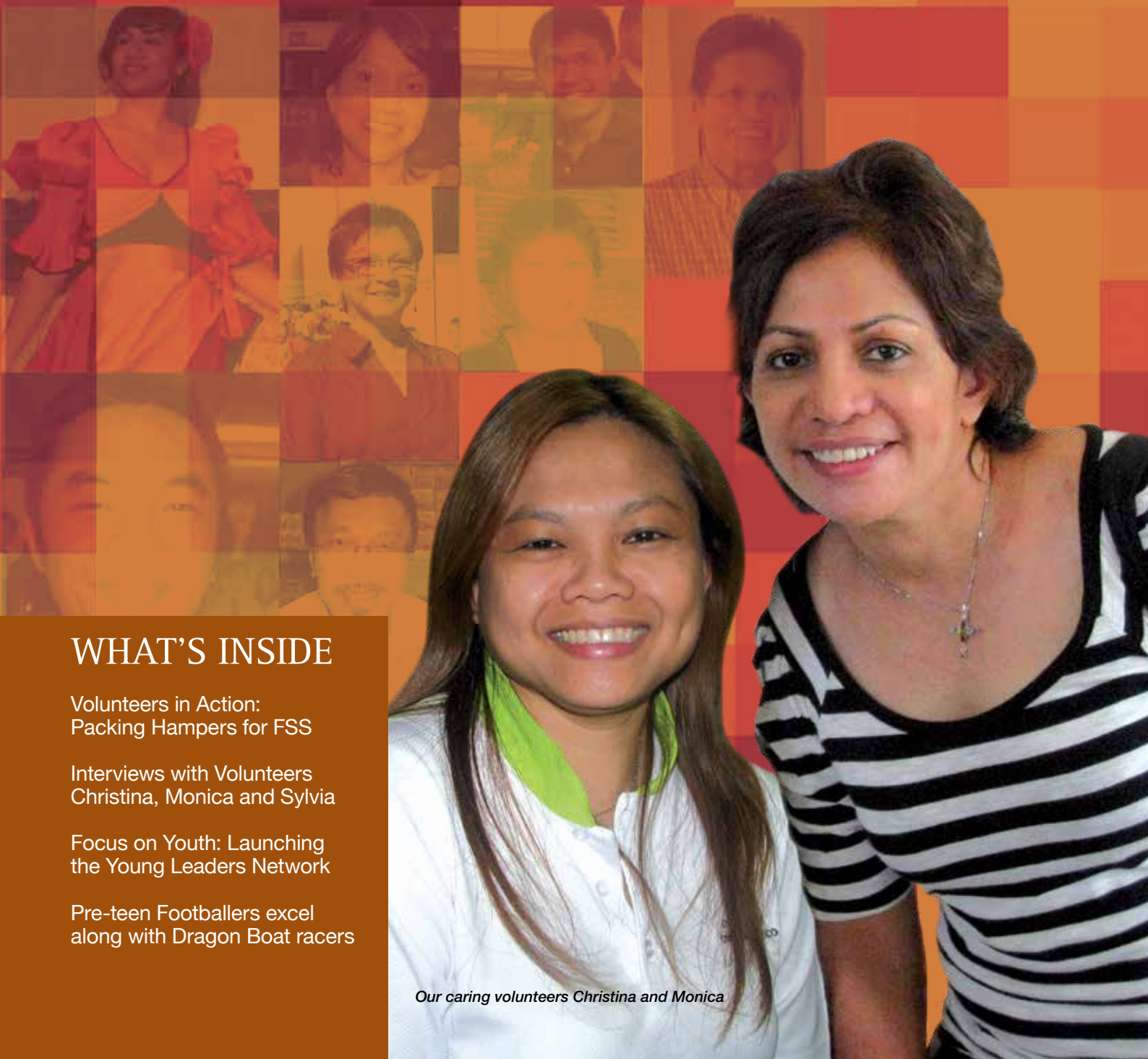


THE NEW EURASIAN

www.eurasians.org

JANUARY 2009

A Caring Community in Tough Times



WHAT'S INSIDE

Volunteers in Action:
Packing Hampers for FSS

Interviews with Volunteers
Christina, Monica and Sylvia

Focus on Youth: Launching
the Young Leaders Network

Pre-teen Footballers excel
along with Dragon Boat racers

Our caring volunteers Christina and Monica

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What's Inside

03 AT THE HELM

President's Message

04 ASSOCIATION NEWS

GST Offset Package 2008
"Ray of Hope"
Chingay Parade 2009
IPC Status
Corrections
Regular Happenings

06 FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

Interviews with Monica, Christina and Sylvia
Volunteers in Action: Packing Hampers for FSS

08 ACHIEVERS

Life in the Foreign Service
EA Soccer School Wins Big at APSSO 2008
Quest for Rowing Glory
Eurasian 1st Runner-up in Executive Look

10 FOCUS ON YOUTH

MYLN Inaugural Network Night Truly Takes Off
Networking at Wine Party Le Réseau
The Twohill Siblings Get NUS Student Awards
Just For YOUth

12 MISCELLANY

Navigating The Job Market

13 COMMUNITY

FSS Christmas Party
Jingkli Nona Gets New Upbeat Tempo
Thrift Shop & Movie Screening at ECH
Six Eurasian Students Receive Buddhist
Lodge Bursary Awards
Donation of Clothes and Household Items
Bring Christmas Cheer

15 RECENT EVENTS

EA/SRC Combined Games 2008
Women's Wing Sunday Brunch
Celebrates Oktoberfest cum Halloween
Sunday Lunch Celebrates
"Grease" Movie Theme
Ageing Safely and Artfully are Talk Topics
Family Christmas Carnival
Silver Circle's Christmas Dinner and Dance
SRC Joins EA in Celebrating Christmas
New Year's Eve Tradition Lives On

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MICA (P) 241/07/2008

President's Message



“You know, there’s something about us Eurasians. While many have done well in various activities — in sports, the professions and the arts scene — it’s not unusual that some of us have encountered difficulties in life’s journey, and along the way, may need assistance. That’s where we keep a look out for one another, and as an association, we want to play our part.”

Dear Friends,

In the last issue of The New Eurasian, we emphasised Better Education and highlighted the achievements of our young people. In this issue we’d like to talk about building a Caring Community, as we enter a new year fraught with grave uncertainties. These are the twin pillars that the Eurasian Association would like to focus on as we start our 90th year as a unique organisation founded in 1919.

Eight months ago, when I assumed the presidency of the EA, the world looked quite normal. But we ended 2008 with unprecedented problems of a global economic downturn. Tough times are ahead. We in Singapore are a resilient society, a multi-racial mix of many races. We in the Eurasian community are the inheritors of a cultural mix that’s quite unique, of east and west, of Europe and Asia.

You know, there’s something about us Eurasians. While many have done well in various activities – in sports, the professions and the arts scene -- it’s not unusual that some of us have encountered difficulties in life’s journey, and along the way, may need assistance. That’s where we keep a look out for one another, and as an association, we want to play our part.

So in this issue we have a few articles about some Eurasian volunteers, helping others quietly, in their own way, and if not for the “kay-poh-ness” in some of us, their stories will never be told. We salute them. We hold them up as role models. We are looking for more such volunteers or befrienders, to deliver food and other essentials, visit the shut-ins, extend a helping hand to the less fortunate.

These volunteers do it because they care. And the reward, they tell us, is that wonderful warm feeling one gets after doing something good. It’s that feel-good factor and it’s priceless. We at EA have a unit that does just that, week in week out, and if you have that desire to join us, do contact our Family Support Services (FSS) or simply give a call to Florence or Ram at 6447 1578 or email us at members@eurasians.org.

We have lots of other activities too, besides FSS and Educational Services (contact person is Therese): the Women’s Wing, Silver Circle and Performing Arts Chapter. And now there’s a new group, the Young Professional Adults, forming the Mentoring Young Leaders Network (contact Sybil Rocha, the Group’s chairperson, or Zaf Coelho). You can find more details in the

pages of this issue of The New Eurasian. Coming back to Education, we do have some late bloomers in primary and secondary schools who need tuition givers to help them in some subjects. Do come forward, if you are able to give a few hours to our youngsters.

The message here is that, in these difficult times, we now need more volunteers to come forward. So if you have some spare time, please do contact us, especially our FSS staff: Florence, Ram or Alia. Volunteers are also needed in the other Units: Women’s Wing, Silver Circle and the Performing Arts Chapter. There are some wonderful people working tirelessly in the various committees now. Together with our small staff team, we can make the Eurasian Association a vibrant organisation. We need YOU!

This leads me to something close to our hearts and coming up sooner than you think! It’s our 90th anniversary celebrations in June/July this year. In the next issue of The New Eurasian that comes out in April, we will have lots of details to share with you, including our Gala Extravaganza at the Esplanade and a related major fund-raising event. So keep a look out. Until then, here’s wishing all our members the best in the New Year.

See you around more often in the Eurasian Community House.

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

GST Offset Package 2008

In an attempt to refine a number of safety nets for the elderly and the needy in our community, the Government has set aside a programme called the 'GST Offset Package'. This is given out through the Association to assist families who may need additional support to meet the rising cost of living. The EA is matching this package dollar-for-dollar.

On 23 November, the Family Support Services hosted a luncheon for 150 Clients and their immediate family members. The Women's Wing and Performing Arts Chapter provided the entertainment, joined by the Clients' children.

As part of our Christmas activities under the FSS, we felt it was a good time to make the first disbursement of this GST Offset Package to those who are looked after under our FSS, as well as families whose school-going children and teenagers come under our Education and Training Assistance programmes.

A total of 350 Clients benefitted from this package. In early December, members of the Management Committee and volunteers joined the ration delivery team to personally deliver individual hampers to 130 households. Many acknowledged and expressed their gratitude through their Christmas cards to the Association.

"Ray of Hope"

The Education Committee of the Eurasian Association would be presenting vouchers, funded under the auspices of the Opportunity Fund provided by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

Under the Progress Package [Budget 2006] the Government allocated \$2m for Self-Help Groups to set up Opportunity Funds. The \$2m will be disbursed as matching grants to the SHGs.

Project "Ray of Hope" aims to help defray the cost of education through the purchase of study guides, assessment books, stationery and shoes to families in need of assistance. Popular and Bata vouchers would be distributed to about 100 children in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level who are currently listed in our database under Family Support Services and Education.

The event will take place on Saturday, 17 January 2009 at 2.00pm at the Eurasian Community House.

Chingay Parade 2009

Keep a look out for this year's big parade during Chingay in late January at City Hall. According to very reliable sources, the Eurasian Community will be represented by EA's Performing Arts Chapter with its own float and some 70 dancers performing to choreography by Sylvia McCully. The costumes are designed by Debra D'Cotta and music provided by Iskandar Ismail.

IPC Status

The Eurasian Association, having been awarded the IPC status and being a Community Self-Help Group working for the public benefit, has given emphasis on transparency and good governance. The last issue (October) of The New Eurasian announced the formation of three Committees i.e, Mandatory Audit Committee, Finance Advisory Panel and our Corporate Communications Advisory Panel.

This issue, we are proud to announce that another two committees have been formed. They are Fund-Raising Committee and Community Bonding Advisory Panel.

Corrections

The Eurasian Association would like to congratulate Mr Geoffrey Martin Especkerman for being awarded the Long Service Medal at the National Day Awards 2008. We apologise for this omission in the October 2008 issue.

In another story on the Inter-Racial Inter-Religious Harmony Nite 2008, the Kristang Community Cultural Dance Troupe was from the Siglap South CC, and not South East CDC as reported.

REGULAR HAPPENINGS

ACTIVITIES AT THE EURASIAN COMMUNITY HOUSE	DATE	TIME
Body Toning Classes	Every Tue	8.00 – 9.00pm
Pilates	Every Thur	8.00 - 9.00pm
Guitar and Drum Classes (Dixie Ferdinands)	Weekly	Evenings
European Swordsmanship	Every Wed/Sun	7.00 - 9.00pm
Tuition Classes (Primary & Secondary)	Every Sat	3.00 - 5.00pm
Eurasian Dance (Performing Arts Chapter)	Every Sat	11.00am – 4.00pm
EA Soccer School/Training (6-12 years old) at Tampines Secondary School, Bedok North Road	Every Sun	4.00 - 6.00pm

About the Eurasian Community Fund

On 22 March 1995, then President of the Eurasian Association LTC Timothy de Souza made a strong appeal to the community, exhorting them to make regular monthly donations to the Eurasian Community Fund. In this hallmark letter co-signed by former Minister E.W. Barker, then EA Patron, he outlined the necessity of the ECF, which would benefit all needy Eurasians.

The letter states that the ECF's main goal is to "uplift" the Eurasian community.

Specifically, it aims to give Eurasian students a better future by boosting their academic performance and improve the quality of life of the community's under-privileged. To do so, it channels financial aid towards subsidized tuition classes, educational programmes and bursaries for students as well as employment and welfare assistance.

LTC de Souza closed with an appeal to all Eurasians to play their part by a monthly contribution through CPF or GIRO. For

employees, their contribution is deducted from their monthly salary and credited to the Eurasian Community Fund through the CPF Board, while the self-employed may make their contribution through GIRO. All donations are tax-deductible and matched by the Government on a dollar-to-dollar basis. Finally, LTC de Souza expresses his confidence in fellow Eurasians to raise at least \$350,000 annually for those in need and make a difference to the community.

22 March 1995

Dear fellow Eurasian

FROM JUST \$2 YOU CAN HELP A CHILD OR ELDERLY EURASIAN HAVE A BETTER LIFE

We write this letter to you to appeal for a generous monthly contribution to the Eurasian Community Fund.

Why the Eurasian Community Fund was established

Many people think that Eurasians are relatively well-off and have no need for aid. This is not true. Our Education and Welfare sub-committees have found that there is an immediate and serious need for assistance. Some 20% of our 3000 Eurasian students need help in Second Language and in core subjects like Mathematics and Science; and more than 300 Eurasians, mainly the elderly, are in dire need of financial help.

The Eurasian Association is the appointed self-help body for all Eurasians and has for some time been raising money for community purposes through fund-raising projects. Although an Endowment Fund was established to provide regular income, the Fund takes a long time to build up and only the limited investment income from the Fund will be available for expenditure. We therefore need another means of funding our community programmes.

How the Eurasian Community Fund will be used

The Eurasian Community Fund will serve all Eurasians who are in need. The principal goal of the Fund is to uplift the Eurasian community. This can be achieved through raising the performance of Eurasian students, at all stages of the education process, in order to ensure their brighter future. It will also provide welfare assistance to under-privileged members of our community, in order to improve their quality of life. To achieve these objectives, the Fund will be used for:

- subsidised tuition classes in Second Language, Mathematics and Science
- merit awards and programmes to encourage students with great promise to realise their full potential
- bursaries to assist students from families in the lower-income group
- parental reach-out programmes, to encourage parents to motivate their children to improve their educational performance
- employment assistance for the able-bodied needy
- financial and other assistance to the elderly and those in need

These community programmes have been running for over 2 years using the limited funds raised by the Eurasian Association. However, in order to be able to sustain these programmes, a regular source of income is required. Establishing the Eurasian Community Fund will allow these community assistance programmes to be sustained and significantly enhanced.

We all need to play a part

Fund-raising projects do not necessarily tap all Eurasians to share our responsibility towards helping the less fortunate in our own community. Eurasians are currently the only major community in Singapore that do not have a system of mass-based contribution. The Chinese, Malays and Indians of Singapore are already contributing monthly towards their community assistance programmes through their respective community contribution schemes.

Eurasians strongly support a mass-based contribution effort

In our survey of 1,100 Eurasians conducted in January this year, an astounding 97% of those who responded supported the introduction of a scheme for monthly donations, through deductions of salaries, which will be collected by the CPF Board. More than 87% felt that the minimum contribution rates proposed were either acceptable or too low. The survey results are significant. They indicate the Eurasian community's resounding support for the implementation of a mass-based contribution effort. They also underscore the approval granted by Government, in July last year, for such a contribution scheme to be introduced for the Eurasian community.

Contribution through CPF or GIRO is easy

If you are an employee, your contribution will be deducted from your monthly salary and be credited to the Eurasian Community Fund through CPF Board. The prescribed minimum contribution rates, as approved by Government, are:-

Monthly Income	Minimum Monthly Contribution
up to \$1000	\$2
above \$1000 up to \$1500	\$4
above \$1500 up to \$2500	\$6
above \$2500 up to \$4000	\$8
above \$4000	\$10

We are sure some of you would like to contribute more. You can do so by completing the form enclosed and sending it to your employer. We have also enclosed an information sheet on the contribution scheme which we hope you will find useful.

If you are self-employed, the simplest way to make your monthly contribution is through GIRO. Please fill out the form enclosed and send it to the Eurasian Association.

Your contribution is tax deductible and will be matched by the Government on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Government has offered the Eurasian community up to \$150,000 a year as a matching grant. So together we can raise \$350,000 or more.

Please contribute generously to the Eurasian Community Fund.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Yours sincerely


 MR E. W. BARKER
 Patron and Chairman, Board of Trustees
 The Eurasian Association


 LTC T. J. DE SOUZA
 President
 The Eurasian Association

Interview with Christina Francis, Volunteer with FSS

Volunteering has been a part of Christina Francis's life from a young age. As her husband's family is also passionate about charity work, this has been something of a family tradition after her marriage. In fact, when we called her for this interview, she was taking a break from baking mince pies for the Mission of Seafarers, an organisation that helps stranded sailors.

Like the way many good things happen, Christina first signed up as a volunteer purely by chance. She had come to the Eurasian Association for lunch one afternoon, glimpsed a volunteer recruitment booth and out of curiosity, went to see what it was all about. Since that day four years or so ago, she had been a committed volunteer of the Family Service Centre. Once a month, she delivers rations to families under the FSS as well as serves as a Befriender to lonely senior clients.

What spurs Christina on is her belief in the work she does and the clients, to whom she has become emotionally attached. When she first started visiting families, many of them are in dire financial straits. However, Christina always goes the extra mile for those under her wing. Rather than simply "dumping the rations and going off" she makes it a point to sit down and talk with the families. Often, she even writes letters for them and helps them to find the right channels to seek help for their problems. As she continues to spend more time with the families, she has the joy of seeing them pick themselves up, the breadwinners find jobs and the children start going to school. Volunteering does yield results, says Christina, and it is these that give her a sense of satisfaction and the motivation to carry on.

by *Moira Ong*



Christina Francis, Volunteer with FSS

Interview with Monica Leicester-Wong, Volunteer with Women's Wing



Monica Leicester-Wong,
Volunteer with Women's Wing and FSS

When Monica Leicester-Wong first joined the Eurasian Association as a volunteer, she laughs that she was "lured" by an invitation to tea and the magic word "sugee cake". After that initial encounter she decided it would be good to do something for her own community. She signed up with the then Women's Circle, headed by Michelle Soliano, and the Family Support Services, taking on duties such as organising lunches, Bingo and the New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance as well as giving out rations to the needy.

Five years on, changes have taken place, with the Women's Circle now renamed the Women's Wing and Christine Clunies-Ross the current chairperson. However, Monica remains a stalwart volunteer. In her opinion, the changes that have taken place over the years are largely positive. For one, the community has become younger, more vibrant and more open-minded. She also likes the fact that it has become more inclusive in its attitude, choosing to welcome with open arms Singaporeans of other races to its events and activities.

While Monica's years of volunteering have yielded many priceless memories, one experience that stands out in her mind is the time she was a paddler for the EA Dragons the first time the team took part in the Singapore River Regatta. That, she says, was memorable because "all of us thought we were ahead, but in the end we came in last!" However she sees the race as an unexpected opportunity to try something different that she would not have otherwise have experienced.

Monica has indeed gained much from volunteering with the Eurasian Association. She relishes the camaraderie she has with the Women's Wing committee, which she describes as a "good team" in which everyone gets along well with one another. This, she says, is "what draws each and

every one of us to come for the meetings." Monica has also enjoyed getting in touch with the Eurasian culture and history. On a deeper note, when helping out at bursary awards ceremonies, she is moved when she sees Eurasian students of different levels being given opportunities to further their studies and expand their horizons. Delivering rations for FSS has made her realise that there are many needy families in Singapore, something she was not aware of before. Thus, she says volunteering has allowed her to keep in touch with herself and the real world".

For those who are thinking of volunteering, Monica says "volunteering is addictive". However, she advises them to look within to seek their motivation for volunteering. She hopes that people will come forward to volunteer not for the sake of personal benefit, but to serve society. She also hopes that more youth will take on active roles in the EA, thus bringing new perspectives and ideas to the mix. Her wish for the community is to have a showcase of Eurasian culture in the city area, where many tourists from different countries pass through. She feels this would be a wonderful opportunity to provide people of other nationalities with a window upon our unique heritage and way of life.

Thanks for your insights, Monica! We hope that these and all your other wishes come true.

Interview with Sylvia McCully, Volunteer with PAC



Sylvia McCully, Volunteer with PAC

The name of Sylvia McCully is no doubt familiar not only to those in the dance scene, but to many a Singaporean and foreigner alike. An internationally renowned ballerina as well as the owner of the eponymous Sylvia McCully School of dancing, she has

garnered many awards for her contributions to the performing arts industry. In addition, for many years she has been the choir choreographer for the National Day Parade, including the extravaganza that marked the turn of the millenium.

Although McCully's picture and ballet shoes enjoy a prominent place in the Eurasian Showcase, and former President Bryan Davenport had previously suggested that she conduct ballet classes at the Eurasian Association, she never had the opportunity to come down to the new premises due to her busy schedule. However, this year Performing Arts Chapter Chairman Humphrey de Conceicao asked her to be the choreographer for the Eurasian Association contingent for Chingay 2009. She took up the offer.

Choreographing the dance steps of the contingent, which comprised dancers from the Eurasian Association, the Sylvia McCully School of Dancing and Cedar Girls' School provided challenges aplenty. For one, as the parade's route moved from the

Raffles City steps down Connaught Drive, there was the necessity of choreographing the performance such that the audience who lined both sides of the road had a good full-frontal view of the dancers. Also, the vagaries of the weather had to be contended with. For instance, one evening before a dry run, there was a sudden downpour. As the rain stopped at about 7pm, the dancers went on with their rehearsal in the mud and slush, thus getting their shoes soaked!

Ms McCully has been gratified at the excitement of the younger children at participating in the Chingay Parade. Additionally, during a dress rehearsal, she was praised by the Artistic Director of Chingay 2009 that the contingent was "by far the most prepared". Ms McCully says modestly that at the actual event, there will be other contingents, such as the Brazilians, who would have more experience in such parades. However, with Ms McCully at the helm, we are sure that the EA contingent will be able to hold its own!

Volunteers in Action: Packing Hampers for FSS



Volunteers busily packing hampers for FSS Clients

Support Services. The ladies, mainly from the Women's Wing, promptly got down to work. In assembly-line fashion, they set to lining the baskets before painstakingly arranging the goodies in them.

Each hamper included a bottle of sparkling juice, a tin of Danish butter cookies, a fruit cake, biscuits, a tin of sardines or tuna flakes, Tim-Tams, a packet of crisps, chocolates and a face towel. After that, the ladies wrapped the assortments in transparent wrapping paper and topped them with a tinsel bow for a pretty festive look.

A dedicated group of volunteers set off on 10 December 2008 to deliver the hampers to the FSS clients. The recipients were surprised and deeply touched by the gesture, especially as they had already received the GST off-set packages and the Well Wishes. Christmas had certainly arrived early that year! Special mention goes to Mrs Joan Pereira, Ms Zoe Lazaroo, Mrs Pamela Menon, Ms Lucille Marcus, Miss Rose Marie Thompson, Mrs Margaret Pennefather, Ms Philomena Nonis, Mrs Christina Francis, Mrs Stephanie Holland, Mrs Lanette de Conceicao, Ms Lorraine Bligh, Mrs Monica Wong, Mr Harry Pereira and Mrs Christine Clunies-Ross for their time, dedication and support.



Tada! The finished hamper

On the morning of 4 December 2008, 14 volunteers trooped into the multi-purpose hall at the Eurasian Association where a line of trestle tables stood along one wall. A variety of goodies were laid out, ready to be packed into hampers that would go to families under the care of the Family

Life in the Foreign Service



Christopher Gordon (right) at a Kazakh market stall

It has been an exciting but hectic five months since I started my career in the Singapore Foreign Service. Having been assigned the role of Desk Officer on the Central Asian and North African Desk, my main role was to manage Singapore's relations with the Central Asian and North African countries.

Part of the job of a Desk Officer in the Ministry is to accompany Singapore's senior leaders and officials during their trips to overseas. I had the opportunity to make my first trip to Kazakhstan in July 2008,

exactly one month after I joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). I was assigned the role of staff officer for our Non-Resident Ambassador to Kazakhstan Mr Sim Cheok Lim as he visited Kazakhstan to attend the 10th anniversary of the founding of Astana as the capital of Kazakhstan.

While most people view Kazakhstan through the eyes of the comedy character 'Borat', I had the opportunity to see for myself first-hand the situation in the country. Kazakhstan is indeed different from the picture painted by Borat. A rapidly modernising country due to its vast natural resources, Kazakhstan is one of the most advanced of the former Soviet Republics of Central Asia. In a short span of ten years, its capital Astana has grown from a small provincial capital in the wilderness of the vast Kazakh steppe to a modern city with futuristic buildings popping up on every street corner, a true testament to the hard work and vision of the Kazakh people.

Two weeks after the trip to Kazakhstan, I had another opportunity to staff a trip to Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. This time, it was for a study visit for the former

ASEAN Secretary-General and now Ambassador-at-Large Ambassador Ong Keng Yong. The trip to these two countries was truly an amazing experience as these are perhaps two of the most scenic countries in Central Asia with Tajikistan located among the Pamir Mountains and the Kyrgyz Republic among the Tien Shan mountains. It also gave me the opportunity to learn about the histories and cultures of these two very unique countries.

Finally, in October, I once again staffed our Non-Resident Ambassador to Uzbekistan Mr Sim Cheok Lim on a representational visit. Being one of the countries located along the Silk Route, Uzbekistan is steeped in centuries of history and culture.

Even though my five months in MFA has whizzed by like the wind, I can say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in MFA having travelled to four of the five 'stans' (Turkmenistan being the only Central Asian country I have yet to visit). I hope that my career in the Foreign Service will continue to remain dynamic and I look forward to more exciting years ahead in the Foreign Service.

by Christopher Gordon

EA Soccer School Wins Big at APSSO 2008



Joshua and Gareth, top players from the EA Soccer School

APSSO (ASEAN Primary School Sport Olympiad) is a competitive sports event for primary school students held at ASEAN level. The aim of the programme is to encourage participation in sports at an early age as well as to instill the qualities of intelligence, physical prowess, sportsmanship, friendship and respect for one another in the younger generation.

Many participating students become champions at national, ASEAN, Asian and even world levels.

The 2nd APPSO was held from 3 to 8 November 2008 at Bungkarno Stadium and Sahid Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia. Participating countries were Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, the Philippines and Brunei.

Singapore sent a soccer team to compete in the event. While 250 players came for trials, only ten players were selected to represent Singapore. Two players from the Eurasian Association Soccer School, Joshua Bernard Pereira (Midfielder) and Gareth Low (Defender) were part of the Singapore contingent sent to compete in Jakarta. Both boys play for the St Stephen's Primary School soccer team, which emerged victorious at the recent Junior National Soccer Tournament. In addition, Joshua was the tournament's top scorer.

Congratulations to the boys and coaches at the EA Soccer School! Thanks to the

hard work put in by our boys and their respective coaches during training, most of them have been selected to represent their school teams. For those who have not been selected, their soccer skills have certainly seen improvement.

The EA Soccer School welcomes anyone who wants to join our practice sessions. Training takes place every Sunday from 4pm to 6pm at Tampines Secondary School, 3 Bedok South Road. Our coaches are Sebastian Yap, Alphonsus Arriolla and Abdur Raheem. Please contact Harry Pereira at 96382733 or Kevin Santa Maria at 98171743 for more details.



Singapore contingent off to APSSO

Quest For Rowing Glory

Singapore River Regatta Dragon Boat Race 2008



Jubilation over record time achieved



For the third year running, EA took part in the Singapore River Regatta Dragon Boat Race and astounded the crowds with a stunning performance and a very enviable race timing. This year's team consisted of some new faces as well as veteran rowers - competing in the People's Association Corporate Members' Open Category.

The 10-man crew was lead by the charismatic pair of Clifford Le Caine and Bianca Hoeden and included veteran rowers like Calvin Palyama, Geoff Morris and Shaun-Paul Lopez. They were joined by a host of fresh faces such as Eddie, Paul Tan, Eugene Huang, Nigel Whitaker, Angie Tan and Julian J Matius. Together they blasted their way past the finish line with a record timing of 1 min 47 secs.

It was a memorable and emotional moment for the team as they geared up and warmed up for the race. The laughs and jokes turned to professionalism as the rowers were briefed on the strategy they would adopt. Once the command was given, all the efforts and months of intense training came into play. The EA Dragons roared forward and gained a commanding lead over the rest of the teams while striving to chase the lead boat, crewed by the Singapore Canoe Federation.

The Singapore River reverberated with the constant mention of the Eurasian Association's Dragon Boat team as the commentator focused on the leading two teams fighting for the first place. Shaun-Paul Lopez drummed an aggressive pace that set the rhythm for the determined crew while the remainder of the team, friends and family members cheered from the banks of the Singapore River.

With only 50 metres to the finish line, the EA Dragons roared their charge and surged forward, attempting to overtake the Singapore Canoe Federation. Their efforts saw them neck to neck in a grueling fight to the finish, only to place 2nd - mere centimetres from the lead.

The EA Dragons will continue training and have set their sights on more local and regional races in the coming year. The team will also continue its recruitment drive for fresh faces and strives to realize its goal of sending more boats for up-coming races. Any interested Dragonboat enthusiasts are welcome to join the team in their training sessions or in the upcoming fun rows. Email coelhoz@gmail.com for further details.

Eurasian 1st Runner-up in Executive Look



It didn't come as a big surprise, not to me anyway, if you know Christian Eber, the guy with the drop-dead good looks. He was one of the top three winners in the tabloid "my paper" Executive Look contest last year. Friends and acquaintances were kept in the dark, and his win came to light only on 6 January when the bilingual newspaper ran a story to promote their second annual contest to find the young "male or female who best represents the modern Singapore working executive."

A member of our EA's Management Committee for 2008/10, the affable 30-year-old was runner-up in the newspaper's first contest and walked away with a \$5,000 prize. But the best part probably was the career advancement that came later. Last week he was promoted from an executive in a Japanese pharmaceutical firm to assistant sales manager.

Well done, Christian! Maybe you could coach other aspirants in the coming contest and keep the Eurasian flag flying.

by K.C. Yuen

MYLN Inaugural Network Night Truly Takes Off



Fifteen youths, both students and young professionals, were gathered together at the Platinum Lounge for the EA Mentoring Young Leaders' Network's (MYLN) inaugural Network Night on 20 September 2008.

During the fun-filled evening, they were introduced to the MYLN and mingled over delicious light refreshments, in the process learning about the objectives as well as the activities that will be in store for them in the coming months.

"I am excited and hopeful for the MYLN. Meeting other Eurasians in such a context is definitely challenging my perspective on my identity as a Singaporean Eurasian, but it's great. It is a step I know will only give my work as an aspiring theatre practitioner more depth and I want to take this step," said Jamie Lewis, 22, a theatre arts student at LaSalle College of the Arts.

The MYLN, officially launched at the ECF awards on 6 September, is an avenue in which young Eurasian professionals from a variety of backgrounds can provide guidance to Eurasian students while in the process networking with each other.



Guests at Network Night



Breakout activity to discuss future events

Networking at Wine Party Le Réseau

The Mentoring Young Leaders Network held an exclusive Christmas wine party, Le Réseau (The Network in French) on 20 December 2008 at the Platinum Lounge. This event was catered specially for the young adults and professionals of the community. It was a sparkling evening of networking, wine, jazz and games.

The evening kicked off with a welcoming address from the EA President, Mr. Edward D'Silva followed by a special Eurasian museum tour conducted by Dr. Barry Pereira. Guests listened in awe as stories and anecdotes of early Eurasians were shared. Guests then mingled and played games over wine and light refreshments for the rest of the evening.

The next MYLN event will be the Chillout @ Starbucks in February 2009. If you would like to be kept abreast with our activities, do drop us an email at coelhoz@gmail.com or join our Facebook group – "Eurasian Association Mentoring Young Leaders Network."



Young adults and professionals at the Wine Party



Networking among the guests

The Twohill Siblings Get NUS Student Awards



Edmund and Natalya Twohill

At the recent National University of Singapore (NUS) Student Achievement Awards 2008, siblings Edmund and Natalya Twohill clinched individual awards for Distinguished Leadership and Community Service respectively. The New Eurasian team met up with the dynamic siblings to find out more about them.

Tell us more about yourself and what drives you?

Natalya Twohill (NT): My passion and drive has always been to help and serve others. I started when I was really young, my dad is a member of Rotary and played Santa Claus

every year to underprivileged children while my brothers and I usually played the elves. I guess from a very young age, my parents instilled in us the power of our actions towards others and how simple gestures can - as cliché as it sounds affect another person's life positively. My parents are my motivation, we are not rich in any way, yet my parents give as much as they can to others. I found my passion to serve from my parents and will continue to do so possibly as a career through working with NGOs or IOs. My drive to continue serving comes from knowing that every simple action I do can help someone positively and that I have seen with my own eyes the state of the world we live in and simply cannot act like it doesn't exist - because I know I can help and that I can get others to help too.

Edmund Twohill (ET): I am someone who is always on the move and looking for new challenges, especially if it is leadership related. Currently I am in the Army as a Guards Officer in 1st Battalion Singapore Guards working with the anti-armour system and Lightstrike Vehicle. Apart from Army, I try to find time to work on United Nations Youth Association (UNYA) with my sister as well as other organizations which I was involved in the past such as the Halogen Foundation, Young Changemakers Panel and National Youth Forum. I am also working with two friends to conduct a Leadership Programme for the University Scholars

Programme at NUS and am involved with the National Civil Defence Cadet Corp's Leadership Development Committee. I enjoy going out to meet people and wish there was 48 hours in a day. Like my sister, I followed my parents to Rotary events although not as much. My parents are an inspiration to me. My dad I believe gave me my work ethics and my mum taught me how to be level-headed. My sister and brother are also sources of lessons for me. Natalya encouraged me to get out and do things outside school, working with NGOs and my brother is one that just does his thing, not worrying about what people say about him. He is prepared to defend what he believes in. Their actions were timely reminders for me at different points in time.

What is the award all about?

NT & ET: The awards for outstanding achievements are given out annually to recognise exceptional individual students or student groups who have made noteworthy contributions to activities outside the academic curriculum/academic programme and who have brought honour to the University.

What are your plans for 2009?

NT: School! Ha Ha Ha! Will also be aiming to expand UNYA further and will be spending my summer break in Mexico working for a local NGO.

ET: Army work. Might be posting out of my current unit soon and getting ready for my next posting, likely to be Officer Cadet School as an instructor. Help Nat develop UNYA, develop current projects and look for new projects to do.

Any message or advice for the youth?

NT: Cliché as it sounds, use your time in school to find what truly makes you happy and go for it. The happiest people in this world are the ones who do what they love everyday. I found my passion in development work and doing it everyday is what makes me happiest. When you're happy everything else falls into place.

ET: You are now at the stage of your life where one can afford to make mistakes. Dare to dream and make the best out of everything and disappointments in life are only meant to make us stronger. "What does not kill us will only make us stronger". "The Body Cannot Do what the Mind Cannot Imagine"

Congratulations once again Ed and Nat and we wish you all the best, Make us proud!

by Zaf Coelho

Just For YOUth

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

We will be featuring YOUR views on topics of current interest; so to start the ball rolling, we begin with the arts scene. We asked several young Eurasians:

What do you think can be done to create a more vibrant arts scene in Singapore?

If there were more spaces for drama groups or dance groups to perform, galleries for painters and photographers to exhibit their work and local bands to hold gigs/performances, record and mix their music, all at cheaper or subsidized rates, I am sure there will be an improvement in Singapore's arts scene.

Andrew Pang, Relief Teacher

Recently I saw this Singapore local art icon (the cow, moo) and a few art pieces

in Singapore. So you can create an art scene by putting artwork in certain parts of Singapore, but I've got another idea which may sound a bit crazy. I would like to see acts or performances in places like MRT or bus, you know, just a sudden surprise act. I wish there was this type of performances. Hmmm, not like street performances, but more like a skit or mime act.

Jason Rodrigues, Student

More art portraits hanging around the streets?

Cassandra Fenella Joseph, Student

Have something interesting to say? Want to get your word out on the street? Then get involved! Send in any interesting commentaries or stories to us at coelhoz@gmail.com for publication in our Just for YOUth segment.

by Zaf Coelho

Navigating the Job Market

The landscape of job hunting is ever changing, an evolution that changes in complexion with the advent of new technologies, especially in the last decade where computers had a big say, as to how businesses were run.

Navigating the job market and securing a job will mean having the required skills to stay relevant to the needs of businesses. How does one ensure that he or she has landed the right job? Are there enough of jobs around that one can fit into, not just securing it, but performing well enough to ensure he keeps his job.

Do not just apply for a position just because it's 'popular' and pays well. Do some soul searching and ask yourself, do you fit into the job requirements? To make matters simple, I would dissect the requirement of a job into 2 segments, nature and nurture. The natural characteristics of a person and/or his conditioning into adulthood, in a way can determine the type of job he can comfortably fit in. For example, being in the service industry requires one to be patient, people oriented and a sense of fulfilment when you see others pleased with the service you rendered. In short, the natural characteristic of a person who happens to be patient helps him fit into a job where patience is the very crux towards high performance. I believe nature has a big say here. Nurture, would be the training and skills he needs to help him execute the job better. This would be the technical aspect of the job requirement. Therefore ensure

that your characteristics correspond with the job before applying, and that you have the skills (or upgrade yourself to acquire skills if needed).

Accepting any job just because it pays well or there is an abundance of it can be detrimental if one is not able to resonate with its values and objectives. For example, a Catholic doctor would find it very difficult to perform an abortion, as his values and upbringing would contradict the objective of an abortion, given his religious beliefs were strongly entrenched in him. He would therefore not be able to perform that task with conviction... so it is best that he be a doctor that does other duties and not abortion.

Anticipating which industry is poised to grow would be a big plus when jobseekers decide to upgrade their skills. In Singapore, electronics and electrical manufacturing may see a decline as emerging markets like China and India can offer cheaper skilled workforce that would entice Multi National Corporations to move their operations there. In addition, these manufacturing firms are export driven, which has lost its momentum due to the global financial meltdown. Pharmaceutical, bioscience and the service industries are expected to grow (albeit at a slower pace) as Singapore targets the growing tourism market. The up and coming integrated resorts would require a large pool of personnel to fill up its service, security, gaming and other support vacancies. According to a Straits

Times report in November last year, the service industry was the best performing industry, which added over 36,200 jobs for its third quarter report.

Given the current outlook, the service and related industries look like a better option for job seekers. As a HR professional, I urge job seekers to identify jobs that their characteristics are in sync with and to upgrade their skills to suit the industry that is expected to grow.

by *Martin Gabriel*



Martin Gabriel is the Chairman and Senior HR Consultant of HRmatters21, an online HR forum that boasts over 3,000 corporate members from Singapore and Malaysia. Martin is HR advisor to numerous companies pertaining to HR issues. He is also a corporate trainer that has trained more than 1,000 personnel in the last 3 years. Contact him at kritsada@pacific.net.sg or visit his website at: www.hrmatters21.net

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FSS Christmas Party



Volunteers and SC clients



Children with Santa Claus

Every year, Family Support Services (FSS) hosts a party for our clients to promote social interaction, allow them to tour the Eurasian Community House and to spread the Christmas spirit among them.

The theme of this year's celebration, held on Sunday 23 November 2008, was 'It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas'. To this end, the lobby and multi-purpose hall were festooned with seasonal colours and decorations to create a lively and festive mood. A thrift shop was also set up in the Platinum Lounge so that clients could purchase good-quality clothes and shoes in time for Christmas at nominal prices.

From 11.30am onwards the guests, mainly FSS senior clients, started streaming in. They listened to a welcome address by Dr. Barry Pereira who also took the opportunity to inform them of plans for the coming months as well as additional programmes or packages they could apply for through FSS.

Lunch was served thereafter. Guests tucked into a traditional Christmas lunch of turkey roll with cranberry sauce and chicken curry devil, with sugee cake for dessert.

A performance by singers Robyn and Andrew opened the day's entertainment.

After that Jingkli Pop Group danced the Jingkli Nona. The spirited movements, catchy beat and vivid red-and-black costumes of the dancers earned an explosive round of applause. Singing acts by Daily Fix, Jeffrey Rozario, and the Jensen's Brothers followed, with songs running the gamut from classic easy-listening favourites to Christmas songs with a unique spin. There was also a special performance by the ladies of Women's Wing, who were gamely dressed in Santarina outfits. Guest performer Jude Paul wrapped up the festivities. His renditions of upbeat songs such as 'Save the Last Dance for Me', 'La Bamba' and 'Sway' brought many of the guests spontaneously to their feet on the impromptu dance floor.

Special guests Mr Gerry De Silva and his wife Cheryl graciously gave out prizes for the Lucky Draw. Other highlights included the appearance of Santa Claus, who handed out presents to all the children, and even posed for photographs with some of them, much to their delight. At the end of the day, tidbits were given out to all the guests, ensuring that no one left the celebrations empty-handed.

Jingkli Nona Gets New Upbeat Tempo



The Eurasian Association (EA) has successfully completed the production of a music/dance video to create greater awareness of the Eurasian community in Singapore and its involvement in Community Cohesion.

The Kristang folk song entitled Jingkli Nona was re-written by John Klass and given an upbeat tempo. This was then filmed at

various points of Sentosa, before being edited in a European studio. The project would not have been possible without the part funding by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth And Sports (MCYS) under the title "Jingkli Nona Community Cohesion Project".

The objective of this project is to create a music/dance video using a familiar "Eurasian" folk song, given a new twist by incorporating a pop element. Using the traditional and most commonly spoken Eurasian language and heritage, the video will be used to raise the level of awareness and volunteerism among not only the Eurasians, but also all races. It should appeal to youth, to show them that heritage and tradition can be a fun "re-mix".

We plan to give this song national exposure and at a later date launch it on the International music scene. Video CDs will be distributed after its launch, and one will also be able to catch it on the Internet. So get your dance shoes on and "Jingkli" with us.

Thrift Shop & Movie Screening at The Eurasian Community House



Women's Wing volunteers



Crowd in search of good buys

The Women's Wing committee embarked on a plan to tie in the 2nd Movie Screening at the Eurasian Community House with a Thrift Shop to cater to the community and our FSS clients. This initiative took weeks of planning and on Saturday, 15 November at 11am, the stalls were set up with a wide array of second-hand clothes, books, toys, games and lots more. This was showcased on our e-blast, magazine and Facebook.

The attendance at the event was also boosted by the ladies of St Hilda's Alumni Lunch at Quentin's and Jeet's Playhouse Graduation Ceremony in the MPH with parents and toddlers browsing at the stalls and enjoying the food sold by the ladies in the Women's Wing. For a first attempt it was promising and could be something that could be a permanent fixture at the Association.

The movie screened was a family comedy 'Benchwarmers' that appealed to the families that attended. From the screams of laughter, the appreciative feedback for more such gatherings and the delight on the children's faces all felt that the hard work was indeed worthwhile. All in all it was indeed a good day with the Eurasian Community House abuzz with activity. Kudos to the hardworking Secretariat and the committee!

Six Eurasian Students Receive Buddhist Lodge Bursary Awards



Front Row from Left: Victoria Apps, Darlene Jayatilleke, Trina Minjoot, Julius Roberts, Rachel Nathan, Ignatius Shepherdson

Back row from Left: Therese Thompson (Education Executive), Edmund Rodrigues (Education Sub-Committee Member)

The 30th Buddhist Lodge Bursary Presentation Ceremony was held on Saturday, 4 October 2008 at The Singapore Buddhist Lodge Auditorium.

Mr. K Shanmugam, Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs, was the guest of honour who officiated at the event.

The recipients for this award presentation were students of Junior Colleges, ITEs, Polytechnics and Universities.

Eurasian students selected were :

- Julius D Roberts from Tampines Junior College
- Trina G Minjoot from Victoria Junior College
- Mellisa Rachel Nathan from Republic Polytechnic
- Darlene D Jayatilleke from Republic Polytechnic
- Victoria M Apps from Ngee Ann Polytechnic
- Ignatius M Shepherdson from Nanyang Tech. University

Each recipient received \$800 for JC, \$1200 for Polytechnic and \$3000 for University.

Donation of Clothes and Household Items Bring Christmas Cheer



Mr. Cedric, ECF Benefactor

It all began with a letter that was sent by an ECF benefactor to EA President Edward D'Silva in October 2008. The writer expressed his wish to donate some clothing and other items to senior members who could not afford new clothes for the Christmas season. He wondered if the EA could organize a project whereby members could donate their unwanted clothing which could then be distributed to the community's senior citizens, thus allowing them to share in the joy of Christmas.

Mr. D'Silva thought this was an excellent suggestion and the ball was set rolling. An appeal for donations was sent out to members through our e-newsletter, requesting for clothes and household items

that were unwanted but in good condition. From 3 to 8 November 2008, a box was placed at the reception counter of the Eurasian Community House for members to drop their donations inside.

The response to the donation drive was heartwarming, leaving us in no doubt as to the generosity and goodwill of our members. By the end of the project, the storeroom was stacked with clothing and a multitude of items such as toys, bed sheets, and utensils. About twelve families under the care of the Family Support Service benefitted from the drive.

On hearing about the initiative, Women's Wing Chairperson Christine Clunies-Ross decided to set up a Thrift Shop using some of the donated items. This would be held in conjunction with the movie screening 'Benchwarmers' on 15 November 2008. This permitted FSS clients to purchase items at a nominal price, thus preserving their dignity and allowing them to feel a sense of pride.

Once again, a big thank-you to the big-hearted members who participated in the donation drive!

EA/SRC Combined Games 2008



Soccer teams at EA/SRC games

The EA/SRC Games was discussed over a dinner in July with SRC President Dr. Johnny Goh and EA President Mr. Edward D'Silva in attendance. The revival of the collaboration which dates back to the 90's and the time when Mr. Timothy D'Souza was the then President and the games was in full force then. The 'Crystal Cup' was the trophy that was given out to winners of the games. Thus this was decided at that fateful meeting that the games would go on. Soccer, tennis and balut were the games of choice and Mr.

Harry Pereira, Mrs. Christine Clunies-Ross and Mrs. Yvonne Pereira would handle each game respectively.

The games were planned for Sunday, 12 October 2008 at 3pm at SRC. The tennis team was then quickly formed and practice sessions were planned for twice a week to accommodate everyone's busy schedule. Christine, Monica Wong, Monica Lewis, Colin Gomes, Andre Danker, Patrick Yap and Michael Lewis formed the core team with reserves Zaf Coelho and Harry

Pereira. Practices were held at Loyang Valley Condo and soon everyone was more or less in the swing of things.

The day of the tournament dawned clear and bright and after a morning of intense preparation and prayer the team gathered at SRC's tennis courts for the start of the games. The SRC social team was good but we were not going to give up without a fight. Our captains Colin Gomes and yours truly paired off our best players but SRC's team was better. The 3 games played were the mixed doubles, men's doubles and the singles matches. What we lacked in skill and stamina we made up with showmanship. The team vowed to take the practice sessions to a higher level the following year and would come back with an even better chance of lifting the trophy the next time. The day ended with a buffet dinner at the club with good music and comradeship thrown in. In the true spirit of sportsmanship, the teams had a toast together as well as some SRC tennis members wanting to coach our players. It was indeed a good day!

Women's Wing Sunday Brunch Celebrates Oktoberfest cum Halloween

It was a most unusual mix: The famous Bavarian beer festival for the adults and a Halloween fancy dress contest for the children! Throw in a menu of German sausages sponsored by Brazil Churascuria, and sauerkraut with mashed potatoes, Indian mutton curry, French loaf and bread pudding and you have a whale of a party on a Sunday afternoon, with live entertainment to boot.

As usual, the Community hall was filled to capacity, as guests and members started arriving around noon. Greeted by pretty frauleins dispensing endless glasses of Erdingers, and Gary Aviet dressed in German costume the adults wasted no time in getting the party going, after a short welcome speech by chairperson Christine Clunies-Ross.

The beer drinking contests for both the gents and the ladies were keenly fought, and at the end, Shaun-Paul Lopez and Jenny Tan took the honours as the fastest guzzlers of their gender. The sporting children in creative Halloween costumes gamely showed their stuff and Schuyler and Rebecca walked away as winners. The auctions for the cute teddy



bears were great fun, with lively bidding among the enthusiastic crowd pushing up the bids, in one instance, to beyond \$100.00. Who says there's an economic downturn! Or is it just our generous fun-loving nature!

In between the table games and two rounds of tombola, the New Vintage band played great music for listening and dancing. The lucky draw prizes were always keenly anticipated, with prizes donated generously by members of the community. It was a lovely party, thanks to the ladies from the Women's Wing for organizing it with such great gusto.



Volunteers toggged up in Bavarian costumes

Sunday Lunch Celebrates “Grease” Movie Theme

The last of the monthly lunches organised by the Women’s Wing was celebrated on 30 November 2008 with a tribute to the ‘50’s and the movie ‘Grease’ which featured a very young John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. Some guests took pains to dress as Danny Zuko and Sandy Olson. Music of the era rocked the house with Bernard, our guest deejay, playing lots of Rock and Roll. The movie ‘Grease’ was also screened for our guests’ entertainment.

The event also provided a chance to honour the EA Dragons who took home the second prize for the People’s Association Dragon Boat Race held on Sunday 23 November 2008. The team has certainly done us proud as it is still very young in terms of training and participation. Go EA Dragons! Dr. Barry Pereira presented the medals to them, after which the team treated the audience to a great ‘hand jive’ show.

Lunch, which was catered by Quentin’s, was indeed a sumptuous feast of devil curry, pot roast, mutton seku and patcheree. Guests went back for second and even third helpings.

This month, as has been the case in the last three years, members proved their generosity by their abundant donations. Since it is the season of giving we handed out table prizes, with four lucky tables walking away with chocolates from Cocoa Trees as well as gifts donated by our committee members and generous sponsors who wished to remain anonymous. The kindness of our guests culminated in a cheque donation from another anonymous donor. This will go towards the Family Christmas Carnival.

Special thanks are also due to Mr. Quentin Pereira who generously donated six dining vouchers for his restaurant. The ‘Best-Dressed’ couple was Mr Clifford LeCaine and Miss Deborah Lim who personified ‘50’s dressing to perfection. It was a heartwarming afternoon with Romito Mendoza urging guests to perform their preferred style of dancing, be it Rock and Roll or line dancing. Many took up the challenge until the lights came on at 4pm.

It was a relaxing and fun afternoon for all who came. We received positive feedback

that the food and atmosphere of the afternoon’s activities provided an incentive for most to return when the next lunch rolls around in January. Till then, have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2009.



The victorious EA Dragons



Monica Wong leading the EA Dragons in a round of ‘hand jive’

Ageing Safely and Artfully are Talk Topics



Mr Lionel de Souza imparting tips to a captivated audience on crime prevention and road safety

The Silver Circle organised two talks on 18 October 2008 in the Platinum Lounge. They were designed for senior citizens and those who care for ageing parents or other seniors.

Crimes against the elderly are not uncommon in Singapore. These folks are targeted because they are physically weaker and perhaps too trusting. Lionel de Souza, a retired police officer, and currently a private investigator and crime ambassador for National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), gave a talk on crime prevention and road safety. Senior

citizens were cautioned against carrying too much cash or wearing expensive jewellery especially when going out alone. They were also warned to be wary of men or women who would use various methods to con them out of large sums of money or jewellery.

Mr de Souza also raised awareness of road safety. The elderly were advised to use crossings and to be alert when on the road. NCPC provided goodie bags for all present. One of the items in the bag was an alarm which produced a high pitched sound when activated.



A second talk was given by Donald Wyatt, guest speaker from TSAO Foundation, on ‘Artful Ageing’. He highlighted the many factors that affect how we age. He also discussed with the audience various myths connected with ageing. Much food for thought was provided as we gained some interesting insights into the ageing process.

It was not all serious matters. Before the talk and during the tea break Steven Gomez serenaded us on his guitar with delightful all time favourites. All in all, it was an afternoon well-spent, learning how to be safe and how to make the most of our lives especially during the golden years.

By Martha Shepherdson

Family Christmas Carnival



Generous sponsors from Crocs, Quentin's and others who choose to remain anonymous made the lucky draw table very attractive and most stayed right till closing to enjoy the chance to walk away with the prizes.

Entertainment for the afternoon commenced after the arrival of Mr. Chan Soo Sen, who has attended the Carnival for the third year running. Romito Mendez started the ball rolling with Christmas Carols followed by Slegq who entertained with his sultry looks and vocals, The Kristang Cultural Troup then entertained the crowd with their rousing rendition of all time favourite Christmas Carols with Mr. Chan joining in as well. Gerard Danker and Rage took the stage after and entertained everyone with their usual brand of stylish repertoire which got the feet tapping and people moving.

The final act of the afternoon was a special performance put up by The Women's Wing aka the Santa Rinas... they performed Christmas Carols with special guest Mr Chan Soo Sen, who proceeded to bring the house down with his rendition of 'O Holy Night', this got everyone joining in and by the end of the evening it was hard for everyone to say good-bye. Special thanks to all who made this event a magical afternoon and especially to our VIP's who made the time to join us for the afternoon festivities. Michael Palmer, MP for Punggol GRC, Madam Zuraidah from Mendaki, Dr. Johnny Goh, Mr. Richard Yong and Mayor Matthias Yao, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

by Christine Clunies-Ross



The Kristang Cultural Troupe

at the Children's Christmas Treat. SE-CDC, Siglap South CCMC, SRC and PA were our collaborative partners this year which made it even more special. Mayor Matthias Yao was our GOH for the Children's Party and Mr. Chan Soo Sen MP for Joo Chiat Constituency was our VIP guest for the Family Christmas Carnival.

The Women's Wing planned every detail down to the last carefully wrapped present and also ensured that the ECH was transformed into a Christmas Wonderland to evoke the atmosphere and feeling of the yuletide season. This year the vendors took up the stalls readily, judging from the previous years attendance, and we were fortunate to have an exciting array of Christmas novelties and decorations as well as jewellery, cosmetics and perfumes and lots of delicious Eurasian fare. This plus wine tasting from Rev Distribution Pte Ltd, the SAVH masseurs which helped the parents to relax and unwind plus tombola and a raffle throughout the day kept all in the family occupied.

The planning for the annual Family Christmas Carnival took months to come to fruition on that clear Saturday morning in December. It was worrying with the wet weather threatening to mar the months of planning but it wasn't meant to be, the day finally dawned bright and clear and the day's activities was underway. Children from the different self help groups were invited, SINDA, Mendaki, and CDAC as well as our very own FSS families, made up the numbers that swelled to 180 in attendance

Silver Circle's Christmas Dinner & Dance



Doing the Conga dance

'Tis the season to be jolly' and everyone certainly had a jolly good time at the Silver Circle's Christmas Dinner and Dance on 27 December 2008. The Multi-Purpose Hall was decked, if not with boughs of holly, at least with enough festive decorations to create a Christmassy atmosphere. There was even an 'attractive' Santarina (Gary Aviet in a blonde wig) as Emcee, and dance music provided by The Silhouettes (Larry Fenton and Andrew De Silva). Dinner catered by Quentin Pereira was delicious as usual and included Eurasian Christmas favourites like curry devil, shepherd's pie, feng and suguee cake.

There were prizes to be won in entertaining games. Participants sportingly took part in two games. One was a balloon inflating

game and the other was a game involving dancing on a 'shrinking' newspaper. Their efforts to stay on the paper paid off because all participants were awarded prizes. The lucky draw also saw many walk away with attractive prizes generously donated by well-wishers and members of the Silver Circle. The lucky winner, Veronica Jansen, won the top prize of a pearl necklace generously donated by Mr. Dayal Khemlani of Sollani Jewellers.

The Christmas theme continued with a lively session of carolling. Everyone joined in the singing of Christmas carols led by members of the Silver Circle. One and all certainly had themselves 'a merry little Christmas'.

by Martha Shepherdson

SRC Joins EA in Celebrating Christmas



They were kings for the day, with events and activities planned especially for them. They were met at the door with goodie bags that included treats such as Oreos, candy canes, chocolate wafers and lollipops. Some also posed for photographs with Santa Claus and were promptly presented with a Polaroid as a memento of the encounter.

other on his scooter. The children's shrieks of excitement almost brought the house down. DeeJay Gary Aviet, gamely dressed all in green as an elf, worked the crowd with his antics and charisma, while Games Master Natasha D'Silva engaged the children with quizzes and game that created a festive and vibrant atmosphere.



VIP guests lunching with EA committee members

Upon entry into the hall, the children ran to play on the Bouncy Castle, sample candy floss and popcorn, and have their faces painted in weird and wonderful colours. They watched enraptured as balloons were sculpted before their very eyes into magical representations of animals and flowers. A talk by the SPCA on caring for pets added a touch of seriousness to the day's fun and games. And that was just the beginning!

When Mayor Matthias Yao came on stage for the Lucky Draw, even the exuberant children calmed down, waiting agog to hear if their number would be the next one called. However, no one left empty-handed as presents were handed out to all who had come, ensuring a fitting end to the festivities.

Welcome speeches by EA President Edward D'Silva and Guest-of-Honour Mayor Matthias Yao declared the event officially open. A special yoyo performance by Spinworkx demonstrated the multiplicity of ways the ubiquitous toy can be manipulated. Carols performed by the EA Children's Choir put everyone present in the mood for Christmas. The piece de resistance was when Santa Claus's arrival was heralded by blowhorns. We were lucky this year to have two, with one riding in on a bicycle and the

Special thanks to sponsors Crocs for generously donating the Lucky Draw Prizes and for making our event extra special this year! A huge thank-you too to the Singapore Recreation Club for sponsoring the Christmas presents this year and for making this year's event a historic one with an inaugural collaboration with them. The turnout was tremendous this year with almost 180 kids in attendance. We look forward to next year's party with an even bigger and better bang! Peace, love and happiness to all for the coming 2009.

The EA/SRC Children's Christmas Treat, held on 13 December 2008, saw the multi-purpose hall transformed into a Neverland. Children of ages ranging from one to 12 years milled around laughing and talking.

New Year's Eve Tradition Lives On



Minister George Yeo and family with some VIP guests, EA members and performers

The New Year's eve ball has long been a tradition within the community which is eagerly anticipated year on year. The challenge last year was to top the 2007 ball and after much discussion the committee decided to go with a 'Movie Star Glamour' theme which would revolve around an era which epitomised glamour and sophistication. The crowd of 300 or so did not disappoint with the ladies working the red carpet with sparkling gowns and lots of bling and the men in tuxedos and even a cowboy to boot. Marina Mandarin Ballroom was transformed into a movie set with the 'stars' enhancing the glamour factor.



Carla Barker and Zaf Coelho having a ball of a time



This year was also extra special because our very special guest star was none other than Minister George Yeo who attended with the charming Mrs. Jennifer Yeo and Master Freddie Yeo. Mr. Michael Palmer, our Guest of Honour, who attended with his lovely wife, Diane, Mr. Amundo Lopez, Deputy Chairman to the Mexican Ambassador attended with Mrs. Lopez and Mr. Tan Boon Huat, CED of People's

New Year's Eve Tradition Lives On (cont.)



Bianca Hoeden: Jubilant New Miss Eurasian



Jackie Pereira sizzles as Marilyn Monroe

Association and Mrs. Tan, who spent a good hour during cocktails mingling with the 'stars'. It was indeed a memorable evening with the familiar faces mingling with fresh faces plus newcomers to our ball who were fascinated with the history behind the Eurasians rich culture and heritage.

Our emcee for the evening, Mr. Gary Aviet aka Ms. Carmen Miranda, was stunning and kept the crowd entertained throughout the evening with his madcap antics and charm. Jackie Pereira aka Marilyn Monroe and her dancers wowed the crowd with their renditions of movie classics and dance performances. The tempo was kept up with the 'New Vintage' taking centre stage with their 'Blues Brothers' interpretation and cool outfits and kept the movie theme going with lots of hits from the movies which got the crowd off their seats and grooving to the beat.

The highlight of the evening was an open auction professionally run by Mr. Edmund Rajendra, owner of Eastern Carpets, who kindly donated a beautiful silk carpet for the auction. It was heartening to note that even in these lean times guests were generous with their bids as all proceeds from the auction was going to a good cause, our Family Support Services. As Mrs Evelyn Rodrigues stated emphatically after purchasing a beautiful wool carpet, the money is going to a good cause and on top of that she had a beautiful carpet as well. A special thanks to all the generous donors for donating the auction items.



Welcoming the New Year with a bang



Volunteers and staff at the registration table

The countdown was fast approaching and Ms. Marina Xavier took to the stage and put everyone in the mood with her sultry voice and moves. It was then time to close the lucky draw with Mr. Gerry de Silva and Mr. Edward D'Silva conducting the top ten prizes. A huge thank you to our generous sponsors for this year's lucky draw which saw our table receiving 50 prizes. Mrs. Christine Dunster, walked away with the top prize of a trip for two to Phnom Penh, also donated a prize for the lucky draw.

It was now time to bid adieu to our Miss Eurasian 2008, Miss Adaline Coelho, who wore the crown beautifully this past year, it was also time to bid farewell to 2008 and Father Time took his leave amid boos and hisses but his walk was well executed by our very own Peter Rodrigues.

Miss Bianca Hoeden, our Miss Eurasian 2009, ushered in the New Year with



Burton and Maureen Westerhout living it up on the dance floor

style and pizzazz on stage and led the countdown with the crowd working themselves up to the final stroke of midnight and with the confetti guns going off it was indeed poignant for some and happy for others to usher in 2009 with much cheer and oomph!

It was a truly magical evening with guests soaking in the new year with well wishes and loads of emotions. Guests were treated to more dancing and games with the treat of the evening being a hot, steaming bowl of mulligatawny soup and french baguettes. It was down to some serious partying after and it was a sweet ending for 2008 and the camaraderie, friendships and close ties felt within the community and outside as well made the New Year's Eve Ball an event that will long be remembered. Special thanks also to Mr. Dominic Wong who was the photographer for the evening, he contributed his time to our cause and we are truly grateful for his kindness and his invaluable expertise.

Thank you one and all for your kind support and generous spirit and may 2009 be filled with peace, love, happiness and good health. God bless.

by Christine Clunies-Ross

This year marks the

90th ANNIVERSARY

of **The Eurasian Association** in Singapore.

We will celebrate in grand style with
Blockbuster Extravaganza Events
in June 2009 at the Esplanade.

A significant celebration
for every Eurasian to enjoy
and remember. Watch
out for details in the next
New Eurasian and on our
website www.eurasians.org

