

THE neweurasian

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JUL - SEP 2019

Making A Name For
Singapore



anders • paige • Tia • liz • bryan • amiTa

an Occasion To remember • Workforce singapore • y outh identity Campaign

CONTENTS apr - jun

019 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

02 **NEWS**

Occasion Of a Lifetime!

04 remembering Myrna Braga-Blake

05 alice Edith pennefather

06 In-House Balut Battle; rock & roll

07 Heritage Tea party To Get Volunteers On Board

08 **ON THE JOB**

Ea & Workforce Singapore; job Listing

09 **EDUCATION**

Bursaries For primary & Secondary Levels; percussion Workshop

10 **MEN'S SOCCER**

Fighting Fit On The Soccer pitch



11 **FSS**

Family Day at Community House

12 **YOUTH**

Eurasian-ish: a Youth Identity Campaign



14 **EVENT**

Celebrating Singapore's 54th

15 **FLYING THE FLAG**

Florence Takes Off!

16 **COVER FEATURE**

Making a name For Singapore

20 **OUR STORIES**

My Sister Stephanie

22 **HERITAGE & CULTURE**

Eurasian Women and Their Baju panjang; precious Family portrait; How julia Found The perfect Outfit



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<p>THE neweurasian Magazine of the Eurasian Association, Singapore</p> <p>TheNewEurasian 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.</p>	<p>Advertising Rates Prime positions (full colour) Bleed size: 215mm x 280mm; Type area: 185mm x 255mm</p> <p>Inside Front Cover: \$1,200 Inside Back Cover: \$1,200 Outside Back Cover: \$1,500 Loose Inserts: \$1,500 Inside (Colour) Full Page: \$1,000 Half Page: \$600 Quarter Page: \$300</p>	<p>Series Discounts Twice a year: 5% discount Four times a year: 10% discount</p> <p>To place your ad, call the EA at 6447 1578 or email Natasha at natasha@eurasians.org</p> <p>Copy must be submitted two weeks before publication date Publication dates: 15 Jan, 15 Apr, 15 Jul, 15 Oct* * Dates may change</p>
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



With artistes (L-R) Sean HongWei, Melissa Tham, Jeremy Monteiro, Christy Smith and Tama Goh at the EAFundraiser.

Dear fellow members

The past quarter has seen highs and lows for the Ea.

The high for us was the Charity Fundraising Dinner, held on 11 May at the JW Marriott Hotel, Singapore South Beach. Thanks to all the hard work of the Dinner Organising Committee, the support of donors and contributions in kind from friends and well wishers, the Ea raised over \$500,000. The Ea would like to thank in particular Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam not only for gracing the event as our Guest-of-Honour but also for his inspiring speech and tribute to Eurasians.

The low was the passing of our dear friend Dr Myrna Braga-Blake on 31 May at 83. Myrna was a key member of the Ea and served on the Management Committee in the late 1980s and early 1990s. As a trained social worker, she built up the Ea's welfare services, laying the foundation for today's Family Support Services.

As a researcher, Myrna, together with Ann Ebert Oehlers, led a team to publish the landmark *Singapore Eurasians: Memories and Hopes*. As a person, Myrna was soft-spoken and very kind. I met her as a young undergraduate as she was teaching at the national university of Singapore. She

made a huge impression on me, and it was she who got me involved in the Ea. I speak for all who knew her when I say she will be missed tremendously. Thank you Myrna for all you have done for the Ea, the Eurasian Community, and Singapore.

On that note, I would like to add that the Ea's Centennial activities will be going into high gear this quarter. We have the Eurasian Festival on 27 July, for which we have lined up a great combination of music performances and activities. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will be our Guest-of-Honour at the Festival; please do come and say hello to him. Then, on 21 September, we will launch the Eurasian Heritage Gallery with President Halimah Yacob as our Guest-of-Honour. We again hope to see all of you at the launch. I am sure you will be delighted at how beautiful and informative the new Gallery is.

The Ea was formed in July 1919.

all together now... "Happy 100th Birthday, Ea and many happy returns!"

Dr alexius pereira

ON THE COVER

Young people are what will drive the Ea forward, and Anders Aplin, Tia Rozario, Paige Hill, Elizabeth Sergeant-Tan, Bryan de Rozario and Amita Berthier are leading the way to put Eurasians and Singapore on the map. All in their teens or twenties, they are making a name for their country and for themselves. As we celebrate our nation's 54th birthday and the Eurasian Association's 100th this year, let's not forget that we have a whole future ahead of us.

an OPUS CrEaTIVE

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OCCASION OF A LIFETIME!

In commemorating our centennial, the Ea more than met our target of raising half a million dollars to fund programmes that will help the less privileged in our community. Coming from friends and well wishers, the donations will go towards Ea's Family Support Services and Education programmes.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the Fundraising Dinner Committee: Andrew Pang, Gerry de Silva, Celeste Basapa, Quentin Pereira, Brandon Barker, Julia D'Silva, Hazel Soe and Vinitha Mukunthan, our chefs Quentin Pereira and Kenneth Francisco, emcee Brian Richmond, our talented performers Jeremy Monteiro and Band, also Vernon Cornelius and Band, Carla, Deborah and Megan Barker accompanied by Judith D'Silva, and again Megan and her dancers, and the Ea Dance Troupe for making it an occasion of a lifetime!



Committee Chairman Andrew Pang, Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam and EA President Dr Alexis Pereira.



Left: No Eurasian celebration without the Jinkii Nona! Right: EA President Alexis Pereira with Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam and his wife Ms Jane Yumiko Ittogi, and Fundraising Dinner Committee Members (L-R) Quentin Pereira, Julia D'Silva, Celeste Basapa, Gerry de Silva and Andrew Pang.



Event planner for the evening Brandon Barker and emcee Brian Richmond.



MP Christopher de Souza starting the Ball rolling with his mother Pat.



Judith D'Silva on the guitar accompanying the fabulous Barker girls Carla, Megan and Deborah in a tribute to their father/grandfather, former Law Minister and community leader Eddie Barker (pictured in suit in backdrop).



Guests (from top) Humphrey and Lanette Conceicao, and Mr & Mrs Eduardo Ramos Gomez with Celeste Basapa.



Chefs extraordinaire Kenneth Francisco and Quentin Pereira with emcee Brian Richmond; the elegant table setting.



Maestro Jeremy Monteiro at the piano and Singapore's favourite pop star Vernon Comelius at the mike.



Above: MP Joan Pereira giving Olivia Stewart a bear hug. Left: EA dancers with choreographer Valerie Scully. Below: Violet Oon, who was conferred Lifetime Achievement Award by Singapore Tourism Board just two days before the EA event on 11 May, acknowledging our thanks for contributing a lucky draw gift for the evening.



Happy guests with Chef Quentin Pereira

Remembering Myrna Braga-Blake

1936 - 2019



In 1999, Myrna received the Outstanding Social Worker award alongside current director of social welfare for the Ministry of Social and Family Development, Ms Ang Bee Lian.

In 1990, a group of young Eurasians got together in the Eurasian association as members of the Management Committee to contribute their efforts towards advancing the aims of the association. Myrna and I were in the Welfare Sub-committee which focused on Eurasians who were on the margins of the livelihoods. Myrna had had vast experience in social service on a national level and working alongside her as we reached out to our own Eurasians was an amazing experience for me, personally.

Myrna was the archetype social worker, familiar with the latest methods of assessment and intervention, but she was also a truly humane person when she dealt with the individual. She would tell me "Tim, focus on the person, never mind the surroundings." This was to be the most powerful lesson of my first year's work alongside her as we visited many a dishevelled home.

In 1991, I was to lead the Ea. The vision of the Ea Management Committee was to transform Ea from a social club into a self-help group for the Eurasian community, just like the Malay Self Group Mendaki, the Singapore Indian Development association (SInDa) and the Chinese Development assistance Council (CDaC). The Eurasian community was perceived to be a successful community, not requiring special assistance in the same way that Mendaki, SInDa and CDaC were receiving from the Government.

I turned to Myrna for a way to help the Government realise that Eurasians too needed help in uplifting themselves through a mechanism like a self-help group. She said: "The Eurasians are successful indeed but that does not mean we don't have those who are 'lesser-privileged', those who are struggling with life."

Myrna then put together a report on the Eurasian community entitled *The Lesser-Privileged in the Eurasian Community*, which proved there was a sizeable number of Eurasians in need of support. This study was a groundbreaking piece of work which was to persuade the Government that there was indeed a compelling need for self-help group status for the Eurasian community. In 1999, Myrna received the Outstanding Social Worker award.

The Ea was conferred self-help group status in 1994 after sustainable long-term funding in the form of the CpF Check-off Scheme was introduced.

Today, some three decades later, the welfare arm of the Ea, called Family Support Services, or FSS, is one of the two pillars of the self-help mission. Myrna's gift to the Eurasian community has yielded a wonderful harvest.

rest in peace, myrna.

Contributed by Tim de Souza, EA President from 1991 to 1999, who focused his eulogy on the work of Myrna Braga-Blake in the Eurasian Association.

Myrna was a Eurasian Iron Lily and a true community stalwart, always ready and happy to serve her fellow Eurasians. In 1989, Myrna laid a strong foundation which remains the cornerstone of today's EA Family Support Services.

Victor Olsen, EA President from 1989 to 1991

Dr Myrna Blake was both an excellent academic and highly effective practitioner. Her lectures were always insightful, as they were grounded by the realities faced by social workers in the field. She showed us by her life and example what a true social work practitioner should be doing and ought to be thinking about in making meaningful policy and practice improvements to better the lives of others.

Desmond Chin, Commissioner, Singapore Prison Service; NUS Social Work Class of 1990



Farleft: Family of well-known hockey players: Alice, Ruth, and Annabel Pennefather, lawyer and former vice-president of the Singapore National Olympic Council. Left: Alice standing tall in the back row, with her daughter-in-law Ruth in front, 2nd from right.

ALICE EDITH PENNEFATHER

Singapore pays tribute to an eminent Eurasian sportswoman on its commemorative \$20 note.

The image of Alice Pennefather née Paterson (some sources give the spelling as Patterson) on the Singapore Bicentennial Commemorative \$20 note represents a remarkable accolade. For Annabel Pennefather, Alice's granddaughter, the revelation stirred an overwhelming sense of happiness and pride that she knew would be shared not only by her family and close relatives, but also by the Eurasian community and by girls and women engaged in all sports. This was a special moment when honour and special national recognition could be celebrated.

The likeness of Alice on this special \$20 note is an adaptation of a press photograph published in 1936. A second-generation Eurasian, Alice was about 33 years old then.¹ By this time, she had created a reputation as the most versatile sportswoman in Singapore. In badminton, hockey, netball and tennis, Alice recorded notable successes during a playing career that spanned more than 30 years.



Her playing career began just after World War I. Married at the age of 16, and mother to two sons Ashton and Percy by the time she was 21, Alice rejected the traditional role of domesticity assigned to women in the 1920s. She became a pioneer in the sporting culture that was being shaped between the two world wars. In the mid-1920s, games were played in girls' schools, with volleyball and badminton apparently the most favoured games.² The Young Women's Christian Association had been running badminton and tennis parties as early as 1916.³

It's said Alice took up badminton shortly after marrying Lancelot Pennefather. An exceptionally talented games player, athlete and coach himself, Lancelot was playing competitive hockey for the Singapore Recreation Club in late 1918 and represented Singapore in football in the HMS Malaya Cup during the 1920s.

Without doubt, sports equipment would have been a common sight in the Pennefather household. It is not implausible that Alice wielded a hockey stick under the tutelage of her husband well before the first official women's game in November 1929.⁴

Alice first came to prominence in the sporting sections of the local press in 1930 – being the mother of two sons and winning national titles against younger rivals would have been an eye-opener. Blessed with a powerful physique, Alice was a beacon of inspiration to the members of the newly formed Girls' Sports Club (GSC) in the early 1930s. Teenage girls from the Oehlers and Clarke families had taken the initiative to create the club but they turned to Alice for leadership on the hockey field.

On court, Alice played for the Diehard Badminton party, which had been formed in 1926. The Diehards were Interclub champions in 1931 and 1933, with Alice emerging the Singles and Doubles champion. The first Singapore Badminton Championships for women took place only in 1931, by which time Alice was 27. She would take the title in the inaugural year and follow up three more times in 1932, 1934 and 1937. Alice was still winning national titles in 1951. With Ong Poh Lim, the Thomas Cup representative, she took the Mixed Doubles title at age 48.

Alice was captain of the GSC and state hockey teams. When she transferred her competitive spirit to tennis, she became the first non-European woman to win the national title in 1936.

Both as an active player and later as an official and sports convenor, Alice was a true all-rounder and a benevolent force. With her blessing, young hockey players were able to occupy space at the Pennefather compound in Jansen Road. This laid the foundation for the formation of the Jansenites hockey team, which was later able to establish a clubhouse at the Gomez residence, also in Jansen Road. Annabel considers Alice to have been a humble, loving and caring person who willingly shared her expertise with all the youngsters who came in contact with her.

Alice passed away on 24 February 1983 and 33 years later was acknowledged as the first female sporting superstar in Singapore when she was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in 2016.

*Article contributed by NTU lecturer Nick Aplin, himself a keen sportsman and chess player. Look out for his forthcoming book *Sport in Singapore: The Colonial Legacy* published by ST Press.*

¹ Sunday Tribune (Singapore), 30 August 1936, p. 20. ² Malaya Tribune, 15 July 1926, p. 8. ³ The Straits Times, 2 March 1917, p. 11.

⁴ The Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser, 7 November 1929, p. 16.



In-House Balut Battle

Peter Rodrigues, here with convenor Yvonne Pereira, won the 3rd Round of the In-House Balut Tournament held on 8 May 2019. Peter is currently the May champion with 708 points.

Chivas Regal Inter-club Balut Battle



Left: EA2nd Vice President and SRC Balut Convenor Yvonne Pereira, and SRC's Social Sections Chairman Robin Tan (4th from left), who gave away the prizes, with Spot Prize Winners including EA's Pat Leung (3rd from left). Right: Yvonne Pereira and Robin Tan with Spot Prize winners.

The first round of the 35th Chivas Regal Inter-Club Balut Competition was hosted by the Singapore recreational Club on 15 May 2019. Eighteen teams from six clubs participated in the competition which saw nuS emerge victorious in 1st place with 2,447 points.

The Eurasian association helmed the 8th and 13th position with 2,333 points and 2,279 points respectively. EA's Pat Leung, Spot prize Winner for 4 x 6's in one throw, went home with her precious and well-deserved trophy of a bottle of wine.



Rock-n-Roll Country Concert

Ea kicked off its first performing arts Chapter (paC) concert of 2019 on 27 April. Organised by the Community Development sub-committee, Ea 2nd Vice president Yvonne Pereira, Mel Ferdinands, and the Ea Secretariat, the concert saw 127 attendees enjoying the music of Muzik Line, SJB and Rani & Mel with Indopura. Some in the audience danced the night away and enjoyed special-priced food and drinks supplied by Quentin's restaurant. The paC concerts, initiated in 2019, have proved to be successful and a great platform to encourage our Eurasian community and their friends to patronise our Community House. The next paC concert is scheduled for 20 July. Tickets sell fast, so check it out and do follow us on Ea Facebook to grab tickets for the next concert on 26 October!



Band members of the Muzik Line.

Heritage Tea Party to get volunteers on board



On 25 May 2019, Heritage & Culture Committee Chairperson Julia D'Silva and her project team hosted a Heritage Tea party for people interested in joining a team of volunteer tour guides for the new Eurasian Heritage Gallery. The Committee succeeded in bringing in 31 newcomers who after their training will strengthen the pool conducting Ea's various tour programmes.

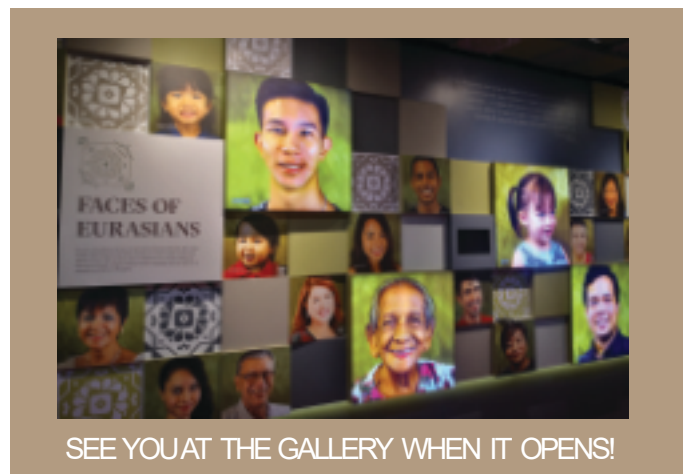
at the session, they learned about the artefacts in the Gallery and what it takes for the place to run smoothly. all this is to ensure visitors enjoy an unforgettable experience. president Halimah Yacob will officially open the Gallery on Saturday 21 September. See you after the 21st!



Julia D'Silva showing volunteers how to make a visit to the Gallery an unforgettable experience.



Volunteer members of the Heritage & Culture Committee, including Gerardine Donough-Tan (standing above) were pleased with the healthy turn-out.



EA & WORKFORCE SINGAPORE

Why flexibility makes good business



Grand Park City Hall employees



as a hotel, Grand park City Hall believes in enriching its guests' experience – and this begins with ensuring its staff are well taken care of, thanks to Workpro. Having flexible work arrangements – according to Ms Jenn Chong (left), human resource manager at Grand park City Hall – allows employees to achieve better work-life integration. “We are constantly looking for ways to enhance employee welfare and benefits,” she shares.

This is in line with the hotel's direction of going above and beyond the call of duty in providing an enjoyable guest experience. “Employees are genuinely happier (with such arrangements). You can feel it,” she says. “Happier employees breed happy guests.”

With this mindset, Grand park City Hall has decided to take on Workpro, a grant by Workforce Singapore that helps employers implement progressive employment practices, including flexible work arrangements to benefit Singaporeans. With the grant, the company can cover planning costs that allow staff to manage their working hours to cater for their personal needs. These

include caring for family members or managing personal errands, which in turn sees them becoming more productive at work. Says Ms Ida Jaafar, senior sales manager: “With flexible work arrangements, I am able to support my children's growth mentally, physically and academically. I also aim to be as productive as possible during working hours to complete my tasks for the day.”

This sentiment is echoed by fellow colleagues like Ms Jenny Sim, F&B coordinator, and Mr Andy Yak, financial controller. “I can opt for flexible hours and this enables me to look after my grandchild after work,” says Ms Sim. Mr Yak adds that flexible work allows him to be “more productive with better work-life balance” because he gets to spend time with family.

“The flexibility allows employees to accommodate certain demands on a daily basis, and we hope to have better staff retention with the enhancement,” says Ms Chong, adding that she's seen staff retention and absenteeism improve by about 50 per cent since the grant was implemented. “It also establishes a mutual trust between employers and employees.”

Find out more about WorkPro at bit.ly/EA0719-WorkPro.



JOB LISTING – ANYONE LOOKING FOR A JOB? WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Dennis De Rozario, GM of Wings Aviation Pte Ltd, is looking for a Eurasian individual to join his team as warehouse assistant. The Job Scope includes sorting out parcel boxes and flyers, stacking them into containers, and pallet build up. If you are interested and

- are able to understand and write basic English
- are physically fit to lift 10-20kg
- have completed Primary School Education, contact Dennis at 9233 0879/9006 7768.

EDUCATION

BURSARIES for Primary & Secondary Levels

The Singapore Buddhist Lodge registered its Singapore Buddhist Lodge Education Foundation in 1996. Since then, the foundation has enhanced its charitable services to benefit more people in the society. Over the 38 years of bursary distribution, SBL Education Foundation has distributed more than \$18 million to students from local primary schools, secondary schools, junior colleges and tertiary institutions.

PRImARy SCHOOI AWARdS, 13 April 2019
 Two recipients from Ea
 - Muhammad Irfan bin Irwan rino
 - Jordena Hazel Marina D'Sylva

SECONdARySCHOOI AWARdS, 27 April 2019
 Four recipients from Ea
 - Ira umairah binte Irwan rino
 - jana jeremy s/o Sukumaran
 - nathiya naomi d/o Sukumaran
 - Carmelo joshua Emilio Esmond D'Sylva



Muhammad Irfan bin Irwan Rino and Jordena D'Sylva received bursaries from the SBL Education Foundation.



Secondary School recipients Jana Jeremys/o Sukumaran, Nathiya Naomi d/o Sukumaran, Ira Umairah binte Irwan Rino and Carmelo D'Sylva with official representatives.

Over the 38 years of bursary distribution, the SBL Education Foundation has distributed more than \$18 million to students.

PERCUSSION WORKSHOP



The EA held a Percussion Workshop on 7 and 14 June for Eurasian youth 10-19 years old. With Mark De Souza to guide them, they learned beginner playing skills on drum practice pads, handheld percussion instruments, and made new friends in the process!



Fighting Fit On The Soccer Pitch

Four wins and two draws out of a total of 10 games. Not bad – not bad at all!

From East Coast to Tampines, pasir ris to Balestier, our Men's Senior Soccer team travelled across the island, ready to take on rival teams in the name of friendly soccer. Dressed in bright yellow and sometimes in full black with the Eurasians Intenational logo

emblazoned on their jerseys, our men did their best on the soccer field. Their three best games were against Grace Independent Baptist Church, jalan Daud School Veterans and Kids of africa, gaining three points over their rivals in each of the matches.



EAMen's Soccer team in midst of friendly game against Singapore Exchange (SGX) at SAFRATampines on 27 May 2019.

Ea Men's vs Grace Independent Baptist Church (GIBC)	5 - 2	Win
Ea Men's vs Trinity Christian Church (TCC)	3 - 3	Draw
Ea Men's vs Essex	0 - 4	Lost
Ea Men's vs Singapore Exchange (SGX)	4 - 4	Draw
Ea Men's vs St patrick's School (SpS) alumni	1 - 6	Lost
Indian association Soccer 7s Tournament 2019 (Group Stage): Ea Men's vs Kids of africa	3 - 0	Win
Indian association Soccer 7s Tournament 2019 (Group Stage): Ea Men's vs Thursday Knights	0 - 1	Lost
Indian association Soccer 7s Tournament 2019 (Group Stage): Ea Men's vs 2 Left Feet	1 - 0	Win
Indian association Soccer 7s Tournament 2019 (Group Stage): Ea Men's vs 2 Left Feet	1 - 3	Lost
Ea Men's vs jalan Daud School Veterans	3 - 0	Win



Left: EAMen's Soccer team before their friendly game against Trinity Christian Church (TCC) at St Patrick's School on 9 June 2019. Right: EAMen's Soccer team before the winning match against Grace Independent Baptist Church (GIBC) at Pasir Ris Secondary School on 15 June 2019.



Left: EAMen's Soccer team participated in the Indian Association Soccer 7s Tournament 2019 Group Stage matches against Kids of Africa, Thursday Knights and 2 Left Feet, and Quarter Finals against La Plata Juniors at Singapore Indian Association on 14 April 2019. Right: EA Men's Soccer team warming up before match against St Patrick's School (SPS) Alumni at St Patrick's School on 28 April 2019.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Family Day at the Community House

Fun-filled day with the spirit of togetherness for one and all!

There's nothing like a good party every now and then with great food, music to sing along to and exciting games to get your thinking caps back on. Unfortunately, not everyone in our community has the means or ability to experience this. That's why we got together 100 of our less-privileged members, including those unable to go out of the house unaided, for Ea's annual Family Day on 23 June at Quentin's restaurant.

Led by Mr Edmund Rodrigues and the Family Support Services team, these lovely people enjoyed a fun-filled day with food and music, playing games like Tombola and Memory, and the chance to win prizes in our Lucky Draw. Great fun too was the singalong and entertainment provided by Music Men. Events like these reinforce our support for the less-privileged in our community and reminding them that they are not alone.



EURASIAN-ISH

A Youth Identity Campaign

starting 27 July 2019

Spearheaded by EAMangement Committee Member Hannah Hendriks, the Youth Identity Campaign delves into the concept and idea of the Eurasian Identity. The Youth Committee will be featuring stories of various people who have been labelled and associated with

Eurasian-ness at any one point in their life. This will include those who identify as Eurasian, who have been labelled Eurasian by larger organisations or by individuals, and those who have had to grapple with the concept of being Eurasian at one point or other.



Cheyenne Phillips
25

Writer, nature lover,
performer of rants/poems



amanda eber
25

Fan of sports, live music
and podcasts



Heleyna-ann Fernandez
26

Fitness buff
and animal lover



andre rozario
26

Enjoys skating, baking
and rock climbing

Why did you decide to participate in the youth Identity Campaign?

ANdRE: I sensed a genuine interest to redefine what it means to be Eurasian, to include the newer generation, and to be part of a more inclusive generation overall. I couldn't say no. Hannah cornered me.

HEyIENA: I wanted to be part of this new movement in getting youths (Eurasians and non-Eurasians) more involved in our community as our understanding of the Eurasian identity evolves. Hannah roped me in to help her with this project but I'm interested in it myself as it is something that affects me.

AmANdA: I was recruited by Hannah, whom I got to know after interviewing her for a research project that I was helping with in university. I thought of it as a way in which I could give back to the community, and also where I could hopefully utilise some of the knowledge and ideas I picked up in uni about the Eurasian community in a more concrete and tangible way.

CHEyENNE: I was reading a lot about the Eurasians on a historical front, about the

war, about how we lived during colonial times and so on, and there was not much research about the present and future. Granted, the future is still ahead but with limited input from the current generation, the Eurasian identity will always take its lead from a history that occurred many generations ago. I felt it was time for a fresh perspective and when Hannah approached me with the idea and guaranteed support from leaders in the Eurasian community, there was no stopping me.

How have you benefitted from being a part of the Eurasian Association?

ANdRE: In 2018, I was involved in the first Leadership programme, working with other youths. Most of my Eurasian involvement has been under Kodrah Kristang.

HEyIENA: I've come to learn more about the struggle of trying to reconcile the historical understanding of the Eurasian identity with the newer generation and its understanding of the term. I've also enjoyed hearing the different narratives of our Eurasian youth, which has allowed me to appreciate my culture and my uniqueness of being Eurasian.

AmANdA: I got to know some great people and gained a better understanding of my own heritage. When I was studying I was also very fortunate to receive Ea bursaries, which to this day I'm really thankful for.

CHEyENNE: I received some education bursaries when I was younger!

Tell us a bit about yourself.

ANdRE: I'm waiting for the next round of uni applications. I decided to take a gap year after finishing my nS, and am currently working part-time doing data entry, just to earn some money on the side. Where hobbies are concerned, I draw and paint, and am right now working on a comic about the Eurasians (independent of the Ea, with Yale nuS). I also enjoy skating and baking, and recently friends and cousins have got me into rock climbing, which is helping me get over my fear of heights.

I'm also heavily involved in Kodrah Kristang, which the Ea has done a profile of before, as a teacher and Instagram media manager. However because of work and my comic, the Instagram account has taken a back seat.

HEyIENA: I teach History and English in secondary school. I have a passion for anything fitness related. I work out about five to six times a week doing a range of activities including lifting weights, practising yoga and also muay thai. I enjoy challenging my body and my mind.

I love animals, which is why I am so glad that I get to enjoy pet-sitting where I stay at people's houses and care for their pets while they're away. I travel as often as I can – as most teachers do. I believe that experience is everything. Travelling lets me explore new cultures, perspectives, food!

AmANdA: I work in the media industry. I like to watch TV, listen to music and scroll through my Twitter feed.

CHEyENNE: I am a freelance educator and writer. I enjoy being creative in every way.

What do you think is a common misconception about Eurasians?

ANdRE: That Eurasians are simply a mix of European and Asian. While this is true, I feel there has to be a regional contextualisation of our colonial history. While I do not celebrate the advent of colonisation in the region – or the reasons for it – I'm nevertheless proud of my community and my heritage.

HEyIENA: That we are foreigners. Many people do not know that we have been around for as long as – or even longer than – many other ethnicities in Singapore

AmANdA: people tend to think that we Eurasians aren't Singaporean, which is simply not true.

CHEyENNE: That Eurasians are not 'really' Singaporeans.

The 'annoying' question you're asked?

ANdRE: Honestly, I think most people don't know enough about Eurasians to ask much. I often get mistaken for a foreigner, Malay, Filipino, and once Maori (by another Eurasian, no less!). The notion that we are more affluent than other communities shows that old misconceptions still stand.

HEyIENA: people have asked: "So, you're half what and what?" It simply shows a lack of understanding that many Eurasians have a long lineage of mixed marriages comprising different ethnicities.

AmANdA: people tend to ask questions about my family after they see my surname and find it unfamiliar. I can understand their curiosity but I do get slightly annoyed having to repeat myself all the time.

CHEyENNE: Where are you from?

Why did you decide to participate in the youth Identity Campaign?

"The Eurasian identity will always take its lead from a history that occurred many generations ago. I felt it was time for a fresh perspective and when Hannah approached me with the idea and guaranteed support from leaders in the Eurasian community, there was no stopping me."

– Cheyenne Phillips

How have you benefitted from being a part of the Eurasian Association?

"I got to know some great people and gained a better understanding of my own heritage. When I was studying I was also very fortunate to receive EA bursaries, which to this day I'm really thankful for."

– Amanda Eber

What do you think is a common misconception of Eurasians?

"That Eurasians are simply a mix of European and Asian. While this is true, I feel there has to be a regional contextualisation of our colonial history. While I do not celebrate the advent of colonisation in the region – or the reasons for it – I'm nevertheless proud of my community and my heritage."

– Andre Rozario

The 'annoying' question you're asked?

"People have asked: 'So, you're half what and what?' It simply shows a lack of understanding that many Eurasians have a long lineage of mixed marriages comprising different ethnicities."

– Heylena Fernandez

14 September 2019 - Eurasian.ish: Boba & Cakes Conversations, where we will share our findings and explore the next 100 years ahead. Everyone below the age of 35 is invited!

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MUZIK LINE



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FLYING THE FLAG

FLORENCE TAKES OFF!

Florence Minjoot loves Singapore! and she's shown her affection for her country through a book that took her three years to put together. The result: a wonderful keepsake for every generation.

Poetry And Pictures: Singapore's Growth 1965 – 2015 – 2019 is a 196-page hardcover book filled with more than 200 familiar and also often surprising pictures. Working with photographers and sniffing out newsworthy events starting with Singapore's independence in 1965, the author has come up with this gem of a publication any proud Singaporean would be happy to own. What's more, she's accompanied the pictures with interesting snippets and thrown in a few poems of her own for good measure.

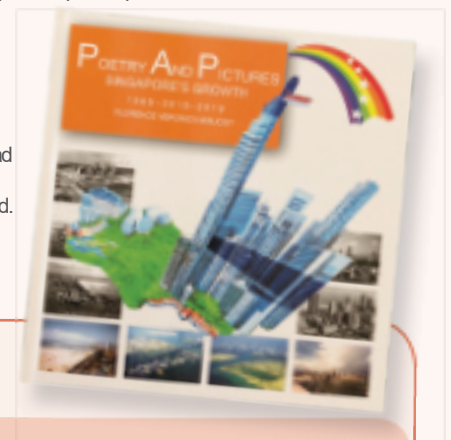


Florence and a surprising find at the Fullerion Heritage Gallery.

Says Florence: "as a tourist guide, I've met locals who have either appreciated Singapore, complained about it or were indifferent to its progress. This book to commemorate Singapore's Bicentennial was written with them in mind. But unlike most commemorative books that just sing praises, mine gives honest-to-goodness views about the 'negatives and positives' of Singapore, which has been my home since the day I was born 56 years ago."

If you've been around long enough, the Then and now segment will jog your memory on what Singapore was like 50-plus years ago and what it has since become. But even if you've only learned about this period via textbooks, you'll enjoy looking at history come alive through the pictures. *Poetry And Pictures* even gives a timeline of events from 1819 to 1963 under the British Government, and from 1963 to 2019 under the pap Government.

Besides scenes of Singapore's colonial past, highlights include 12 centrespreads on the reclamation sites of the Marina Bay precinct; a timeline of the Central Business District; our first prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's funeral procession through the streets of Singapore, plus two poems dedicated to him; our iconic national Day parade; Singapore's first Olympic and paralympic champions; exciting archaeological digs, artefacts and murals that point to inhabitants on the island before 1819; and the recent development of vertical farms for our food security. all in, they tell stories of Singapore's past, present and future.



Top: In 2015, the Lion Head symbol was made with 12,000 tins of canned food. These were later distributed to low-income families. Right: The book cover.

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Enjoy a complimentary 4-hour Feng Shui or Black and White Houses Tour with stops at various sites in Singapore, conducted by Florence. The tour is free for the first 200 people who buy the book but you will need to pay a \$10 registration and confirmation fee for the tour. It's valid for a year starting August 2019. To get your pair of tickets, just show your receipt from purchase made either through Florence or any bookshop. Tours run on Saturday mornings. For more details, email theflorence@gmail.com

MAKING A NAME FOR SINGAPORE

Young and supremely gifted, these six Singaporeans of European and Asian descent lead the way in diversity – of culture, talent and their approach to life.



liz sergeant Tan
performing arts

bryan de rozario
Music



anders aplin
Football



paige Hill
Squash



Tia rozario
Track & Field



Liz Sergeant Tan – Performing Arts



Liz Sergeant Tan is a name that often crops up when discussing the performing arts scene in Singapore. a graduate of the Intercultural Theatre Institute here, she's done plays, short films and entertainment shows for children. now 26, Liz looks forward to more roles. "The Singapore scene's getting bigger and there's so much new work," she says.

Liz just got back from a one-month volunteering trip to nepal, at Little Bells promiseland Home, where she, her best friend, and her brother Zachary, 22, managed to finish a giant mural to bring attention to the home. SaysLiz: "Trekking have to climb up to get this place. We figured the mural would get them curious about the home. I'll be helping a friend to organise a charity concert for them next."

Liz credits her mother, the late Christina Sergeant, for her interest in theatre. "My mom's a huge inspiration. as a kid I loved watching her mime shows. I was always

thrilled by the playfulness of them, and they always had a real zingy pacing. My mom contributed to the Singapore theatre scene as an actor, teacher and director, and she did it long enough to teach some of her students' students." Like her mother, Liz' father B.K. Tan and brother Ian, 33, have always been supportive of her decision to go into acting.

although Liz loves to lounge around, she is by nature a very active sort. "I remember climbing up lamp posts, staircase railings, people... I've broken a bone or two. These days, I have to move every day or I turn into a slug, so I'll do taichi or practise routines I've picked up. I also attend traditional dance classes.

"I like people-watching, it's great material. My first theatre teacher, John Lofthouse, knocked into us the importance of regular journaling, so I try to put in a couple of hours a week reflecting or researching. I really love what I do."

Bryan Lawrence de Rozario – Music

Earlier this year, Bryan de rozario was awarded the jazz association (Singapore) Local Scholarship for study towards a Bachelor's degree in jazz Studies. Cool.

The youngest child of Ian and Juliana de rozario, Bryan grew up with four brothers and one sister in a Housing Board flat in Yishun, where he's lived all of his 23 years. "I enjoy growing up in a big family. Sure, there are squabbles but we settle them soon enough. We're just a regular Eurasian family and I'm grateful for what my parents have done for us; bringing up six children can't be easy."

Bryan attended St Michael's School and then St Patrick's, which proved to be a turning point in his life. "at St pat's I joined the school military band where I picked up, literally, the saxophone. The bandmaster had asked all those interested to pick up any instrument from a whole range of instruments, and I was drawn to the saxophone." It was not Bryan's first foray into music. at nine, he had studied bass guitar under Din Safari.

Bryan discovered jazz while studying at the Singapore polytechnic. Later, during his nS and as a member of the SaF Band, he got a place with the jazz association Singapore Youth Orchestra (jassYO!) and performed at the 1st and 2nd Lion City Youth Festivals. He says: "The ultimate for me was being with jassYO! representing Singapore at the 2018 EFGLondon jazz Festival."

This August, Bryan begins his first semester at the prestigious LaSalle College of the Arts where he will major in jazz performance. "I am so grateful for this opportunity and want to share what I've learned with those less fortunate," he says.



Bryan with (L-R) Jeremy Monteiro, Education Minister Ong Ye Kung and JASS Honorary Chairman Albert Chiu.



Jazz Association (Singapore), or JASS, was formed by Jeremy Monteiro in 2017 to promote excellence in jazz in Singapore. It has both a youth orchestra (JASSYO!) and a main orchestra of established musicians. Renowned international jazz artists mentoring the youngsters have included Swiss music director Fritz K. Renold and most recently singers Carmen Bradford and Kenny Washington from the US.

Amita Marie Nicolette Berthier – Fencing

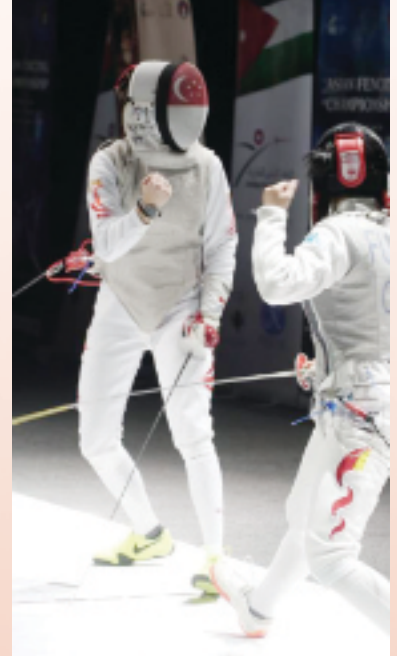
In March 2019, 18-year-old Amita Berthier won two gold medals at the Asian Junior and Cadet Championships – one each in the individual event and the team event in the under-20 category; she's currently no. 2 in the World Junior ranking. Prior to this, she won bronze at the 2019 World Junior and Cadet Championships. She also won gold in the 2017 Southeast Asian (SEa) Games, and bronze in the team event in 2018's Asian Games.

Her brother Ashok and sisters Aish and Aarya have always been proud of her, as have her parents Eric and Uma Berthier. Says Amita: "We are a tight-knit family and I had an amazing time growing up both here in Singapore and in France." Her dad, who was French, passed away in 2016. "He was my hero. He allowed all of us to express our thoughts, and at the same time gave us a balanced view on life. He encouraged us to 'dream big'. Along with that came the emphasis on hard work in order to realise our dreams."

Amita will represent Singapore at the 2019 World Championships in Budapest from July 15 to 23 and "hopefully in the upcoming SEa Games" at the end of this year. She trains 28 hours or so per week.

"It's an honour to represent my country," says Amita. "I look forward to every competition to challenge myself further. I think the sporting landscape here is changing quite dynamically. With the recent success in various sports such as swimming, bowling and shooting, younger athletes are inspired and encouraged to push themselves."

"In addition to this, with the dedicated help from the Singapore Sport Institute and the various federations, mindsets and attitudes towards high performance sports have changed. Not forgetting Joseph Schooling and his Olympic achievement, we are all made to embrace that possibilities can become realities with hard work, dedication and passion."



Anders Eric Aplin – Football

Anders Eric Aplin plays for the Geylang International FC, a professional football club which participates in the Singapore Premier League. Playing for the club, he's won two international caps for Singapore – a friendly with Maldives, and against Chinese Taipei in the Asian Cup qualifiers. "Winning my first cap for Singapore was literally a dream come true for me. I grew up watching the English Premier League on TV and had always wanted to play professional football," he says.

Anders says his brothers Christer and Niels are just as keen, and he credits his parents Nick and Sharon Aplin for this. "My parents have always encouraged us to pursue our interests. All of us in the family have at some point represented Singapore in our respective sport."

Anders puts in 20 hours of practice each week. "We train daily and also put in extra hours outside of training, say a run in the morning or gym in the evening."

In 2018, he signed a loan deal with Matsumoto Yamaga FC in Japan (J. League) last year. They clinched the tier 2 championship title and were promoted to J1, the top division of the Japanese professional football league.

Asked who his mentor is, Anders answers in a shot: "My father – he's also my biggest fan and critic. He comes down to watch my games and isn't afraid of letting me know what he thinks afterwards."

Anders believes there are many talented young footballers in Singapore but they need a conducive environment to pursue their passion. "It's not easy because there's always pressure to excel academically. I believe we should strike a holistic balance between sports and academic pursuits." Winning makes it all worthwhile, though. As this 28-year-old says: "There's no higher honour than donning the national jersey and representing our country."

Paige Teresa Hill – Squash



paige Hill turns 15 this august. The daughter of squash legend peter Hill and his wife Geraldine, paige says of her family: "My dad was Singapore's star player. He represented Singapore in the Southeast asian games and earned five gold medals, won the East asia games three times, and won the world masters.

"Growing up, I always enjoyed watching my dad play league and competitions. I'd always found the game very interesting, and immediately took interest in the sport. My father and I have a unique relationship. On court he is strictly my coach but outside, he is my dad. He acts as a mentor for both life and squash."

paige currently lives in Hong Kong, and often travels to Singapore to participate in competitions. She recently completed the ajT (asian junior Team) event in the under-19 Category, playing with girls taller, bigger and older. The Singapore girls team came in 6th place in asia.

In the recent playoff, paige won all her matches and will represent Singapore in the asian junior Individual, penang Open, World Individual, and World Team events.

Says the girl who has always been known as "peter Hill's daughter": "My first tournament was a local one in Hong Kong when I was 10. I was the smallest, and lost to every single local player. at one point I just wanted to quit because I was losing almost every match. But with my family's support, I started to win and as I grew, my power started to come and I could hit as hard as the other players."

That was years ago. now paige plays in Division 6 Men's League. Balancing school work and training hours is difficult, but she has learned to prioritise. "I've been selected to represent Singapore in the asian junior Team for the u19 squad. I am honoured and feel very excited to represent my country and do Singapore proud in the upcoming big events."

Tia Louise Rozario – Track & Field

Earlier this year, Tia rozario was awarded the joseph Schooling Sports Grant. Soon after that, she competed at the Hong Kong Inter-City athletics Championship in june where she won a bronze in the junior long jump with a season's best of 5.74 metres and a gold in the open triple jump with a personal best of 12.26 metres, which are national and national junior records. Then in early july, she competed in the Inter-Club competition in Singapore and got a gold in both long jump and triple jump. More events are coming up.

Tia grew up playing lots of sports and was heavily influenced by her older brother Ethan. She has a younger brother jaden, who's nine. Says Tia of Ethan: "He would often include me in his hobbies, which at the time were mainly computer games. He also made sure I was okay in school. Ethan and I started playing tennis from the time we were three or four. Tennis and other racquet sports like badminton and table tennis are a family hobby!"

In her primary school years, Tia, who turns 19 this year, was busy with ballet, Chinese dance, swimming, golf, in-line skating, tennis and track and field. She says: "I played tennis competitively. at one point, my partner and I were ranked first locally for doubles for our age group." Tia will head to the united States very soon to study at princeton university. "I will miss my family but I am looking forward to beginning training with the jumps team at princeton this September."

She considers her parents Louis and Terri rozario her heroes. "If it wasn't for their support and encouragement, I would not have had the courage to push through this roller-coaster student-athlete journey. They always tell me that regardless of the outcome, everything will be okay if I've tried my best. I'm also really thankful that the Eurasian association has been so supportive by recognising my sporting achievements every year. I'm proud to be in this generation of Eurasian athletes!"



Tia with her coach Chu Seow Beng.

Special thanks to Singapore Sports School and the Jazz Association (Singapore) for their help with this feature.

MY SISTER STEPHANIE

by Cedric Pereira

Why do I choose to tell the story of my sister, Stephanie? because I respect her for what she has done with her life. Inspired by our great-grandfather James Sebastian Klass, a medical dresser in the late 1880s, she became a doctor. And while he received a medal for his service in the health care industry, she received hers for voluntary service with the Singapore Children's Society.



Stephanie in her early 70s; she's now in her 80s.

Stephanie Celine Leonard née pereira was the first child born to our parents, Stephen a. pereira and nita Edwina pereira née Fernandez, who went on to have four more children – Marguerite, Edwin, Cedric (myself) and Derek. Stephanie was also the eldest grandchild in the Fernandez family of ten children. rather unusual in those days, my maternal grandmother Margaret Klass-Fernandez, whom we fondly addressed as Ma Siglap, was also Stephanie's godmother; to be sure, little Steph was Grandma's favourite!

From a young age, Stephanie showed promise. She was industrious and very focused right from the start, setting the tone of scholarship in the family. at the Convent of the Holy Jesus in Bras Basah road, also known as Town Convent, she had two double promotions when she was in the lower primary classes; I remember my dad using her achievement as a measuring yardstick against our own performances at school.

By the time she was in her teens, Stephanie had made up her mind to be in the medical field, a decision fully encouraged by our grandmother Margaret and our uncle Gerard (Jack) Fernandez. Stephanie was in the Science stream and after her Higher School Certificate, had to choose between being a dentist or a doctor. She chose the latter and was accepted into Medicine at the university of Singapore. My parents were overjoyed!

By the time she was in her teens, Stephanie had made up her mind to be in the medical field, a decision fully encouraged by our grandmother, Margaret Klass-Fernandez, whom we fondly addressed as Ma Siglap.



Stephanie with grandmother Margaret Fernandez.

My dad, as the sole breadwinner, and my mum had to make great sacrifices for us at the time. We were not rich. right up to Secondary 4, we were given just 30 cents a day – 20 cents for bus fare and 10 cents to buy anything from the canteen. Our lunchbox was a Waterbury's cylinder in which my mum would pack two slices of bread and coffee for recess. Thankfully, Stephanie was awarded a Government bursary, a blessing for the family.

Stephanie was an all-rounder. She did her Grade 8 piano but had to give up the idea of going further when she entered medical school. I recall that during her university days when she had to stay at the hostel, she would come home every weekend and tinkle away on the piano. I would join her in a duet, playing Chopsticks and other choice selections. These sessions instilled in me a love for music.

unfortunately, uncle Jack passed away in 1960, three years before Stephanie could complete her degree. When she graduated in 1964, it was a proud day for my parents as well as for the Fernandez and pereira clans. Eurasian women doctors were few and far between in those days.

Stephanie was not only a caring doctor, she was a stylish one. She wore figure-hugging sheaths on her days off and a smart white doctor's overcoat when working. She met her husband Edward (Teddy) Leonard when she was working at St Andrew's Hospital and he was an anaesthetist in private practice. Their wedding day on Boxing Day 1970 was a day to remember – in more ways than one. The wedding reception in their home in Braddell Heights Estate was attended by a few relatives and doctor friends, including Dr Benjamin Henry Sheares. Going back



Stephanie in the 1970s.

to my story, before the bridal party could arrive, I received a call on the house phone. The voice on the other end said: "This is the prime Minister's Office, I'd like to speak to Dr Sheares please." I promptly passed the phone to the nice doctor.

after the call, Dr Sheares apologised to my dad that he had to leave on an urgent matter. We were disappointed but were later surprised when we heard news over the radio that "Dr Benjamin Sheares has been named the 2nd president of Singapore". It was history in the making, witnessed by all of us at the wedding party, and remembered for good reason by Stephanie and especially Teddy, who had worked with Dr Sheares for some years.

after marriage, Teddy continued to work as a private anaesthetist and Stephanie as a Medical Officer in charge of St Andrew's Orthopaedic Hospital. Stephanie's career path took her to Toa Payoh Hospital in 1988 for a short stint as Deputy Medical Director. She then joined Changi General

Hospital as Director of Clinical Services until she retired in 1999. all through those times before our parents passed away, she and Teddy would meet them every Sunday after morning mass.

as for volunteer work, Stephanie was in the Eurasian association as a committee member from 1964 to 1965. She was also a volunteer with the red Cross Society until 2002, and helps out at the Singapore Children's Society to this day, making it more than 40 years she's been with them. For her volunteer work, she received the state award (pBM) in 1989 and public Service Star (BBM) in 2001.

Stephanie and Teddy travelled often, to as far away as antarctica. But Teddy's death in 2003 opened a new chapter in her life.

Today, at 80 plus, she devotes much of her time to bible studies and church work, and has served for more than ten years as Communion Minister at the Church of St Francis Xavier in Chartwell Drive.

Before my sister's bridal party could arrive, I received a call on the house phone. The voice on the other end said: "This is the Prime Minister's Office. I'd like to speak to Dr Sheares please." I promptly passed the phone to the nice doctor. Later, we heard news over the radio that "Dr Benjamin Sheares has been named the 2nd President of Singapore." It was history in the making, witnessed by all of us at the wedding party...



RECOGNISING THE WORK OF OUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER

Mr James Sebastian Klass (seated centre with his wife and family) was awarded the IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL, along with another Eurasian Mr Joachim Monteiro, at a ceremony held on Saturday, 8 October 1917 at the General Hospital. Here is the statement from the Honourable Mr F S James from the Governor's Department who presented the award. The report ran in the Singapore Free Press on 6 December 1917.

"I am here this morning on behalf of His Majesty the King, and representing His Excellency the Governor General to present the Imperial Service Medal to the two gentlemen, old in service to this Government, who have proved themselves through

the Department, valuable offices of the Department to which they belonged to – I refer to Mr James Sebastian Klass and Mr Joachim Simon Monteiro. You gentlemen both joined the service as long ago as 1876. In those days, you began your career as assistant dressers. You had not then the opportunity of treatment and potential methods for which your brother officers are now given. For that reason, your faithful and good service is all the more credible and you well deserve this recognition. I heartily congratulate you both on the honour that His Majesty the King has been pleased to confer on you."

Have a story to tell about people and places that carry meaning for the Eurasian community? Drop us a note at natasha@eurasians.org



Eurasian Women and their Baju Panjang

The sarong kebaya we are familiar with is a comparatively recent form of dress, adopted only in the late 19th to early 20th century. The baju panjang, which the Eurasian women of the Straits Settlements wore, originated much earlier. And it is believed to have been inspired by the traditional dress of Turkey, *al akibiya turkiyya*, a shirt that's split right down the middle with the extra fabric folded in equal parts to the left and right.



One source tracing the history of Malay dress-forms believes the baju kurong, which is similar to the baju panjang, was influenced by the *jallabiyah*, the loose shirt that has its origins in Egypt. It is not certain when the Malays started wearing the baju kurong, but it is said to be around 200 years ago.

Whatever its true origins, the baju panjang, otherwise known as *baju belah labuh besar* (long baggy dress), predates the sarong kebaya and was the preferred form of dress for Eurasian women of portuguese-Dutch descent from Singapore, Malacca and penang, especially after they were married. In old photographs of Eurasian families, it is usual to see the matriarch and her married daughters in baju panjang, and her unmarried daughters in European dresses. The men also wore European-style suits.

The loose-fitting baju panjang covered the body without showing the wearer's silhouette. and although it was made from fine, transparent fabric such as voile and georgette, it was worn with a full inner garment complete with sleeves to protect the wearer's modesty. as for its style, unlike the typical baju kurong which features a rounded neckline, the baju panjang was V-necked and like the Turkish shirt mentioned, split right down the middle.

Going on to the origins of the more form-fitting short kebaya, it followed the fashion of the day worn by the women of Batavia (now Jakarta) when Indonesia, as a Dutch colony c. 1600 to 1942, was known as the Dutch East Indies. In turn, these outfits may have been influenced by dress styles of the portuguese and arabs, main players of the spice trade in this part of the world.

portuguese-Dutch Eurasians of the Straits Settlement and the Indos of the Dutch East Indies had their own style of kebaya. (The term 'Indos' refers to those of mixed European and Indonesian descent and although the ancestors of these Europeans were predominantly Dutch, many of them were also portuguese.) They did not follow peranakan style as is commonly believed; rather the peranakans followed portuguese-Dutch style.

Says Eurasian history buff John Conceicao: "Contrary to people attributing the sarong kebaya to the peranakans, the roots of the kebaya lie in the modification of the Dutch European blouse. The blouse was adapted to the tropical climate with the use of finer translucent material but kept the European lace embroidery. The kebaya was paired with the batik sarong (the best is said to have come from pekalongan in Indonesia) and the complete attire was referred to as the sarong kebaya, a very European-Asian ie Eurasian term." It must be said, though, that Eurasian ladies of

For more on this fascinating subject, get your hands on *Sarong Kebaya— Peranakan Fashion in an Interconnected World, 1500-1950*, written by Peter Lee. He is an authority on Peranakan culture and is an avid collector of textiles.

British or French descent did not ordinarily wear the baju panjang or sarong kebaya.

Both the fine baju panjang and the lacy kebaya would appear incomplete without the lovely kerosang, the set of three brooches used to fasten the blouse. The main brooch is heart-shaped, the other two are circular. John, who visited Portugal in 2018, adds: "In Portugal, I saw pendants on sale similar to the kerosang used in the baju panjang and sarong kebaya. These heart-shaped pendants are referred to as *coração* in Portugal."



The portuguese word for heart is *coração* and is pronounced kerosang. The word kerosang, also spelt krosang, is used by Eurasians of portugese and/or Dutch descent, Malays and also peranakans. The heart-shaped pendant was initially worn as a religious symbol associated with the Catholic devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus, but later became a piece of 'romantic' jewellery, given by a fiancé or husband to his lady love.

adds John: "There's historical evidence that the portuguese *coração* pendant made its way to portuguese Goa and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). In Malacca it was adapted as the top pin in the three-piece jewellery to fasten the kebaya. The term kerosang must have originated from the portuguese."

Sources may differ on the baju panjang/sarong kebaya story but one thing everyone agrees on – the comfortable and beautiful sarong is most certainly of the Malay World.

Turkey, Egypt and other parts of the Middle East, Portugal, Holland, the Malay world including Indonesia... Eurasians are truly the happy result of an interconnected world that for many in this region began more than six hundred years ago.



"In Portugal, I saw pendants on sale similar to the kerosang used in the baju panjang and sarong kebaya. These heart-shaped pendants are referred to as *coração* in Portugal. There's historical evidence that the Portuguese *coração* pendant made its way to Portuguese Goa and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). In Malacca it was adapted as the top pin in the three-piece jewellery to fasten the kebaya. The term kerosang must have originated from the Portuguese."— John Conceicao, a history buff on Eurasian culture

Next page: Edmund Arozoo on his precious family portrait and Julia D'Silva on finding her perfect outfit.

Edmund's precious family portrait

Edmund Arozoo on his century-old family portrait showing the women wearing the baju panjang.

In my collection of hand-me-downs is a priceless sepia photograph—a family portrait. It was probably taken around 1916 and clearly documents my mixed Portuguese-Dutch Eurasian heritage. It survived the Japanese invasion of Singapore and the atrocities of World War II.

On the far left in the portrait is my dad Harold standing next to his mother Maria née Rodrigues (my grandmother who lived with us in Jalan Hock Chye till her passing). Next to her is my grandfather Francis John Arozoo (whom I never met as he passed away at a young age). Next to him is his mother, my great grandmother Eliza Arozoo née Minjoot, and beside her is her niece Louiza Minjoot. Standing far right is my dad's



older brother Julian and at the back are his two sisters, my godmother Adelaide (left) and Helena. Note how the children are dressed in the Portuguese tradition. On another note, how uncanny it is that I ended up living in a city bearing the name of my godmother!

Edmund's precious family portrait is on display at the Eurasian Heritage Gallery, which will officially open on 21 September 2019.

How Julia came up with the perfect outfit for the EA fundraiser



While holidaying in Bali in 2014, Julia D'Silva popped into the famous Uluwatu Handmade Balinese Lace shop in Ubud. The shop specialises in a needlework technique known as cutwork to produce designs that resemble lace. Julia couldn't resist buying a white, three-quarter length blouse, a long version of the kebaya.

Back home, she did not think too much about her top – until recently when she was wondering what to wear to the Eurasian Association's Fundraising Dinner on 11 May this year. The dress code was Fashion Through The Ages, and it included the Eurasian baju panjang. She had seen a vintage photograph showing Dutch (possibly Eurasian) women in

white lace-trimmed blouses, a trend that had started in the late 1800s and spread throughout the region. These tops were cut straight across the hem and ended below the waist.

Julia's holiday buy turned out to be a fairly close lookalike of the Dutch-style kebaya. For the sarong, she consulted her friend Raymond Wong of Rumah Kim Choo in Katong. He advised her to go for the subdued colours preferred by the Eurasians. They found one among his collection of batik sarongs from Indonesia.

Julia fastened her top with three similar brooches as an updated version of the kerosang and voila! a perfect retro outfit for the occasion.



We are looking for talented individuals to perform and represent the Eurasian Association in Chingay Parade 2020!

date: 31 January & 1 February 2020
venue: F1 Pit building



The word Chingay is equivalent to the Mandarin word 妆艺 (zhuangyi), meaning the art of costume and masquerade in the Hokkien dialect. Here in Singapore, the Chingay parade had its beginnings in 1973 as a street parade to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The colourful celebrations compensated for the ban on firecrackers, which was once a customary Lunar New Year practice to ward off evil spirits. Since then, Chingay has evolved into an annual iconic event that showcases Singapore's rich and unique multi-ethnic culture.

apart from local performances, the annual event also features cultural performances from around the world. The feast for your eyes includes elaborate costumes; a dazzling display of floats; intricate props; and giant moving structures.

Offering such an exciting spectacle, Chingay has earned its reputation as one of Asia's largest street performances and float parades, a colourful display of the country's multi-cultural society.

please contact Hazelsoe at 6447 1758 (ext 206)
or hazel@eurasians.org for more information and to register!



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