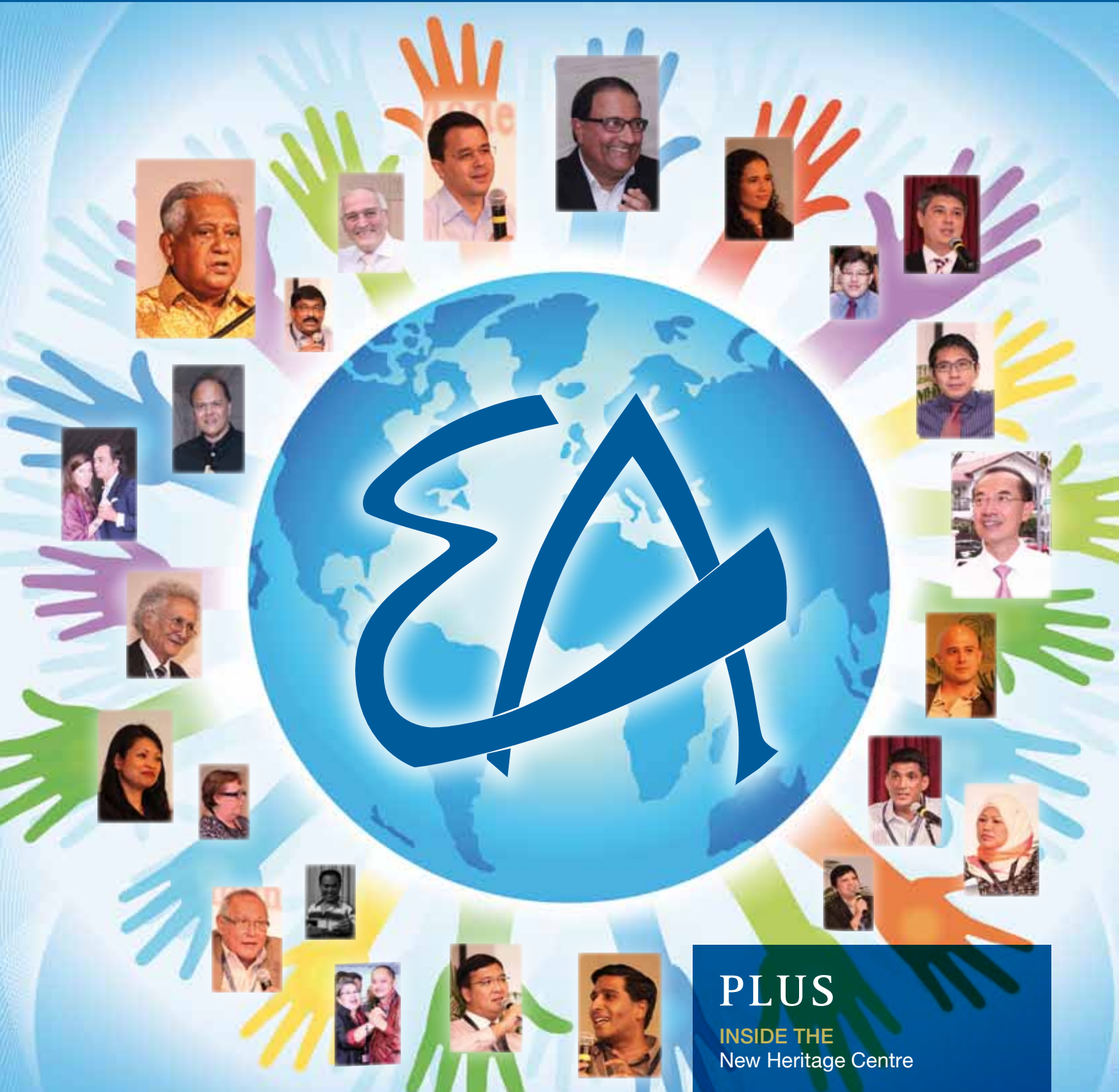


THE NEW EURASIAN

www.eurasians.org.sg

APRIL – JUNE 2012



The Eurasian Family Comes Together

PLUS

INSIDE THE
New Heritage Centre

SPOTLIGHT ON
Actor Brendon Fernandez

GEORGE BOGAARS –
the Man Who Helped to Build
Singapore's Armed Forces

CONTENTS

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Rebecca Morris (Editor)
Angelina Fernandez
Peter Rodrigues
Irfaizah Tukiman

CONTRIBUTORS

Nancy Fobrogo; Yvonne Pereira

AT THE HELM

03 President's message

NEWS

04 Minister S Iswaran is the new voice of the Eurasians in Cabinet
Jamming sessions at the ECH
Bras Basah exhibition project
Volunteers enjoy a thank-you dinner

05 Celebrating the Portuguese heritage
A crafty look at recycling
New help for welfare clients



EDUCATION

06 Singapore's top Eurasian student

COVER STORY

07 A grand Eurasian reunion



FSS

11 Meal treat for the elderly
A Eurasian tea
A note of appreciation

SPORT

12 Get match fit with football
Join the crew
Making a splash at the London Olympics

PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

14 George Bogaars - illustrious public servant and man of wit



15 Immaculate Rozells reaches her centenary
Musical duo Mel & Joe's latest release



16 Brendon Fernandez on his life on stage and screen

17 The 90th birthday of an unsung heroine

18 Sherlin learns to speak up
First throw of the balut dice

20 Chingay



On the Cover

THE NEWEURASIAN

The magazine of The Eurasian Association, Singapore

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

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(Established July 1919)
139 Ceylon Road, Singapore 429744
Tel: 6447 1578 Fax: 6447 3189 Email: members@eurasians.org

President's *Message*



This year is proving to be a lively and active one for the EA. We recently held an extremely successful Eurasian Reunion – our first major event of 2012; the event included the official opening of the Eurasian Heritage Centre, a conference – and some partying – and we were joined by Eurasian guests from around the region. The event is our cover story for this issue.

We also have a new Minister to represent the Eurasians in Cabinet. Minister S Iswaran will take over the position carried out so admirably by George Yeo for many years and we look forward to working with him in the future (read our story on page 4).

In this issue, we also celebrate the lives and achievements of a number of Singaporeans, from the book launch of musical duo Mel & Joe to the 100th birthday of EA member Immaculate Rozells and younger members who have triumphed in education, sporting and other fields.

At the time of going to press, we are planning our annual general meeting. So this is the final President's Message I will be writing as my two-year term is ending. Serving as President of the Eurasian Association has been a great honour and a very exciting and challenging experience. I have appreciated the many opportunities that have come my way and it has been great to meet so many of our members at social and business occasions.

Benett Theseira will take over the duties of President. Many of you will know Benett for his dedication and service to the Eurasian Association as Vice President and in various capacities before that. I ask each of you to give him your full support and encouragement just as you have done for me. I certainly will be there to help and support him as Immediate Past President.

I would like to thank the management committee and the secretariat for all their tremendous support over the past two years and for making my job go so smoothly. I would also like to thank the sub-committee members who served with me; I appreciate their time and efforts to continue to make the association successful.

My thanks also go to the committee chairs for their initiatives in accomplishing their specific responsibilities and last, but not least, the regular members of the association for their support and dedication. Without the cooperation and hard work of the many members who serve the association in a volunteer position, the success of the association would not be possible.

All in all, it has been an enjoyable and productive two years and I believe that the Eurasian Association will accomplish even greater things in the future. As for me, I am looking forward to continuing my commitment and active involvement in the community as well as the association.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The New Eurasian*. Please continue to take part in our social events – which we Eurasians, especially, know how to enjoy!

Best wishes,

William (Bill) Jansen,
President



Minister S Iswaran

Minister S Iswaran has been nominated by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to represent the Eurasian community in the Cabinet. Mr Iswaran replaces former Foreign Minister George Yeo, who held the post for many years.

Welcoming the appointment in a speech to the Eurasian Reunion Gala Dinner on 24 March, attended by Mr Iswaran, EA President Bill Jansen said Mr Iswaran's formal association with the EA had begun some 20 years ago, when he was the CEO of Indian self-help

A New Champion for the Eurasian Community

group SINDA and had been approached to collaborate on various EA projects and educational programmes.

The EA had sounded out several leaders in the Eurasian community regarding a new representative in the Cabinet. "There was an overwhelming response and comfort with Mr S Iswaran representing us," he said. "Mr Iswaran has intimate knowledge of the building up and running of self-help groups. It was during those years that the EA built a close association and relationship with Mr Iswaran and SINDA as we were both going through our formative years as self-help groups at the same time," he added.

In reply, Mr Iswaran said: "The Eurasian Association has grown from strength to strength as a fully-fledged community self-help group, serving the educational and social needs of Eurasians in Singapore. The Eurasian

Association is an integral part of Singapore's social fabric and our nation-building efforts.

"Our history is replete with examples of Eurasian luminaries who have played significant roles in our nation-building efforts," he added, citing illustrious Singaporeans such as Speaker of Parliament Michael Palmer, *The Straits Times* editor Warren Fernandez and career diplomat Barry Desker as continuing the tradition.

He added that he would be working closely with Eurasian MPs Michael Palmer and Christopher de Souza in fulfilling his new role.

Mr Iswaran currently serves in the Cabinet as a Minister in the Prime Minister's Office. He is also the Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Industry. He is married to Kay Mary Taylor, with whom he has a daughter and two sons.

A Big Thank You



The work of the EA is not possible without its volunteers. This year, the association invited the volunteers from the Chingay Parade to a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to acknowledge their contributions.

Some 80 guests, comprising the volunteers and their parents, attended the recent event, at which EA President Bill Jansen gave out certificates of appreciation to the volunteers.

Play Your Part in History

The National Museum of Singapore is embarking on a project to chronicle the history of Bras Basah precinct and stage a series of exhibitions featuring the communities who lived in the area.

The Eurasian community was the heartbeat of this neighbourhood in the past and the museum is seeking help from Eurasians who have recollections of the area.

If you would like to be interviewed about your memories and share family photographs, heirlooms and belongings which could help paint a bigger picture of the old Bras Basah – including enclaves in Queen Street and Waterloo Street – please get in touch! Contact Jacqueline Peeris at Jacqueline@eurasians.org.

Have You Got Rhythm?

Do you have untapped musical talent? The Eurasian Community House could be just the place to let it out.

The EA Music Studios offer a wide range of musical equipment that caters to the needs of both the passionate hobbyist and the seasoned professional.

The jamming room features a nine-piece drum kit, three electric guitar amplifiers, a dual keyboard work station and a newly acquired bass combo with three microphones for lead and background vocals. Fully air-conditioned and well maintained, with comfortable, atmospheric lighting and music memorabilia adorning the noise-reduced walls, it is the perfect setting for band rehearsals, choral singing practices, music auditions, songwriting sessions and more. Studio rates cost \$18 per hour.

EA Music Studios also double as a music school, which offers lessons for groups and individuals at beginner and intermediate levels. Classes are conducted regularly by Joe 'Suicide' Ferdinands, an established singer/lead guitarist, multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and music instructor.

Courses offered are: electric guitar, bass guitar or drums. A course of four lessons of one hour per week (held in the afternoon or evening) costs \$80 for beginners and \$90 for intermediate (for a group) or \$160 for beginners and \$170 for intermediate (individual tuition).



For music course registration and studio bookings, please call Joe Ferdinands at 96912891. 'Like' us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/EA-Studios>

Portuguese Exhibition Opens *at the ECH*

Residents of Joo Chiat were invited to a Eurasian experience at the ECH on 11 February, which included the official opening of its Portuguese exhibition. Burton Westerhout acted as a guide, providing visitors with a glimpse into the history and culture of the Eurasians in Singapore.

The tour began at the ground floor Eurasian Showcase, which gives an overview of the Eurasian community, tracing its early beginnings and subsequent development.

The group then proceeded to level four for the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the Portuguese exhibition and a tour of the new gallery. The exhibit was declared open by guest-of-honour Charles Chong, MP for Joo Chiat SRC. The special exhibition on the Portuguese was to mark the 500th anniversary of their arrival in Malacca. The project received invaluable assistance from Tan Huism of the National Heritage Board.

The tour ended with a Eurasian lunch at Quentin's. After lunch, EA President Bill Jansen presented Mr Chong with the book *St Joseph's Church (1825-1999): Portuguese Mission* by James Newton Boss.



Joo Chiat residents and management committee members at the ECH



Charles Chong MP and Bill Jansen cut the ribbon



Bill Jansen presents the book to Mr Chong

The Art of Recycling

A Toastmaster's speech by Nancy Fobrogo on the environmentalist's '3Rs' – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – has encouraged a group of artistic EA members to do just that.

Under Nancy's leadership, they have set up the Artsy Craftsy Circle at the EA to create arts and crafts from materials found at home.

Each member brings her special talents to the group. Melanie Smith shows how to produce accessories such as bracelets, watch straps and necklaces made from can

tabs and ribbons. Angela Phipps, who has attended numerous art courses over the years, has a sizeable collection of art pieces, books and samples (and also regards her talent as therapy for stiff fingers). Lucille Marcus and Philomena Nonis share their skills in crochet while Loretta Rodrigues works with beads.

The list of craftwork that the group hopes to accomplish includes glass painting, macramé, quilting and more. Eventually, they hope to produce pieces good enough to sell.



Nancy Fobrogo (second from left) with the Artsy Craftsy Circle

If you would like to learn – or teach – join the circle for relaxation, fellowship and fun.

Sessions are held on the 2nd Friday of each month between 4pm and 7pm in the Platinum Lounge at the ECH.

Pilot Scheme Targets Welfare Clients

Two social workers from the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports visited the ECH to brief the EA's Family Support Services about a new pilot scheme to provide assistance and referral services in the courts to divorced and single-parent clients.

Teo Lee Nah and Rohzita Akbar from the MCYS met Francesca Eber, Christine Pereira and J Ramakrishnan of the FSS to seek their participation in the six-month scheme. In turn, the social workers learned of the range of programmes offered by the FSS.



Prescription for Exam Success



Keren Ann Henry achieved seven A1s and one A2 in her 'O' Level exams last year.

The results earned the 16-year-old Methodist Girl's School student the distinction of top Eurasian student in last year's Singapore cohort.

Keren recalls: "My first reaction was of disbelief. At first I thought my principal had made a mistake or that I had heard wrongly when she announced that I was the top Eurasian student of 2011. It was only when my friends came to congratulate me that I realised it was true."

Keren who is from a single-parent family, spends most of her time with her mother and sister. "We do many things together, from participating in movie marathons during the school holidays to studying in the same room during the examination period", she says.

An avid reader and big fan of the Sherlock Holmes novels, she describes

the author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, as a genius as she always finds his stories interesting and clever.

She adds: "I am not much of a sports person, but I do enjoy jogging when I am free, as I find it a good way to keep fit and a relatively fuss-free sport, which does not require anything much besides a pair of running shoes and ground to run on. The fresh air and the beautiful scenery I get to enjoy when I go jogging cannot be replicated."

Keren credits her success to her supportive family, friends and teachers. She is inspired by her mother who has faced challenges and works hard to raise her and her sister well. And, "I used to find little messages from my sister in my textbooks or with my study notes; and these never failed to motivate me to work hard".

She adds that her teachers were always patient and encouraging towards their students. Her friends too, showed a diligent attitude to work: "My classmates and I stayed back after school every day to study together; motivating one another to be focused and study hard."

Keren is currently a student at Anglo-Chinese Junior College. She dreams of being a doctor in future, and hopes to study locally either at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at NUS, or the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine.

Incentives to Study



The Eurasian Association encourages students to aim high in the academic arena and has a number of ways to help them.

The ECF Education Awards were inaugurated in 1996 to showcase the academic achievement of Eurasian students. The awards signal to the Eurasian Community the importance of academic success and the Eurasian Association's commitment to encouraging more students to excel in their studies. The monetary awards range from \$100 to \$300.

The Opportunity Fund disbursement ceremonies were established in 2007. Under the Progress Package (Budget 2006), the Government allocated money for self-help groups to set up Opportunity Funds.

The fund is to be used for education-related enrichment programmes or for purchasing education-related materials such as books or computers. Sums ranging from \$250 to \$350 are disbursed in the form of Popular and BATA vouchers. The ECF Awards and Opportunity Fund are for students from Primary to Tertiary levels.

Other awards are for specific stages of education.

Primary

The Temasek Cares Education Bursary for Primary students covers school fees, transport, meals and uniforms, capped at \$1,000 per student, for one academic year.

Secondary

The Coral De Cruz Memorial Fund covers school fees, books, uniforms and transport, capped at \$1,200 per student, for one academic year.

Tertiary - ITE & Polytechnic

The Merit Bursary Award is given to deserving and outstanding Eurasian students who have been accepted by the ITE or any of the five national Polytechnics. The award covers the full cost of tuition and a book stipend.

Tertiary - University



The EA University Scholarship, inaugurated in 2011, is given to one deserving individual from a Polytechnic and, from 2012 onwards, to one deserving student from a Junior College as well.

The EA hopes that successful Eurasian students will want give back to the community that has supported them.

Previous recipients are encouraged to come forward to help with the association's three pillars – Education, Family Support Services (FSS) or Community Bonding activities.

For advice on eligibility for the grants available or for further information on how to give back to the Eurasian community, contact Jacqueline Peeris at 6447 1578 or Jacqueline@eurasians.org



A Reunion to Remember

More than
200
Eurasians attended
the event

Singapore played host in March to more than 200 guests from the Asia-Pacific region for a two-day gathering of Eurasians that included a celebration of heritage, a conference looking into the future and – not least of all – a gala dinner for Eurasians in Singapore and the region to get together



Former President SR Nathan opens the Eurasian Heritage Centre



Emcee Peter Boudewyn with Bill Jansen and SR Nathan



Minister S Iswaran (right) with Bill Jansen (second from right)



Entertainment by the Stewart family

The Eurasian Reunion was planned as a multi-faceted occasion. A landmark for the Eurasian Community and the Eurasian Association, it comprised a trilogy of events taking place over two days.

It began with a celebration of their heritage and culture, and a chance to learn more about their shared roots, with the opening of the Eurasian Heritage Centre at the Eurasian Community House (ECH).

It was also an opportunity to look forward, and discuss the role of the Eurasian community in generations to come, with the Eurasians in the 21st Century Conference. The event culminated with a gala dinner and dance at the Singapore Recreation Club (SRC) on the Padang.

In addition to the Eurasian guests, the event was also attended by a number of other distinguished guests, among them former President SR Nathan and former Minister George Yeo. Minister S Iswaran was the guest of honour at the gala dinner, during which it was announced that he would be the newly appointed Minister representing the Eurasian community in the Cabinet.

The SRC, long associated with the Eurasians, was the venue for the meet-and-greet session on Friday 23 March, where guests met up with old friends and made new ones over a Singaporean lunch buffet, where the ice was broken over ice chendol desserts.

Afterwards, groups of guests left for a few hours of history and culture at the Asian Civilisations Museum before enjoying an afternoon of sightseeing in the city.

The highlight of the day was the opening in the evening of the Eurasian Heritage Centre at the ECH. The guest of honour was former President SR Nathan, who officiated at the opening ceremony.

EA President Bill Jansen told the gathering: "I have long cherished the hope that the wider Eurasian community with our shared history and ancestry should one day reunite".

He said that he had first had the idea of a Eurasian reunion in 2010, after attending the World Anglo-Indian Reunion in Perth, Australia, an event that had "served as a catalyst

to make me want to hold a similar reunion over in Singapore for Eurasians". He also thanked Mr Nathan for his encouragement in organising the reunion and help in securing funding and, also for opening the Eurasian Heritage Centre.

Mr Nathan, in his speech, paid tribute to former foreign minister and special guest George Yeo, who for many years represented the Eurasians in Parliament. Mr Nathan described him as a "long-time supporter of the Eurasian community" who, he said, "was instrumental in giving the Eurasian community pride of place in this building."

Mr Nathan added that he hoped the reunion would "help you see how you can work together to enhance your status in society and strengthen your bonds with people of other races and cultures and hereby strengthen the country you call home."



Before their tour of the Eurasian Heritage Centre, guests were shown a video made for the grand opening, which chronicled the centre's development. After the tour, they enjoyed a dinner of Eurasian food and entertainment by multi-talented performers from the Stewart family and traditional Eurasian dances by the Kristang Cultural dance group.

Opening of the Eurasian Heritage Centre



The World War II gallery

The Eurasian Heritage Centre houses exhibits that showcase the history, culture and achievements of the Eurasian community in Singapore.

There are three galleries: the Eurasian Showcase, which traces the beginnings and subsequent development of the community in Singapore; World War II: The Eurasian Story gallery, which tells of the community's experiences during the Japanese Occupation; Roots of Our Communities, which was recently upgraded and expanded with the help of funds raised by the association.

The new Roots of Our Communities gallery details the Portuguese, Dutch and British influences on local Eurasian culture. "We want to expand the gallery to include information about the other two main cultures that gave birth to the Eurasian community," explained management committee member Burton Westerhout, who oversaw the refurbishment.



Former President SR Nathan (left) and Burton Westerhout at the Roots of Our Communities gallery

"The new gallery occupies a room used earlier this year by the NHB for an exhibition on the Portuguese to mark the 500th anniversary of their arrival in Malacca last year," he added.

"We had to tell a deeper story about the influences on our community. We wanted to show what drove these people out here. What we are today is distilled from what happened in the past."

The refurbishment and changes were completed at a cost of more than \$100,000.

The Eurasian Heritage Centre will also collect, research, interpret, celebrate and disseminate the history and heritage of Eurasians both here and abroad and engage the community and its visitors by documenting the past and present to better understand and appreciate Eurasians diverse heritage.

6 microphones were used during the conference.

18 distinguished panellists took part in the conference.

3 galleries make up the new Eurasian Heritage Centre.
1. The Eurasian Showcase 2. World War II
3. Roots of Our Communities

Eurasians in the 21st Century

A conference entitled Eurasians in the 21st Century was held on Saturday 24 March to gain the views not just of Singaporean Eurasians but also those of Eurasian communities from other parts of the Asia-Pacific region and representatives of other ethnic communities in Singapore.

Is the recent government ruling for the race of these 'new Eurasians' to be interpreted more flexibly? How do we avoid minority communities becoming inward looking and less inclusive with such a policy? How can the Eurasian Association nurture future leaders better for the Eurasian community and also for the wider society?

EA Vice President Benett Theseira opened the conference and said that following on from the 500-year celebrations of the Portuguese conquest in the region and the opening of the Eurasian Heritage Centre, which showcases and celebrates the history of the community and how it got here, it was appropriate that the Eurasian community examined where it stood today, what its future held and how members could make the best of it.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Speaker of Parliament, Michael Palmer.

Panel discussion: The Future of the Eurasian Community Chaired by Barry Desker, Dean S Rajaratnam School of International Studies

The discussion addressed questions such as how the Eurasian community could build on its strong heritage to keep the community vibrant.

It also explored what it meant to be a Eurasian in the 21st century as a very small minority in the much larger and diverse communities that it lived in and in light of the influx of migrants from Western countries resulting in a 'new wave' of Eurasians – people born to local and Western expatriate parents. How could the community preserve its culture and distinct identity and at the same time be relevant and appeal to the 'new Eurasians' and position itself for the future?

John Byrne, an author of Eurasian history, spoke about the historical evolution of Eurasians and their dwindling numbers in Singapore over the past 40 years from 60,000 to 17,000. Would these numbers continue to fall if the community remained focused on the past – rather than taking steps to keep relevant to existing members while also enticing new members, including those of mixed parentage who could now choose to associate themselves with the Eurasian community?

"Can we exist as one Eurasian community with two identities?" he asked. His view was that "diversity should be celebrated".

Barry Desker said the new government ruling offers "both a challenge and an opportunity for the Eurasian community, and whether it turns out to be a challenge or an opportunity is really up to us".

He said that an earlier generation of Eurasians had taken the community forward by coming together as Eurasians, rather than choosing to adopt the race of one parent or the other. They had chosen to embrace the diversity in their parentage, and had banded together with others like them, to give rise to today's Eurasians.

Today's Eurasians would do well to build on this, drawing in new members of mixed Asian and European parentage and making

"The conference will help to chart the future of the Eurasian community in Singapore and perhaps the region," said Mr Palmer. "Through events like these, we will better understand each other and celebrate both our similarities and our differences. This can only lead to an enhancement of our collective knowledge and experience, which will stand us in good stead in this century and beyond."

He added: "We have a very good number of very bright and very promising Eurasian youths and young adults. Many are doing well in school and university. I challenge each one of them to come forward and play their part in our community. And I challenge the community and the Eurasian Association to reach out to each of them, engage them and turn them into leaders of tomorrow. Not all will be ready for leadership immediately, and not all will ultimately become leaders. But everyone will have a part to play in the community and some will be our leaders of tomorrow."

The conference was divided into three panels, each with a different topic for discussion and contributions from the floor.



them part of the community, celebrating their diversity and being inclusive, to help take the community forward, he said.

Michael Singho, of Malacca, spoke of preserving the heritage and sharing the culture of Eurasians particularly the Eurasians in Malacca. He said it was important for Eurasians to meet, communicate, know one another and to keep in touch. "That will keep our community vibrant," he said.

Dr Maliki Osman asked: "How do we measure inter-ethnic integration?" and "What is the role of each ethnic community?" He said that each ethnic community had faced struggles and suggested sharing of perspectives, history, thoughts and processes to ensure that interaction and integration continued. He was of the view that the dilutive influences were not unique to the Eurasian community, but the key to strengthening the connectivity was through the sharing of values, experiences and knowledge within the community.

Dr Leonard de Vries felt that it was the responsibility of parents to transfer the values to the next generation to prevent the loss of the culture and identity.

Dr Alexius Pereira put forward the view that being a cultural hybrid was a strength of the Eurasian community and it should be adaptable, open to change and accepting of new members of the community.

The issue of uniting the Eurasian community was also brought up by a few speakers from the floor.



Panel discussion: The Community Self-Help Model Chaired by Christopher de Souza, MP

The discussion centred around how the 'self-help' approach could be a more effective and sustainable approach for smaller communities. It also reviewed the success of the current Singapore model and the success it has had in strengthening minority communities.

Bill Jansen said that the EA benefited from being a self-help group (SHG) "because we know our community and we can more effectively extend help and understanding as we know the families".

He added: "The EA also includes non-Eurasians in the programmes and that allows for easy integration and promotes racial harmony." He believed that the Singapore SHG model had been effective in strengthening minority communities.

S Devendran agreed as the SHG approach helped in engaging people who need help with a more common touch, both in a soft and hard way.

Sheila da Costa felt that it was not all bad for minority communities to be "inward looking" as it helped keep the community together and preserved culture. However, education and parents imparting the right values to their children played important roles in promoting racial tolerance.

Moliah Hashim agreed that education was the key to closing performance gaps and avoiding social issues between ethnic groups. She shared some of the challenges and successes that Mendaki experienced and felt that the SHG model empowered communities by providing an effective organisation structure.

Dr Mathew Matthews said: "In Singapore, the SHGs have not been myopic due to a strong Singapore identity and effort to work together on inter-cultural programmes and racial harmony".

Panel discussion: Building Future Leaders Chaired by Angelina Fernandez



The discussion looked into the challenges of attracting the younger generation to be active in the community and how the EA could develop promising younger Eurasians to become future leaders for the community as well as prominent Eurasian leaders in the wider society.

Angelina Fernandez suggested that perhaps role models from the community could play an important role in attracting the youth: "Nothing really breeds success like success. If people see that you've got prominent lawyers, civil servants, businessmen who are doing great things, it inspires them and it inspires our younger people."

Joseph Peterson agreed, as he felt that role models played an important role in inspiring the youth and conveying good values. He also suggested: "The EA should look at reaching out to young Eurasians in schools".

Sybil Rocha, who chairs the Mentoring Young Leaders Network, stressed the importance of bringing the EA to young Eurasians instead of waiting for them to come to the EA. She added that it was critical to engage young people and organise more events to reach out to them.

Gala Dinner



A gala dinner provided the grand finale to the reunion, which was held in a marquee on the Padang at the Singapore Recreation Club. Eurasians from here and abroad came together to mark the culmination of The Eurasian Reunion 2012. Guests, dressed to the nines, enjoyed a sumptuous banquet and performances from Eurasian bands from Singapore and Malaysia.



Michelle Tessensohn added that communication was key and more could be done to reach out to young people. She observed that many Eurasians didn't know each other and currently did not network enough.

Graham Ong Webb noted: "We should exploit social media a lot more. It's the SMS generation. Keep in touch and maintain the bonds; they will gradually come forward. He also suggested: "The cultural landscape has changed very quickly, the cultural language spoken by today's generation is different and we should put an effort to have a better listening ear to understand what youth want". He felt that it was perhaps necessary to change the misperception among youth that EA was only for the older community or the needy.

Speaking from the floor Patrick Mowe pointed out: "We can't force leadership, we have to spot it." He suggested that the association should reach out to more people to spot talent and facilitate leadership renewal.

From the floor Joachim Pereira, representing younger members, said: "The youth are not lacking drive and talent but what they lack is direction. The EA should give them that sense of direction and purpose that will attract them to the association."

Speaking from the floor, Barry Desker said: "It is critical that Eurasians also play a leadership role outside the community as it helps to strengthen and preserve the Eurasian identity."

Several discussion points came up during the course of the afternoon, both from the panellists and speakers from the floor. Popular talking points included the notion of inclusiveness, Eurasian identity and engaging the Eurasian community and youth through various activities such as sport, art and culinary classes.

A Dignified Treat



Twenty elderly Eurasians were invited to a special lunch in March, thanks to generous sponsor Vincent Gabriel.

The lunch was provided by Project Dignity Kitchen, Singapore's first hawker training school for disabled and disadvantaged people, which was set up 18 months ago. The project gives handicapped and elderly workers – who face greater challenges competing for jobs – training and placements. The project operates a real food court, which allows both the public and the students to experience an authentic eating place.

Before their meal, the party of Eurasians was treated to a bus tour around the city sights, which brought back memories – and also allowed some to see the newer developments for the first time. They then enjoyed a nutritious lunch spread at Project Dignity Kitchen. The trip aimed to inspire the elderly to lead an active lifestyle.



Tales at Tea Time

Nearly two dozen Eurasians, including a number of FSS clients, gathered at Quentin's Restaurant in February to enjoyed an afternoon tea and social gathering. Benett Theseira, Vice President of the EA, and his mother, Christina, also attended the event. Joe Conceicao, EA trustee and author, entertained the guests with his storytelling as they enjoyed a cuppa.



Joe Conceicao (left) entertains the guests

Thank You, DHL

The EA would like to extend its appreciation and thanks to DHL for kindly sponsoring 130 cartons for households receiving hampers last Christmas.





Eurasian football teams of the past



Bring Back Soccer!

Don't hang up your soccer boots just yet – the Eurasian Association is recruiting all footie enthusiasts to come together to form the EA football team. We're looking for players – for all positions, and from the ages of five to 24 – with a serious passion for the Beautiful Game. If you think you can bend it like Beckham or move like Messi, we want to hear from you.

The EA is also on the look-out for a good football coach and potential spaces to play and train. If you want to coach or know just the place to play, then write to us.

We are planning to get a strong group of players and build up team morale and fitness. Take this as an opportunity to get fitter, sharpen your skills and forge new friendships in an environment of give-and-take and fair play. With that, we hope to establish a great team for the future.

Interested? Please contact Irfa Tukiman at irfaizah@eurasians.org or Bridget Basnayake at bridget@eurasians.org

In the Eye of the Dragon



The EA Dragons are always ready to welcome new members – here's what would be waiting for you if you came on board

River Regatta. You don't have to be Eurasian to join – in fact, the group is predominantly non-Eurasian. Of its nearly 40 members, there are six Eurasians, plus Cambodian, Vietnamese-Canadian, American, Australian, Indian, Australian, and Chinese members.

a rudder. The best thing about dragon boating, says Bianca, is “definitely the adrenaline rush that comes before every race and the photo finish afterwards”.

The Dragons train once a week on Sunday afternoons from 3pm to 5pm at Kallang Water Venture. “Occasionally, we have bonding sessions in the form of dinner parties, kayaking expeditions, dive trips – and even vacations,” says Bianca. “Apart from great food, the Dragons thoroughly enjoy celebrating our team mates' birthdays. It gives us a chance to express ourselves creatively through our gifts, and we get to eat cake!”

While dragon boating is hard work “there are laughs at every training,” she says. “One of the most memorable moments was when a senior team member ripped his pants while stretching during warm-ups. Another hilarious moment was when another member had his pants caught on a nail at the bow of boat while trying to jump into the water. This left

“Most often, a pint-sized crew member is chosen to drum so that the front of the boat is not heavily weighed down”

The EA Dragons was formed in 2006 when the association was invited to participate in the PA Invitational Race at the Singapore

A dragon boat crew comprises 10 or 20 paddlers, a drummer, and a coxswain. The paddlers need to be in sync at all times, rowing to the beat of the drum. “Anyone can be the drummer,” says team captain, Bianca Hoeden. “However, most often a pint-sized crew member is chosen to drum so that the front of the boat is not heavily weighed down.”

The coxswain, who stands at the stern, is tasked with keeping the boat on course, using

Living the Olympian Dream

As elite athletes the world over prepare to converge on London in July and August for the world's biggest sporting event, swimmer Joseph Schooling dreams of bringing home Singapore's first Olympic gold medal

Sixteen-year old swimming sensation Joseph Schooling trains eight hours a day, five days a week in order to compete internationally. He is currently attending Bolles School in Jacksonville, Florida – renowned for its athletics programme – with his coach, Sergio Lopez.

Joseph's great uncle, Lloyd Valberg, was Singapore's first Olympian and competed in the 1948 London Olympics. His parents are both national softball players. Growing up with athletes, it was natural for Joseph to follow their footsteps.

He has been in love with the water since he was a child spending his weekends swimming at Tanah Merah Country Club with his parents. He took swimming lessons and was soon swimming competitively.

Joseph trains eight hours a day, five days a week

At the SEA Games last year, he led the pack from start to finish in 1 minute, 56.67 seconds and made history in the men's 200m butterfly when he clinched a gold medal and set a new SEA Games record. He also became the first athlete at the Games to meet the Olympics 'A' qualification mark.

"It was incredible," recalls Joseph. "Qualifying for the Olympics is one step closer for me to achieving my ultimate dream."

At the Olympics in London, where he will be competing in the 100 metres



and 200 metres butterfly, he will have his work cut out – among his opponents will be swimming icon Michael Phelps.

But Joseph is not deterred: "I want to win an Olympic gold medal. That's my dream. I want to be the best at what I do – and I hate losing," he says.



him hanging on the front of the dragon boat with his arms flailing for a good five seconds before finally face-planting into the water."

New recruit Antonia Rodrigues, 19, says: Dragon boating with the EA Dragons has been a really phenomenal experience. The training has been tough both physically and mentally, but somehow I always manage to pull through.

I first tried dragon boating in secondary 1, with the CHIJ (Toa Payoh) ODAC team, and that's where I first fell in love with the sport. My interest in dragon boating was rekindled when a schoolmate asked me to accompany her to training with the EA Dragons. For me, what keeps me going back is the unconditional support of the team and the knowing that you're in it together, be it the tiring training or the delicious seng pao at the end.

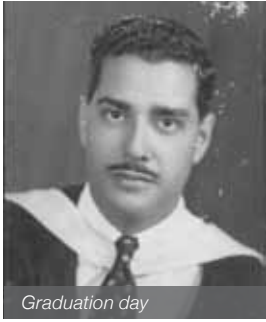
Mathew Lwee Chi Guang, 20, another new team member adds: "I had my reservations about this sport as I had the stereotypical thinking that Dragon boaters were all buff, well built and committed to body building. Last year, I had this chance to participate in a race with my friends and we were provided with free training sessions. We trained hard and enjoyed the view thoroughly – especially if you are rowing beside the Singapore Flyer, Marina Barrage, close up view to Marina Bay Sands – it is just splendid."

Despite losing the race, Mathew's team mate Ryan, an EA Dragon, invited him to join. "Training was so different and it was tough. But nobody complained. I recall a sentence our coach mentioned: 'The strongest bonds are forged through hardships'. The sentence justified itself well."



Bianca Hoeden (right) and team mate flex their muscles

If you enjoy the outdoors, keeping fit, and great company, then dragon boating could be the sport for you. Please contact Irfa Tukiman at the EA, tel: 6447 1578, who will forward your details to the team captain.



Graduation day

A Force for Good

George Bogaars, a former head of the Singapore Civil Service, was born in 1926 and died 20 years ago this April. In his career, he helped to set up a new intelligence unit and a reliable army, and helped to develop one of the country's major companies. He also had numerous personal interests and was renowned for his kindness – and quick wit

George Edwin Bogaars was 16 when Singapore fell to the Japanese in 1942. His Dutch Eurasian father, also George Edwin, was a confidential secretary to four British governors, and the family thus came under the scrutiny of the Kempeitai. They survived the screening, but on hearing that a Catholic settlement had opened at Bahau Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia the family moved there in hope of a better life.

In August 1945, the Bogaars returned to Singapore, where George Jr continued his disrupted education; in 1952 he earned a BA (Honours) in History and Masters from the University of Malaya.

Following his father's wishes, he joined the civil service. The British were recruiting locals into the Administrative Service and Bogaars was one of the pioneers. The elite were given multiple roles and he was assigned to several departments. By 1955, he was serving as



Receiving one of his many awards

Acting Deputy Secretary in the Treasury. A year later, he married (and later divorced) Dorothy Lee Kian Neo, with whom he had daughters Paulina and Christina and son Michael.

When Singapore obtained self-rule in 1959, Bogaars was approached to reorganise the Special Branch and became the first local man to head the organisation. When Singapore gained independence in 1965, he was made Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Interior and Defence, serving under Dr Goh Keng Swee. Here, he was instrumental in building up the infant Singapore Armed Forces.

In 1968, he became the head of the civil service in Singapore. He also became an industrialist; in 1970, he was appointed chairman of Keppel Shipyard and is credited with turning it from a single ship repair company to the largest Singapore incorporated industrial group.

His daughters remember a kind, clever father with a sense of humour, with whom they could discuss anything.

Paulina says: "He would make predictions about where the world was going – that impressed me. I remember in the early 1970s when he advised me to take up computer programming. He said that one day the world would be run by computers."

Christina says: "I adored him. He was larger than life. He loved telling funny, true stories." She learned to appreciate his dedication to his work, his curiosity about the world and his 'out-of-the-box' thinking in problem solving. "He loved reading. He



George Bogaars with his daughters

felt there was value and knowledge in every book. He taught himself chicken farming (I still have his instructional book), cooking, yoga and how to read and write Thai."

After a life of public service, during which he was awarded many honours, Bogaars spent his later years as a chairman of the National Iron and Steel Mills.

Paulina says: "Dad was definitely not one of those people who would 'fall off the perch' when they retired. He had many interests: we had an aviary in our back yard; he kept tropical fish, he tried his hand at making bread and ice cream, and he made a killer pork vindaloo. He was founder member of the Morning Glories tennis club. His love of tennis saw him designing and making a half tennis court in our back yard.

"I would love people to remember Dad as a guy who was like those of our early Singapore pioneers; humble yet with a focus on the betterment of his 'kampong' –Singapore."

George Bogaars died of heart failure on 6 April 1992 in Singapore.

The Wit and Wisdom of George Bogaars

1. **A department's budget request:** "For building maintenance purposes, we have divided Singapore into four regions – north, south, east and west – each to be headed by a senior technical officer (STO). We currently only have three STOs. It is absurd that we have only three STOs when we have four regions. We need one more STO."

Bogaars: "Inform [the department] that it is absurd that they should have four regions when they have only three

STOs. Request denied."

2. **A colleague:** "We need \$2m for research into pig waste management. A pig produces waste that is 10 times its body weight daily. With a pig farm population of 100,000, we need to have an effective waste management system to minimise pollution problems."

Bogaars: "That might not be the best use of money. The real solution is to breed a constipated pig."

3. **A colleague,** presenting the Singapore Master Plan for land use with a huge map of the island with zones shaded in different colours depending on the proposed land use, requested additional manpower to proceed with more detailed regional planning.

Bogaars: "Would you agree that the real problem in land use planning is not a shortage of manpower but the lack of a sufficient variety of coloured pencils?"

A Humble Legacy

Immaculate Rozells is a tiny yet sprightly great grandmother. And she has just celebrated her 100th birthday. *The NewEurasian* spoke to her before the big event

We met Immaculate in the apartment where she lives with her daughter, Marlene. Immaculate was well turned out, quite at ease, and greeted us with a solid handshake. When our photographer snapped her, she began to giggle and the lines etched on to her face seemed to melt away as she laughed and said: "I don't usually do this!"



Immaculate with daughter Marlene, granddaughter Jacqueline (front row) and family

Immaculate was born on 13 February 1912. She was 30 when Singapore fell to the Japanese army. Her husband, Victor Rozells, was a ship's engineer but when the war started, ships were not allowed to move freely and Victor went missing for four years. During that time, she had no clue as to whether he was alive or dead. Her memories of that dark time are hazy,

although certain horrific war-time incidents have remained forever in her memory.

Immaculate waited for Victor. And, eventually, to her immense relief, he returned home. "I was very happy", she recalls. She is now widowed, but the couple produced four children: three daughters and a son.



Immaculate Rozells

She is impressed with the post-war developments in Singapore and what has been achieved since Independence. "I like Lee Kuan Yew. I'm proud of him," she says quietly. "Singapore is much cleaner now," she notes.

Her family remains closely knitted. In addition to celebrating festive occasions together, they meet for tea and cake or gather just to have some fun.

"I can't believe I am 100 – I don't feel that age. It has all gone very quickly. I am looking forward to spending my 100th birthday with my family," she says. She celebrated her big day at Temasek Club with family and friends.

Her secret to reaching her centenary? "I do a lot of reading and I take multi-vitamins pill every day", she says.

Singapore's Musical Duo Celebrate 40 Years

Stalwarts of Singapore's music scene Mel & Joe have been performing since the 1970s. Their latest release, however, is not a disc – but their autobiography

For Mel Ferdinands and his brother Joe, growing up in a musical household meant singing and playing has always been a major part of their lives. Now, to celebrate their 40th anniversary as a double act, they have published their autobiography, with the help of Candid Creation Publishing LLP, The National Heritage Board and COMPASS.

"*I Play & Sing* gives us the opportunity to share a little with the reader how we have dedicated 40 years of our lives to music. We decided to depart from the normal format of simply narrating our life stories.

Our recollections of the different phases of our musical career are interspersed with memories of events that happened long ago and anecdotes from local personalities, family members and friends", explains Joe.

From the early days of *Talentine* to their heyday with one of Singapore's top bands, *Gypsy*, they continue to rock on with passion.

"We started off 40 years ago with nothing but love, encouragement and support from our family" recalls Joe. "The pleasure and joy that we got out of performing is something that money can't buy."

The book chronicles their journey in showbiz as well as documenting the rise and decline of the local music scene. The idea for the book, which was two years in the making, came about unexpectedly while they were "at



our parents' place, shooting the breeze and reminiscing about the good ol' days", says Joe. The duo, who play mainly covers of songs from the 1960s to the '80s, believe that Singapore's music scene today gives fewer opportunities for bands to get heard. "In the past, we were fortunate that people in the television and radio business offered a lot more opportunities for local artistes," says Joe.

The pair are currently working on a CD of their originals that will be complete by the end of the year.

I Play & Sing is available at The Eurasian Association. For enquiries and purchase, contact: Jacqueline Peeris at 64471578 or jacqueline@eurasians.org

A Man of Character

Brendon Fernandez, 33, is a man of many talents. The actor and TV personality has recently appeared in *Bridging Asia*, a series of debates on Channel News Asia. He has lent his voice to promote brands from Tiger Beer to the National Museum of Singapore. He recently appeared in Wild Rice's contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*. Here, he talks to *The NewEurasian* about the ups and downs of his career



Brendan Fernandez's roles move seamlessly from political summits to plays by Shakespeare



On stage in *Romeo and Juliet*

“You should only be an actor if and when you're absolutely sure there's nothing else you would be happy doing”

Typically, it's the first time I've ever seen the script because the writers have had barely enough time to finish it. I go over it, looking for any improvements I can suggest. An hour before filming, the debate panellists arrive to get their make-up done and I go to say “hello”. Then I excuse myself, so that I can practise my scripted links. Ten minutes before filming I brief the live studio audience. When it's time to film, I walk on stage, deliver my opening links, introduce the panellists and get the debate started.

What I've just described is the ideal situation. This is what would happen if everyone turned up on time, and nothing went wrong. This never happens. In the real world, busy people show up late, scripts get changed, technology fails, and what can go wrong does go wrong. That's where the improvisation happens.

You were the emcee when PM Lee Hsien Loong and the other Asean heads of state and government gathered in Singapore in November 2007 to sign the historic Asean Charter. What was the experience like for you?

I was also working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a foreign service officer at the time. I was involved in organising the event and looking after the foreign delegates. On top of that, I wrote my own emcee script, and emceed several major signing ceremonies during the summit. I didn't get much sleep during that time.

Does being Eurasian give you more scope with your acting roles?

If anything, it can potentially be limiting. There are very few characters that are written specifically as Eurasian. So most of the time, I've had to ‘pass off’ as Chinese or Malay or Indian. I think I've only ever played one Eurasian character on TV, and only three or four in theatre.

What's good is that in theatre the ethnicity of a character often isn't specified – in other

words, directors are free to be ‘colour blind’ in their casting. When we perform Shakespeare, for example, the cast is made up of people of all races – it would be ludicrous, in modern-day Singapore, to only cast people of English descent because Shakespeare was English. The theatre scene is much more progressive in this respect.

“You must be willing live with constant change. You have to become the characters you're playing”

What personality traits are needed to be successful in your line of work?

To be an actor, you have to be humble. You constantly face rejection – you audition for a part, and you're told that you're not right for the role. You have to say “thank you”, smile, and walk away, hope you get another chance to work with that person in future. Most actors hear “no” more often than they hear “yes”.

You must be willing live with constant change. You have to become the characters you're playing – you might be asked to lose weight, gain weight, cut your hair, grow it out, to learn to sing, dance, do stunts, fight... And you have to learn to tell the difference between what your character feels and what you feel, and leave your character's emotions at work.

Words of wisdom for young people who want to follow in your footsteps?

Get another job first. Something you think you'll enjoy. Try it out. You might like that better. It's almost certain that the other thing will earn you more money, and give you a more stable income. Someone once said that you should only be an actor if and when you're absolutely sure there's nothing else you would be happy doing. I think that's very good advice.

How did you become an actor?

I studied Theatre Studies & Drama at Victoria Junior College from 1996 to 1997. I loved it so much, I decided to try to make a career of it. After JC, I did some amateur work on the weekends, while I was serving NS. My first professional role was in 2000, in *The Theory of Everything*, which was a co-production between the Singapore Repertory Theatre and the East West Players in LA. I got to live and work in LA for about two months in total. I'd say that that role was my ‘breakthrough’ role. From that, I got cast in a few more plays, got picked up by my managers at Fly Entertainment, and so on.

Does *Bridging Asia* get intense – are there any issues that you find difficult to moderate?

Bridging Asia: The Singapore Debates was a steep learning curve for me. I'd done two documentaries for CNA before this, but this was the first time I'd worked with a big studio set-up – three cameras, a teleprompter, an earpiece so the producer could give me instructions on the fly, a live studio audience... I had to learn how to cope very quickly. Thankfully, the team I was working with know their jobs inside out, so I was in good hands.

What goes into shooting an episode?

I get to the set about two hours before filming, get my make-up done, and get the script.

A Quiet Heroine

Family and friends pay tribute to 'Aunty Lin' Beck on her 90th birthday



Guest-of-honour, 'A Lin' Beck, left

A 90th birthday with 90 guests: when Lena Beck became a nonagenarian, the ECH's multi-purpose hall was transformed into a stylish venue for her big, Eurasian-style bash. Family and friends travelled from as far as Jakarta, Australia and Canada to attend.

Apolonia Marie Beck (Lena to many, Aunty Lin to most, A Lin for short), was born on 9 February 1922 in a small wooden house in Malacca, the eldest of seven children. The children had a normal childhood, although as their father was a headmaster discipline and study were instilled at an early age.

When A Lin was 15, the family moved to Singapore; the parents believed that life would be better here and the Beck girls would be able to get good husbands.

But four years later, both parents had died and A Lin became de facto parents to her six younger siblings, the youngest of whom was only five years old, ensuring they were happy and well educated.

On 10 July 1948, she, married Norman Eldred Webb, and they were happily married until he died in 1989. They have one daughter, who resides in Canada.

There were dark episodes during A Lin's life. During WWII she was working as a telephone operator for Oriental Telegraph (OTEC). Because she was an English speaking telephone operator, the Kempeitai (Japanese Military Police) interred her at the infamous Kempeitai East Branch Headquarters housed in the old YMCA building in Fort Canning Road. She was kept there, under interrogation, for six months, at the same time as war heroine Elizabeth Choy.

“I noticed this gleam in A Lin's eyes and a mischievous smile that indicated if you knew how to behave she would be more than just a mere aunty”

Her nephew, Alan Morton, says: “She has never wanted to speak about this horrendous ordeal, and would never tell anyone, including family, what went on in those insidious halls. My source told me that only once in A Lin's lifetime has she mentioned ‘water torture’, where victims were tied up and laid flat on the ground, face up, while water was forcibly introduced into their mouths and noses until their bellies became distended. Then the Kempeitai would jump on their stomachs to force the water out, only to be repeated until the victim fell unconscious or died.”

Alan has happy early memories of a strict, but kind aunt. “A Lin was of old school: where children were to be seen and not heard and only spoke when spoken to; where talking at the dinner table was not encouraged; where you had to constantly mind your Ps & Qs; where you had to eat your veggies whether you like them or not. But since my parents had brought me up in similar fashion, I never had any ‘difficulties’ when visiting A Lin. On the contrary, right from the onset I noticed this gleam in A Lin's eyes and a mischievous smile that indicated if you knew how to behave she would be more than just a mere aunty. She would be a friend. She would give us 10 cents (big moolah in those days) for ice



A Lin tucks into Eurasian food from Quentin's



Some of the 90 guests at the party



A Lin and Norman Webb on their wedding day

cream every time she saw us because she knew this was a luxury my family could ill afford in those days.

“Throughout my academic years, A Lin took an interest in all our education, our hobbies and our friends.”

At her big bash, between the meal from Quentin's and the music from Gerard Danker, others were also enjoying their memories of A Lin – and wishing her many more happy years.

Introductory Words

New member Sherlin Giri explains why she loves speaking to – and about – the EA Toastmasters Club

I was first introduced to the Toastmasters Club last November when I was invited to attend a meeting by one of my friends. You can 'visit' the club to test waters until you finally decide whether it is your cup of tea or not.

So there I was, completely new, having gone there alone because I wanted to get a feel of the club without the distraction of someone else's opinion.

Would this be a meeting of spunky individuals who shared a love for English and wanted a platform to share their life experiences through well-crafted, entertaining speeches? Or would I meet stiff and pompous characters who would look down their noses at me and reprimand me for every 'lah' and 'alamak!' over a cup of tea? Gulp.

Luckily, it proved to be the former and that got me hooked. This was no ordinary club that met, did some speeches, gave away some

fancy ribbons and then declared the meeting closed. This was a lively club that attracted intelligent and yet humble characters from diverse backgrounds, who were keen to take the first steps to share their wealth of stories and perspectives, so that we can all learn from one another.

I 'visited' a couple of times more and in January I became a fully fledged member. What prompted me to join was not only that these wonderful people actually spoke

“Would I meet stiff and pompous characters who would look down their noses at me and reprimand me for every ‘lah’ and ‘alamak’?”

good English in a languid and non-contrived manner. It was also the warmth that I felt from the club – and how each and every member supported it, from those in official roles right down to those providing food and drinks and simply helping arrange the chairs for the meeting. It may be daunting for a new member to do his or her 'Ice Breaker' speech or for a visitor to deliver a Table Topic – completely impromptu – to what might be an audience of mostly strangers.



The EA Toastmasters



Public speaking is fun!

However, the club makes that less of a challenge with the full support members give to each speaker and the invaluable evaluations that stem from people who know their craft and – more importantly – are willing to share it.

This sense of camaraderie accounts for the club's growing numbers. Also underlying its success is the leadership of our current president, Michelle Tessensohn. She and her team infuse each meeting with a sense of support and hospitality that makes it easier for us to work on our Project speeches and take up leadership roles.

So it is not surprising that this year saw many new leaders – myself included. I have now taken up the role of Vice President (Public Relations).

Through the various regional and national competitions in which we take part, there is ample room for development on a larger platform for those who want to hone their craft in public speaking and leadership.

The club also provides the suitable infrastructure for documented progress and the recognition of international certification for each milestone members achieve.

Balut's High Points



Burton Westerhout, Yvonne Pereira and Peter Rodrigues



A good throw!

The first round of the EA's 2012 In-House Balut Competition, held in March, set the bar high with a massive 661 points. Burt Westerhout emerged as the month's champion and, in addition, won a spot prize for a 'balut in one throw'.

Peter Rodrigues was elected the Balut Section's convener while Yvonne Pereira remains its advisor. Balut sponsors Quentin Pereira and

Evelyn Rodrigues witnessed the start of the new tournament.

Members and guests aged 18 and above are welcome to join the sessions, which are held on the first Friday of each month. Contact Bridget Basnayake, tel: 6447 1578.

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Making a **SPLASH!**

At this year's Chingay parade, performers paraded down a 360-metre waterway to the theme of 'Love, Care, and Kindness Everywhere'. The event marked the parade's 40th anniversary and a celebration of the year of the Water Dragon.

The EA's dancers were togged out in brightly coloured costumes and wellingtons in keeping with the water theme. The young troupe performed a contemporary dance called 'Circles of Joy', choreographed by Jennifer Schoon and Ronald Low.

Thanks are due to the ISS International School for collaborating with the EA on the event and, not least of all, the students for their enthusiastic hard work during training. Thanks, too, to Liz Schurmann for leading the troupe.

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