

THE NEW EURASIAN

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OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2009

Harmony at home

**Strengthening ties
within and beyond the
Eurasian community**

Pg 10

PLUS Local honour for
international Eurasian Pg 4

New ruling promotes
Eurasians Pg 5

Academic achievement
reaps awards Pg 6

Soccer targets racial
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THE MINISTER

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On the cover: Guests come together at the National Day Observance Ceremony



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President's message

As we approach the end of the year – a special year that has included many celebrations to mark the Eurasian Association's historic 90th anniversary – now is a good time to take stock of past achievements and to look ahead. Specifically, it is an ideal opportunity to set out our aspirations and challenges for the next decade, which will not only take the association into our centenary but will also mark the 200th anniversary of Singapore's founding by Sir Stamford Raffles.

The fortunes of the association have fluctuated over the decades, but in recent years our small community has worked successfully towards being recognised as a vibrant force in society, with the characteristics that make us both uniquely Eurasian and Singaporean.

The government has acknowledged the importance of the nation's Eurasians and has bestowed generous grants on the association. Now we need to build on that. That means putting aside petty squabbles and insular views in order to pull together. If we are indifferent to our culture and the contribution it makes to Singapore, we will lose our precious Eurasian identity. So our greatest challenge is to ensure that we create a future generation of Eurasian leaders to take over, in due course, from our senior members, and to develop an active grassroots community dedicated to continue our proud heritage.

We have already established a number of successful programmes to encourage our youth to be leaders in their fields and we should build on these. Young people of today need all the help they can get to compete in the complex, global market place. We should recruit senior Eurasians to volunteer as mentors, both to pass on their experience and to foster a united community.

We need more Eurasians to come forward to volunteer their time or money – with sponsorship and donations if possible – or simply to spend time with those in need.

In the decade ahead, we should set ourselves specific goals to:

- promote the importance of education
- nurture new leaders and strengthen the community's role in society
- improve our family support services
- establish programmes and activities that strengthen the bonds among ourselves and with others
- boost the EA's membership
- encourage greater participation by the EA in community life.

Our cover story this issue focuses on the theme of harmony, reporting on a number of events that prove that there is always more that unites our different communities than ever divides us.

There is a new generation of Eurasians arising from mixed marriages between the new intake of foreigners on our shores and the local population. The children from these unions are now recognised legally as Eurasians and we report on the government's new ruling.

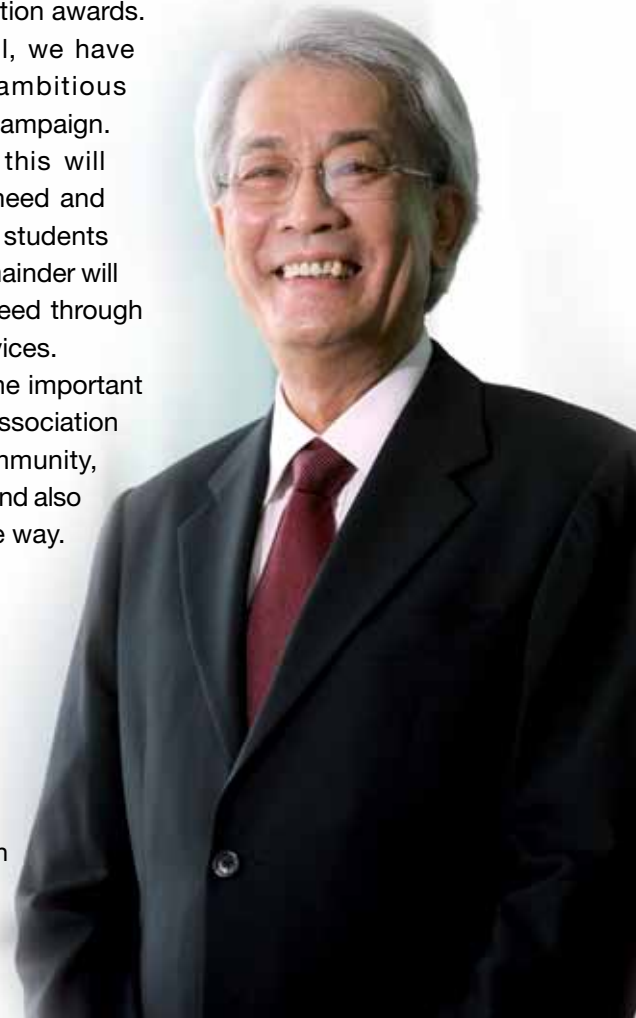
We feature news of a new Merit Bursary Award for outstanding students and the Eurasian Community Fund education awards.

And, not least of all, we have embarked upon an ambitious \$1 million fund-raising campaign. Some 70 per cent of this will help schoolchildren in need and also support deserving students through college. The remainder will help support those in need through our Family Support Services.

This issue features the important work by the Eurasian Association in helping our own community, reaching out to others – and also having a lot of fun on the way. Enjoy the read!



Edward D'Silva
President,
The Eurasian Association
1 October 2009



Appointment of trustees



Mr Gerald Minjoot

THE EA has appointed two new trustees: Mr Gerald Minjoot and Mr Gerry de Silva.

Mr Minjoot, a past EA president, comes from a family with long involvement with the EA and he himself has been an active member for some 15 years. He believes that within the constraints that a small organisation such as the EA inevitably works, there is still room for expansion. One major area is

education: he welcomes the new awards the association now gives to promising students to support them through their college life and help them to become the community leaders of tomorrow, and hopes that this programme can be expanded.

He is passionate about the need to recruit and involve younger members in the association: "I would like to see more of our younger Eurasians taking part in activities and taking control", he says, pointing out wryly that if the association is to thrive, there is no option: "The older members aren't going to be here forever." He would also like to see the EA's finances put on a firmer footing so that it can plan ahead with more certainty.

Now retired, Mr Minjoot used to work in the electronics industry where, he said, events moved at a fast pace, giving him the experience to work flexibly in a changing environment. And he has high hopes for the future of the EA. "I'm an optimist," he smiles, "my glass is always half full."



Mr Gerry de Silva

Mr de Silva, the EA's immediate past president, says his new role will be very different. No longer responsible for the day-to-day business of running the association, "mine will be a custodian role, where as a trustee I will be responsible for the financial well-being of the EA and an advisor to the association".

An active volunteer with the EA for more than 10 years, he believes the profile of the EA has been on the

rise for a number of years already and that members have been making their presence felt in areas not normally associated with Eurasians, such as dragon boat racing.

There will always be work to be done at the EA, he admits, but the foundations to meet future changes have been laid. Fundamentally, it means a continuation and deepening of interaction within the Eurasian community and between Eurasians and Singaporeans of other races.

Mr de Silva admits that the new Singapore Eurasians will forge a different community from the Eurasian community of today, but sees this as an interesting and probably positive development. "The Eurasians of the future, many of whom will be from different backgrounds from the traditional community, will be better educated and have more of an internationalist mindset – they will be quite different from my generation and it will be good for Singapore," he says.

Minister Tharman visits EA

Informal dinner fosters inter-cultural ties

THE Eurasian Association was honoured to host the Minister for Finance, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, at a dinner at Quentin's restaurant at Eurasian Community House in July.

EA President, Mr Edward D'Silva, members of the management committee and distinguished guests attended the informal dinner to keep Mr Tharman updated on the committee's activities and its progress in raising the profile of the association.

Good food, good wine and good conversation infused the evening and the minister took time to find out the portfolio of each committee member present and to outline the directions that SINDA (Singapore Indian Development Association) has taken since he became its chairman in July last year.

Mr Tharman, who is very knowledgeable about Eurasian customs and culture, outlined a number of



Minister Tharman, centre, with EA President Mr Edward D'Silva to his right, trustees, management committee members and guests

SINDA's many community projects and his visit was a good opportunity to discuss how the EA and SINDA could work more closely together.

At the end of an enjoyable and productive evening, Mr Tharman was presented with a token of appreciation and promised to return in the near future.

Harry appointed as councillor

THE Eurasian Association is proud to announce that its honorary secretary Mr Harry Pereira has been appointed a council member at Northeast Community Development Council (NECDC). He is also the vice-chairman for the Branding/Marketing Sub-Committee.

NECDC, headed by Mayor Teo Ser Luck, administers the Aljunied, Pasir Ris-Punggol and Tampines GRCs as well as Hougang SMC. It initiates and plans services such as family support, job matching, career counselling and retraining opportunities for Singaporeans in need.

Correction

In the New Eurasian July-September 2009 issue, we incorrectly referred to Mr Lawrence da Silva's wife as Daphne. Her name is Elsie. Mrs Daphne da Silva is married to Mr Geoffrey da Silva. We apologise sincerely to all four for any embarrassment this error may have caused.

Honour for Dr Noeleen Heyzer



Dr Noeleen Heyzer with EA president Edward D'Silva (centre), EA patron Herman Hochstadt, (second from right) and association members



Dr Heyzer with President SR Nathan and members of the Eurasian Association

A FORMER Katong girl, whose extraordinary humanitarian work has gained her recognition on the international stage, returned to her roots to attend a ceremony in her honour. On 6 August, Dr Noeleen Heyzer was conferred Life Membership (Honorary) of the Eurasian Association.

Dr Heyzer currently holds the post of under-secretary-general of the United Nations and executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



(ESCAP). But she is known equally for her accomplishments in improving the quality of women's security and rights in her capacity as executive director of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). She has also served on many boards and advisory committees of international organisations and has received numerous awards for leadership, including the UNA-Harvard Leadership Award and the Woman of Distinction Award from the UN-NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

The conferment ceremony, held at Eurasian Community House and attended by the patron, Herman Hochstadt, trustees and management committee as well as volunteers, included a citation read out by honorary secretary, Harry Pereira. Dr Heyzer reciprocated with a speech in which she shared some of her inspirational views

on life, including the simple but meaningful quotation, "It's not the number of breaths you take in a day but what takes your breath away." She also revealed that she starts her day with the prayer, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

A simple reception followed the ceremony and Dr Heyzer mingled with guests over coffee and snacks, met President SR Nathan and caught up with old friends and neighbours in the group with whom she reminisced over her childhood in the area. The event concluded with her being presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and she promised to return to the Eurasian Community House whenever her busy schedule allowed for it.

Million dollar target

A MAJOR fund-raising campaign that aims to raise \$1 million for education and Family Support Services has been launched by the Eurasian Association as part of its 90th anniversary celebrations. The money aims to help some 280 students and 150 families.

In its commitment to invest in the future of young Eurasians, the EA is setting aside 70 per cent of the funds for education and training. This will provide students with additional financial assistance for their school fees, transport, meals, uniform and books over a period of two years. Furthermore, in addition to assisting students in primary and secondary schools and in junior colleges, the EA also aims to implement a programme of sustained funding for deserving and promising students. This will support them through their studies at a polytechnic or ITE.

The remaining 30 per cent of the \$1 million will be for Family Support Services, targeting families who do not qualify for government grants, but who would benefit greatly from basic assistance such as food rations, cash and help with other miscellaneous and emergency expenses. Each family will be given an average level of support amounting to \$132 per family per month. Owing to the economic downturn, the number requiring assistance is expected to increase to 180 from next year.

Raise your glasses to Charlene and Zaf

NEW toastmasters Charlene Lee and Zafra Coelho have been practising their craft for a mere two months since the EA established a toastmasters' club in July. Yet in a toastmaster's challenge, both wowed the judges to take first prize in their respective classes.

EA Toastmasters held its first internal Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contest on 19 September and the winners were chosen to represent the association at the Area D2 competition, which was held three days later at Singapore Management University (SMU). Clubs competing in this area included Singapore Recreation Club (SRC), SMU, Caterpillar and Vietnam Toastmasters Club.

Charlene won the Humorous Speech Contest with her talk on 'Miss Singapore World' while Zaf aced in the Evaluation Contest. In fact, Zaf was the runner-up for the EA competition but replaced winner Crispin Rodrigues, who was unable to attend.

Both Charlene and Zaf will now represent the area at the Division level in October at SMU. And if they continue their winning streak, they will be one step closer to representing the Division at the District level in Macau next year.

Get online!

The Eurasian Association has revamped its website, with much more information about what we're doing and our upcoming events. Check it out on www.eurasians.org.sg

A clever balance



Distinction Awards category



Primary Bursary Awards category

This year's Eurasian Community Fund Education Awards winners are high achievers in and out of the classroom.

THIS year's annual Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards ceremony, which showcases the academic achievements of the future generation, took place at Saint Patrick's School on 5 September. The guest of honour was Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Home Affairs.

A striking feature of this year's cohort was that the students have excelled not only in their studies but also in their chosen extra-curricular activities. Aaron Brian Theseira, for example, was a member

of the school band and aviation club while David Christopher Pang competed in both school and national track and field events. Many are active in volunteer work. Dominique Deanne Leicester, as a member of the Infant Jesus youth mission, participated in outreach and fund-raising programmes for the needy, and Ahmad Ashraf brought cheer to the residents of Sunshine Welfare Action Mission (SWAMI) and old folks' homes.

Top Eurasian university student Crystal Tan recently went on a community service trip to Bangalore in India, where participants worked hard on converting one of the classrooms into a library. In her speech, she focused on the importance of giving back to society, not only to the less fortunate but to the Eurasian community in particular, by excelling in one's field. By doing so, she says, "we will be able to shine an even larger spotlight on the potential and talent that our small but mighty community possesses, hence bringing about greater awareness and appreciation of our people."



Crystal Tan receives her award from Mr Masagos Zulkifli



Excellence Awards category



Secondary Bursary Awards category

ECF Award Winners

The Peter H Fernandez Award

Sponsored by Lawrence da Silva
2008 Top Eurasian PSLE Student:
Ahmad Ashraf B Muhammad Johari

The Colonel RJ Minjoot Award

Sponsored by Gerald Minjoot
2008 Top Eurasian Normal Academic 'N' Level Student:
Charlene Bernadette de Costa

The Colonel RJ Minjoot Award

Sponsored by Gerald Minjoot
2008 Top Eurasian Normal Technical 'N' Level Student:
Dominique Deanne Leicester

The Evelyn Rodrigues Award

Sponsored by Evelyn Rodrigues
2008 Top Eurasian 'O' Level Students:
Rebekah Broughton

The Peggy Wai Chee Leong Award

Sponsored by Herman Hochstadt
2008 Top Eurasian 'A' Level Student:
Aaron Brian Theseira

The Colonel RJ Minjoot Award

Sponsored by Gerald Minjoot
2008 Outstanding Eurasian ITE Student:
David Christopher Pang

The Oscar G da Silva Award

Sponsored by Lawrence da Silva
2008 Top Eurasian Polytechnic Student:
Christopher Andrew Andrade

The Henry David Hochstadt Award

Sponsored by Herman Hochstadt
2008 Top Eurasian University Student:
Crystal Tan Yan Wen

The Claude & Marie da Silva Award

Sponsored by Geoffrey da Silva
2008 Most Improved Eurasian Student:
Melissa Wee Cheng Lian

Outstanding Eurasian Sports Student 2008

Sponsored by Harry Elias
Noah Antony Gregory

Meritorious Eurasian Sports Student 2008

Sponsored by Oscar Oliveira
Claudia Emilia D'Silva

Special Awards

Sponsored by Gerald Minjoot
Stephanie Fawcet Overee

Promoting future role models



Mr Masagos Zulkifli (centre), EA president Edward D'Silva (second from right) and the award winners

A new bursary scheme has been launched to support outstanding students through their college studies.

ACADEMIC ability, leadership and community spirit have brought rewards for four exceptional young Eurasian students, who have received special Merit Bursary Awards from the Eurasian Association to help them with their further education.

The highlight of this year's Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards Ceremony was the inaugural presentation of the Merit Bursary Awards, which are to be given annually to two outstanding polytechnic students and two ITE students. The award covers full tuition fees, books and ancillary expenses to help them pursue their tertiary studies. The recipients are selected based on good academic performance, leadership and community-mindedness.

By identifying deserving and hardworking students worthy of being supported for higher education, the EA aims to develop a strong youth cohort who will be professionally and technically competent to seek rewarding careers in their chosen fields. In addition, it is hoped that they will serve as future youth leaders in the association to inspire others to emulate them and raise the bar of education among Eurasian students.

Merit bursary recipients

Victoria Marilyn Apps – Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Victoria is currently pursuing a Diploma in Accountancy. As a member of the Leo Club, she has visited Villa Francis home for the elderly to chat with and help the residents. She is also a member of the Ngee Ann-ITE Alumni Chapter, and keeps up to date with the new courses available in order to represent the polytechnic during its Open House. A thoughtful young woman, Victoria did well in her Year 1 exams.

Andrew John Welford – Singapore Polytechnic

Andrew is a go-getter. He attended St Michael's Primary School and St Patrick's Secondary School. In 2006, he entered ITE College East. He received the ITE CCA Medal for outstanding achievement in cross-country, the ITE Silver Award in recognition of achievement in the Student Innovation & Quality Circle Competition, and the Gold Award by Spring Singapore for participating in the National IQC Convention 2008. Andrew graduated with a Higher NITEC in Electrical Engineering and is now studying for a Diploma in Electrical Engineering at Singapore Polytechnic.

Lesley Ariel Ho – ITE College West

Lesley was a pupil at St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School. She attended various workshops in order to broaden her knowledge and received several awards. In January 2008, she received an Edusave Scholarship from East Coast Grassroots GRC. The following month, she was selected for Best Academic Performance on the Class Achievers Day. Lesley was the top student in her Normal Technical Level group. She is currently pursuing culinary skills at ITE College West.

Jeremy Jerome Francisco – ITE College West

A bright student, Jeremy participated in community involvement projects, including visiting old people's homes to work and chat. He also belonged to the National Police Cadet Corps. At the same time, he achieved good grades in his 'N' level examinations in 2008 before taking his place at ITE College West, studying Aerospace Machining Technology.

Reaching out to students

AS part of The Eurasian Association's efforts to reach out to more Eurasian students, it has sent out an 'outreach letter' to 31 schools that have a higher-than-average percentage of Eurasian pupils. The letter informs the schools that since officially becoming a self-help group in 1994, the EA has been able to offer more assistance under its educational and family services programmes, which can provide guidance, encouragement and, where needed, financial aid to students, especially those from low-income families.

Diplomatic thoughts



John Leo Caines is looking forward to a career in the elite ranks of Singapore's Public Service

JOHN Leo Caines can look forward to the chance of a glittering career thanks to earning a place in the prestigious ranks of Public Service Commission (PSC) scholars.

Following a stringent selection procedure John, 19, who attended the Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), has been offered a Singapore Government Scholarship (Open). This covers him throughout his undergraduate studies in Arts and Social Sciences in a Singapore university, with an option to continue with postgraduate studies under the same scheme. Thereafter he will join the Singapore Public Service.

John plans to major in Political Science with a minor in English Literature. His ideal

career would be to work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the field of international affairs and diplomacy. However this versatile young man is not limiting his options. He also hopes to be exposed to the various ministries in the Public Service over the course of his career and is even considering taking a Ph.D.

John's advice for any student wanting to excel is to find their passion. "For me, the arts and humanities come naturally, much more so than the sciences and mathematics, and so I focussed on these subjects," he says. "You can certainly obtain excellent grades in subjects you may not be passionate about, but it would be much more of a chore than if you were studying something you genuinely enjoy."

Pupils brush up on their community skills

Students join hands with the Eurasian Association, bringing joy to one of their elderly members and learning the spirit of compassion.



AN elderly lady who lives alone in a one-room flat in Ang Mo Kio has had her life brightened immeasurably, thanks to a group of people exercising true community spirit.

Evelyn Enid Fernandez, 79, who is looked after by the EA's Family Support Services (FSS) and visited each month by volunteer Carol Shepherdson, mentioned that her home needed sprucing up; so Carol approached the EA to rope in a number of willing volunteers in the community to get the job done.

Through its links with Northlight School, the association proposed the idea to Christopher Chee Soon Teck, who coordinates the school's community involvement project. He in turn brought teacher Pauline

Soh on board. Ms Soh and Mrs Fernandez met up and the teacher then assigned six of her bright young students – Muhd Shafiq Fahmi B S, Noor Rasiah Bte Samsudin, Noradlina Bte Abdul Hadi, Xu Ruizhen, Muhd Hafiz Bin Hashim and Mohd Muslih Bin Zaba – to the job.

Even better, Mr Chee even secured the paint for free, thanks to the generous donation by Erica Ong of Home-Fix DIY, who donated the cans of paint in Mrs Fernandez' chosen colour.

Afterwards, a delighted Mrs Fernandez wrote to thank the EA for organising the project and praised the pupils for their clean and efficient work. "I must say that they did a very good job. The flat is now looking clean and bright with the off-white colour paint and I am very happy." She added: "I am very grateful to the Eurasian Association for taking good care of me."

If you would like to volunteer with EA's Family Support Services and have time to spare visiting people who need someone to chat to, contact FSS volunteer coordinator, Florence Adriano, 6447 1578.



A helping hand

COMMUNITY Development Councils (CDCs) set up and manage programmes to help communities to work together. As part of this, they provide job-matching and social assistance schemes.

The Community Care Endowment Fund (ComCare) was established in July 2005 and is divided into three sections: ComCare Grow, ComCare Self-Reliance and ComCare EnAble.

ComCare Grow

Centre-Based Financial Assistance Scheme for Childcare (CFAC): CFAC helps working parents who need to put their children in a childcare centre but have difficulty paying the fees.

Kindergarten Financial Assistance Scheme (KiFAS): Parents who want to place their child in a kindergarten but cannot afford the fees may apply for help under KiFAS, which is available for eligible, non-profit kindergartens. Parents who qualify for the scheme will receive a fee subsidy every month.

Student Care Fee Assistance (SCFA): Student Care Centres (SCCs) provide before- or after-school care for children aged seven to 14. Parents who need to put their child in a student care centre but cannot afford the fees may apply for help under this scheme.

ComCare Self-Reliance

Work Support: Applicants who need assistance to tide them over a difficult period and who are prepared to do their best to help themselves may be eligible to participate in the Work Support Programme.

ComCare Transitions Scheme (CCT): CCT assists those who are temporarily unable to work owing to old age, illness, disability or extenuating circumstances and have little or no family support.

Home Ownership Plus Education (HOPE): HOPE is an incentive scheme to help young, low-income families to keep their families small so they can concentrate their resources on their children and help to break out of the poverty cycle.



ComCare EnAble

Public Assistance Scheme (PA) / Special Grant (SG): These schemes assist those who are unable to work owing to old age, illness or disability and have no means of subsistence or family support.

The CDCs also provide free employment assistance services to retrenched or unemployed residents in their district. These services include job matching, career coaching and training opportunities.

Eurasians who need assistance or would like more information on CDC programmes, please contact the EA's Family Support Services executives Ram or Florence at 6447 1578. Alternatively, if you know of someone who might benefit from assistance, please refer them to us. Further information is also available on www.cdc.org.sg

Lessons in the University of Life

POLYTECHNIC lecturer Joseph Lim and one of his students, Brandon Lum, broadened their education when they accompanied the Eurasian Association's Family Support Services (FSS) volunteers Ong Sern Han and Carol Oliveira on their ration run in August.

The group visited 20 homes in all, stretching from Woodlands to Jurong West, Indus Road, Boon Lay Drive, Clementi Ave, Ghim Moh Road, Tanglin Halt, Mei Ling Street, Lower Delta Road, Telok Blangah Crescent and Jalan Kukoh.

Both Brandon and Joseph admitted that the experience had been an eye-opener – and that they had benefitted from it as much as the recipients. Brandon said: "Volunteering in EA has allowed me to see the other side of things; but more importantly, it has given me the opportunity to help these people." He added: "It was also heartening to see that even though

these families were in need of help, they selflessly offered to help give to others."

Joseph spoke of the importance of exposing the younger generation to the poor and needy in Singapore. He said, "We need to help and appreciate the older generation, who contributed much to Singapore in their earlier years, by putting in some effort to show care and concern within our community. I hope that I can continue to bring more students to let them be aware of this minority group and be sensitive to their needs as they progress through their adulthood."

Every month, volunteers and part-time staff deliver dry groceries, supermarket vouchers and various other packages to families that require assistance. Those who would like to befriend the elderly or deliver rations, please contact Florence at 6447 1578.



Better to give than to receive? Lecturer Joseph Lim and student Brandon Lum find that volunteering with the FSS has its own reward

Celebrating diversity

Joining forces for National Day



Joke couture – the ethnic runway challenge

SINGAPORE'S four community self-help groups (SHGs) organised their first-ever combined National Day observance ceremony hosted by the EA at Eurasian Community House on 3 August and attended by a number of VIPs.

The EA was joined by CDAC, Mendaki and SINDA, and the guest of honour was Minister George Yeo, who represents Eurasians in Cabinet. Also gracing the occasion were the ministers representing the other SHGs – respectively Mr Lim Swee

year's National Day message, Come Together, was much in evidence as familiar traditional songs from various races were sung, the National Pledge was read in the four official languages, and guests got to learn more about one another's culture.

The Kristang Cultural Group from Siglap South CC performed National Day songs in Kristang and a Portuguese folk dance.

An 'ethnic runway challenge' saw EA President Mr Edward D'Silva, strutting on stage as the 'Sultan of Katong' while in the

Say, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim and Dr Balaji Sadasivan. Also attending were EA patron Mr Herman Hochstadt, Mr Christopher de Souza, MP for Holland-Bukit Timah GRC and trustee Mr Timothy de Souza. The event was covered by the national media. Throughout the event, this

Coming Together challenge the audience joined hands with the MPs, including Minister Yeo, to make various shapes to show a gigantic 'ND09'.

The National Day logo was unveiled in the style of a traditional caricature for each of the ethnic groups. Finally, the MPs ceremoniously cut a huge National Day cake, which accompanied the sumptuous buffet spread.



A piece of the action – the ministers and MPs cut the cake

Friendly fun and games



HARMONY through sport was the theme of the National Orange Ribbon Celebrations, held in anticipation of the first Youth Olympic Games, which are to take place in Singapore next August.

The celebrations, staged at Bishan Active outdoor sports centre in July, saw talented athletes demonstrating sports such as weightlifting, judo, handball and sepak tapraw, while visitors had the chance to juggle balls, get to grips with a hockey stick – and bend it like Beckham to score goals on a football pitch.

There was also henna painting and a chance to try out calligraphy. Quentin Pereira represented the EA at the Eurasian food booth and is pictured (centre) with Performing Arts Chapter's (PAC) Eurasiana Dancers, who performed in the evening's cultural show.

The event, which drew some 3,000 people, was a collaboration between several government and community organisations, including OnePeople.sg, which promotes racial harmony, and the Eurasian Association. Minister Mentor Mr Lee Kuan Yew was guest of honour.

Come Together was the message for National Day and recent events involving the EA have had just that theme in mind. On the sports field, parading national dress, dancing, and enjoying the country's favourite pastime – eating – local communities took part in a range of activities that promote individual cultures while bringing us together simply as Singaporeans.



Dr Fatimah Lateef and EA president Edward D'Silva (centre) with EA members and the Eurasiana Dancers

Out of the melting pot

THE nation's annual racial harmony celebrations in July were marked at the Eurasian Association with a Sunday lunch that included a variety of colourful, ethnic activities.

Most guests entered the spirit of the occasion by dressing in their various ethnic costumes. The guest of honour was Dr Fatimah Lateef, MP for Marine Parade GRC, who, together with five of her grassroots leaders, mingled with the 80 guests.

The Joshilley Bhangra dance troupe started the afternoon's performances with an energetic dance. PAC's Eurasiana Dancers entertained with their upbeat version of the Jingkli Nona and showed off two traditional Portuguese folk dances taught by Professor Margarida Moura from Lisbon.

The brunch itself offered cuisines representing the different cultures in Singapore. The EA's very own satay lady was cooking on the spot; there were stringhoppers with delicious chicken curry kindly donated by the Women's Wing and Quentin's, and the best hokkien mee in town. The EA's Majella Oliveira and Stephanie Holland baked a to-die-for

shepherd's pie. A teh tarik and vadai seller 'tarikking' the tea added an impressive visual display to the culinary spread. And Mary Gomes made a sri kaya to provide a delicious Peranakan dessert to finish off the meal.

Still on a culinary theme, Irene Jansen launched her new cookbook with a song and a speech on how and why the book was inspired. It is a book about love and love for cooking, with recipes passed down from her grandmother and mother. This was followed by games galore and a tombola, raffle and plenty of lucky draw prizes given away to ensure that the crowd was entertained until it was time to say 'selamat tinggal', 'zai jian', 'poytu varukirehn' and good-bye!



Members of the Joshilley Bhangra dance troupe

Gourmet get-together

ONE thing all Singaporeans have in common is a love of food. So when the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA) organised its third, annual Multi-Racial Food Festival in July – and this year extended an invitation to the Eurasian Association, Mendaki and SINDA – it was an ideal event at which to promote better understanding and interaction between the nation's major races. Quentin Pereira represented the EA at the event.

Yvonne Pereira said: "Before the actual event, the EA was invited to a press conference to showcase Eurasian cuisine to the Chinese press. Quentin, Dorothy Tessensohn and I attended and we were met by members of the SFCCA's organising committee. As the press conference was in Chinese, the federation's vice general secretary kindly interpreted the conference into English for our benefit."

President SR Nathan and Mrs Nathan were guests of honour at the festival itself, which was held at SFCCA's premises in Toa Payoh. A lion dance launched the event, after which Mr and Mrs Nathan visited all the food booths and then sat down for a lunch, at which Harry Pereira and Yvonne Pereira represented the EA.

Red, white and a multi-coloured rainbow

The Silver Circle's Red & White National Day Celebration Lunch was an afternoon of food, song, dance and fun, reports Yvonne Pereira.



Get down and boogie: red and white meets colourful kebayas in an afternoon of fine food, song, dance and games

AN array of Singapore flags, red and white balloons and flowers decked the hall of the Eurasian Community House to provide a colourful, patriotic backdrop for the Silver Circle's Red & White National Day Celebration Lunch on 30 August.

More than 160 members and guests attended the event, including friends from the Peranakan Association, the National Crime Prevention Council and Hougang Community Centre, and even visitors from Malaysia and Australia.

Eurasian Association President Edward D'Silva welcomed Vice-President of the Peranakan Association Mr Peter Wee, before making his way round the tables to greet the other guests as they enjoyed a lavish Eurasian lunch prepared by Quentin Pereira.

PAC's very own Eurasiana Dancers put on a spectacular performance and Vanessa Garnell got guests on their feet to learn the finer steps of traditional Portuguese dance. The Peranakan Voices in their colourful sarongs and kebayas captivated the audience with their rendition of local songs – and persuaded some guests on to the dance floor to *joget* with them.

Surprise guest Robert Fernando serenaded the crowd with old favourites such as Moon River and Misty – and encouraged the guests to form a chorus line for the final New York, New York. Cedric, a versatile one-man band, kept the crowd on their feet and when space ran out on the small dance floor, guests happily sashayed down the aisle...

Organised games gave people a chance to get to know one another better and attractive prizes – generously donated by Far East Organization, Lionel de Souza, Quentin Pereira and other well-wishers – meant that many guests went home with more than just happy memories.



Lanette Stuart leading guests in the Portuguese dance

 Silversea

A new horizon is yours



Singapore Property Market Update Seminar

Is this the best time to purchase your dream home?
This is the question on many would-be purchasers' minds.

Far East Organization would like to invite you to join us as we share our insights on the real estate market and provide an update on the investment opportunities available to you.

ADMISSION IS FREE
Buffet lunch will be provided

Date:
31 October, Saturday

Time:
11am to 2pm

Venue:
Eurasian Community House
139 Ceylon Road
Singapore 429744
Level 2 – Multi-Purpose Hall

Please RSVP to Patch Tan @ 64471578 or patch@eurasians.org



Far East Organization
INSPIRING BETTER LIVES

Mentoring Young Leaders Network celebrates first anniversary

Young professionals build the EA of the future.

IN CELEBRATION of the first anniversary of the EA Mentoring Young Leaders Network (MYLN), a group of 16 young professionals and adults gathered at the Eurasian Community House museum for its second Network Night on 19 September 2009.

MYLN was formally launched at the ECF Awards in September 2008 and has grown from a small group to a network of more than 70 young professionals and adults. Over the past year, it has actively reached out to Eurasian students by organising tea sessions at institutions such as NUS and Republic Polytechnic. Through Network Night 2008, its Christmas party *Le Reseau* and the monthly *Chillout@Starbucks*, the group has engaged new members and forged stronger friendships with its existing members. MYLN has started its very own column, *Just for YOUTH*, in the *New Eurasian* to feature the views of young professionals on various topics of interest.

MYLN's highlight for 2009 was the event, *What's Next? Exploring Post-Secondary Options*, which was targeted at upper secondary students and parents of all races. For this event, members of MYLN were even featured on live radio – *The Living Room* on 938 Live.

Network Night 2009 was a celebration of MYLN's achievements in the past year and a fun evening of networking



for new and existing MYLN members. During the evening, the young Eurasians also reflected on the directions they would like MYLN to take and also suggested activities to engage other young Eurasian professionals and adults. The group was encouraged to see more new faces eager to be 'plugged into' the Eurasian community via MYLN. The group would like to thank everyone in the Eurasian community for its support and strives to engage more young professionals and aspiring Eurasian young adults with the long-term view of nurturing the next generation of young leaders in the years ahead.

MYLN reaches out to Eurasian undergraduates at NUS



Learning curve: members of the EA meet Eurasian students at the NUS

EA representatives met students at the National University of Singapore (NUS) during a tea session on 20 August to reach out to Eurasian undergraduates and postgraduates.

Mr Zaf Coelho of the EA and Ms Sybil Rocha of the Mentoring Young Leaders Network (MYLN), a sub-committee of the EA Youth Chapter, gave a short introduction to the EA and MYLN

respectively to undergraduates and postgraduates at NUS. The event was also graced by EA President Mr Edward D'Silva.

A lively discussion took place with the students and staff over light refreshments, during which many of the students expressed interest in becoming involved in MYLN's activities. EA members were pleased to learn that there is an increasing number of Eurasians pursuing courses in the fields of medicine and sciences.

Everyone had a good time and looked forward to more opportunities to reach out to fellow Eurasians in the tertiary institutions in future. Special thanks to Professor Tan Ern Ser and his team at the NUS Office of Student Affairs for hosting the tea session.

For further information about the Mentoring Young Leaders Network, contact Sybil Rocha at sybil.rocha@gmail.com.

Young professionals launch inter-racial networking dialogue

YOUNG professionals in Singapore's four self-help groups (SHGs) – the EA, CDAC, Mendaki and SINDA – are due to meet committee members of the Mentoring Young Leaders Network (MYLN) to set up an inter-racial young professionals dialogue.

They will explore the possibility of setting up regular meetings between the various SHGs' young professional committees – with each taking it in turns to host the get-togethers – in order to facilitate networking and collaboration for the benefit of all four SHGs.

A sense of belonging

A surprise question from a stranger led Charlene Lee to a huge new circle of friends. She explains how.

“ARE you Eurasian?” These three words jolted me out of my daydream and back into reality as Yvonne Pereira shook my hand and introduced herself.

I was hosting an event at work and Yvonne was one of the guests.

A small part of me was saying, “Be polite, then walk away”! But for the most part, I was drawn to the magnetic Eurasian friendliness that immediately made me feel like I was chatting with an old friend – a familiarity that is hard to find anywhere else.

I suppose Yvonne’s three simple introductory words sealed the deal for me. The next thing I knew, I was hosting an ECF Education awards ceremony

and being introduced around like I was a regular part of the EA family.

My volunteering was always in small parts: help with this event; host that activity. But each event made me want more.

Perhaps it was the fact that I was finally contributing to a community I actually felt I belonged in, or perhaps it’s simply because Eurasians are a contagious, gregarious bunch. Whatever the reason, being a volunteer with the Eurasian Association has enriched my life in so many ways, from making new friends to finding new family relations.

So thanks, Yvonne, for those three words: “Are you Eurasian?”



Charlene Lee puts on the glamour for an EA event

Dancing queen

Lanette Conceicao (née Stuart), loving wife, nurturing mum and great cook, now adds tireless dancer, volunteer and incisive committee member to her résumé. The head of dance at EA’s Performing Arts Chapter explains how she got involved.

I USED TO make a quick exit after dropping off my daughter for choir practice at the EA, wary of getting dragged into helping with umpteen events.

Then one day, I heard the choir’s lovely voices and decided to help chaperone the kids. Before long I was hooked. The passion and enthusiasm shown by PAC’s (Performing Arts Chapter) members in representing the Eurasian community was too infectious.

Two years later, I was thrown a challenge when the EA was invited to join the Chingay festival. We only had a struggling dance group of four or five girls, but they were proud to represent our community, so we reached out to other volunteers and put together 30 people with assistance from St Anthony’s Canossian Secondary’s percussion band. The entire crew had a blast, so we signed on for the following year.

At Chingay 2008, they went in with 80 volunteers and a float. Though we’d had our basic costumes tailored, I spent three months sewing beads and sequins into them... I was very proud to represent the Eurasians as one of the lead dancers up on the main stage, alongside my daughter Sarah and our PAC volunteers.

The icing on the cake came when PAC’s dancers were asked to perform at Eurasiana – A Musical Tribute, at the Esplanade, celebrating EA’s 90th anniversary. The glitz, glamour and experience of performing on a stage with the likes of Jeremy Monteiro, Alemy Fernandez, Brian Richmond was a dream come true.

These days, our Eurasiana dancers perform at EA’s events and teach traditional Portuguese folk dance to various schools

and institutions – and we have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to learn from Margarida Moura, a professor of dance from Lisbon.

I am addicted to the PAC now. Our young dancers and I are looking forward to Chingay 2010. It is going to be one giant party as we fly the EA flag, doing the samba at the carnival on the F1 track!

The PAC is recruiting volunteers for the event, so please contact Patch Tan at 6447 1578 to sign up!



Dancing duo: Lanette Conceicao and daughter Sarah

Sara schooled to give top-class advice

SARA DE SOUZA, principal of SJI Junior and the newest member of the EA’s Education Advisory Panel, is well positioned to take on her new role.

Sara, who has a BA (Hons) in English Literature from NUS and a Masters in Educational Management from NTU, says she is “honoured” to have been asked to be part of the panel. In her new capacity, she hopes to understand the educational needs of EA’s youth and help them to realise their potential. She believes strongly that “education and life-long learning are the keys to sustained self-improvement and the ability to contribute to society”.

Sara also enjoys reading, baking, shopping and travelling. In addition to her volunteer work with the EA, she helps out with the youth choir and the Holy Hour group in the Church of St Francis Xavier.

New government ruling gives boost to Eurasian community

The rules for children of Asian-European marriages are now to be interpreted more flexibly.

THE huge intake of Western workers in recent years has led to a new wave of marriages between expats and locals, bringing with it the opportunity to rethink existing rules on the race of their offspring.

At an annual Eurasian Association dinner, Minister George Yeo brought up the issue of the children of such marriages and how this presented an opportunity for the Eurasian community to open its arms to members of different Euro-Asian cultures. Eurasian MP Christopher de Souza (Holland-Bukit Timah GRC) then raised the matter in Parliament on 18 August 2009 by asking the following parliamentary question:

Would the Minister for Education consider allowing children of European-Asian marriages to be classified as Eurasians for the purposes of registration into Primary One and, if so, would he confirm that the race of such children would be recorded as 'Eurasian' and not 'Others'?

Senior Minister of State for Education Mr S Iswaran, replied: "The current practice is that a child's race generally follows that of the father. If the father is a Eurasian, the child's race will be recorded as 'Eurasian'. Where one parent is European and the other is Asian, the child's race by default will be recorded following the race of the father. However, in such a case, the race of the child can also be recorded as 'Eurasian' if both parents so desire."

"While the Ministry of Education is not the authority for the registration of citizens, our schools can facilitate such requests for change of race. This can happen at key points including when such information is being verified for school admission formalities. For example, parents are asked to verify their child's personal particulars, including race, prior to starting Primary One, or when students enter our school system mid-stream. Both parents need to indicate consent and show the necessary supporting documentation. The schools will then update the records accordingly and also convey the changes to the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA)."

"On the second point raised by Mr de Souza, I want to clarify that 'Others' is not a race classification. The term 'Others' is used by the Department of Statistics and other agencies in the presentation of statistical data by race, usually to denote all other races apart from Chinese, Malay and Indian."

In a supplementary question, Mr de Souza asked: "Would MOE liaise with MHA when the student having entered into Primary One comes to the vesting age for his IC because it is at that point that the race is recorded officially in an official document? And if he has called himself a Singaporean Eurasian for nine years before that, would MOE liaise with ICA so that he will continue to identify himself as a Singapore Eurasian?"

Mr Iswaran replied: "Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said in my reply, certainly when the student and his or her parents make their preferences known to MOE during the admission process, or rather the key times during their school education, that will be recorded by MOE and also conveyed to ICA. And I will assume that at the age of 15 when it comes time for the IC to be recorded with the race identification, MOE will also similarly have the

records but I would say that the parents of the students equally have an obligation. Having conveyed their preferences clearly to the Ministry, and the Ministry is of course in liaison with ICA and MHA, I think there is an equal obligation on the part of the parents and the students to ensure that their preferences are actually reflected."

"Where one parent is European and the other is Asian... the race of the child can also be recorded as 'Eurasian' if both parents so desire"

Mr Michael Palmer (Pasir Ris-Ponggol GRC) also requested clarification by asking the following question: "Firstly, when it comes to the age of 15 and the MOE liaises with the ICA, that will be the obligation on the parents, but will there will be a sort of an opt-in or opt-out system in terms of the race? So, if they have opted in at Primary One for Eurasian, will there be a need for them to proactively again opt at the point of registration for the IC? And, secondly, if we are looking nine years down the road, how will we implement this process of registration when they turn 15?"

Mr Iswaran: "Essentially, the liaison between MOE and MHA occurs at the point of information being communicated to MOE. I would say, at the age of 15, that is a critical point and, in fact, ICA is the body which actually records the identity by race. So, I think it is quite incumbent upon parents and families as well to ensure that whilst they have communicated their preferences to MOE and MOE will in turn communicate that, and this will be reflected in both the Ministries' records, it is quite important that the parents and the students reflect their preferences once again at that point. Because it is possible that from the time of Primary One to the time when the child is of age 15, there may be a change of opinion, as this is by mutual consent of both parents, and therefore it is quite important that the parents communicate that point clearly at that point as well. I just want to make the point that it is not about opt in or opt out, it is more about ensuring a very important part of the IC reflects accurately the preferences of the parents and the child."

Mr Edward D'Silva, president of the Eurasian Association, welcomed the new ruling: "I believe this will give a greater sense of identity to a growing number of young and new Eurasians and will help foster a greater spirit among our small but important Singapore community," he said.

An anonymous war hero

As the world marks the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War in Europe, Singaporean historian John Kwok has written a paper that reflects on the impact of the war on Singapore. Titled *The Singaporean National Identity and Me*, it makes special reference to the war contribution of local Eurasians. The following is an adapted extract.

LIKE OTHER nations, Singapore has its own war heroes, among them Lim Bo Seng, Elizabeth Choy and Lieutenant Adnan bin Saidi of the Malay Regiment. And the British surrender of Singapore, on 15 February 1942, has led to one of the rites of passage for young Singaporean men – National Service – and an acceptance that the defence of Singapore cannot be left to others.

If our national identity in Singapore is shaped by our war history and our war heroes, how can a small Eurasian community be represented in Singapore's wartime past when it does not appear to have a legendary war hero of its own?

To be sure, there were notable Eurasian personalities in the Malayan and Singapore Eurasian community during the Japanese Occupation. Sybil Kathigasu was a Eurasian nurse in Ipoh, who provided aid to the Malayan anti-Japanese resistance movement. She was arrested and, despite being tortured, refused to cooperate with the Japanese.

In the Singapore Eurasian community, Dr Charles Paglar was appointed by the Japanese to lead the Eurasian Welfare Association. Dr Paglar was known to go above and beyond the call of duty to treat anyone who came to him, regardless of nationality or social status – and even used his own money to buy medicine for his patients. His selfless contributions endeared him to many, and not only the Eurasian community. However after the war, the British alleged that he had been involved with a Japanese-sponsored organisation. Despite his exemplary work



Model of the colony where Eurasians were sent in the war

during the war, he is seldom mentioned in the same vein as other Singapore war heroes.

And buried beneath Singapore's popular wartime stories are other stories that are seldom heard but are no less important to our national identity. The story of one Eurasian soldier called David (not his real name) is one of them. David's family were refugees from Malacca during the Japanese invasion of Malaya in December 1941; his father had been a volunteer with the Straits Settlements Volunteer Corps. After the family arrived in Singapore, David, still a teenager, volunteered with the Singapore Volunteer Corps (SVC). At first his mother objected but, after countless appeals, she relented.

He was assigned to a communications unit and after 10 days of training, he and his unit were sent to Kulai in Johore to provide communications support between the Australia, Indian, and Ghurkha units deployed there. Although his unit was sited two miles from the front, many volunteers felt the strain of the battle. Some even deserted. Unable to hold the line, all the British and Commonwealth troops retreated to Singapore. David and his unit were then redeployed at the Chinese High School, where they began bayonet-fighting drills in preparation for a final stand against the Japanese. On the night of 13 February 1942, the Chinese High School came under a fierce Japanese attack. An order was given to fire their rifles in the general direction where the Japanese were thought to be. Volley after volley of shots were fired into the darkness.

However, their last stand would not be at the Chinese High School; they were ordered to retreat once more, this time to the



Stamford Girls' School. On 14 February, David's

commanding officer

mustered the men and made a short speech: "Although I must appreciate your devotion to duty and your loyalty by standing with us right up to this very last moment here in the Stamford Girls' School... now you can go back to your homes, to your families."

David's volunteer unit was disbanded. The British surrendered a day later.

Starting like all Eurasians, David and his family were screened by the Japanese at the Singapore Recreation Club and had to wear a red tag that identified them as 'enemy aliens' during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore. When the war ended, David immediately volunteered for service again. He and 30 other Eurasian volunteers were assigned to a parachute division in Singapore to assist in the transitional phase of the administration of Singapore. David was demobilised in June 1946 and was awarded four medals for his contributions to the war effort.

The story of our Eurasian soldier and the accounts of many others like him are seldom featured in Singapore. His story was not the archetypal narrative of a Singapore war hero. But such stories should not be forgotten. There is a strong message embedded within them: volunteerism. The recent success of Eurasiana demonstrates that the Eurasian community still embodies the spirit of volunteerism. Indeed, it is a legacy that the Eurasian community brings to the Singaporean national identity.

Like all Eurasians, David and his family had to wear a red tag that identified them as 'enemy aliens'.

Chronicler of Eurasian life

Rex Shelley 1930 – 2009



Rex Shelley, whose novels document Eurasian life in Singapore

REX Anthony Shelley, award-winning author of novels on the Eurasian community and a long-serving member of the Public Service Commission (PSC), passed away in the Assisi Hospice in Thompson Road in August. He was 78.

Mr Shelley was an engineer and did not start writing until later in life, yet his first book, *The Shrimp People*, published when he was 61, brought him immediate literary acclaim when it won top prize in the National Book Development Council's awards in 1992. Within the

decade, he had published a further three novels – *People of the Pear Tree*, *Island in the Centre* and *A River of Roses* – to create a quartet that gives a unique insight into Singapore's Eurasian history. In the same decade, he also published three non-fiction books.

Born in the country in 1930, he gained an honours degree in chemistry from the University of Malaya, then studied engineering and economics at Cambridge University.

He served on the PSC for more than 30 years, where he was renowned for his astute interviewing techniques.

Edward D'Silva, president of the Eurasian Association, who served for a year with Mr Shelley on the PSC, said: "He had the ability to read people accurately and could quickly spot those with potential." He also recalls the author's wry sense of humour. Visiting Mr Shelley recently at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, he asked him whether he had finished his latest book (a biography of his uncle, the Eurasian gynaecologist Charles Paglar). "He told me 'Habis!', which of course is not only the Malay for 'finished' but also slang for 'hopeless'."

Mr Shelley is survived by his wife, three children, six grandchildren and two sisters.

The Eurasian quartet is published by Times Books International. Marshall Cavendish has republished *The Shrimp People* and *Sounds and Sins of Singlish*. The Straits Times Press is the publisher of the biography on Charles Paglar.

Information courtesy of *The Straits Times*.

Pooling their talents



Marcus worked to improve his personal best times – and won a Bronze medal in Singapore

YOUNG swimming siblings Bianca and Marcus Goetz are making a splash on the international swimming scene, both bringing home medals in recent Asian competitions.

The children compete with the British International School swimmers, known as the BIS Flying Fish. At the Asian Age Group Championships in Tokyo in August, 14-year-old Bianca, our magazine's cover girl in July 2008, won a Gold medal in the 1500m freestyle, topping the Silver medal she collected two months earlier in the South East Asian Age Group Swimming Championships 800m race in KL.

She says of her most recent success: "I felt ecstatic! It made me think that all that hard work, training day in and out, is so worth it and pays off!"

Earlier in the year, younger brother Marcus, now 11, competed in the Asean Inter Club Group Championships at Singapore Sports School. Taking part in seven events in the 10 years and under group, he smashed his own personal best in six of them and won the Bronze medal for the 200m freestyle. He says: "Whenever I go for a race I am always hoping that I will do well and improve my personal best times. It's fantastic to walk away from any race with a medal!"

The children live with parents Ralph and Denise, who have homes in Phuket and Singapore. The youngsters put in long hours to compete at this level: Bianca, who is hoping to become a future Olympian swims up to 18 hours a week, covering more than 60km and Marcus swims for about 11 hours, notching up some 40km.



Golden girl Bianca Goetz (centre), with her Gold medal in Tokyo

Write minded



Judith D'Silva – Eurasian and so Singaporean

GIFTED communicator Judith K D'Silva has been awarded a National Day honour for her role in national education and strategic communications. She will receive the Public Service Administration Medal (Bronze) in November.

Judith works in MINDEF, where she holds two deputy director posts – in Nexus and the Public Affairs Department.

She has always been attracted to work that requires a lot of reading and writing and her appreciation of good writing came from her headmaster father who, she said, did not tolerate sloppiness in written and spoken English. Despite two busy jobs that involve both serious and creative writing, Judith has found time to serve on the committee of the Speak Good English Movement.

And, in addition, there is a fun side to her creative abilities that has found her recent fame on YouTube. She is behind the words of the catchy song Things So Singaporean – which has attracted more than 45,000 viewers, and has been dubbed 'the other NDP song' by The Straits Times.

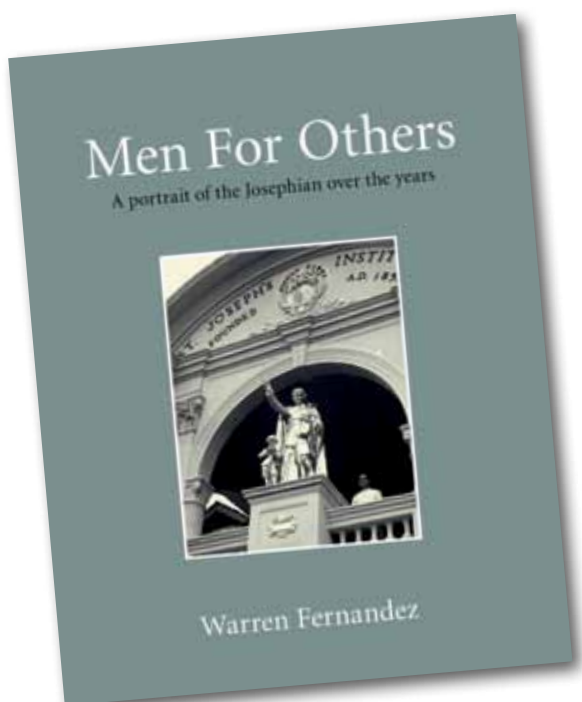
She is proud of her Eurasian heritage (her brother Edward is president of the Eurasian Association) and said that she had always wanted to write a song about Singapore in a way people could relate to. "I also wanted all Singaporeans to be able to sing it and I am happy that school children are singing it," she said. "That many people have voted it as an NDP song goes to show that they agree with its 'Singaporean-ness'," she added.

Music also keeps Judith active in church. An alto in the choir, she also plays guitar with her friend Deborah Mae as part of a gospel ministry. The two appear frequently at gospel rallies, church anniversaries, weddings, wakes, hospital bedsides and old folks' homes. She has overseen the production of CDs recorded by Deborah, and in one of these recordings she worked with Ann Hussein, who wrote the music and sang the song for Things So Singaporean.

Salute to SJI



IN THIS NEW BOOK on St Joseph's Institution (SJI), government ministers rub shoulders with tailors and cooks. The 171-page book is written by SJI old boy Warren Fernandez, who is regional director (Asia Pacific) of communications strategy at Shell. The book provides insights into the renowned school – founded by the De La Salle Brothers in 1852 – and profiles 50 of its varied alumni, ranging from Dr Tony Tan, George Yeo and Teo Chee Hean to DBS Bank managing director Bernard Tan, Bishop Paul Tan, sportsman Rudy Mosbergen and Makansutra founder KF Seetoh. It costs \$50 and is available from major bookstores.



Sweet success

Cook and author Mary Gomes begins a new chapter in her entrepreneurial culinary career.



A woman with taste: Mary in her café

MARY GOMES learned to cook at her mother's knee, helping her around the kitchen, and preparing special dishes with her for the family at weekends. Her love of food has led to two cookbooks – The Eurasian Cookbook and Mary's Kitchen, a celebration of Singapore's multi-cultural cuisine.

Until three years ago, she ran a small business from home, fulfilling her passion supplying clients with baked delicacies such as nonya and continental cakes.

But then she was introduced to the café owner at the Singapore Council of Women's Associations (SCWO) through a friend at church; the café was soon a regular name in her order book – and when the owner had to sell up, she suggested that Mary take over.

"At that time, I was not too keen as I was used to doing my baking from home and it was faring quite well," admits Mary. "I turned down her offer a few times, but in spite of that she still pestered and submitted my name to the management of SCWO."

So Mary turned from home baker to successful café owner until the premises was converted to another use in February. And already another opportunity was already simmering; café customers included pastors at Kum Yan Methodist Church, who invited her to open a café at the church. After overseeing renovations to the premises, Mary's Kafe opened for business at the Kum Yan Methodist Church at 1 Queen Street on 1 September; since then she's barely paused for breath.

But she says: "I hope that someone in my family will continue in my footsteps and keep up the tradition of our Eurasian cuisine."

A truly multi-cultural perspective



Cheryl Marie Cordeiro enjoys the best of East and West

CHERYL MARIE CORDEIRO, former beauty queen and current academic, has this year graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Gothenberg in Sweden with a thesis that compares the management styles between her adopted country Sweden, where she is a PR, and her native Singapore.

"I came to notice that there were many foreigners coming to Singapore to set up and run Asian market head offices. Among those were many Swedish organisations. Based on Singapore's financial and economic strength, it was apparent that these foreign companies were part of what made Singapore a successful business hub," she said.

Her curiosity led her to get in touch with businessman Jan-Erik Nilsson, who lived in Sweden. As one of the founders of the East-Indiaman Gotheborg III ship, it was Jan-Erik who encouraged her research plans, and in 2002 she left Singapore for Sweden to begin her doctoral studies. Four years later, she and Jan-Erik married.

The talented Eurasian has a BA (Hons) from the National University of Singapore and graduated in 2000 with two separate masters degrees: an MA in

English Language from NUS and an MSc in Information Studies from Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

As if she wasn't busy enough with her studies during her undergrad days, she also took time to represent Singapore at the International Miss Universe Pageant in Trinidad and Tobago in 1999. Around that time, she also appeared as an actress in the MediaCorp TV's series Brand New Towkay. But her passion for academic research never waned, and she returned to academia.

She hopes her thesis, Swedish management in Singapore: a discourse analysis study, will help Swedish executives doing business in Singapore to better understand the culture here and will also "show how different cultural backgrounds can make or break any cross-national deal, however brilliant things look on paper".

As well as her academic life Cheryl, who speaks Swedish and Mandarin in addition to English, keeps a fusion blog on her Northern European experiences, writing on fashion, food, travel and lifestyle at www.cmariec.com/blog

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Sharing the same goal

TO THE KIDS chasing around the pitch, attacking, defending, passing and – on occasion – scoring a goal to rousing cheers, it was just a great football tournament.

But beyond a terrific day out was a further goal – to foster racial harmony through sport. The North East Racial Harmony Soccer Tournament, Bryan Davenport and Freddy Fox Cups, now in its fourth year, has made a name for itself among the island's soccer academies for its broad-based participation, excitement and fun for the children and parents and, most of all, as a great demonstration of racial integration.

Some 240 children, forming 26 teams, took part in the tournament organised by the Eurasian Association and North East Community Development Council (NECDC).

All the participants received a goodie bag with apples and bananas, were treated to a McDonald's meal and, for dessert, a piece of sugee cake.

The tournament was graced by guest of honour, Mr Zainul

Abidin Rasheed, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and MP for Aljunied GRC, Mrs Jennifer Fox, wife of the late Mr Freddy Fox, and Mr Humphrey Conceicao, who presented respectively the Bryan Davenport Cup for under 13s, Freddy Fox Cup for under 11s and Harmony Cup for under nines.

Behind the scenes, the support of the many parent volunteers from the Eurasian Association Soccer School, who are themselves a multi-racial group, ensured that the day was a huge success for both participants and spectators.



High rollers

AFTER an eight-month competition, Zoe Lazaroo has been declared the Eurasian Association's In-house Balut Tournament 2009 champion.

At the final round, held in the Platinum Lounge on 4 September, she notched up her overall best six scores of 3,595 points to claim the challenge trophy, a bottle of wine and a balut cup. First and second runners-up, respectively Yvonne Pereira and Philomena Nonis, each won a bottle of wine.

A balut cup also went to Joyce Cordeiro, winner of the highest aggregate score and Veronica Ann, highest scorer in a single game. Evelyn Rodrigues presented the prizes.

Monthly champions were respectively: Zoe Lazaroo, Joan Pereira, Lorraine Bligh and Veronica Ann (tied), Joyce Cordeiro, Sheila Berlee, Helen Joseph, Martha Shepherdson and – breaking the women's dominance – Philip Cordeiro, tied with Winnifred Filmer.

With friendly rivalry came socialising, thanks to generous contributions from Mrs Evelyn Rodrigues (who sponsored the set-up of EA's Balut Section), Terence Shepherdson, Harry Pereira, Christine Clunies-Ross, Philip and Joyce Cordeiro and Zoe Lazaroo (sponsors of the wine at each event), secretariat members Sugiman Rahmat, Lorraine Bligh, Patch Tan, Florence Adriano and Cecilia Sim (who helped with the logistics) and Quentin Pereira (who provided refreshments at special rates).



Screen and heard



Rachel's new venture is a clever and harmonious blend of art and science

STUDENT Rachel Linn Vera Braberry has combined computer science with artistic talent to produce an animation sequence to accompany a live orchestral piece.

Rachel, a current year two student at Temasek Informatics & IT School, who is taking a Diploma in Interactive Media Informatics, has produced her work in collaboration with Singapore Wind Symphony Youth Wing.

The process – called Press Play ii – involves an interactive media artist creating computer-generated visual accompaniments to the music. The computer animations are synchronised in real-time to the live performance, making music and image flow together in perfect harmony.

Rachel says: "This collaboration project with Singapore Wind Symphony Youth Wing has been a thoroughly exhausting, yet enriching experience. This project has not only helped me in improving my knowledge in animation, but also allowed me to broaden my horizons by thinking out of the box."

For further information on the concert on 31 October, visit: <http://pressplay2.iminds.sg>



Dancing for the children

MORE than 100 line dance enthusiasts from all over Singapore showed up at the Eurasian Community House's multi-purpose hall on 25 July. The dancers did what they love best and at the same time contributed to a good cause.

The Line Dance Jamboree was organised by a group of eight families (most of whom are EA members) to raise funds to support the Children of Pai – some 400 impoverished hill tribe children living in an orphanage located in the remote highlands of north-west Thailand near

the Myanmar border.

Thanks to the generosity of the line dancers \$1,407 was raised to help defray the cost of a new dormitory for the boys which is currently under construction.

A similar event last year raised funds to buy new mosquito nets and rice for the children.

For more information on the PAI Project please contact Vernon Carroll at vernon_carroll@ntucclub.com.sg or Burton Westerhout at bmwester@singnet.com.sg

90 years and going strong

The Eurasian Association celebrates a long, proud history of community service.

SOME 300 guests gathered to mark the best of past and present when they attended the Eurasian Association's 90th anniversary celebrations at the Singapore Swimming Club in July. It was an event replete with good food, lively music – and poignant nostalgia.

Following a mass meeting in June 1919, the EA held its first general meeting on 27 November that year when it elected Newbold B Westerhout as its first president. The Straits Times reported on the meeting, noting that in the intervening five months 182 members had been elected to the association. The descendents of many of those early members are now active in the association today.

At this year's anniversary dinner, the association played host to five very special guests – senior Eurasians aged 89 years and above, who were among 21 in that age group to be invited: Gerard Clarke, Marie D'Silva, Helen de Souza, Florence Miller and Joseph Rozario. Of these, the



eldest lady and gentleman present – Mrs de Souza, 95, and Mr Clarke, 91, cut the anniversary cake to launch the party.

It was a time to remember those who had built up the association and special tributes for past contributions were made to the 15 members of the EA management committee that had kept the association afloat in the face of dwindling membership, resources and morale through the 1980s: Thomas Albuquerque (deceased); Ronnie Barth (deceased); Aloysius de Rozario; Paul Desker; Kenneth Eber (deceased); Arthur W Fox; Rene Fernando; Shelton Fernando; Patrick Grosse; Trevor Hale; Claire McIntyre; Austin Pereira; Horace



Pinto; Kathleen Woodford (deceased) and Lionel Zuzarte.

Six stalwarts who contributed to the rebuilding of the association through the 1990s, who have since passed on, also merited special mention: EW Barker, Bryan Davenport, Joseph Tessensohn, Kathleen Woodford, Fred Fox and Ernest Marsh. And, not least of all, three "current unsung service contributors": Helen Joseph, Walter Pinto and Dixie Ferdinands.

Once the formalities were over and dinner consumed, the band That's Life struck up, supported by DJ Jude Paul. And, in true Eurasian style, the dance floor stayed full until it was time to go home.

An enjoyably 'Bad' night

FANS of Michael Jackson gathered at Eurasian Community House on 28 August (the day before what would have been his 51st birthday) to commemorate the life of the late King of Pop.

In an ambience emblazoned with pictures of the star – and his Thriller video – the night began with a Eurasian spread at Quentin's. DJ Bernard spun Michael Jackson discs, MJ imitators entertained

with slick performances of his complex dance routines and the fans puzzled over questions in the Jacko-themed trivia quizzes. Winner of the best spontaneous MJ impersonator competition was 13-year-old Cheyenne who – fittingly – shares Jackson's birthday.

The final touch? White gloves for sale – to help dance the night away with the star's trademark look.



Beat it? Or I want you back? Fans do their Jacko impersonations

National Day reception at the Istana



Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and Mrs Goh meet (from left to right) Edward D'Silva, Lorraine Ess-Sim and Sybil Rocha at the Istana

IN celebration of Singapore's 44th birthday, President SR Nathan and Mrs Nathan hosted a National Day reception at the Istana on 10 August.

Representatives from the Eurasian Association were invited to this annual event, which was attended by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. Cabinet ministers, Members of Parliament, community and grassroots leaders were also present. Members enjoyed a great time meeting the various distinguished guests that evening.

RIEM DE WOLF of the **BLUE DIAMONDS**
BRIAN RICHMOND
WENDY BARBER

GOLDEN MEMORIES CHRISTMAS CONCERT
VICTORIA THEATRE
 21st December 7.30pm

This Christmas enjoy a glorious musical evening with an unending singalong!

BELOVED BRIAN RICHMOND PERSONALLY HOSTING:

Riem de Wolff of the Blue Diamonds celebrates 50 golden years of Ramona, In a Little Spanish Town, O Carol! and you will gladly remember them all

Tickets at \$30, \$40, \$50, \$60 from **SISTIC**
 HOTLINE 62485555

Silver Circle's Christmas Dinner & Dance
 Saturday, 12 December 2009
 7.00pm to 11.30pm

Price: \$35 Per Person
 Live Band
 Great Music and Entertainment
 Attractive Prizes
 Dress Code: Christmas Colours

Closing Date/Payment Date: 22nd November 2009
 For reservation and enquiries, please contact Lorraine Bligh @ 6447 1578

THE EURASIAN ASSOCIATION, SINGAPORE
 Eurasian Community House
 138 Cayton Road, Singapore 439748
 Tel: 6447 1578 Fax: 6447 2180 www.eurasians.org

Samba to the beat at Chingay 2010

Be part of one of the highlights of our social calendar! Come learn the samba as you join EA's contingent of energetic and fun-loving performers at Chingay on 19 and 20 February 2010, held on the F1 track!

Classes and practice sessions at EA. No experience required – only energy in your blood, music in your heart and rhythm in your soul! For further details contact Patch Tan, tel: 6447 1578 or e-mail Patch@eurasians.org, or visit www.chingay.org.sg



Family Christmas Carnival

Date: 19 December 2009
 Time: 10.00am to 5.00pm
 Tickets: \$10 per booklet

Highlights of the day

- Food and Christmas Goodies
- Entertainment by Various Artists
- Tombola
- Song request
- Raffle and Lucky Draw

Book early to avoid disappointment
 For booking, contact Lorraine Bligh at 6447 1578
 Stall rental : \$50.00

Children's Christmas Treat

Date: 19 December 2009
 Time: 1.00pm – 3.00pm
 Tickets: \$15 per booklet

(Inclusive of McDonald's Happy Meal, ice cream, candy floss, Santa's Surprise, bouncy castle, and face painting)



Masquerade Soiree

AT THE EURASIAN ASSOCIATION'S
NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

2009

Shangri-La Hotel Tower Ballroom, Thursday 31st December 2009 6pm

Tickets are Available Now

Tickets at \$130 RSVP by 19th December 2009
(Inclusive of lucky draw and early bird specials for the first 10 tables booked and paid)

Band: LaChica Go ♦ Emcee/Dee-jay: Brian Lune

Complimentary corkage ♦ Children under 16 not allowed ♦ Dress code: Formal

For enquiries, please contact Lorraine Bligh at 6447 1578 Eurasian Association Singapore