

THE NEW EURASIAN

www.eurasians.org

APRIL – JUNE 2009

A Eurasian Spectacular!

Celebrating Our 90th Birthday!



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President's Message



Dear Friends,

How time flies! This month marks the first anniversary of the present Management Committee being in office and responsible for the running of The Eurasian Association. It has been an exhilarating experience, making us want to do more, if only we have more of that rare commodity: time. But we all make time, doing the things we love and cherish. On this I must single out our colleague on the Committee, Humphrey De Conceicao, who led a unique team of volunteers last year and pulled off that great show at Chingay 2009. Well done, one and all.

There is no rest for the great and talented! Many of these volunteers are now working very hard for the coming blockbuster event, Eurasiana: A Musical Tribute, that takes off on 26 and 27 June at the Esplanade. Please see the centre-spread pages and come and support YOUR event. It will be a night to remember, as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of The Eurasian Association. I look forward to seeing you all at the Esplanade.

Our theme for this issue of The New Eurasian is culture and heritage. We are the inheritors and living testimony of a rich Colonial history resulting from the European expansion to Asia since the early 16th Century. With close to 500 years and the potpourri and fusion of ideals, cultures and heritage our community stands out as being unique yet indigenous to the region. There are communities of Eurasians all across Asia, yet it is only along the Straits of Malacca, where we have officially been called the "Eurasian Community". The Eurasian Community in Singapore is even more unique, as it has the recognition from the Government having contributed significantly in the past, despite our insignificant numbers.

On heritage matters, I want to highlight the project "Saving Memories for Tomorrow" by the Committee on Heritage and Culture led by Geoffrey Morris (please see page 7). Geoff is to be commended for his efforts in archiving photos of a bygone era about the Eurasian community some 50, 60 or even 70 years ago – the era of our parents and grandparents – in Singapore as well as in Malaya, which used to be considered one geographical entity. Do you have photos of weddings, birthdays, baptisms, sporting and social events of your childhood years? Check out that old box in the attic, or things tucked away in cupboards and drawers. Our Committee on Heritage and Culture would love to hear from you.

I want to touch on two other important topics. One is education: Scholarships and Bursaries. In present-day Singapore, any student with the ability to study is given every opportunity to do so, and attain his or her highest level of education. Do take note of the various financial help available. From time to time, we highlight in our magazine, some of these aids. For example, the

President's Challenge Merit Bursary Awards 2009 for deserving and outstanding Eurasian students who have been accepted into the ITE or any of the five national polytechnics to pursue courses of their choice, being offered for the first time this year. The award covers the full cost of tuition and book stipend to enable the student to complete the required tenure of study. Or the APB (Asia Pacific Breweries) Foundation scholarships for students with disabilities, to pursue a degree course of their choosing at a local university.

The second important topic is support to nurture our young professionals and other young adults as fresh leaders for our Association, for our Society, and for our Country in the years ahead. I think the older generation has done its part, and if I may say so, has done the Eurasian Community proud. It's time for you, the younger generation, to come forward and play your part.

Finally, let me also touch on The Eurasian Association of today. The Association, having been awarded IPC status in 1995 and being one of the four community Self-Help Groups (SHGs), has placed great emphasis on corporate governance as well as transparency in working with the public and external agencies. A lot has since been carried out in terms of documenting our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in a wide spectrum of operational areas and more importantly, in ensuring that we are in compliance with the very stringent requirements set forth by the IPC under EA's Enhanced category.

We have since met the timeline given by the Commissioner of Charities and have updated online our compliance checklist at end of last March. Apart from this, you will also notice various new financial format incorporated in the Annual Report 2008. These are changes that were recommended by the Commissioner of Charities as well. Do take some time to familiarize yourself with the "new EA with IPC status."

Let's put our best foot forward as we celebrate this special 90th anniversary year, and build on it, as we progress towards our Centenary Year in 2019. See you around the Eurasian Community House more often, and God bless.

Edward D'Silva
President,
The Eurasian Association
2 April 2009



Eurasian Float and Dancers Enthrall the Chingay Crowd

What a night it was, 30 January 2009! The Eurasians enthralled one of the largest crowds ever at a national Chingay parade. EURASIANA, the performing team representing EA and the Community, joined 30 other contingents in 13 floats and more than 5,000 performers and volunteers at City Hall for the first of two nights of extraordinary entertainment. There were also performers from China, Taiwan, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and India. Seated among the crowd were the Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Cabinet Ministers and a host of VIPs.

EA's contingent was resplendent in the costumes designed by Debra De Cotta. Our PAC dancers dressed in electric pink were on centre stage, while Sylvia McCully's School of Dancing in red took front position and Cedar Girls Secondary School in yellow made up the second formation. With special choreography by Sylvia herself, and the familiar strains of Jingkli Nona, newly re-written by Cultural Medallion Winner Iskandar Ismail, it was a grand feeling, felt by performers and spectators alike.

Our float was a unique Portuguese Carrack or large boat, "sailing" past and showing off members depicting some of the original national groups that make up the Eurasians: Portuguese, Dutch and English/Scottish. The carrack then led the contingent around the Padang, past the SCC and SRC and the Memorial. At intervals, the ship's eight "cannons"



fired away, spewing confetti into the grandstands and the spectators, bringing shrieks of surprise and delight. And working quietly behind the scenes on the main deck were Maurice Lin and his “artillerymen” in perfect precision. Well done, gang! “Steering” the ship was mythical Capt Jack Sparrow, aka Paul Rodrigues, who had to maneuver the “vessel” all the way to Marina Bay.

The next night, the show was repeated, this time for a different but equally appreciative audience. It was also recorded for telecast on local and International TV. The EURASIANA team were TV stars for the moment. As they led the EA team off centre stage, Lanette Stuart and Vanessa Garnell looked at each other with great satisfaction in their eyes and beaming smiles enough to light up the Padang. The appreciation was clearly signaled by the loud and proud cheering we heard from the audience, among whom were Tim and Pat De Souza and Edward D’Silva, seated in the grandstands. EURASIANA, the star performers, have come of age!

The seal of approval was given by none other than our neighbor, President SR Nathan and his lovely wife, who whilst moving to our Jingkli Nona music, were also pointing out to each and every EA member he recognized in the EURASIANA contingent. I was filled with pride, as the President returned my salute from the top deck of the carrack, before our float moved off. Every now and then there were encouraging shouts of “Go Eurasians go!”

EURASIANA was brought to the heartlands on 1 February, as the Carrack with 8 performers on board, was paraded through Nee Soon South, Yio Chu Kang, Kebun Baru, Teck Gee, Cheng San, Serangoon North and ending at Anchorvale CC. The parade was telecast on MediaCorp and to 25 countries worldwide.

Our participation in Chingay 2009 would not have been possible without our sponsors that included The Tote Board, Central Singapore CDC, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society, John de Payva, Qian Hu Corporation Ltd, Far East Organisation and Tan Chin Tuan Foundation.

It must be recorded that a lot of volunteers also gave their efforts and made much sacrifices of all kinds, especially their valuable time. To all I say a very sincere Thank You! Our internal talent has now come of age and we have reached the national stage. We have started the wheels rolling. Now it is up to you, the larger Eurasian community, to show what you can do, to make Singaporeans take note of our special talents. Our EA team and I look forward to seeing more of you!

By Humphrey De Conceicao
Chairman, Performing Arts Chapter (PAC)

Our deepest appreciation go out to:

PAC Chingay Committee

Edward D Silva *Advisor*
 Humphrey De Conceicao
Leader of EA Contingent - EURASIANA
 Sylvia McCully *Choreographer*
 Debra D Cotta *Costume Designer*
 Lanette Stuart *Head of Dance, PAC*
 Vanessa Garnell *Deputy Head of Dance, PAC*
 Paul Rodrigues *Co-Coordinator - Carrack*
 Maurice Lin *Co-Coordinator - Logistics*
 Liz Schurmann *Secretary*
 Chase Lim *Co-Coordinator - Ground*

Dance Teams

Lim Hwee Sian
Teacher-in-charge, Cedar Girls Secondary School
 Julia Tan *i/c Sylvia McCully School of Dancing*
 Sarah De Conceicao *Lead Performer, EA Dance*

Team

Jaime Yuen *Lead Performer, EA Dance Team*
 Michelle Loh *Lead Performer, EA Dance Team*

Music

Iskandar Ismail *Composer, Jingkli Nona*
 Mel Ferdinands and the Ferdinands Family
Vocals, Jingkli Nona

Sponsors

The Tote Board
 Central Singapore CDC
 Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society
 John de Payva
 Qian Hu Corporation Ltd
 Far East Organisation
 Tan Chin Tuan Foundation

Supporters

Ms Wendy Ng
Vice Principal, Cedar Girls Secondary School
 Mdm Haslinda
Vice-Principal, Cedar Girls Secondary School
 Ms Yvette
Teacher, Cedar Girls Secondary School
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 The EA Management Committee
 The EA Secretariat
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Chief Executive Director, People's Association.
 Mr Nah Juay Hng
Chairman, EXCO Chingay Committee, People's Association
 Mrs Yow Chor Wah
Vice-Chairperson, Chingay Committee, People's Association
 Mr Julian Aw
Parade Management, People's Association
 Ms Sharmini Viswambharan
Leader, Production and Stage Management Crew

Mr Fan Dong Kai
Artistic Director, Chingay Parade

EA Filming Unit

Syafrin Ardi *Photographer*
 Mr Frank Schurmann *Videographer*

Performers

Dance Team – Sylvia McCully School of Dancing
 Dance Team – EA PAC Dance Group
 Dance Team - Cedar Girls Secondary School
 Carrack Team – Chingay 30/31 Jan 09
 a. Sylvia McCully
 b. Nigel Town
 c. Elspeth Town
 d. Melissa De Conceicao
 e. Tiffany De Conceicao
 f. Crispin Rodrigues
 g. Petra Michael
 h. Shaun Chew
 i. Terrence Neo
 j. Stephanie L Holland
 k. Chor Mun
 l. Humphrey Conceicao
 m. Paul Rodrigues
 Carrack Team - Heartlands
 a. Crispin Rodrigues
 b. Julian Schurmann
 c. Oliver Schurmann
 d. Liz Schurmann
 e. Lanette Stuart
 f. Vanessa Garnell
 g. Humphrey De Conceicao

Vendors

Float / Carrack Construction - Stella Yew
Account Manager, Q's Advertising Pte Ltd
 Catering - Quentin Pereira
Quentin's At Eddie's Place
 Costumes – Yin Fong Stage Image



Heritage Committee members at Bukit Chandu



After educational tour of the Peranakan Museum

Two Steps Back, Three Steps Forward

Recalling the good times, reminiscing about our folks - we record our past when we get together at family gatherings, birthday parties, anniversaries, and even at funerals. Stories are told and retold; remembered and then get passed down the generations. Each family has a treasure of documents, photos, and plenty of old stuff – like grand-dad's fountain pen; or Auntie Rosie's 100-year old wardrobe. Each tells a story or two about someone or something about how life was then.

The new Committee on Heritage and Culture has a mission to promote an awareness of our heritage and culture with the aim of recording,

preserving and sharing our heritage with others. Our goal is to showcase our Singaporean Eurasian legacy to all.

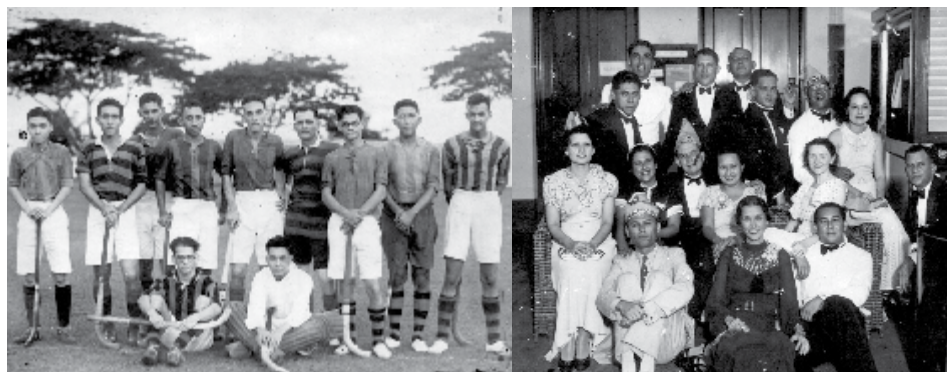
The Committee is divided into four interest groups: the Learning Journeys – our story tellers, curators and guides to our Exhibitions (see story on Eulyth Fernandez); the Family History and Genealogy – a team of people ready to work with you in your Family tree research (see story on Rediscovering the Bahau Catholic Colony); Preserving Nostalgia, Traditions and Customs – our record keepers for heritage and culture (see story on Digital Photo Archives); and the Eurasian Heritage Resource Centre – with a

plan to set up a resource centre for research on Eurasian heritage and culture.

There is among each family a family historian or aspiring writer, or perhaps you would like to be a guide with our Learning Journeys programme. To all of you with such interest we say, Join us today! Learn something new each day – contribute something old each day! (For more information and on the upcoming programmes and events on Heritage and Culture: contact Therese Thompson – 64471578 or therese@eurasians.org).

Saving Memories For Tomorrow – Can You Help?

By Geoffrey Morris, member Heritage Committee



Ever looked at old black and white photos and thought how life must have been in the old days? I have often wondered too! As life accelerates into the next century, we are fast losing the memories of our grandparents, parents and loved ones as they pass on. Even the landmarks of Singapore are disappearing as old makes way for new!

We can't stop progress, but we can now save those memories and old photos in easier ways. Soon, you just have to call us, and the Photo Archive team can come to your doorstep!

Recently the Heritage Committee embarked on a long-term program to save and preserve the many facets of Eurasian history, heritage and culture. These will be kept in a proposed resource centre at the EA Community House. Headed by Dr Barry Pereira (vice-president EA) the Heritage committee has three main focus groups:

1. Learning Journeys (for educating schools & community groups)
2. Genealogy and Family history (saving family tree records)
3. Preserving Nostalgia, Traditions and Customs (archiving photos, recordings and heritage items)

Under the third focus group, a Photo Archive (PA) team has been set up. Led by Geoffrey Morris, the team is planning to set up a photo database of Eurasian related artifacts, places and events. The short-term objective is to record and digitise old photos of:

- Weddings
- Birthdays
- Baptisms
- Eurasian dances
- Sporting events/sportspeople (school and adult)

TREASURY OF MEMORIES

Do you have a shoebox of old GSC dance photos gathering dust under the bed? Or perhaps grandpa has an old "sports" trophy in the display cabinet? Or maybe your mum still has a copy of her primary school sports certificate when she won the 50 yards race? These are just some of the tangible memories that make up our vital culture and history.

With your permission, we would like to capture some of these treasured mementos with the aim of eventually sharing them with the younger generations to come - so they have a better grasp of their heritage!

SAVING PRECIOUS PHOTOS

There is probably never a "right time" to save these photos, but often a family of a recently deceased loved one has the sad job of clearing out old possessions. Sometimes, there will be a box of old photos, old medals, trophies, etc. – none of which may have any meaning to the current generation, and the items are tossed away. Like, who can remember the faces or names of this pre-war Eurasian hockey team? (Ed. if you do, please let us know!)

These precious old photos do hold valuable information for others (outside the family). Researchers and academics are regularly seeking information and images of Eurasians of yesteryear. The EA secretariat has fielded many such requests, ranging from our Eurasian tertiary students writing theses, to international academics preparing dictionaries and books, and even local writers wanting facts and background material for various media and events.

"...Photographs are visual histories of the times, places, and people we've encountered. They are our individual points of view, a document of our existence. When those images are gone, a part of history disappears as well..."

Al Weber, world renowned b/w photographer and author

CAN YOU HELP US?

Before you throw out those "old unwanted" photos, please give us a call at EA Secretariat tel. 6447-1578 or email therese@eurasians.org. We can come to you, at your convenience, and treat your old photos with the dignity and care they deserve. We don't take anything away except digital photos of your precious photos or artifacts, and leave you with a written assurance of confidentiality. This service is expected to start soon.

WHY NOT JOIN US?

The PA Team currently comprises Geoffrey Morris, geonet@starhub.net. sg and Kevin Sim kevinmichaelsim@yahoo.com. If you have a passion for imagery and a desire to save our heritage would you like to join us? Just drop us an email. All enquiries welcomed

HOW IS PHOTO ARCHIVING DONE?

- Call received by EA Secretariat
- Visit is scheduled to caller's residence by PA team
- Recording of artifacts, photos, etc. carefully done at caller's residence (only digital photographs taken – so all items/photos/artifacts remain in the caller's residence at all times)
- Digital photos are stored and catalogued,
- Descriptions and dates are verified
- Acknowledgements are confirmed (anonymous donations are also invited & welcomed!)
- Archive and access policy will be developed to maintain strict standards of ownership, use and access. Copyrights to original owners and confidentiality of materials will always be respected.

We look forward to your call. (to EA tel. 6447-1578)

Jingkli Pop Gets New Beat

With a pop and scatter of confetti, the Jingkli Pop Music/Dance Video was launched literally with a bang! Then the modern version of the traditional Kristang folk song was screened to the enthusiastic 72-strong crowd who had gathered at the Eurasian Community House on 20 February to mark the occasion. Complete with upbeat tempo and youthful MTV-style presentation, it was Jingkli Nona as never seen before. The song, rewritten by John Klass and supported by the Ministry of Community, Youth and Sports, is currently being played at clubs in Europe alongside house and trance music.

It was the guests' turn to boogie next as dancers from the Performing Arts Chapter led the guests in the 'first Eurasian Mass Workout'! The crowd gamely twirled and jived in tune with the catchy music.

After that, it was time to unwind. With delicious food from Quentin's, wine and a chance to mingle with friends old and new in a warm and cosy setting, all agreed that it was an evening well-spent. At the end of the evening, guests walked away with a complimentary Jingkli Pop VCD or DVD.



The EA thanks Guest-of-Honour Mr Gerry de Silva, host Linda Danker and all those who have come forward to make this dream a reality and bring our culture to the forefront!

Sunday Brunch Pays Tribute to Elvis



Our first Sunday Brunch for 2009 started off with a Tribute to Elvis. The celebration was in honour of the King's birthday which fell on Thursday, 8 January 2009. It was a small, intimate affair with about 60 guests who made their way to the Eurasian Community House for an afternoon of nostalgia, sweet memories and of course fellowship with one another.

Our very own Elvis aka Gary Aviet dressed to suit the theme as did some of the guests. With Elvis playing in the background and his movies and concerts screened for all to enjoy it was an afternoon of good entertainment and good food. The sumptuous spread catered by Quentin's proved to be a hit again and everyone went back for seconds. The dance contest and the quiz on Elvis proved that he is the one and only and his legend lives on, as most could emulate his dance moves and

answer some tough questions on the King. Our guest performer Elvis/Mr Nelson Robert entertained everyone with his rendition of many of Elvis' biggest hits, after which two young ladies presented him with roses. I daresay the appeal of Elvis truly bridges all ages!

A big thank you to Ms Linda Oliveiro of Oliveiro's for donating a beautiful piece of jewellery for our top prize for the afternoon and many thanks to the Women's Wing committee members for donating the prizes to the lucky draw table. It was altogether a lovely afternoon. Most of the first-time guests who came thanked the committee for a fantastic time and promised to tell their friends about the monthly events that are organised by the various sub-committees. As Mrs Jennifer Bohn said "I will be back for the next one, thanks for the invite!"



Cervical Health Screening for Women

The spanking new Mobile Screening Unit Bus by Health Promotion Board (HPB) will be parked at the Eurasian Community House come Saturday 30 May 2009. Cervical health screenings for women aged 25 and above will be conducted in a safe and private setting. A health professional from HPB will also give a talk on cervical cancer and its prevention.

Women, be empowered and take charge of your health. Regular pap smears help to detect abnormal changes in the cervix. Cervical cancer can be prevented if such abnormal cell changes are detected and treated in the early stage.

DATE: Saturday 30 May 2009
TIME: 9am - 3pm
VENUE: Eurasian Community House
TICKETS: EA Members: Subsidised rate of \$10
Non EA Members: Subsidised rate of \$15

For further information and registration, please contact Alia @ 6447 1578.

APB Foundation Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities

The Asia Pacific Breweries (APB) Foundation Scholarship was launched in 2008 to enable visually, hearing and physically challenged students with outstanding academic results to pursue a university education.

This year, APB Foundation will award three scholarships to students to pursue a degree course in a discipline of their choice at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore Management University (SMU) or SIM University (UniSIM). Each student will receive \$11,000 per year for a maximum of four years. There will be no bond attached to this scholarship; however, scholars are encouraged to contribute to the community and social service sector and serve as role models to people with disabilities.

Application can be done online at www.brightsparks.com.sg. Alternatively, application forms are available at junior colleges, polytechnics, local universities and Voluntary Welfare Organisations. For any enquiries on the APB Foundation Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities, please contact NCSS at ong_ai_hui@ncss.gov.sg or pamela_biswas@ncss.gov.sg

Closing date for applications is 8 May 2009.

Call Centre Retraining Scheme to help Jobseekers



Warren Sheldon

Saturday, 21 March 2009 – The Eurasian Association together with TeleConsulting Asia, a Call Centre Consultancy company, co-organised a Call Centre Symposium for the retrenched and unemployed members of the 4 major self-help groups in Singapore. The symposium, held on a Saturday afternoon, saw a good number of participants eager to learn more about the Call Centre Industry.

TeleConsulting Asia, a Call Centre Consultancy company, specializing in training and management consultancy, has volunteered its services to provide members of the 4 major self-help groups that have been recently retrenched or unemployed, seek alternative employment opportunities through Call Centre Skills Training.

For the Pilot Launch, TeleConsulting Asia together with its recruitment partner HR Millennium (HRMC) will be sponsoring 40 seats for the 5 Day programme which will launch in mid-April. The course covers the following topics:

- Call Centre Matrix (Type of Call Centres – Inbound/Outbound)
- Call Centre Fundamentals
- Essential Skills – Motivation / Time Management / Goal Setting
- Personal Development Skills
- Interview and Resume Writing Skills
- ** Entrepreneurship

A key attribute to this programme is the immediate job placement offered to all successful candidates, made possible with the recruitment partner HR Millennium (HRMC).

TeleConsulting Asia will be making selections for the 1st class starting in mid-April by the end of March 2009. A second symposium is slated for the 1st week of April, due to the positive response and feedback from the first batch of symposium participants.

TeleConsulting Asia will also work closely with the 4 self help groups CDAC, EA, Mendaki & Sinda to organize more courses and workshops for 2009.

The training program is made possible with the kind sponsorship of HR Millennium (HRMC) and the training program materials are sponsored by Ms Linda Lim, Director - Grand Sun International (S) Pte Ltd.



Engrossed participants at the symposium

Annual General Meeting 2009

The forthcoming AGM 2009 will be held on Thursday 30 April 2008 at 7pm at The Eurasian Community House, 139 Ceylon Road. Members are encouraged to attend.

Agenda is as follows.

1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 April 2008
2. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 April 2008
3. President's Address
4. To receive the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2008
5. To appoint the Association's Auditors for ensuring year
6. To discuss any other matters arising in accordance with the Rules of the Association

Application for Merit Bursary Awards 2009 (for further studies at ITE and Polytechnics)

The Eurasian Association is pleased to announce its inaugural awards of merit bursaries for deserving and outstanding Eurasian students who have been accepted into the ITE or any of the five national Polytechnics to pursue courses of their choice. The award covers the full cost of tuition and book stipend to enable the student to complete the required tenure of study.

Students who have passed the GCE N and O level examinations of 2008 and who have been accepted into ITE and Polytechnics are now invited to apply for the Merit Bursary Award which will be given to capable and deserving students subject to academic performance, CCA achievements and other relevant community participation and leadership roles. The selection will be undertaken by the EA academic scholarship panel and would be competitive.

Eligibility of awards:

- a. Invitation for the Merit Bursary awards will be made to all eligible Eurasian students.
- b. Qualification for the award will be based on academic results achieved in the relevant N or O level examinations as well as confirmation of acceptance to approved course of studies at the ITE or Polytechnic.
- c. Applicants from families with monthly income of \$2000/- or where the per capita incomes of family members falls below \$500/- would be given every consideration in addition to their academic grades.
- d. Applicants for the awards will be interviewed by a selection panel constituted by the EA. The decision made by the panel is final. Selection of candidates for the award will be competitive and based on academic merit as well as financial position of the families.
- e. Additional consideration will be granted to applicants who have (in order of priority) taken part in voluntary work with the Eurasian Association, or who have impressive records of co-curricular activities in schools indicating strong leadership potential.

For details on application, please contact Therese M Thompson at 6447.1579 or e-mail: therese@eurasians.org

Closing Date for Submission of Applications: 30 April 2009

Only short-listed candidates will be notified for interviews.



Jeremy Monteiro



Alemay Fernandez



Brian Richmond

The best of Eurasian musical talent will be showcased in an unprecedented blockbuster event at the Singapore Esplanade on 26 and 27 June 2009 to mark the 90th anniversary of The Eurasian Association. Billed as “EURASIANA – A Musical Tribute”, the concert will feature a galaxy of stars including icons such as Jeremy and Claessa Monteiro, Douglas Oliveiro and many others. Three of the best-known names in showbiz – Brian Richmond, Eunice Olsen and Andrea DeCruz – will be acting as hosts.

At press time, the list of top musical talent who will be performing at the Esplanade’s Concert Hall includes Steven Francis, Marina Xavier, John Molina, Michaela Therese, Vanessa Fernandez, Alemay Fernandez, Candice de Rozario, Don Richmond and Royston Minjoot. The evening’s programme entails a glorious mixture of originals, pop hits, all-time favourites like the ABBA medley and multi-ethnic slants to some of the songs in the repertoire.

“The objective of this extravaganza is to raise awareness of, and to celebrate, the Eurasian community in Singapore,” said Mr Edward D’Silva, president of the EA. “On the first night, there will be a special tribute to the Eurasians who made significant contributions to the community. Leading the honour roll will be the late Mr E.W. Barker, former Law Minister and a much-revered first-generation Cabinet Minister,” he revealed. The guest-of-honour will be President of Singapore, His Excellency S.R. Nathan.

For the first time ever, The John Molino



Eurasian Association is collaborating in such a big way with The People’s Association for Soundwaves, the extraordinary show. Under the artistic direction of Dick Lee, another showbiz icon, “Eurasiana” will feature the top talent with grandeur on the big stage, backed up by the PA’s Pop Orchestra.

Appointed events manager is the well-known actress and show host, Annabelle Francis, who will be representing The Eurasian Association in liaising with Mr Dick Lee and the PA. Hands-on EA President Mr D’Silva and Humphrey De Conceicao, Chairman of EA’s Performing Arts Chapter (PAC) are reported to have many sleepless nights crafting the show’s infrastructure.

This concert promises to be an unforgettable experience for all. Tickets will be on sale soon, through SISTIC. Do check out www.sistic.com.sg or www.esplanade.com for details of tickets.

EUR - A Mu Extrav Like N



Royston Minjoot



Vernon Cornelius



Don Richmond



Stephen Francis



Douglas Oliveira



Eunice Olsen

ASIANA

sical

raganza

o Other!

Date of concerts:
Friday & Saturday,
26 & 27 June 2009

Time: 7.30pm

Venue:
Esplanade's Concert Hall



Vanessa Fernandez



Michaela Therese



Marina Xavier

Meet Veteran Volunteer Dorothy Tessensohn

If you find Mrs Dorothy Tessensohn's face familiar, wonder no more! She was recently featured in the Sunday Times 'Lifestyle' section for her delicious Eurasian recipes. An active volunteer with the Young Women's Christian Organisation, she has also contributed her family recipes of staples such as Curry Devil and Sugee cake to a cookbook produced to raise funds.

Mrs Tessensohn has been actively involved with the EA for a long time—so long she cannot even remember! The late Mr Frederick Fox invited her to join the former EA Seniors sub-committee, which was then in its salad days. In her time at the EA Seniors, later named the Silver Circle

and headed by Mrs Yvonne Pereira, she has helped out in many activities, such as the FSS Christmas Party, Sunday lunches and Bingo. She has also accompanied the senior members on trips to places like the Botanic Gardens, and local shopping and sightseeing tours. What she finds most rewarding is seeing the older people, many of whom would not otherwise go out, enjoy these activities.

Besides cooking, Mrs Tessensohn's passion is travelling. She has been all over the world, visiting countries as far-flung as Turkey, Israel, France and Italy with her church group. She also enjoys playing mahjong, which "keeps her mind active".



Dorothy (Right) posing with the Chairperson and Secretary of the Silver Circle.

Eulyth Fernandez Enjoys Heritage Work



Lucille Marcus (left) and Eulyth Fernandez (right), with Teck Whye Secondary School students

A common sight at a Learning Journeys programme is typically restless teenagers listening enraptured to Ms Eulyth Fernandez as she explains the history of how the Eurasians came to be or our fascinating wedding customs. For her, the most rewarding aspect of being a Heritage volunteer with the Eurasian Association is the opportunity to share

with students what being Eurasian is all about, using her own and her family's experiences as true-to-life examples.

Ms Fernandez has been volunteering with the EA since the late 1980's. During this period she served for a time on the Management Committee under past President Mr Timothy de Souza. Although there was no formal Heritage Committee then, she has fond memories of participating in many heritage-related activities organised by the PA at the Dragonboat Festival, Sentosa and the National Museum of Singapore. These projects included showcasing Eurasian homes alit with Christmas lights and enactments of traditional weddings. But Ms Fernandez's most memorable event was a Food Festival organised by the Tourist Promotion Board in the 1990's. She remembers travelling to the Portuguese Settlement in Malacca and coming back laden with Eurasian goodies such as pickles, belacan and coconut candy which were snapped up.

Having been with the EA for so long, Ms Fernandez has observed how the Heritage Committee has evolved over the years. While in previous years, heritage projects focused more on raising awareness about Eurasian traditions and culture, the emphasis has currently shifted to research and recovering the lost past. The present Committee's ambitious plans include the rebuilding of the heritage room and interviewing senior members. Ms Fernandez enjoys the process of learning more about the past and the blending of different cultures, something she never tires of. "Once you go into it you want to know more," she avers.

MYLN this 2009

In their monthly 'Chillout @ Starbucks' get-together, the Mentoring Young Leaders Network started the New Year by establishing their goals for 2009.

Recognizing the importance of a strong infrastructure, the MYLN discussed ways to build a stable growing membership base that can in turn effectively engage more young Eurasian professionals and guide aspiring Eurasian young adults.

In June 2009, MYLN will be hosting an informative tea session on further education options exclusively for Eurasian students who are GCE O-level school leavers and their parents. The event aims to provide guidance in relation to the wide range of further education options that are available to GCE O-level school leavers. Representatives from polytechnics and junior colleges will be invited to provide students and parents with valuable insights on admission criteria and available courses. The event is

tentatively set for 6 June 2009 (Saturday) at the Eurasian Community House.

For more information, interested parties can contact Zaf Coelho at coelhoz@gmail.com or call 94751405.



Just for YOUTH

This section is dedicated specially for our Eurasian youth as we would like to listen to your views pertaining to our society and community.

In this issue, the focus is on stereotypes.

“Being a Eurasian youth in Singapore, what do you think are the common stereotypes of Eurasians?”

We asked a few of Eurasian youths online and here are some of the interesting inputs we received.



MYLN Chillout@Starbucks session in February 2009

“Are you Malay?” They obviously think every Eurasian has to be white and they usually mix up Eurasians with Caucasians.

Stacy Rae Minjoot

That we all only like to party, have a good time and that we cannot go far in today's mainly Chinese Singapore because we are a small community compared to them.

Carolyn Ann Kristen Rodrigues

They don't realise we're Eurasians! They think ALL Eurasians have to look like ang mohs when in actual fact there are tanned Eurasians too!

Deborah Hendricks

“You don't look Eurasian” is a common question, to which I explain to them my heritage and why I have very Asian looks. If their statement comes across as insulting then I ask them “What does a Eurasian look like?” To which they normally have no reply.

Shaun-Paul Lopez

From personal experience, a lot of friends are surprised that I can speak Mandarin, sometimes even more fluently than my Chinese friends. I think it's oft-forgotten that many Eurasians are part-Chinese, and for a lot of us it is our mother tongue.

Amanda Dizon

Tell you what's the worst thing about being Eurasian. It's when other people ask you your race, and you tell them you are Eurasian, and they stare at you blankly and say ‘huh? What's that?’ Grrr....

Kim Ann

Have something interesting to say? Is there any interesting topic or subject which is buzzing? Email us at coelhoz@gmail.com

Societal Views on Eurasians from a Youth's Perspective

Recently I was asked a rather interesting and intriguing question which got me pondering. The question was, “Do you have non-Eurasian friends?”

I hid my disbelief as I answered with an emphatic “yes”.

You meet less informed people all the time, and excuse them for their ignorance. But this question came from a university student, his final year. And in case the stereotype of the geeky Science student who knows nothing outside of Engineering or physics comes to mind, this came from a student with a self-proclaimed interest in studying ethnicity.

I related this incident at the recent MYLN meet-up, and realised that I'm not the only one who has recently been subjected to strange questions or comments related to my Eurasian-ness.

Here's a quick peek into what goes on in the minds of some people in Singapore, when they come face to face with a living, breathing Eurasian.

- 1) Do people look at you funny when you tell them you're Eurasian? (By 'funny', I take it you mean like how I'm looking at you right now?)
- 2) Do you lie about your race because no one knows what a Eurasian is?
- 3) Do people think you're just a pretty face? (Slightly confusing, being caught between being disgusted and flattered at the same time)
- 4) So you can speak English well? (Yo engka sabey)
- 5) Do your parents allow you to marry outside your race? (No, my parents are really strict on inter-racial marriages. But that's to be expected, seeing that I'm a product of multiple generations of mixed marriages)
- 6) So you must be a great singer.
- 7) How does it feel to be naturally musically talented?
- 8) Do people ostracize you because you're Eurasian?
- 9) Do you feel discriminated against?
- 10) Do you feel as though you don't belong in Singapore?

Apparently there are some people in society that have unusual ideas about the 'plight' of Eurasians. But musing on this isn't going to get me anywhere. After all, my time is better spent tuning my banjo.

Have you ever been subjected to similar questions or comments? Do you have any stories to share? How would you respond to such questions?

by: Adrienne de Souza, Student, National Institute of Education, NTU



Project Ray of Hope gives students a lift

The Eurasian Community House hosted Project Ray of Hope on 17 January 2009. In this simple but heartwarming ceremony, about 100 primary, secondary and tertiary students were given Popular and Bata vouchers. Provided under the auspices of the Opportunity Fund to enrich learning, these disbursements allowed students to purchase textbooks, assessment books and other relevant learning aids. Thanks to the generosity of the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, the number of recipients increased 20% from the previous year.

In his speech, Mr. Edward D'Silva focused on the importance and challenges of education in the Singapore context. He listed avenues for students to seek financial aid and introduced the Merit Bursary Award for ITE & Polytechnic students. Additionally, as 2009 would be an active year for fundraising with the EA celebrating its 90th anniversary, he promised that monies raised would go towards the two pillars of the EA, Education and Family Support Services. Mr. D'Silva ended by urging students

to participate more actively in the EA's tuition and enrichment programmes.

The ceremony concluded with an informal tea reception at Quentin's. Students were given a chance to mingle with members of the Education Committee as well as their peers. Those interested in learning more about our tuition and other educational programmes, please contact Therese Thompson at 6447 1578.



Committee members with President and Mrs Nathan



Youth and Heritage Group members chatting with President Nathan

Memorable Evening Dining with Our President

It is not everyday that one has dinner with the President of the Republic of Singapore. Neither is it everyday that someone you had known for years turns out to be your second cousin once removed. This was how my experience of having dinner with President S.R. Nathan turned out on 17 February 2009.

The reception party, organized by members of the EA Women's Wing, displayed a simple seating arrangement for a few tables at the Multi-Purpose Hall. Present at the dinner were members of the Management Committee, the Women's Wing, the Youth Committee, the Heritage group and some EA guests. The

atmosphere was relaxed. The members at my dinner table included the EA Youth and the Heritage group. It was here that I made the acquaintance of a cousin and an aunt.

The arrival of President and Mrs Nathan, whose home is just across the road from ECH, was respectful yet brisk. The food, prepared by Quentin's, was exceptional Eurasian fare. Entertainment was provided by an acoustic trio known as the Daily Fix.

I was pleasantly surprised that President Nathan went from table to table to get to know everyone at the dinner. I was immediately reminded of

Mr Nathan's career as an ex-diplomat, as he took the trouble to speak to every single person at our table and asked what work we were doing.

Mr Nathan stressed that during this recession, more than ever, there is a need for the EA to disburse scholarships to needy students as they are our future. We also discussed at our table, the ways and means of tapping EA's organization to reach out to needy students. For me, Mr Nathan left his goodwill and support which the EA will remember for a long time.

By Kevin Sim



At Kuala Pilah graveyard

Personal Reflections of the EA Bahau Expedition

I have grown up with childhood memories of being told stories by my mother of her childhood memories of life in Bahau. I was always fascinated by tales of elephants with itchy backs who would scratch against the houses and cause them to fall down; of the much loved family pet goat who ended up as Sunday lunch; and sojourns at the Convent in Seremban including receiving first Holy Communion. I never really thought about what Bahau meant – it just sounded an exciting adventure to me, I guess because that is how my mother as a five year old remembered it.

It was just a few years ago, after my mother died of Cancer in her early 60s after only a short illness, that I began to think about her life, and my Eurasian heritage which I wanted to preserve for my children and future generations before it was lost. I started to read and ask family members and as my research grew, I slowly began to piece together the true meaning of what Bahau was.

It was with this background that I was thrilled to meet Barry, Geoff and Therese at the EA shortly after arriving in Singapore last year, and even more excited when the Bahau expedition was first mooted and finally came to fruition. For me, it was a first step in putting substance to the story of my mother's life.

Our expedition in November focused around 3 locations – Tampin where local church records were meant to help solve some unanswered Bahau questions; Kuala Pilah which was the location of the local hospital where many Bahau internees were brought for treatment and died, and where too, many

of the few Bahau babies were born. It was also the place where a number of Bahau internees (including my mother's family) who did not return to Singapore after liberation lived after leaving Bahau. And of course Bahau, the town on the outskirts of which the Eurasian colony was situated.

Tampin, though having no personal connection, proved interesting through a bell which we discovered outside the church which may have some link with the bell known to have been in Bahau. Kuala Pilah on the other hand was a real tangible place where I could visualise my mother – I sat in the old graveyard (now deconsecrated) looking up at the hospital where my uncle was born just after the war; I prayed in the Catholic church where I believe my mother and her family would have worshipped after the war; and I visited Government accommodation which matched the description of the house where my mother and her family lived. Even walking down Kuala Pilah High Street before 8am on a Saturday morning, I felt like I had gone back to post war years by the sleepy nature of the place, the architecture, cars and shops of bygone years. I really felt as if I could visualise my mother having been here.

Bahau itself by comparison was a bit of an anticlimax for me. Not in reaching the town; not in meeting local residents who had stories to tell of the war time encampment in the jungle out of town; not in locating the crest in the road where the Bishop's house would have been, and from there working out where my Grandparent's house, the Lazaroo shop, the graveyard and other locations all were, but in the feelings I had there. The location is now a dark foreboding palm plantation and try as I might, I could not visualise four little sisters running carefree

through the jungle over the same clay turf I trod in thick walking boots, nor all the happy childhood reminiscences I had heard about. Instead, the thick swarms of mosquitoes made me think of the many unnecessary deaths there were at this place and of the torment my grandparents must have gone through on a daily basis to protect their four young daughters. Indeed, what a fantastic job they did that their children did not grow up tainted by such a harrowing experience of life in the Bahau jungle, but could grow up with the same happy childhood memories of ordinary children.

I certainly want to go back to Bahau to put together more pieces of the jigsaw of its story, but next time at least I will go prepared in what to expect and hopefully will be able to be more objective about what I see and feel. I feel honoured to have been a part of this expedition, and hope that from it I can do my bit to preserve a bit of our Eurasian heritage.

Fiona Hodgkins

March 2009



From left: Geoffrey Morris, Paul Rodrigues, Barry Pereira and Fiona Hodgkins



From left: Evelyn Rodrigues, Yvonne Pereira and Edmund Rodrigues

The 9th of January saw several 'Balut' enthusiasts heading for the Eurasian Community House. No, it was not to sample that curious Filipino embryonic duck 'delicacy'. Balut is also the name of a game invented at the end of World War II by an American soldier lacking playing cards for playing poker. He was stationed in the

Balut comes to EA

Philippines and initially named the game Poker Dice. In the early seventies it was renamed 'Balut'. The word 'balut' in Filipino is the name of a cooked unhatched duck egg containing the nearly developed embryo and is sold by street hawkers.

The object of the game is to chalk up as many points as you can by rolling five dice and scoring according to seven different categories. It is an easy game to learn and involves luck and strategy. The highest score you can get is when you get 'balut', that is, all the dice faces are the same. This game is played purely for fun.

Of those who turned up for the first session, some were veterans, some were fairly new to the game and some knew nothing at all about it. All, however, were enthusiastic – to teach or to learn. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and Quentin's mee siam. Many thanks go to Evelyn Rodrigues who donated funds to buy the apparatus for the game. Thanks also to Yvonne Pereira, Chairperson of the Silver Circle, for introducing the game to EA and organising this first of many games. Hopefully, as word spreads, more will turn up at the games which take place on the first Friday of each month.

By Martha Shepherdson

Volunteers Honoured at Appreciation Tea



The Eurasian Community House hosted a gathering of big hearts for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Tea held on Saturday 4 April 2009. From half-past one in the afternoon, volunteers from the various sub-committees including Family Support Services, Education, Heritage and Youth streamed into the Platinum Lounge.

The ceremony proper started with a speech by Mr Edward D'Silva who gave an outline of the many ambitious plans that will be carried out in the forthcoming year as well as the heightened importance of the Family Support Services and Education programmes during the current economic downturn. Thereafter the

Chairpersons from each sub-committee gave a brief run-down of what they had achieved over the past year. Representatives from the Audit Committee, Finance Advisory Panel and Community Bonding Advisory Panel also took the opportunity to give guests an overview of their various functions.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of certificates to the volunteers. It was evident from the smiles on their faces that they were touched at the small but heartfelt gesture of appreciation for their dedication and hard work. There was also an impromptu lucky draw, in which lucky winners Mrs Eulyth Fernandez and Ms Caroline de Guzman walked

away with a sugree cake and a bottle of wine respectively!

Everyone adjourned to a delicious alfresco buffet of mee siam, samosas and sandwiches, followed by dessert of scones and chocolate cake. For many of the guests, this was the most meaningful part of the event as it gave them a chance to meet and mingle with other volunteers and Management Committee members. Some continued chatting till late into the day.

Ms Christine Clunies-Ross emceed the event and entertainment was provided by Cedric Sahetapy.

For Sale
SRC Celebrates 1883 To 2007

Launched by SRC's Honorary Member, Mr S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore, the book is available for sale to EA Members at \$58.00 nett. A Club started by our Eurasian forefathers, learn how they made SRC one of the most prolific Clubs In Singapore. Pick up your copy today!

Celebrates

OLIVEIRO
TOKYO · JAPAN

Oliveiro Co. Ltd. is a registered Japanese Company dedicated to manufacturing exclusive jewellery · casual, classic, dynamic and elegant.
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We guarantee you that ALL our products are 100% Japanese made.

• Japanese Cooking Workshop
18 & 19 April 2009 1 p.m - 5 p.m.

* Mother's Day Gift Sale
2 May 2009 2.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

both at The Eurasian Association
Contact: 9685 1098 (Denise)

3 in 1 on 14 March

EA / SATA Health Screening

The first quarterly health screening was organised with SATA on Saturday, 14 March 2009. The committee arranged for the clients of our FSS to arrive at The Eurasian Community House for the first appointment at 8am. All participants had to fast 10 hours before the health check as it was cholesterol blood test screening, as well as BMI and BP checks. A hearty breakfast was catered by Quentin's to the delight of the participants. A talk by the Bone Marrow Donor Programme gave new insight into this necessary donation drive which encourages people to donate their bone marrow to leukaemia patients.

EA Thrift Shop

Donated clothes, books, toys, shoes and other miscellaneous items were sold. The thrift shop was a boon for our FSS clients who carted home bags of useful items.



Lester Low being measured at the SATA Health Screening

Movie Screening

'Kung Fu Panda' was screened for the guests who arrived and popcorn, soft drinks and hotdogs were on sale for the movie goers. Many asked for more of such activities to be organised in the future. Everyone enjoyed the full day at the Eurasian Community House.

Making Faces

Taking the phrase that beauty is only skin deep literally, we prodded just deep enough to uncover how freezing or exercising your facial muscles can affect your looks.

Dr Harold Ma observes you the moment you walk through his door and sits down to talk. By the end of a five to ten minute conversation, the medical director of Freia Medical Aesthetics can tell you what your favourite sleeping position is. Apparently, for those who like sleeping on their sides, the line running from beside your nostril to the side of your lip will be deeper. "Imagine for six to eight hours, your face is just folded in like this. Invariably, that line on that side of the face will be deeper," he explained.

It's a quirk that shows on your skin with age. Similarly, how much you laugh or frown will affect your complexion. Your diet plays a part in forming your facial expressions and skin conditions too. If your long-term diet consists more of steak, squid and nuts – food that requires more chewing than others, it will show on your face...

Like to find out more? Pick up an April/May 2009 copy of Silver Lining's REINVENT Issue at all major bookstores and check out our RE:VITALISE section to continue reading this story.

Also included in this issue are arguments about the pros and cons of retraining in Technology a Mixed Bag for Older Workers. In RE:FRESH, we explored magnificent historic sites in Goa, India and did A Little Olive Oil Experiment in RE:LISH just to see how olive oil would fare in Asian cooking.

If you're not the kind to just sit around, there's also a 16-page tribute on The Grit and Glamour of Golf in RE: JUVENATE where you can get the highs and lows on gold strategies, equipment

fitting and inspiring stories.

There's a caveat though, you would have to be 45 and above to be able to appreciate these finer issues in life. So pick up your copy of Silver Lining now!



Do You Know What's BMDP?

BMDP or Bone Marrow Donor Programme is a Singapore-based non-profit organization dedicated to building and managing a register of Singaporean volunteers who are willing to donate their bone marrow to patients of leukaemia and other blood diseases.

To date, the BMDP has 43,000 donors in the Register, but just as there are successful transplants, many more patients with leukaemia and other blood-related diseases have died because no suitable donor can be found for them.

To significantly improve the chances of finding compatible unrelated donors for these patients, the BMDP has a target to increase the number of donors in the Register to 50,000 by the end of this year. The Eurasian Association supports the BMDP. For more information, please email BMDP at admin@bmdp.org or visit their website at www.bmdp.org.

Article contributed by Rabita Jamal



Doing the conga with Gary Aviet



Dancing the night away at the Garden Party

BBQ Garden Party held on Friday, 27 February 2009 @ Quentin's

The BBQ/Garden Party at Quentin's was a first for the Women's Wing and planned in lieu of the usual monthly Sunday Brunches. It was a lovely evening and the wet weather held out for that day, the Gods were kind again and so were our wonderful guests who attended. There was a good mix in the crowd with friends from Britain, Germany and Australia joining us this time around and who were very impressed with the premises and the Eurasian Community House and of Quentin's and the food.

The BBQ was a good change and the food served was excellent. Gary Aviet was again the

life of the party and dressed in his tribal outfit he was, as usual, excellent! Gerard Danker performed solo and was his usual professional and suave self. He got the crowd going and even had the conga line snacking their way round the tables. This was followed by a flaming, hot show by 2 professional fire-eaters, Flaming Matrix, the guys were impressive with their feats and entertained all with their prowess. Our games master, Charlene Lee, got the guys and gals to let their hair down to play some very 'adult games' but all in good fun. Kudos to the guests for being such good sports at the 'Suck and Blow' and 'Adult Musical Chairs'

games... Best dressed couple John and Ida walked away with trophies for dressing up in very authentic outfits for the garden themed party. John, who hails from Germany, said "I didn't expect to have so much fun and I'm glad I came, I will be back for more good food and events". The guests enjoyed the tombola and with lots of prizes sponsored for this event it was a happy evening for all who attended. The evening ended on a high with dancing till 11.30pm and looks like TGIF @ Quentin's is here to stay. Special thanks to Crocs, Ms Lorraine Bligh, Spa Hydro-therapy, Women's Wing and the Secretariat for their hard work and generous sponsorship.

Interview with Ms Linda Oliveiro

IT WAS INDEED A PLEASURE TO MEET AND INTERVIEW MS LINDA OLIVEIRO WHO OWNS OLIVEIRO CO LTD – Tokyo/Japan.

Linda, a true blue Portuguese Eurasian, started her business 34 years ago. Today, it is a thriving enterprise in Tokyo. Her family lives in Singapore and she still comes home about three or four times a year to visit as well as to promote her business. What started out as a small fashion business, Oliveiro Originals at Goldhill Plaza, soon graduated to bigger and better things when marriage to a Japanese businessman in 1974 led to a move to Tokyo where the business took off.

With Linda's staff of 10, the fashion business started with most of her originals imported from Spain, Italy and Portugal. One thing led to another and soon the business expanded to include fashion accessories to complement the beautiful clothes that she supplied to various boutiques throughout Tokyo. The jewellery comprises natural stones and her team of designers only design three pieces of each kind to keep them exclusive.

Linda's exclusive jewellery and her household line of ceramic and porcelain pieces were on sale during the January Sunday Brunch at The Eurasian Community House. Everyone was intrigued by the beautiful pieces on sale. Linda's aim is to bring awareness to the community and



Linda Oliveiro (third from left) at ECH

to share her good fortune with others on the aspects of good branding and salesmanship. She has been holding exhibitions at various venues around Singapore on her trips home and would now like to anchor herself at the Eurasian Community House with her bi-annual exhibitions. Her upcoming fashion extravaganza in April will feature a much wider range of items which will include clothes, accessories and household crockery.

Linda's beautiful range of accessories can also be purchased on the internet under the heading 'Rakuten' and those who are interested can view the items there. Kudos to our very own Linda, the former Miss Singapore 1972, for leading the way in the fashion industry!

Calling Senior
Members!

90th Anniversary Dinner



We are on the lookout for members aged 89 to 90+ to grace our 90th Anniversary Dinner as our guests. This will be held on Sunday 19 July 2009 at the Singapore Swimming Club and will be a night to remember. The EA wishes to honour the contributions of this group of people over the years at the same time as we celebrate our ninetieth birthday.

We appeal to all members with family members in this age category to forward us their details so that we may extend them an invitation. Please contact Sugiman/Alia at 6447 1578.

The Princess Diaries



A balmy summer day in 1950 saw the meeting of 'royalty' from Singapore and Japan. On one side was the reigning 'Table Tennis Queen' of Asia, winning the Mixed Doubles and Women's Doubles trophies for Singapore in the Asian Games. On the other was the late Princess Takmatsu, the aunt of Japan's current monarch, Emperor Akihito.

The 'Table Tennis Queen' is now 78, but Mrs Myra Richards still remembers her meeting with the Japanese Princess. She recalls, "I was in Japan for a table-tennis competition and was pleasantly surprised to be invited to a garden tea party by the Prince and Princess of Japan. Princess Takmatsu even watched me play a match."

Although Mrs Richards only took up table tennis at the age of 19, hard work and sheer perseverance saw her representing Singapore two years later. Other than her successes in the Asian Games, she also picked up numerous trophies in the South-East Asian Games and the Malaysian table-tennis circuit.

Today this indomitable lady is a shining example of active aging. She relishes a physical challenge and loves to frequent fun fairs. She also shows off her creativity, enrolling herself

in hairdressing classes at the Taman Jurong Community Centre. She says, "Nothing can ever keep you down if you don't allow it to. Think positive and believe that you can do it. If you don't try, how will you know if you can do it or not? As long as you are determined, nothing can stand in your way!"

(Adapted from 'Together in Taman Jurong September 2008', publication by the Taman Jurong Citizens' Consultative Committee. Acknowledgements: Taman Jurong CCC Publicity Committee & Jurong Secondary School)



Correction

In the October 2008 issue, on page 2 regarding students receiving the ECF Education awards, we got the captions of two photos mixed up. Below are the photos and correct captions, apologies for the confusion.



Bursary Secondary and Tertiary recipients



Excellence Award recipients



"A Eurasian Milestone Celebration to Remember"

Date

Sunday, 19 July 2009

Time

7:30 Cocktails

8pm Dinner

9pm to Midnight (nonstop dancing)

Venue

Singapore Swimming Club
Grand Ballroom, Level 2

Ticket

\$60.00 per person

Dress Code

Formal

***Resident Live Band: That's Life (from 57Chevy)**

***Adults Only**

**For Booking please contact Lorraine Bligh at 6447 1578
Booking starts from 1st May 2009**