

THE NEW EURASIAN

Jul – Sep 2021 | eurasians.org



Not all **HEROES**
wear **CAPES**

Flying Singapore's
flag high in **France**

Empowering Youths
for the **21st Century**
Working World



The New Eurasian

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In Touch



“

I would like to thank Knowledge Tree Training Centre for their generous donation of \$30,000. This will be used to help the under-privileged in the Eurasian community, especially in these difficult times.

Dear fellow members of the EA

I hope you are staying safe. In July, the EA was looking forward to coming out of Covid-19 Phase 2A Heightened Alert with a series of activities. Unfortunately, due to a new outbreak, the EA has decided to follow government guidelines and postpone activities, or move them virtually again.

One piece of good news this past quarter is the publication of “The Clan: Tales from Around the Dining Table”, a book produced by the family of EA Patron Mr Herman H Hochstadt. This book of anecdotes and, as the title suggests, recipes, was put together to celebrate the wonderful life of Patron Hochstadt. It also comes soon after Patron Hochstadt's own autobiography, “The Life and Times of hrh”, published in 2020.

In this issue, we also look back at the tireless and important work that the EA Heritage Sub-Committee has done over the past 30 years. As a community, we will never know where we are headed, unless we know where we have come from. My deepest thanks to all volunteers who have contributed to archiving and chronicling our stories and culture.

As we look forward to Singapore's 56th National Day, it is also a good time to look back at how the EA has celebrated this momentous occasion. In some years, the EA has hosted a formal observance of National Day and a “Red and White” lunch. Organised by VP Yvonne Pereira and the Community Engagement team, the luncheon is always a fun-filled time with food, great music and the singing of our National Days songs such as “One People, One Nation, One Singapore” and “Home,” after the singing of the National Anthem and reciting of the pledge. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we could not have a luncheon last year and this year. But nonetheless, the EA will observe National Day.

In closing, I would very much like to wish Singapore a very happy birthday. Please take care and stay safe.

Dr Alexius Pereira
President

Share Your Stories With Us!



If you have an interesting story to share with the wider Eurasian community, let us know! Email Natasha Darwood at natasha@eurasians.org



You can read The New Eurasian magazine online at eurasians.sg/neweurasian-magazine

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Note: Article photos were taken before Covid-19 pandemic.

The New Eurasian

Magazine of the Eurasian Association, Singapore

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

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THE CLAN ... AT LARGE

In celebration of the EA's Patron, Mr Herman Ronald Hochstadt's 88th birthday, NUS Libraries and Talisman Publishing announced the release of the sequel to the memoir – The Clan ... At Large: Singapore's Hochstadt Clan – Tales from Around the Dining Table on 19 May 2021.

The book is about the extended Hochstadt family in Singapore, also known as The Clan. There is only one Hochstadt family in Singapore and Malaysia. Its progenitor, Mr Philip Peter Hochstadt settled in Singapore around 1881, after travelling from Bavaria to the East. He first landed in India and got married there before heading to Sarawak to become a Police Inspector. He then travelled to Singapore where he engaged in various businesses, including carriage building and rentals, and dairy farming.

SINGAPORE'S HOCHSTADT CLAN ...
TALES FROM AROUND THE DINING TABLE



EDITED BY
KEVIN Y.L. TAN



Priced at **\$48.00** (before GST), you can purchase the book at <https://epigrambookshop.sg/>.

EA members will receive a special 10% discount when purchased via the EA. You can email Jacqueline Peeris at Jacqueline@eurasians.org to make your purchase now! Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to support needy NUS students.

Let's chat

If you need someone to speak to ...

Did you know?

Since the start of the pandemic, with more people working from home, Singapore has seen an increase in people feeling socially isolated.

Family tension has also taken a toll on many, with families adjusting to the new normal of staying and working from home.

According to mental health news reports from the local media, Singapore's national care hotline has seen a rise in callers seeking help and support.

This led to the EA launching its 'ONE CALL AWAY' initiative in June to provide remote assistance to their members. Its aim - to keep members in the community connected, direct individuals to the agencies for specific assistance and for members to have someone to chat with!

The team of three volunteers currently reaches out to members in the community specifically as friends and not 'helplines'. The volunteers call members at their own time and they speak to between six to eight individuals every fortnight.

The duration of each phone call is about 10 to 20 minutes, with volunteers speaking to members about their day, how they are coping with the current Covid-19 restrictions and their general wellbeing.

The volunteers have shared that the initiative is beneficial for both parties as they genuinely enjoy catching up and reaching out to members of our community.





Sisters with a **Big Heart**

The Sanchez sisters, only three years apart, have been inseparable since young. Stephanie, 27, and Stacey, 30, currently work at Big Heart Student Care Centre (BHSCC) as a Cluster Manager and Senior Operations Specialist respectively.

The NewEurasian caught up with the sisters at the opening of Big Heart's 30th Student Care Centre to understand what attracted them to the student care industry and what keeps them motivated.



Inspiring minds and touching hearts

As a fresh graduate in 2015, Stacey Sanchez wanted a career that would allow her to work with young Singaporeans and decided to join the student care industry. A few years later, little did she know, her younger sister Stephanie, would also embark on a similar career. That decision was inspired after listening to Stacey's recounts of student interactions at Big Heart which she would regularly share with family and friends.

It was indeed a leap of faith for Stephanie who was already establishing herself in the student care industry, observing how Stacey was positively impacting students at Big Heart, and that ultimately won her over. Stacey was thrilled when BHSCC offered her a position in February 2016 as an Operations Specialist. Since coming onboard, Stephanie has not looked back. Big Heart centres, which provide after-school care services with a strong

emphasis on value-based learning, have given the Sanchez sisters meaningful careers in shaping the character, confidence and virtues of students.

Starting off as a student care officer, Stephanie quickly advanced to a Centre Manager role and was later promoted to Cluster Manager in just two years!





5 Years and Counting

Today, Stacey works closely with the Ministry of Social and Family Services to oversee the application and appeal of subsidies for families in need. She is Big Heart's liaison for Self-Help Groups and ensures students are provided timely assistance. Stephanie, on the other hand, is Big Heart's link to school leaders and works closely with the Ministry of Education to align the centres' learning programmes with student development practices that schools have in place. Work can be challenging at times with various stakeholders involved, but nothing can take away that sense of satisfaction when they see the smile on each child.

“

At the end of the day, it has and continues to be a fulfilling experience. I am honoured to be part of an organisation that inspires young lives and helps needy families. There is absolutely nothing we would change about the journey that got us here. We joke about still being here when we are grandmothers. Fabulous *Grandmas*, of course!

”

Stacey Sanchez

One of the EA's key objectives is to promote the holistic education of Eurasians in all fields, and at all education levels. The EA is equally committed to develop programmes to help Eurasian students achieve their academic aspirations. Our Education Committee works with various government bodies to ensure Eurasian students have access to opportunities regardless of their background.



BIG HEART STUDENT CARE

Big Heart Student Care centres were set up in 2015 to support students of all races from less-privileged backgrounds. There are currently 4,200 students enrolled at the centres which are located in various primary schools across Singapore. The Self-Help Groups Student Care Limited (SHGSCL) is a joint venture company owned by the four Self Help Groups (SHGs), namely, the Chinese Development Assistance Council, Eurasian Association, Singapore Indian Development Association and Yayasan MENDAKI.

Visit bigheartstudentcare.com for more information.

Protect yourself and your loved ones

Why
vaccinate?

There is a risk of serious illness and death from Covid-19, especially among the elderly and vulnerable groups.

Vaccination can

- Prevent disease and minimise transmission
- Enable us to resume more activities daily
- Prevent our healthcare system from being overwhelmed



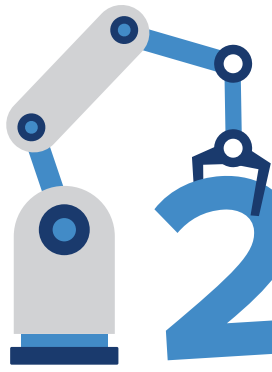
Scan the QR code or visit the link <https://preregister.vaccine.gov.sg/> to register for your vaccination. Seniors aged 60 and above can walk-in at any vaccination centre.

Scan the QR code or visit the link <https://www.vaccine.gov.sg/locations/mvt> to register for a mobile vaccination near you.



Attention
all Eurasians
– are you
vaccinated?



21st

Empowering Youths For The Century Working World

Spearheaded by Youth Committee Vice-Chairperson, Danni Jay Luke Danis, the Youth Mentorship programme was launched in 2018 to guide youth transitioning from school into their next phase in life - the 21st century working world. This programme is an experience and knowledge based interactive platform for current and future young working professionals to connect with experienced mentors in the industry. This gives them an opportunity to discuss ideas around navigating career related challenges, understanding specific industry nuances and also provides them with a high level perspective on career management and personal branding.

There are currently eight mentors in the programme, with varied experiences ranging from wildlife and animal conservancy, to education and engineering. The EA spoke to digital and technology mentor, Sunil Rao, who currently leads a sales excellence and productivity team for Google Cloud across the Asia Pacific and has been an active member of the Youth Committee for over four years.



Sunil Rao
Digital and Technology
Mentor



Tell us about yourself?

I am an intrapreneur in the technology industry with over 13 years' experience working in the cloud and digital space. I am also a proud father to four; my two kids Katya, 7, and Kabir, 2, and my two dogs Leo and Luna. Both my professional and personal avatars have influenced my mentorship style and I am honoured to be a part of the EA's mentorship group.

How would you describe your Eurasian background?

My roots are in the Anglo-Indian community in India. I grew up in an environment with a very diverse set of influences that have shaped the way I see the world and experience it. I have also been very fortunate to have had wonderful mentors, coaches and role models in my life who have helped me

find direction and provided resources whenever I needed them.

Why did you want to be part of the EA's initiatives?

I joined the Eurasian Association in Singapore to fulfil my goal of paying forward the mentorship and guidance I have been so fortunate to receive. I find true joy in empowering and enabling others to achieve their career and life goals – especially those who are passionate about the technology sector.

Could you share some interesting projects you are currently working on?

I lead a sales excellence and productivity team for Google Cloud across the Asia Pacific. Apart from my role as a coach to my current team, I am a mentor with the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School – my alma mater. I also coach business professionals and young entrepreneurs in Singapore and globally.

What do you do in your professional role and could you share your career experience in technology?

Over the last 13 years, I have built my career in Big Tech with a mission to gather as much experience as possible,

using a problem solving approach. This has also led me to work across different areas of Big Tech – sales, partnerships, product development, operations, and even human resources; at some of the largest tech companies in the world. As a result, I have had a very unique opportunity to experience the technology business from a number of, often contrasting perspectives and to be a part of their growth from the inside.

Could you share your views about the industry as a whole?

In my opinion, the most wonderful aspect of the tech industry is that regardless of who you are, where you are in the world, and what you do for a living, technology can play a critical part in your success. I personally think of technology as a horizontal capability across everything that we do. This is also one of the reasons why I encourage my mentees to continue their pursuit of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in their education and careers, without attaching labels or having preconceptions for what it might mean for them in terms of the jobs and careers they choose in the future. STEM opens doors and creates opportunities for you in every industry. It also frames your view of the world and your role in it.

What are some challenges you have faced in your career and how did you manage them?

Personally, I believe that challenges open up opportunities. In my career, I've found that great opportunities (and challenges) have typically presented themselves as decisions where I could choose to either maintain the current course, or play an active part in seeking out situations I could learn from and benefit from in the longer term. It can often be very easy to get drawn completely into the here and the now and lose sight of long-term goals. And so, for me, overcoming challenges has meant balancing success across both the short and the long term. In 2014, I chose to quit a very comfortable job to go back to school and get an MBA from NUS. I did this because I felt stifled at the idea of picking a career path so early in life and I wanted more opportunities to explore the world and learn from different people and situations. There were times when I felt like Jack - trading a very healthy and valuable cow for magic beans. But I remained focused on my long term career aspirations and my appetite for learning allowed me to push through. In hindsight, this was a great



decision - I thoroughly enjoyed my time at NUS, and everything that has followed since.

Your wife, Darshini Santhanam is also in the same industry. Do you both collaborate and share feedback with each other?

How does your husband and wife relationship work in a corporate setting? My short answer is that it is amazing to have a partner who works in the same industry and, in our case, often, the same company. Our jobs are often demanding - in terms of time as well as mental commitment. Darshini and I naturally understand this, about each other's jobs and careers and are often able to offer interesting perspectives and support each other. I must also add that in the tech industry, I've found it to be quite common to have a spouse or partner in the same industry and company.

In 2019, it was mandated by the government that all upper primary school students will have to undergo a mandatory 10-hour coding programme. What are your personal thoughts on this?

I love it! Like learning to swim or ride a bike, coding is an essential skill. Not everyone will become a coder or software engineer, and even if writing code is not your cup of tea, having an understanding of algorithms and systems sets a strong foundation of structured thinking that can elevate your thought processes for any future career path.

Specific industries aside, what are three key attributes that youths should cultivate before joining the workforce?

I will distil out just one - a growth mindset. Recognising that learning is ongoing and that skills and talents can be nurtured and developed is, in my opinion, the key to navigating the world and building a successful career.



Scan the QR code to find your mentor today!

We are ONE

The EA Youth Wing is embarking on a mission to support the very dedicated team of professionals and volunteers to help the less fortunate Eurasians in our community and they would like YOU to be part of this journey!

This is part of the Home Sprucing initiative led by the EA's Family Support Services, which support members in the community who live in government rental flats – to further improve their living conditions. However, the youth volunteers' involvement in this programme will focus more on engaging the members after their homes have been spruced.



Task

To seek youth volunteers to engage those who are in need, talk to them, understand their situation and find a solution to address their challenges.



Program

This volunteer-based program is a collaboration between the EA Youth, Family Support Services team and Befrienders, comprising social outreach volunteers.



Commitment

A couple of hours every two to three weeks to engage individuals and families whether virtually or connecting face-to-face at their homes or at a convenient location.



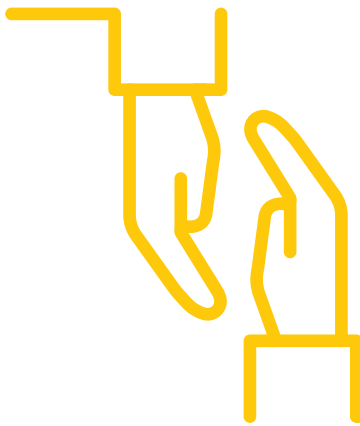
Roles and responsibilities

- Engaging individuals or families (via telephone, virtually, at their homes or at the EA Community House etc.)
- Be their friend
- Lend a listening ear
- Assessing their situation and providing additional support



Scan the QR Code to register or contact Desmond Shen at desmond@eurasians.org for more information! *Registration closes on 15 October 2021.

Reaching out to Eurasians in need



With support from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), the EA has been assisting lower- to middle-income Eurasians who have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic since last year. To date, the EA's Family Support Services (FSS) have successfully disbursed approximately over \$150,000 to 240 individuals and families in need.



What is the Empathy Package?

The FSS's empathy package follows the MCCY's criteria of assisting individuals or families who have lost their jobs or faced an income loss of at least 30 per cent due to the pandemic and require urgent help with basic living expenses.

The FSS team facilitates interviews with applicants to learn more about their situation and to better determine their eligibility for the Financial Assistance Scheme or the Special Emergency Fund.

What is provided in the Empathy Package?

The **Financial Assistance Scheme** is a monthly cash grant of up to S\$500 (capped at three months) to provide freelancers ample time to find alternative work.

The **Special Emergency Fund** is a one-off assistance (capped at S\$500) for those who require urgent and immediate attention such as medical, basic household needs and food vouchers.

What is the eligibility criteria?

- Applicant has to be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident (at least one immediate family member in the same household must be a Singapore Citizen).
- Household Income: S\$10,000 and below per month or Per Capita Income of S\$3,100 per month.
- To provide status of Covid-19 Recovery Grant application.



How do I apply for the Empathy Package?

Scan the QR Code or visit the Eurasian Association website.

The EA strongly encourages those who have been financially affected by Covid-19 to seek assistance. If you have any enquiries, please contact Ram at Ram@eurasians.org

*Important Note:

Loss of income must be due to Covid-19. Applicants are required to provide supporting documents.

Please keep the original copies of the supporting documents as the Eurasian Association reserves the right to make reference to the original documents when necessary. Processing time takes approximately 2-3 weeks upon the submission of all relevant supporting documents.

The approving body's decision is final.

Heritage Through The Years



To preserve and spread awareness of the unique Eurasian heritage and traditions in Singapore - that has always been one of the EA's goals, and a journey which started before it became a Self-Help Group in 1994.

Back then, there were many dedicated Eurasians who helped revive the Eurasian community, from increasing the EA's membership almost four-fold between 1988 and 1989, to organising events which promoted awareness of Eurasians in Singapore.

Here are some significant milestones of how the EA has continuously shared the Eurasian culture with the wider community and nation over three decades.

National Day Parade 1990

The 1990 National Day Parade, Singapore's 25th Birthday, was monumental for Eurasians. It was the first time the EA took part with a 103-strong contingent of dancers. A proud moment for the community was the performance of 'One People, One Nation, One Singapore' which was composed by Cultural Medallion Winner and prominent jazz maestro Jeremy Monteiro and lead vocals by songstress and radio deejay, Claressa Monteiro.



The Eurasian contingent at National Day Parade 1990 held at the Padang;
Photo credit: National Archives of Singapore

EA Day dedicated to Eurasians in 1991

The first Eurasian Heritage Day was held at the National Museum on 3 November, led by members of the EA's Heritage Committee together with dedicated volunteers. Over 2,000 people attended the event and participated in the festivities including dancing, singing, performances by bands and musicians, as well as an elaborate cultural exhibition on Eurasian history and traditions. There was also the

most important item at every Eurasian celebration - food! Many Eurasian cooks lent a hand to whip up big pots of favourite dishes such as Curry Debal and Sugee Cake among others.



Eurasian Heritage Day Organising Committee;
Front row: Ernest Marsh, Geoff Morris, Kathleen Woodford, Judith Arul, Tim de Souza;
Back row: Burton Westerhout, Maureen Westerhout, Pat de Souza, Nanette Westerhout, Donald Arul;
not present in the photo: Scott Arul, Val Scully



Dancers performing the Jinkli Nona

Heritage Festival

Since 2009, the EA Heritage Committee has been participating in the National Heritage Board's Heritage Festival which is a month-long showcase of the different cultures and heritage in Singapore. Some of the highlights

include a cultural booth or exhibition displaying the history and lifestyle, and performances such as a dance or skit, or workshops like cake decoration or cooking demonstrations.



Dr Barry Pereira (far left), chairperson of EA's Heritage Committee with EA volunteers at the EA booth at the Peranakan Museum, Heritage Festival, April 2009



Performance by the EA Dance Troupe at Century Square, Heritage Festival, 2014

Eurasian Wedding Skit at Yew Tee, 2012

Over the years, the EA has set up cultural booths at many events organised and held at community centres. In 2012, a Eurasian wedding skit was performed by youths at the open area outside Yew Tee MRT. The skit showed the traditions of a Eurasian wedding, from the bride's arrival to the wedding march playing.



Eurasian wedding skit at Yew Tee, 2012.
Note: This is a screenshot from the video on YouTube



From L-R: Jacqueline Peeris (Manager, Heritage & Culture at EA), Leonie Tan, Olivia Kong, Emmanuel Ng, Olivia Tiboleng, James Chong, Dylan Hedger, Ashley Chelliah, Stacey Fernandez, Jonathan Peeris [Eurasian youths from the Regina Coeli Choir at the Church of Saint Vincent de Paul] perform a Eurasian wedding skit



The Eurasian contingent at Chingay 2002



EA Management Committee members (back row) Yvonne Pereira, Vincent Schoon and former EA President, Benett Theseira with the EA Dance Troupe at Orange Ribbon Celebrations at Marina Bay Sands, 2013



The EA Dance Troupe at Botanic Gardens, 2015

The History of the EA Song & Dance Troupe

From the dancers recruited for the National Day Parade in 1990 and the Eurasian Heritage Day in 1991, Valerie Scully started the *EA Song & Dance Troupe* with about 40 dancers. The troupe was later renamed *Kristang Cultural Troupe*, based in Siglap South Community Club from 2005, and has performed locally and even went on an exchange programme in Macau for the dancers to learn authentic Portuguese dance routines. After serving the community for about two decades, the troupe retired and till today, are remembered for their efforts in preserving and sharing the Eurasian culture through over 400 performances.



The EA Dance Troupe at IRIR Harmony Night at Marina Bay Sands Grand Ballroom, 2015

Jacqueline Peeris who has overseen Heritage and Culture in the EA Secretariat since 2009, revived the *EA Dance Troupe* back in 2013 with six youths who were recipients of the EA bursaries. The youths also roped in their non-Eurasian friends and in 2015, 14 dancers performed at the Inter-Racial Inter-Religious (IRIR) Harmony Night at Marina Bay Sands Grand Ballroom where the Guest-of-Honour was President Tony Tan. The troupe then performed at the Botanic Gardens' Symphony Stage that same year as part of its celebrations for becoming a World UNESCO site. The *EA Dance Troupe* also performed at the Eurasian Festivals in 2017 and 2018. Coming full circle, the EA once again recruited dancers for a new *Eurasian Cultural Troupe* which started training in January this year, under the guidance of Valerie Scully.

One Community Fiesta

Formerly known as 'Integration Carnival' which was a nationwide celebration organised by the People's Association since 2011, the event was renamed 'One Community Fiesta' in 2016 and was decentralised and organised by each individual Group Representative Constituency (GRC). Since then, the EA's Heritage Committee has participated in many of these large-scale cultural events. The EA set up a cultural booth at the Integration Carnival 2013 at Sentosa, provided a booth and dance



The EA dance performance at One Community Fiesta at the Singapore Zoo in 2018.

performance at the Integration Carnival 2014 at Gardens By The Bay, followed by events held at the Marina Barrage in 2015 and at the Singapore Zoo in 2018.



The EA booth at the PA's Integration Carnival at Sentosa, 2013

Eurasian Festival

The inaugural Eurasian Festival was held in April 2017 at Our Tampines Hub (OTH) with Guest-of-Honour (GOH), Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Organised by the EA's Heritage Committee, there was an array of fun activities for

families, performances and food. Close to 1,500 goodie bags with a hot cross bun included (due to its Easter theme) and other items were given away, as more than 2,000 people attended the day-long event. The EA organised another four more festivals following that, with MPs Christopher de Souza at Ulu Pandan Community Club, Joan Pereira at Henderson Community Club, and Minister S. Iswaran at West Coast Community Club before the centenary festival held in July 2019 once again at OTH with PM Lee gracing the occasion.



Some of the activity booths at the EA's inaugural Eurasian Festival in April 2017



Chairperson of EA's Heritage Committee, Julia D'Silva, and the Heritage Committee with President Halimah Yacob at the launch of the Eurasian Heritage Gallery, 21 September 2019

Eurasian Heritage Gallery

It started out from a small room called *The Eurasian Showcase* next to the lobby of the then newly opened Eurasian Community House back in 2003, before it became the Eurasian Heritage Centre. In 2006, the *WWII-The Eurasian Story* gallery was set up at level four and in 2011 the *Roots Of Our Community* gallery was also set up there. Kathleen Woodford who was on the EA Management Committee from 1997 to 1999 was actively involved in the EA heritage events until the early 2000s. She initiated and helmed tours to the Eurasian Heritage Centre, together with veteran tour guides Euyth Fernandez and Lucille Marcus who shared the Eurasian history and culture with schools and organisations from 2003 to 2018.

From 2017, under the leadership of then Heritage Chairperson Julia D'Silva, the EA Heritage Committee worked tirelessly to revamp the galleries. In September 2019, the newly renamed Eurasian Heritage Gallery (EHG) was opened by President Halimah Yacob. With all three galleries in a seamless storyline at level four, the EHG encapsulates the origins, history, contributions, lifestyle and culture of the Eurasian community in Singapore, seeing a huge spike in visitorship.

The EA trained 15 docents, most being Eurasian, and a few non-Eurasians who have been docents with other NHB museums for many years. Today, there are another 6 trainees including a few youth docents. With the current number of docents hosting weekend tours, the EA is also looking for volunteers who are able to conduct tours on weekdays, as the EHG receives large visiting groups from schools or community centres. With the onset of the pandemic, the EA received a grant from the National Heritage Board to create a virtual tour of the EHG which is now available on the EA's website.



Screenshot of the virtual tour of the Eurasian Heritage Gallery



Not all heroes wear capes

Since the start of the pandemic, most people have been working from home. But for the many transport and courier employees, it's business as usual as they continued their daily routine in their respective occupation. The NewEurasian spoke to Eurasian frontliners in those roles, to find out how they have been coping given the current pandemic, and their motivation to keep going.



Benjamin Galistan

40 years old

Occupation

Hotel Manager in a boutique hotel, part time Grab delivery rider.

I have been in the hotel industry for over 18 years in various positions. It was at the beginning of last year's Circuit Breaker that I became a part-time Grab Food delivery rider due to a loss in income while juggling my hotel job.

What's your Eurasian heritage?

Benjamin: I am the 5th generation of the first Galistan who arrived in Asia from Armenia. Throughout the line to myself, there were mixed heritage namely Portuguese and Chinese.

Lee: I am of Chinese and Portuguese descent. My father's family is Straits-born Chinese and my mother's family is Portuguese. Both families migrated to Singapore from Malacca, before our city state gained independence in 1965, and Singapore is where they chose to plant their roots and call 'home'.

Roberto: I was born in Melaka, from Bandar Hilir. My father is Portuguese Eurasian and my mum is Filipino Eurasian. Both were from Melaka too. I am here because my dad worked in Bethlehem shipyard, in Sembawang. So I studied here before doing my National Service.

How would you describe a typical workday?

Benjamin: Humid. It always feels warm riding around with the Grab uniform as it is a long sleeve t-shirt. When it rains, I will wear my raincoat and then it starts to feel warm.

Lee: It starts at 5am, the alarm goes off, reveille! No time for snoozes, it's straight to the shower, dress up for work, a kiss goodbye to my better half and I'm off

to the warehouse at Pandan Avenue, from Punggol. At the warehouse, it is outbound with a van load of parcels, where each and every parcel is tracked and labelled with a different tracking number to the tune of 120 to 150 deliveries scheduled for the day, in a given super clustered location. At times, lunch would have to be skipped, not because I had to, but rather, because I wanted to ensure I end the day earlier to be home with my family. Before calling it a day at work, I head back to the warehouse for inbound, where failed or unsuccessful deliveries are returned and rescheduled for delivery and cash-on-delivery monies are tallied and credited to the corporate account. This is a typical workday which begins at 5am right up to 10pm, when delivery stops, and deliveries are only permissible from 9am in the morning, not a minute before.

Roberto: I start off at 8.30am daily. I will use a delivery app to choose the jobs and organise the route for delivery. I end the day at about 5pm and occasionally at 8pm due to last-minute delivery request.

Given the pandemic, what goes through your mind every time you step out of your home to work?

Benjamin: It is worrying if something happens to my family members as these are tough times, what more if the unfortunate were to happen. My family

is supportive and at the same time they always remind me to stay safe, keep my distance and sanitise my hands. I always miss them when I am out on the road.

Lee: As a frontliner and an essential service personnel, I was concerned about the Covid-19 fatalities. It was a risk I had to take, albeit reluctantly, if I were to put food on the table and provide for my family. People were dying en masse, and the number of local infections and casualties wasn't heading south of the equator. My spouse, though she didn't show it, was going through bouts of anxiety because our daughter is only 2-years-old and it was a worrying period as I am in a way, at risk to catching the virus.

Roberto: I honestly was worried, but I needed to brace myself and be more cautious. It has become my absolute routine to sanitise my hands after every delivery and keep my mask on. I've two daughters, one is a staff nurse and the other graduating to be a nurse soon. With these two young ladies in my life, I'm constantly reminded to do the fundamentals.

What were the challenges you faced daily?

Benjamin: There are days I pray to receive more orders. It is challenging now as there are more delivery riders in the market. Other challenges I encounter are customers who input the incorrect address, this takes up precious time as my next job orders are being delayed or missed. There are occasionally customers who opted for cash payment upon delivery but are not home. They then give last minute instructions to leave their food order on their front gate. It also takes a while to get hold of the Support Agent to advise what I should do, and this takes up precious time. The thought of becoming a full-time delivery rider is not an option now but if the current pandemic situation doesn't improve, I will have to consider other options. Currently, my wife and I are also working on our home-based business, 'Galistan eServices' managing two brands, Krz' Pastry - Bakery & Ice Cream and Duchess Affair that sells apparels, bags and accessories.

Lee: As a delivery driver and a frontliner, just like all medical staff, we delivery drivers were exposed to our fair share of risks and occupational hazards. We had to deliver parcels to pre-arranged



addresses and customers were to receive and acknowledge receipt. Before contactless delivery was implemented, parcels were received personally, by a family member or by domestic helpers, on behalf of the recipient. As such, we came into close contact with a number of people daily. The fear of transmission was constantly lingering and much worse, bringing the virus home to infect family members and/or loved ones. Nevertheless, we protected ourselves through the usage of hand sanitisers, face masks, washing our hands as often as possible.

Roberto: The challenges were demanding and unreasonable customers who are in denial for not responding to my messages and calls. Others include requesting to deliver extra packages or to different locations. There were occasions when there was a slight delay due to heavy traffic conditions, I would be greeted with sarcasm and unfriendly gestures. However, the flexibility of this job creates more family time. That works out well. I'm happy doing this.

Are there any interesting moments in your job?

Benjamin: There are good days. Sometimes, coincidentally there are delivery addresses that are friends whom I have not seen a long time and we reconnected again. It is a small

Lee Desmond Trevena

51-years-old

Occupation

Delivery driver for Ninja Van.

Prior to my current role, I was with Honest Bee where I did deliveries as well, albeit the products were more specific and the locations were somewhat varied. Groceries and laundry services were the order of the day. I entered the industry to gain first hand understanding, experience and knowledge with thoughts of earning an honest living apart from putting food on the table and taking on the responsibilities of a husband and sole breadwinner for a period of just over 2 months. I was not earning enough to make ends meet due to, in my opinion, a flawed system in job allocation and the limited work load distributed to the unlimited number of delivery drivers joining the industry and those that were already on their payroll, through an online bidding process.

world. Some customers will also give good tips when they know I delivered their food in the rain.

Lee: There were times when we unknowingly had to deliver parcels to recipients that were serving quarantine orders and the fact was only established when we arrived at the recipient's doorstep only to read an A4 size notice affixed to the main door or around the vicinity of the household, barely prominent, to our detriment. There were even patients that were admitted into hospital wards who made online orders and deliveries were made right up to their wards and beds. We were basically exposing ourselves to the unknown but ensured we fulfilled all deliveries regardless. Even the hairs on my arms stand to attention when I think about it.

Roberto: Serving grateful customers always make my day. They are caring and would remind me to drive safely and some even offered drinks. During Chinese New Year, I also received many 'red packets' and it made me feel appreciated.

This industry is also known to be very competitive – how do you stay ahead of the curve?

Benjamin: It's all about time and effort. It is tiring to stay on top of things. At the end of the day, it is fruitful.

Lee: To remain competitive, we had to up our game. Efficiency, punctuality, reliability, and lip service were the order of the day. Those who couldn't keep up were soon axed. Being in the industry for about three years, I learnt the ins and outs, the highs and lows, the pros and cons, all to my advantage. It is tough



work and I've witnessed quite a fair bit of how tough the demands of the job were when delivery drivers less than half my age were leaving the industry almost immediately after they joined. Those that persevered were the ones who were willing to sacrifice their time, energy and to a certain extent, their own safety. That being said, to remain on the curve, one has to possess grit, gumption and graciousness to survive and fortunately, I picked up these virtues rapidly.

Roberto: I started with ad hoc deliveries, and eventually these customers became my regulars. I believe that providing good and honest service is imperative in developing trust with customers. To do well, you need to also understand your customers' needs and wants.

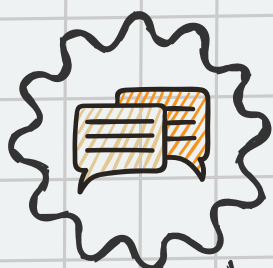
Roberto Carlos De Costa

52 years old

Occupation

Delivery driver and
ad hoc parcel delivery.

Prior to this, I was a musician for 32 years. I performed at Top 10, Caesar's, Europa clubs, St James, various Chinese clubs and finally with Krueger at Berlin, CHIJMES. I chanced upon a van just for transportation. Then my friend approached me to do this delivery business. I then started embarking on a part-time basis.



The EA would like to thank all delivery drivers and riders from various companies who continue to be at the frontline of the pandemic. We are grateful for your many contributions during these trying times.



“

The Red & White annual events held at the EA are simply memorable. They were well organised, the food was sumptuous, the people were friendly and sporting. The bands were superb and I enjoyed dancing from start to end. I'm looking forward to more of these in the near future.

Gregory Gomez, long time attendee who has won “best dressed” on multiple occasions

”

Throwback: Painting the EA Red & White every August!

The EA's Silver Circle, or commonly known as Community Engagement, organised its first National Day Celebration Lunch on 31 August 2008 at the Eurasian Community House.

The Red & White lunch were initiated to bring the Eurasian community together and to instil into our members, a sense of belonging to the EA Community House, as a place for them to socialise and engage each other.

Since then, the annual Red & White celebrations has seen close to 1,500 attendees, and it has become a platform for EA members to express their patriotism for Singapore. Here's a throwback to the celebrations held over the years.

2009

On 3 August, the EA collaborated with the other Self Help Groups (SHG) and organised its first ever Joint SHGs National Celebration Lunch at EA's premises. This was graced by Mr George Yeo who was the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Other key dignitaries in attendance were, EA Patron Mr Herman Hochstadt, Holland-Bukit MP Christopher de Souza, and trustee, Mr Timothy de Souza as well as SHG representatives such as Mr Lim Swee Say, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim and the late Dr Balaji Sadasivan.

The National Pledge was recited in the four official languages, and guests learned more about the four multi-ethnic cultures in Singapore.

An 'ethnic runway challenge' saw then EA President Mr Edward D'Silva, strutting on stage as the 'Sultan of Katong' while in the Coming Together challenge, all guests joined hands to make various shapes to show a gigantic 'ND09'.



The Community Engagement Committee at the Red & White Lunch in 2012

Top 1st Row L-R: Peter Rodrigues, Emeleen Soh, Suresh Menon

2nd Row L-R: Zoe Lazaroo, Pamela Menon, Philomena Nonis

Bottom L-R: Melanie Rodrigues-Smith, Nancy Fobrogo, Sandra Theseira, Yvonne Pereira



Guests enjoying the scrumptious food at Quentin's Restaurant in 2012

2012

Eurasians both young and old gathered on 26 August to celebrate Singapore's 47th National Day.

The Social Circle showcased its activities, and to mark the second anniversary of its reading club, READ@EA, it launched Reading Month at EA. Guests received short story booklets to encourage them to read.

The Artsy Craftsy Circle now known as yarn@EA held its debut sale, and with the goal to 'reduce, re-use and recycle', its members put up an 'R-R-R rug' together with a Rouge et Noir shawl, which were both sold at a silent auction.



Husband and wife musician duo, Chato & Qamal ready to get the party started.

2015

The EA's SG50 celebrations. Quentin's Restaurant baked a delightful sugree cake with the SG50 logo.

A special video montage, 'The Singapore Song' was screened. It featured a compilation of old and new EA photographs to commemorate the organisation's efforts toward nation building. The video was produced by film producer Russel Zehnder and Megan Barker, with Shanice Hedger and Sabrina Theseira singing the soundtrack song with guitarist Nikhil Hogan.

The idea to produce the song came from Megan's mother, Carla Barker, the EA's 1st Vice-President back then, to pay tribute to the nation's 50th birthday and as a gift to Singapore from the Eurasian community.



SG50 sugree cake by Quentin's Restaurant



Former EA President Benett Theseira welcoming guests before the screening of Joseph Schooling's victorious win!

2016

To commemorate Joseph Schooling's historic win at the Olympics, the Community Development team screened a video of the record-breaking swim. 80 guests cheered on and gave a standing ovation as he won the 100m butterfly race!



Eurasians young and old reciting the pledge together.

2019

The last celebration EA hosted before the Covid-19 pandemic was on 18 August, to celebrate Singapore's 54th birthday.

As always, guests enjoyed scrumptious Eurasian food by Quentin's Restaurant and danced the afternoon away to the sounds of Muzik Line.

Fun Bingo was one of the most popular games that the Community Development team organised for guests.



The 100 strong crowd reciting the National Pledge together



The R&W Committee at the last celebration held on 18 August 2019

L-R: Suresh Menon, Pamela Menon, Dorothy Tessensohn, Yvonne Pereira, Alexius Pereira (President), Sandra Theseira, Melanie Rodrigues-Smith, Michael Smith



Happy National Day!

“

I started the Red & White Lunch in 2008 with the sole purpose of bringing the Eurasian Community Together and cultivating a sense of belonging to not only Singapore but also at our Eurasian Community House.

I am eagerly waiting for us to start these luncheons so we can finally inter-mingle with everyone, take part in the fun and games and dance to live music. What better way to celebrate Singapore's birthday as patriotic citizens!

It gives me immense satisfaction and utmost joy to see our fellow Eurasians along with their family members and friends enjoying themselves. Receiving compliments and praise makes all the hard work and planning worth-while.

I truly hope that these annual lunches will continue for many more years to come, of course with a new spin with ideas from a younger committee but to continue the evergreen traditions of proudly raising our flag, reciting the pledge and singing National Day Songs. Here's wishing all a Happy National Day!

”

The EA's 2nd Vice President and Community Development Chairperson, Yvonne Pereira shares her thoughts on the annual event she has been leading for the past 11 years.



Our Stories: Pat Kraal

Flying Singapore's flag high in France

It's not common to hear a 19-year-old teenager step out of her comfort zone. Former Eurasian supermodel Pat Kraal tells The NewEurasian what made her embark on a journey to France to pursue her dream – to strut the catwalks of Paris.



Pat with her children (left to right) Anton, Ashley, April and Auréa in front of a well-known Parisian icon in 2013



In the 1980's Pat Kraal arrived impromptu in Paris with no modelling agency guiding her, no job in sight, and no Plan B. But none of those were going to hold her back from achieving her dream to make it big in Paris.

The 1.78m tall model did bring along a big luggage filled with enthusiasm and support from her family, friends and Linda Teo, Managing Director at Carrie Models, who saw her potential and insisted she head to Paris. Said Pat, "It was my first time away from home, in a non-anglosphere country in winter, so despite being extremely hesitant to leave but with the encouragement of my friends and family, I decided to take the plunge."

She still has fond memories of her first day in Paris. Her friend and well-known Singaporean model, Hanis Hussey, had a fitting at Givenchy and asked Pat to accompany her. Pat arrived at 3 Avenue George V and gazed in awe at the sight of the luxurious Haussmann building with the sign GIVENCHY in gold across the balcony. Then it happened. The

moment she walked into the studio, she was greeted by Monsieur Hubert de Givenchy, or Mr G, as he is commonly known in the industry.

"He was dashing and very elegant and he said I'd be perfect for his collection so he booked me straight away. Now I had to find an agency. Talk about doing things the other way around. And that's where it all began!" said Pat.

In 1990, after years of working with luxury brands such as Givenchy, Christian Dior, Pierre Balmain, Pierre Cardin and Jean Louis Scherrer, Pat decided to hang up her heels to embrace motherhood after the birth of her first child. She added, "I just simply wanted to be there for my children and experience their first milestones with them."

"My children used to proudly tell their friends that 'Mama was a top model' so I ended up having a little group of inquisitive tiny 'future models' following me around during all the class excursions. All my children have done at least one photoshoot but have never pursued this as a career," said Pat.



Pink Dot event held in Singapore in July 2017



President Tony Tan's visit to Paris in 2015



Pat celebrating Christmas last December with her kids



Pat having lunch with her parents and sister



SCF committee members (seated) in 2019 with ambassador Zainal Arif Mantaha on my right

Today, Pat is President of the Singapore Club France (SCF), a role she has volunteered for since 2016. With two other Eurasians involved at the club, they often try to catch up whenever there are events organised by the SCF.

For instance, during National Day, the Singapore Embassy in Paris would organise the annual celebration and before the pandemic, it was customary to entertain between 400 to 500 guests with 'shio' local food, games and activities.

"One year, SCF set up a free rojak stand and another year it was a snacks stand with kacang putih, sweets and various nostalgic old-school snacks. This is always a big hit with the invitees," said Pat.

Pat added that being away from Singapore meant that she missed being with her close-knit family, as they often went on outings and meals together. She shared that her maternal grandmother was a wonderful cook so while she was back in Singapore, she tried her hand at making the Eurasian dishes she grew up devouring every weekend at her grandparents' house.

"I also miss the parties where my grandfather Claude Oliveiro, would play the piano and all of us would gather around and sing, dance and be merry. Sadly, it's been an eternity since we could have parties like this."

Having been away for almost 30 years, Singapore is always close to my heart. "My children and I go back every summer and stay for at least a month. They love it there and even speak English with an adorable French-Singaporean hybrid accent," said Pat, with a sense of hope to return for another visit once it's safe to travel. "I still have a Singapore passport and will never give it up."



2015 National Day celebration in Paris



Pat giving a speech at the 2019 National Day celebration in Paris



The Singapore community celebrating National Day in 2015



Margaret De Silva founded The Recipe Agent with the intention to help those who want to learn how to cook. Born in Melaka, Margaret's recipes are inspired from her Kristang heritage.

MARGARET'S EURASIAN RECIPE, BY THE RECIPE AGENT

For The Recipe Agent, it's all about developing recipes with precision, from its ingredients to the method. They are also advocates of sharing knowledge – their recipes and cooking tips to ensure everyone can cook. This is done by ensuring their recipes are easy for all to understand and if you're ever unsure and need help, fret not. All you have to do is drop them a message on their social platforms and help is on the way. This means everyone can learn how to cook, and you won't be doing it alone as you will have The Recipe Agent for company!

Curry Nanas Kambrang

(Pineapple Prawn Curry)

Known as Curry Nanas Kambrang in Kristang, this delicious mouthwatering prawn curry is cooked with pineapples in a delightful sweet, sour and spicy coconut based gravy made with a flavourful spice paste form chilli, onions, candlenuts etc.

INGREDIENTS

- 1kg big fresh prawns
- 1 ripe medium pineapple
- 300g onions
- 30g dried chili, soaked with hot water and drained
- 6 fresh red chili
- 1 tablespoon chilli powder (optional)
- 3 big lemongrass (serai)
- 5 candlenuts (buah keras)
- 0.5 inch fresh turmeric or turmeric powder (kunyit)
- 3 pieces asam gelugor/keping (asam slices)
- 15g shrimp paste (belacan)
- 200ml coconut milk (santan)
- 1.5 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 cups water
- 0.5 cup oil

METHOD

- Remove pineapple skin, cut into four before removing the core. Then cut into bite sizes
- Blend onions, dried and fresh chili, lemongrass, candlenuts, turmeric, shrimp paste, combine into a thick spice paste
- Fry blended ingredients/spice paste in oil till you get a fragrant smell
- Add asam gelugor, stir well, before adding the pineapple
- Add salt, sugar then water and allow gravy to boil
- Once pineapple is half cooked, add coconut milk
- When boiling, add prawns, simmer till prawns are cooked
- Cooking time for prawns is fast, so do ensure it's not overcooked
- Drain excess oil if any

Note:

- Best served with salted eggs or salted fish, sambal belacan and sliced cucumber
- Use standard measuring cups/spoons
- Salt measurement may vary, therefore please taste and add more/less salt to your preference

Scan me to view recipe



#therecipeagent



WORD Search

Eurasian Surname

X M R P L G J V P W Y Q Y C W G O H
 M E V A N D E R S T R A A T E N P O
 F R B N I O L S E N H O Z E J L E E
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KnowledgeTree donates to the EA



Genevieve Pereira is the founder of KTree Training Centre.

About KnowledgeTree Training Centre

KTree is a leading training provider for security framework since its establishment in 2006. With 15 years under its belt, KTree has more than 150 corporate clients and 20,000 certifications achieved by their learners through SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) approved training programs.

Founder, Genevieve Pereira

Retired Captain Genevieve Pereira spent 20 years in the Singapore Armed Forces, training many of the first few women soldiers of Singapore. She founded Evtec Management Services Pte Ltd in 1988 with her expertise in human capital management. It grew into a formidable security force with over

The EA is honoured to receive a generous \$30,000 donation from KnowledgeTree (KTree) Training Centre. This donation will be used to further the EA's mission to provide 'last mile' support to at-risk families and disadvantaged school children as well as to contribute to the year-round activities for the community.

This will be done via the EA's Family Support Services which seeks to bring dignity and hope to families facing challenges, the EA's Educational programmes which aim to give students a platform and opportunity to achieve success, and the Community Development Committee which engages and promote a sense of belonging to the Eurasian community and Singapore.

500 staff. She managed the agency to its success before its acquisition by a Spanish MNC in 2013. Together with her eldest son, Daniel Chow, she set up an in-house security training centre to meet an increased demand for trained security personal and higher government requirements in 2003.

The in-house training centre became independent as KTree after other security companies showed an interest to send their staff for training at the centre. This grew into a training centre for a collective audience in 2006 when KTree became an approved training organisation with the Workforce Development Authority (WDA), now known as SSG.

Her younger son, David Chow has been managing KTree since 2012. The company focuses on job placement

and skills upgrading programs in the industry. It looks forward to developing individuals with skills to keep them relevant, in accordance with the progressive wage model as part of the industry transformation map for the security sector.

Giving back to the community

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, more individuals who have had their employment displaced have approached KTree. These individuals were looking to take up security courses to join the industry due to the demand for new security officers and the salary offered via the progressive wage model. Given the challenging period, KTree has also decided to provide additional support to the Eurasian community through a generous donation.

Scan QR code for more information



The Board of Directors at KTree



Learners enjoying the KnowledgeTree Experience