Bono Legal Clinic and the Church of Christ the King Legal Clinic, and gives legal advice to low-income and elderly constituents in Ang Mo Kio GRC where he is involved in grassroots work.

Jason, who is a sole proprietor of his law firm, shared that he wanted to pursue a teaching career when he was in school, instead of law.

“I was an Arts student and pioneer batch from Victoria Junior College, and somehow after my NS, I met a schoolmate who told me she was studying a Law degree course outside of NUS - the University of London External Law Degree programme. I then attended their talks and later enrolled, and the rest is history,” said Jason, who is married and has a son and two daughters.

Looking back at his experience as a court volunteer, he went on to share a complicated case he worked on in 1998, which he felt was an eye-opener.

“I was an Assisting Counsel where we acted for an accused man in his 60s for drug trafficking. When it was time for him to give his evidence, he decided to remain silent. I was surprised as all accused persons want to tell their version or defence to the Court.”

“Both the Lead Counsel and I advised him to think carefully, including the Judge. However, he still chose to remain silent and at the end of the trial, he was convicted and subsequently sentenced to death by hanging,” added Jason, who took some time to reflect on the case.

“What struck me about this case was that at times, the evidence against the accused persons was so overwhelming that there is nothing to say in their defence. The said accused later told us if he had given his defence, he may complicate the case further which will affect the other two co-accused persons tried jointly with him.”

As he reflected on his award, Jason hopes more lawyers will be inspired to become court volunteers, to help those who do not have the financial means to hire a lawyer.

In his own words, “We need more volunteer legal ‘doctors’ in the community.”

Jason Dendroff is currently Assistant Honorary Secretary of the Eurasian Association Management Committee.



Jason received the Community Partner award for the legal clinic service he has provided since 2013, for the low-income residents in Ang Mo Kio.

BALUT

In-House Balut Wrap-Up

The seventh and final session of the 2023 Balut series took place on 26 October. Prizes were awarded to the year-end winners who scored the highest aggregate scores in five games over seven months. Yvonne Pereira took first place, with Dorothy Tessensohn and Philip Cordeiro coming in second and third place respectively.

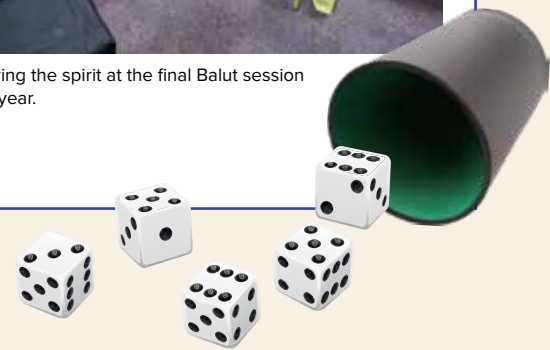
A special thank you goes to Evelyn Rodrigues and Pat Leung for their continuous support and generous sponsorship. If you are keen to join the Balut games in 2024, reach out to Liya at marliyah@eurasians.org



In 2023, Yvonne Pereira clinched three challenge trophies, recognising her as Baluteer of the Year, with the High Aggregate Score (Single Game) and High Score (Single Game).



Capturing the spirit at the final Balut session of the year.



Inter-Club Balut Tournament: EA Clinches Third Spot

The Singapore Cricket Club hosted the sixth and final round of the Inter-Club Balut tournament on 11 October. The EA team took the lead in the initial five rounds, before coming in third position overall. NUSS Team 3 claimed victory, with Singapore Khalsa Association Team 1 coming in second.

Hyacinth D'Silva, David Lim, S K John and Therese Thompson represented EA. Hyacinth D'Silva also won the 'Baluteer of the Year' title for achieving the highest scores in five games, among 79 other players. Well done to the EA Balut team!



The EA team (from left) Hyacinth, David, S K John and Therese took a commendable third-place finish at the Inter-Club Balut tournament.

41st Interport Balut Competition

Representing EA at the 41st Interport Balut competition, hosted by the Singapore Cricket Club on 17 and 18 November, were David Lim, Edna Dorairaj, Hyacinth D'Silva and Patrick Fernando.



EA Balut Convenor Yvonne Pereira (centre) pictured with the EA team, which played against local and overseas teams at the 41st Interport Balut competition.

EASRC Dinner & Dance

18 November 2023



EA President Sandra Theseira was presented with a token of appreciation for attending and showing her support.

The Eurasian Community House came alive at the EA Sports & Recreation Club's (EASRC) dinner and dance on 18 November at the Eurasian Community House.

In EA President Sandra Theseira's address, she recognised the EA Football Club's journey to become the EASRC in 2023, reflecting the team's commitment to fostering inclusivity and positioning sports as a vital component of EA's family-oriented activities.

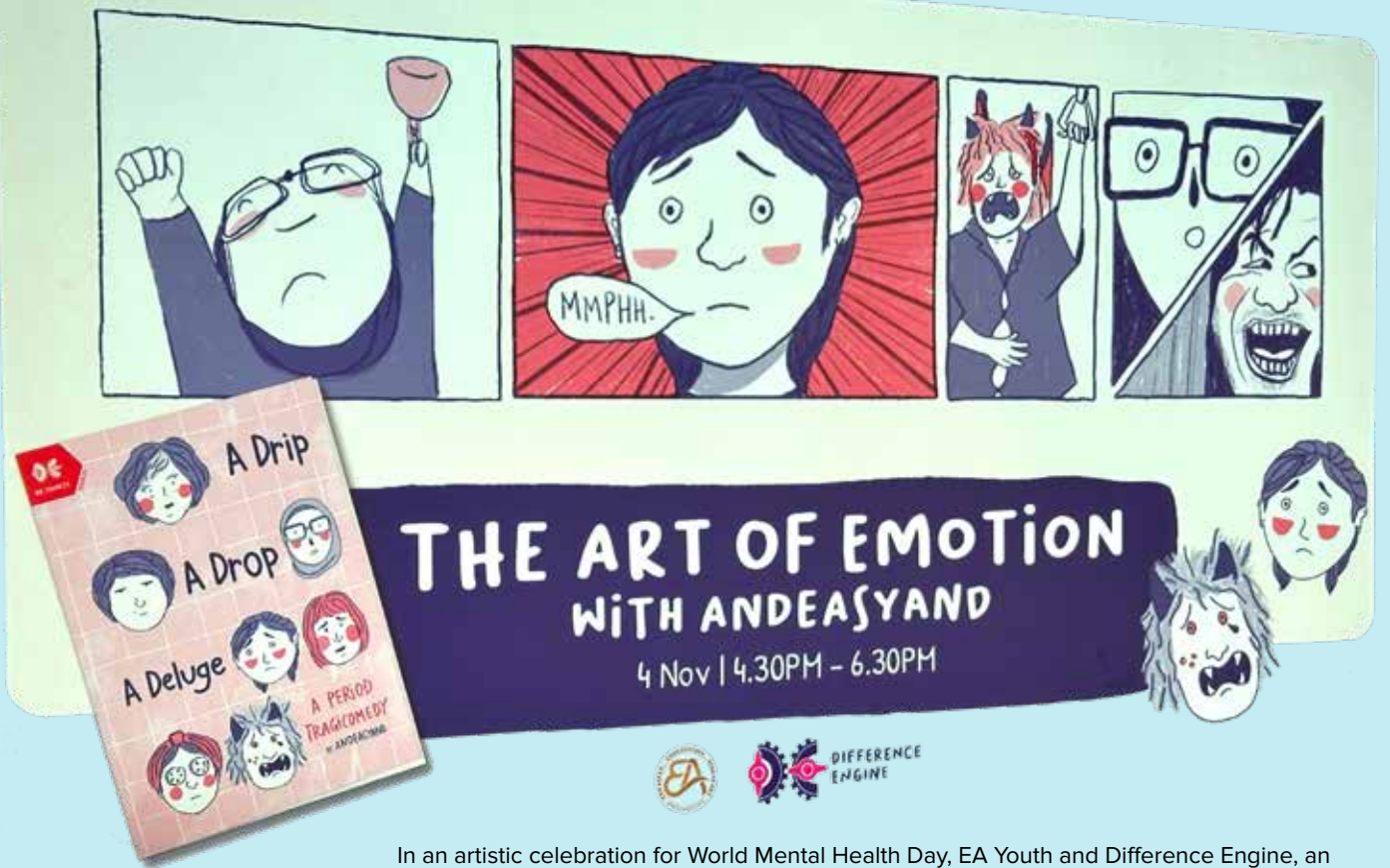
She shared, "We envision sports playing a more central role in EA's activities. Sports has a unique ability to bring people and families

together, and also promotes a healthy lifestyle. What excites me the most is the opportunity to make sports a source of fun for the younger generation – the future of EA. By expanding our sports and recreation activities, we will be able to create an environment where every game or gathering becomes a chance for shared fun and building stronger community bonds from young."

120 guests enjoyed the evening with a sumptuous dinner, lively dancing and fellowship. The EASRC looks forward to a year filled with more family-friendly sports activities, and welcoming more to the EA sports community.



Members toasted to a year of milestones at the EASRC Dinner & Dance.



In an artistic celebration for World Mental Health Day, EA Youth and Difference Engine, an independent comic publisher in Singapore, collaborated to organise two workshops titled 'The Art of Emotion' on 7 October and 4 November.

The sessions immersed participants in the world of comic creation, where they explored the link between art and mental health, and discovered a therapeutic outlet to express emotions like rage, melancholy, and joy.



Andeasyand, the creator of the book 'A Drip, A Drop, A Deluge, A Period Tragicomedy', took participants through ways to express emotions through creative avenues like craft and comic making.

Exploring the Wonders of

SCIENCE

Students worked in groups to navigate the build-a-boat challenge with creativity and budget constraints.



Building Bridges at the Racial Harmony Dialogue

The 'Building Bridges: Racial Harmony in a Digital World' dialogue, co-organised by OnePeople.sg, Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA), and the EA, was held on 25 November at the OnePeople.sg Hall of Trust.

With Dr Janil Puthuchery, Chairman, OnePeople.sg; Christopher Gordon, EA Youth Sub-Committee Chairperson; and moderator Dr Yun Jia, SFCCA Youth Committee, 40 participants discussed race relations, social media, cancel culture, and online racism, emphasising the power of awareness and strategies for constructive online engagement.



The Racial Harmony dialogue showed participants' commitment to fostering racial harmony in the digital age.



40 students were immersed in the realm of science during two Kids' Science workshops conducted on 23 November by Victoria Junior College students at the Eurasian Community House. The interactive, hands-on workshops allowed participants to explore science concepts through build-a-boat and board game activities.

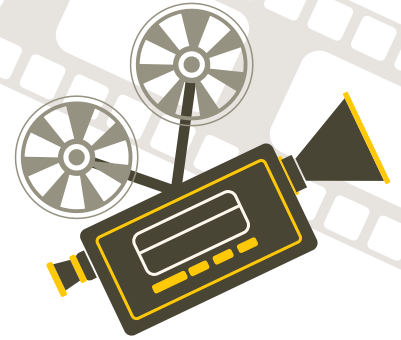


Participants explored, created and had fun at the afternoon session of the Kids' Science Workshop.





PASSION FOR THE ARTS



While some may perceive the phrase 'Jack of all trades, master of none' as a negative characterisation, Tejas V Hirah sees it as a valuable aspect of his versatile persona. He acts, dances, hosts and does stand-up comedy, and is always optimistic.

"As I dip my toes in many things, I often ask myself, 'Should I pick one field and specialise in it? Or am I taking on too many things?' But I feel as a young artist, I should explore and gain exposure," said Tejas, 24, who has Sindhi (North Indian), Chinese and European (Czech, Portuguese, German and Dutch) heritage.

He told the New Eurasian, "Being an artist in Singapore is not the most stable of careers so we have to be versatile and wear different hats to earn a living too, such as acting in theatre, television commercials, hosting and teaching."

Tejas discovered his passion for entertainment at age five through early exposure to speech and drama. His journey began at Chiltern House by Julia Gabriel, where he took the stage in graduation recitals and plays, cultivating a love for drama. At Pasir Ris Primary School, he furthered his journey by hosting school events and participating in debate and storytelling competitions. He later auditioned and secured a spot in the School of the Arts (SOTA) Singapore International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme via Direct School Admission (DSA).

"I learned a lot at SOTA, the exposure to theatre from my teachers who were veterans in the local theatre scene. There was Sean Tobin (HOD of Theatre and artistic director of the M1 Fringe Festival from 2015-2020) and Serena Ho (who started out her career as a resident artist at the Necessary Stage, one of Singapore's oldest and renowned

theatre companies)," shared Tejas, who has two younger siblings.

Tejas shared how receiving the EA University Bursary in 2020 helped him rediscover his connection to the Eurasian Association. He later also received the Tertiary Merit Award in 2023.

"The EA University Bursary award in 2020 was a great help as it helped me to bridge the gap with my tuition fees especially because my father is from the aviation industry and the pandemic took a big hit on his work and income."

Receiving these awards motivated him to 'pay it forward' to volunteer at the EA.

"Since 2021, I have been an active volunteer with EA. I volunteer as an emcee for EA events such as the Eurasian Community Fund Awards (2021 and 2023), Annual General Meeting (2022), Project Ray of Hope (2022 and 2023), Joseph Schooling Sports Grant (2023), President Halimah Yacob's Tea Visit @ EA (2023) and the recent EA New Year's Eve Party (2023)."

"I also am in the Heritage Committee where I volunteer as a dancer for the EA Dance Troupe, and I have conducted Children's Drama Workshops as part of a Heritage tour."

After graduating with first class honours from Lasalle College of the Arts, Tejas' dedication led to a seven-month role in the EA Secretariat's Education team. For now, he is looking forward to getting his theatre career on track in his first Malay theatre production titled 'Kita' with the company Teatre Kami in February for primary school children, followed by 'Perfecting Pratas' in the second quarter, an adaptation of an O-Level Literature text targeted at secondary school students. Despite the busy schedule, Tejas remains positive.



Tejas showcased his versatility as the emcee at EA's 2023 New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance, with a 'MJ Lives On' dance tribute to Michael Jackson.



In Episode 88 of Mediacorp's 'Sunny Side Up' in 2022, Tejas acted with his friend and Eurasian theatre and television actress, Sharda Harrison.



Tejas (seated) with his family and girlfriend on his 24th birthday on 11 March 2023. From left: Tyrohnn Hira, Tracey Anne Dragon, Vivek Motiram Hiranandani, Tia Nadine Hira, Periyachi Roshini.

"I am a little nervous but excited as 'Kita' is my first time doing a full production in Malay. The 'Perfecting Pratas' production is written by award winning playwright Chong Tze Chien and produced by the theatre company Sight Lines. It will be held at the KC Arts Centre (where I had my kindergarten graduation, full circle moment!)."

Tejas also feels an innate passion to preserve Eurasian identity and heritage through the power of the arts, using theatre as a medium. He also sees

theatre as a way for Eurasian youths to express their experiences and build a supportive community.

"I believe that producing plays about our history would educate not only non-Eurasians but also Eurasians about our history and also foster a sense of pride, appreciation and understanding of what our ancestors went through. I also believe that theatre can help build a community amongst the Eurasian youth."



Penang relatives came to support Tejas at his first comedy special, 'Tejas V Hirah and the 3 (Not So) Wise Men' in December 2023. From left: Petra Boudville, Charmaine Boudville, Cheryl Deborah De Souza, Tejas, Pierre Boudville, Jean Pierre Boudville.



With his EA colleagues and girlfriend Roshini, after Tejas' win at the Stand-Up Comedy Competition at the Lemon Stand Comedy Club in August 2023. From left: Shareen, Liya, Ram, Tejas, Roshini, Jacqueline.



At the Lasalle Convocation Ceremony 2023 in August, where Tejas received his first-class honours degree certificate in Acting from Professor Steve Dixon, President of Lasalle.

The 'Calling' to Help Others



Psychologist, counsellor, educator, entrepreneur, and advocate. It makes you wonder how Marion Neubronner manages to juggle all of the above.

"I have no life," she joked, before sharing, "Somehow, I still find some free time to do community work, and also author several books."

Her various roles all share one thing in common – helping people.

She told the New Eurasian, "As a psychologist, educational psychologist, and developmental psychologist, my job is to strategise ways to educate more people to have counselling skills, psychology skills, and leadership skills to manage this new population of stressed and vulnerable people."

"I created a certificate in counselling psychology to help skill police, social workers, pastoral care pastors, parents, HR professionals, in order for them to support their staff or committee members in times of need," added Marion, who has German heritage, and grew up in Toa Payoh.

After leaving a full-time job to care for her mother at one point, Marion explored the start-up space, providing training and consultancy for 11 years. Today, she is part of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), founded in 1992 in Silicon Valley by a group of entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and senior professionals with roots in the Indus region.

"Currently, I am part of the TiE chapter for Indonesia, and I am active in the Women's Chapter at TiE - as we want to help women in small and medium businesses in Indonesia get the funding and technical support to sustain their businesses and scale. The mission of TiE is to foster entrepreneurship through mentoring, networking, education, funding, and incubation," said Marion, who studied at St. Anthony's Canossian, the National University of Singapore, the National Institute of Education, and the Harvard School of Education.

She added, “With a focus on giving back to the community, TiE wants to generate and nurture the next generation of entrepreneurs. We are privileged to have Indonesia’s Minister of Education and Gojek founder Nadiem Makarim and other outstanding venture capitalists and companies as the first founding members.”

On top of that, she is concurrently channelling her time to set up a Virtual Assistant Academy and Virtual Assistant business and she explained the reasons behind it.

“Many women stay home to take care of children, ageing parents, and handle chronic illnesses in the family. For myself, I was one of these caregivers and I was lucky that as a psychologist and counsellor, most of my work could be done online.”

“There are many women who work for me as virtual assistants from India, the Philippines, Nigeria, and now Indonesia, and they are wonderful, dedicated, very educated women, with one even having a Master’s degree. They are willing to work hard, but the challenge is they cannot work the full eight hours; they can only work maybe two hours a day.”

“I also have a community of women who want to work together as a group to care for one or two clients. They can help with social media, scheduling needs, and writing a book together with a virtual assistant. Our recent book writing was very successful and

is now ready to be published with Springer Nature.”

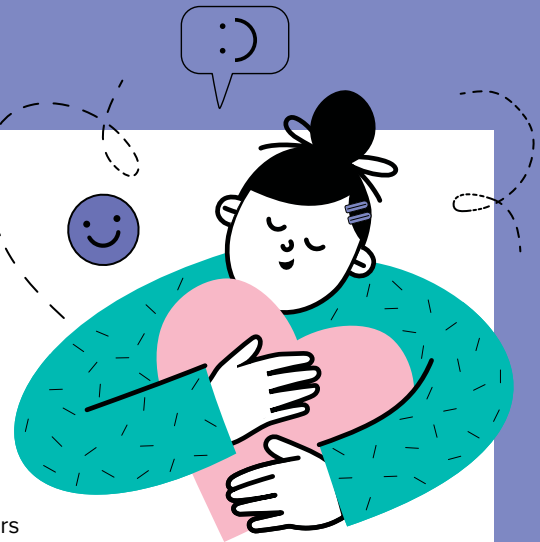
Marion’s dedication extends beyond the start-up space, with a focus on volunteer work. She is a member of the Women Leaders in Healthcare community, advocating for women in STEM from Asia, initiated after International Women’s Day 2020.

“I had this idea to create an online community where peer women leaders could come together, and I am thrilled to share we’ve grown to over 100 members now! We’ve also compiled a directory featuring over 150 inspiring mentors in the healthcare field, making their expertise accessible to the world. I could not be prouder to be part of this meaningful journey,” shared Marion.

As an advocate for youth mental health, she launched MyPAL (My Peer AI Learning), providing digital and scalable professional training for young people aged 18 and 25 to be effective peer-supporters during times of confusion and crisis.

“MyPAL is all about taking a preventative approach to mental health, ensuring that young leaders/peer-supporters are equipped to make a difference—one conversation at a time.”

She is also a mentor for GEETA, a non-profit offering students in rural India education and a pathway to medical careers, supporting more female students entering medical schools under the Singapore International



Marion tracing her German heritage.

Foundation Youth Social Enterprise Project.

“The programme uses a combination of online learning and in-person teaching to ensure that they are not just providing knowledge but also the personal touch that’s so vital for their success.”

These days, she has added another role to her list – unofficial tour guide, as she makes an effort to bring tourists to Singapore to the Joo Chiat area and the Eurasian Community House.

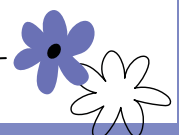
Said Marion, “It is special to be really treasured from a culture that was created from a mix of people, history, and time that only a few other places could be part of.”



Marion attended the Neubronner German gathering in 1995, which is held every 5 years.



Indonesian Minister for Education Nadiem Makarim and Marion at the TiE Global Summit in November 2023.



CENTENARIAN

Olive Scheerder

**CELEBRATES
MILESTONE**



Olive with her four children and two daughters-in-law.

Over 60 family and friends, some from as far as Canada and Australia, gathered at the Eurasian Community House last October to celebrate Olive Scheerder nee Zuzarte's 100th birthday.

Olive, who was a donor and supporter of the EA Education pillar, is the youngest of four children of Ignatius Zuzarte, a government road surveyor, and Josephine Wilmot. She grew up at Hooper Road and attended Raffles Girls' School, before the post-Japanese Occupation, where she worked for the British military administration and served as a nursing assistant.

It was during this period that she met James (Jim) Scheerder, a fellow survivor of wartime tribulations who had served in the Straits Settlement Volunteer



Over 60 family members and friends came together for Olive's 100th birthday party.

Corps (SSVC) and endured captivity on the infamous Death Railway in then-Siam. The couple later married in 1949 and went on to raise four children in their Meryn Road bungalow from 1955 to 1991. Today, Olive is the proud grandmother of nine.

Apart from work and family, Olive also contributed time to the church, serving

as a volunteer catechist for six years at St. Ignatius Church and participated in various ministries. She always believed in the importance of nurturing young minds, and this was demonstrated when she and her fellow catechists pioneered a Sunday breakfast programme for their students.

When asked about the secret to her longevity, Olive attributed it to a 'simple, clean, and active lifestyle'. She was an excellent cook who could recreate many local Singapore dishes such as chicken rice, mee siam and laksa, and also took pottery and copper tooling classes for several years. Despite being wheelchair-bound today, she continues her favourite pastimes of reading on her Kindle, solving crossword puzzles, and watching her favourite television programme, Wheel of Fortune, to keep her mind active as ever.

Congratulations to Olive Scheerder on reaching the 100-year milestone!



Jim and Olive Scheerder tied the knot on 6 January 1949.



Olive (2nd from right), with her childhood friends at the Botanic Gardens. Photo taken in 1941.



Ask Me Anything About NS

In this column, Commando Officer Brian Thomas from the Singapore Armed Forces, answers questions related to National Service (NS).

I am awaiting my enlistment and I have been struggling with my sit-ups and 2.4km run. How best do I train for these?

The simple answer is that you will have to do more of these exercises. If you have not exercised in a long while, start by exercising at least three days a week and slowly increase the intensity and frequency of your workouts.

For the 2.4km run, it is important to focus on mileage before training for speed. Decide on your target 2.4km run time and the corresponding pace per km. Start with 3km to 4km easy-paced runs three to four times a week. Once comfortable, begin speed workouts. Run at an easy pace for 3km, then speed up for the last 1km at your target pace. Once you can hit that pace for the entire 1km, at your next workout, run 2km at an easy pace and

2km at the target pace. Then, 1km at an easy pace and 3km at the target pace. Finally, 1km at an easy pace and 4km at the target pace. While there are many ways to train for the 2.4km, this method is particularly suitable for people who are starting out.

Train for sit-ups with just a mat and the floor. Set a target score, starting with basic sit-ups without ankle support (yes, it can be done). Prioritise completion over speed, and once you hit your target, aim for target + 10 at your next few workouts. Get the form correct and consider increasing the number of sets in each workout. Practise hitting your target in one minute, progressively increasing sets. Your abs recover fast so you can practise sit ups every other day.

Disclaimer: The opinions in this column are the author's own.

Remembrance Sunday Ceremony

In remembrance of the men and women from the Commonwealth who died in the line of duty during World War II, a memorial service at the Kranji War Memorial is held every year on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day on 11 November.



EA MC member Percival Shepherdson (top photo, 2nd from right) laid the wreath on behalf of the EA at the Kranji War Memorial on Sunday 12 November.

2024 EA Annual General Meeting



**Saturday 20 April
5pm**

Join us for the EA's 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for Saturday 20 April, 5pm, open to EA members only.

The 2023 Annual Report will be mailed to all members by 22 March. To confirm your attendance, kindly return the registration form via email or post by 3 April.

We look forward to your RSVP!

Appointment of New EA Endowment Fund Trustee

In a ceremony on 20 January at the Eurasian Community House, William Jansen was appointed as a new Trustee of the EA Endowment Fund (ENF).

Established in 1992 to support the economic, academic and social welfare needs of Singaporean or Permanent Resident Eurasians, the ENF plays a vital role in supporting the EA through challenging times.

William Jansen brings a wealth of experience, having served as EA Honorary Secretary (1996-1998), EA President (2010-2012), and Chairman of the EA Legal Panel for several years.

The EA extends its appreciation to EA Patron Barry Desker and Timothy de Souza, who continue their service as ENF Life Trustees, and gratitude to retiring ENF Trustees, Oscar Oliviero, Gerald Minjoot and Gerry de Silva.



Front row from left: Yvonne Pereira (EA 2nd Vice-President), Sandra Theseira (EA President), Barry Desker (EA Patron), William Jansen, Angeline Jansen, Vincent Schoon (EA 1st Vice-President), Edward D'Silva (EA Trustee).

Back row from left: Lester Low (EA General Manager), Melanie Rodrigues Smith (EA MC member), Christopher Gordon (EA MC member), Jason Dendroff (EA Asst Honorary Secretary), Percival Shepherdson (EA MC member).

The Eurasian Table Second Helpings

Delve into the heart of Eurasian cuisine with 'Second Helpings'. The latest book by The Eurasian Table, curated by Theresa and Cheryl Noronha, offers over 50 recipes blending tradition with a modern twist. From capturing 'agak-agak' cooking to preserving a 90-year-old's culinary memory, 'Second Helpings' invites the next generation on a flavourful journey with Kristang cooking.



Theresa and Cheryl spent the past few years working on The Eurasian Table's recipe book 'Second Helpings'.

We've just emerged from the festive season, and for those looking to savour a range of hearty and delicious Eurasian dishes all year round, 'Second Helpings', the latest book by The Eurasian Table, offers just that.

Curated by the grandmother-granddaughter duo, Theresa ('Nan') and Cheryl Noronha, the recipe book presents an array of choices with over 50 recipes, blending cherished traditions, with a contemporary touch.

Speaking to The New Eurasian, Cheryl, 36, shared how their first book – The Eurasian Table – which was launched about eight years ago, was very well-received.

"I started compiling my grandmother's recipes more than 20 years ago, when Nan turned 70. I felt it was important to start compiling Nan's recipes as no one in our family had them at that point

in time." Following the success of the first book, there was a desire to share more.

"This time, with more in-depth knowledge, updated techniques and even more beautiful photography, I wanted to share the full and final edition of all our recipes. This will be our final book to capture our Eurasian culture."

Yet, the journey was not without its challenges, especially when it came down to getting the details of the recipes, especially those belonging to the older generation.

"Nan practices agak-agak cooking, she does not have specific recipes so I watched Nan cook a certain recipe many times, over the years, then practised the recipes myself to ensure a good result could be achieved by anyone," shared Cheryl, before giving credit to Nan's fantastic memory.

"She never had the opportunity of traditional education so every recipe resides in her head. Because she is unable to write them down, her 90-year-old memory is incredible. The recipes are also organic and ephemeral; they change over the years as fashions, palates and ingredients evolve and there is a playful element to recreating dishes slightly differently each time."

As the chapter draws to a close for The Eurasian Table, Cheryl reflected on the enriching experiences she and Nan had gathered over the last few years. She hopes Second Helpings will be the next generation's guide to Kristang cooking.

"The most important part of cooking is having fun in the kitchen and using your creativity to create amazing dishes. Another piece of advice I would give to aspiring cooks is, get your family recipes. Let their legacy continue through food."



Theresa Noronha concludes the final edition of The Eurasian Table with some special recipes.

The book costs \$55, with a \$5 delivery fee in Singapore. Check out the website for more details:
<https://www.eurasiantable.com/>



Continue with a celebration of taste throughout the year by trying out these recipes from the book, to add a little spice to your family gatherings!



CURRY DEVIL

Ingredients

For the curry paste, blend together:

- 4 sticks of lemongrass (discard the harder outer stalk and only use the white inner stalks, then slice thinly before blending)
- 4 large red onions
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 3 thick slices of galangal
- 2 small pieces of turmeric
- 3 candlenuts
- 3 tbsp dried chilli powder
- 5 fresh large red chillies
- 5 - 8 chilli padi
- 20g - 40g dried shrimp paste (belachan)

Other Ingredients

- 1 whole chicken cut into pieces (or 1kg of your choice of chicken parts)
- A 5cm piece of ginger, shredded thinly
- 1 large red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 large red onion, quartered
- 1 level tbsp mustard seeds, ground
- 4 potatoes, peeled and chopped (about 600g)
- 1 tbsp light soya sauce
- 1 chicken stock cube
- A pinch of salt
- 1 heaped tbsp English mustard powder
- 3 tbsp white vinegar
- 150g crispy roasted pork belly (optional)
- 150g cooked chicken gizzards (optional)
- 150g smoked ham (optional)

Recipe

1. Add a few good glugs of oil to a deep pan.
2. Once the oil is heated, fry the shredded ginger, sliced onions and ground mustard seeds until the ginger and onions are lightly browned.
3. Add the curry paste and fry until fragrant for about 10 minutes. Add the soya sauce and cover the pan for 5 minutes.
4. Once the oil has started bubbling to the surface, add the chicken pieces, chicken stock cube, salt and cover the pan.
5. After 15 minutes, add the potatoes and one and a half cups of water. Bring to the boil and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes.
6. Mix the mustard powder and vinegar together and then add to the pot together with the quartered onions and continue to cook for another 15 to 20 minutes, until the potatoes are cooked through.
7. If you are using them, add the chicken gizzards to the pot. This is also where you can stir in any roasted meats if preferred.
8. Serve with steamed white rice or baguettes.



SPICED SAUSAGE ROLLS (Makes 32 mini rolls)

Ingredients

- 350g minced pork belly
- 1 medium red onion, chopped finely
- 2 cloves of garlic, diced finely
- 1 large red chilli, seeds removed, diced finely
- 1.5 tbsp red curry paste
- 1 tbsp light soya sauce

- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 3 tbsp panko breadcrumbs
- 2 sheets of ready-made frozen puff pastry (24cm x 24cm)
- 2 egg yolks to seal and egg wash the rolls
- Baking paper
- Tomato ketchup or chilli sauce (optional)

Recipe

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius.
 2. Combine the minced pork belly, onion, garlic, red chilli, red curry paste, soya sauce, fish sauce and Panko breadcrumbs together.
 3. Using a fork, whip the mixture well until you get a sticky paste. Divide the mixture into 4.
 4. Use one sheet of puff pastry and cut in half, fill with the minced meat mixture and brush one side of the puff pastry with egg yolk. Lift the pastry and fold it over the minced meat to encase it tightly. Use a fork to crimp and seal along the edge. Egg wash the roll. Cut the roll into 8 pieces and place on a baking sheet lined with baking paper. Make sure to space them out.
 5. Repeat with the remaining 3 puff pastry pieces, until all the minced meat mixture is used up.
 6. Chill the rolls in the fridge for 15 minutes.
 7. Once out of the fridge, egg wash for a second time and immediately bake in the oven for 20 to 25 minutes or until flaky and golden brown.
 8. Place on a wire rack to cool for about 15 minutes and serve warm.
 9. Serve with tomato ketchup or chilli sauce.
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