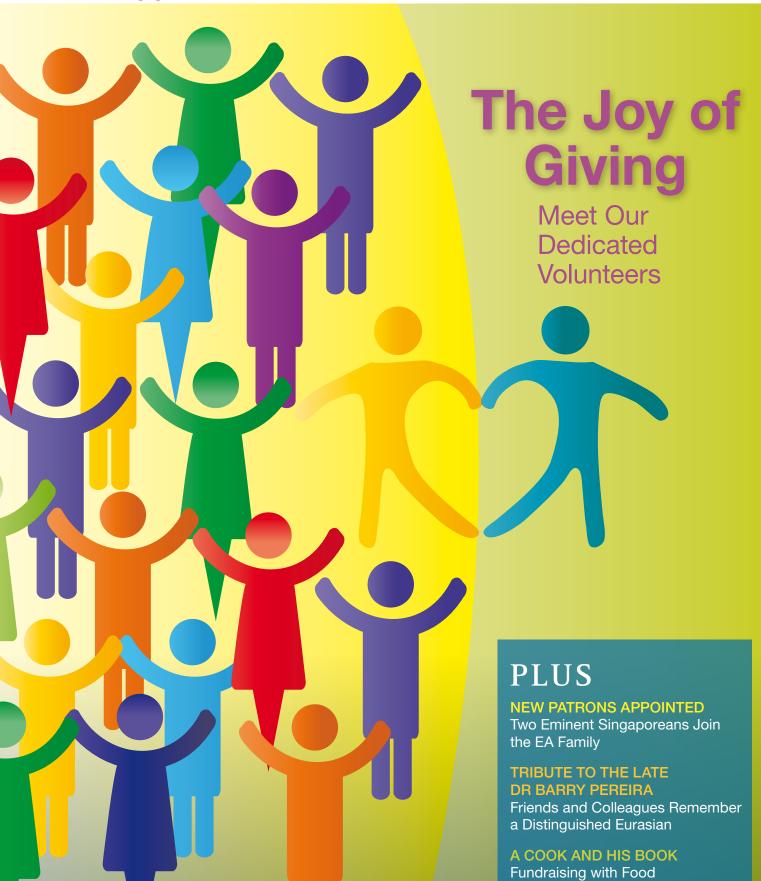
THE

NEWEURASIAN

www.eurasians.org.sg

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012



3

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On the Cover

NEWEURASIAN

The magazine of The Eurasian Association, Singapore

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

Advertising Rates

Prime positions (full colour) Bleed size: 215mm x 280mm Type area: 185mm x 255mm

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How to place your ad

Call the EA at 6447 1578 or e-mail Lester Low at lester@ eurasians.org.

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President's Message



Dear Fellow Eurasians and Friends.

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In July this year, we lost a distinguished Eurasian and very dear friend of the community, Barry Pereira, who passed away at the age of 50. Barry was proudly Eurasian and contributed significantly to the Eurasian Association over the years, serving in various capacities including Vice President from 2008-2010. He also led many initiatives for the association, including Heritage, Family Support Services, Education and the Youth Mentorship programme. With his deep interest in Eurasian heritage, Barry was instrumental in helping us to build up our Heritage Centre and in particular the World War II Gallery, which contains a model of the Bahau settlement that Barry constructed following his research and visit to the site. He touched the lives and hearts of many in the community over the years and will be sorely missed by all of us. Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to his lovely wife Geraldine and children Mark, Laura, John, Diane and James.

In September, we held another edition of our Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Awards. We awarded 217 bursary and merit awards to deserving students from primary to tertiary levels. Since its inception in 1996, the ECF awards have been instrumental in providing Eurasian students with bursaries, study grants, excellence and distinction awards. This year also saw the second year of EA's Merit Bursary Awards, which awards full tuition fees, books and ancillary expenses to two outstanding polytechnic students and two ITE students. It was a privilege to have Minister S Iswaran, the guest of honour, speak to our Eurasian students about sports and school, as well as developing essential life

skills. I was heartened to see so many bright and talented young Eurasians reaping rewards from their hard work and achievements.

Whilst I congratulate our Eurasian students on their achievements and encourage all of them to put in the effort to continue to do well in their studies, I would also like to emphasise the need to look beyond their books to develop themselves on a broader basis - in sport, culture, their compassion, social and leadership skills. It is by being well rounded and committed individuals that will ensure success in both their future career and life as well as achieving our goal of raising the standing of Eurasians in society.

In October, we celebrated the appointment of

two new patrons for the Eurasian Association, the sixth President of Singapore, Mr SR Nathan, and former Cabinet Minister, Mr George Yeo. Over the years, both Mr Nathan and Mr Yeo have been strong supporters of EA and have not only encouraged us to expand our programmes but also provided critical help as we faced various challenges in building up the association, becoming a self-help group and executing our mission of Education Advancement, Family Support Services and Community Development. They are icons in the Singapore community and embody many of EA's values of helping the needy, promoting volunteerism and a strong recognition of the importance of history and culture in building strong communities. It certainly is a great honour for us that they have agreed to be our patrons.

In our cover story for this issue, we pay tribute to our volunteers' outstanding work in the community. The success of EA is very much dependent on the many volunteers who help to run the various programmes and assist the needy within our community. Once again we are reaching out to all of you to lend us a hand and volunteer your time and skills, no matter big or small, to our welfare arm, the Family Support Services (FSS). We can never have enough volunteers or donations to support our various programmes, particularly those for welfare support. Our story on Harry (page 13) demonstrates how tragedy can strike any of us – and how critical it is to have help from the community in times of need.

Lastly, I hope you've marked 31 December on vour calendar for the New Year's Eve dinner and dance event. Each year, members of the community get together for this sold-out evening of camaraderie, splendid music and great fun. It's always a memorable experience and one that members cherish for a long time afterward. If you've never attended EA's NYE dinner and dance, I urge you to join us and enjoy what all the excitement is about. I hope to see many of you there for this outstanding New Year countdown tradition.

Thank you all for your continued support.



Benett Theseira President

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The EA Appoints

Two New Patrons

Former President SR Nathan and former Cabinet Minister George Yeo have agreed to act as patrons of the EA. The appointment ceremony was held during a celebratory dinner at the Eurasian Community House on 17 October, which was also attended by Minister S Iswaran, Michael Palmer and Christopher de Souza.

The new patrons were presented with letters of appointment by EA President Benett Theseira and will join Herman Hochstadt, 79, EA's current patron, who was permanent secretary at several ministries in the 1970s and 1980s.

In his speech, Benett paid tribute to Mr Nathan and Mr Yeo. "Mr Yeo has been a tremendous asset to the Eurasian Association and all Eurasians in Singapore as he was the representative and advocate in Parliament for the Eurasians; and Mr SR Nathan has been a generous benefactor and valued visitor to the Eurasian community. Both have supported the Eurasian community and culture tremendously," he said.

Benett announced to the guests that Michael Palmer, Christopher de Souza and Warren



Fernandez have agreed to be advisors to

In his acceptance speech, Mr Yeo said he had developed friendships with the Eurasian community over the years and he highlighted the importance of the Eurasian heritage in Singapore. "Every time I have to revise my curriculum vitae, I will never fail to indicate that I have represented the Eurasians in Cabinet for 20 years as I am proud of that role," he added.

Mr Nathan also paid tribute to the Eurasian community's role in history, citing its contributions in administration, medicine and teaching. As the community is small with many inter-marriages, he stressed the need to preserve its

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The ceremony ended with a performance by students of the St Anthony's Canossian Convent Choir and Angklung

Skinny Chef Helps to Cook Up a Fat Sum



The launch was part of a hugely successful EA fundraising event that resulted in some \$47,000 from generous donations together with sales of the book. Speaker of Parliament, Michael Palmer was guest of honour and former President SR Nathan also attended the event.

The unique cookbook provides an insight into the Eurasian culture and heritage in

A New Chapter





The EA's reading club celebrated its second anniversary in September, during which former ambassador, MP and now author Joe Conceicao gave a book talk to members. Yvonne Pereira, Vice President of the EA, presented Joe with a token of appreciation.

The EA Hosts Special Guests Three distinguished guests visited the ECH



Members of the four community self-help groups (SHGs) came together in August in a show of harmony at a National Day Observance Ceremony held at the OnePeople.sg multi-purpose hall in Toa Payoh.

The event was attended by heads of the SHGs - Gan Kim Yong of CDAC, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim of MENDAKI, Tharman Shanmugaratnam of SINDA and Benett Theseira of the EA - together with Encik Zainudin Nordin, chairman of

More than 100 staff members, beneficiaries and volunteers took part in cultural activities such as ketupat-making, rangoli colouring and performances, and guest enjoyed a buffet and music by duo Jack and Rai.

The four SHGs are planning to start joint student care centres in the year 2013 as part of ongoing efforts to combine resources to help the needy in their communities.

on separate occasions in August. Charles Chong, MP for Joo Chiat SRC, met the management committee for a lunch at Quentin's restaurant. EA President Benett Theseira presented Mr Chong with a copy of Robin's Eurasian Recipes by Quentin Pereira.

The EA also played host to Chad Beins, President of the Australian Eurasian Association of Western Australia (AEAWA), who joined the management committee for dinner at Quentin's. Mr Beins was presented with Laura Jarnagin's book, The Making of the Luso-Asian World, Intricacies of Engagement Vol 1 by Benett.

Michael Koh, CEO of National Heritage Board, also came to visit ECH with the management committee for lunch. All the guests were given a tour of the Eurasian Heritage Centre.





Singapore and contains a collection of

Eurasian recipes close to the heart of the

author. "These recipes were handed down

by my grandmother to my father and then

to me," says Quentin. "I want to keep the

Eurasian culture and heritage alive through

Eurasian cuisine, which is an integral part

of our identity."



International Exchange of Ideas

Eight Japanese senior civil servants visited the ECH in August for the Singapore International Foundation's (SIF) annual Raffles Programme. The visit enabled them to develop a better understanding of Singapore and to exchange their perspectives on public

The programme was launched in 1995 to promote awareness, greater understanding and personal ties between Singapore and world communities and also seeks to introduce Singapore's policy perspectives to visitors and offer them viewpoints on local and regional developments. Since the programme was launched, the SIF has hosted more than 80 delegates during

The delegates were invited to a session with the four self-help groups, which was held at the Chinese Development Assistance Council. Yvonne Pereira, Vice President of the EA represented the Eurasians.



The Japanese group was headed by Kimihiro Ishikane, Deputy Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who was joined by representatives of ministries covering the major government departments.

The previous month, the ECH played host to five Korean delegates on the Republic of Korea Directors-General Visitors' Programme. The session was also attended by CEOs and representatives from the four self

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Michelle Tessensohn from the EA chaired the session together with Christine Pereira and gave a presentation about the association. The delegates learnt about the four self-help groups in Singapore and gained a better understanding in the areas of education, financial assistance and how each community work in harmony with the other communities in Singapore.

Eurasians Receive **National Day Awards**

A number of Eurasians are among the recipients of this year's National Day Awards, which acknowledges citizens' significant contributions to the nation.

Among the Eurasian recipients are:

The Public Service Star 2012

Annabel Pennefather – former President, Singapore Hockey Federation

The Public Service Medal 2012

John Ralph Vernon Palmer – former board member, Central Provident Fund Board

The Public Administration Medal **Bronze Medal 2012**

Pereira Cheng Sim Joan – Director, Active Ageing & Family Life and Active Ageing & Family Life/Co-ordinator (Women's Programmes), People's Association

The Commendation Medal 2012

Judith Clarke - Associate Director (Faculty Administration), Office of Human Resources & Faculty Administration, Singapore Management University

The Commendation Medal 2012

Dr Tracy Carol Ayre – Director, Nursing, Singapore General Hospital, Singapore Health Services

The Commendation Medal 2012

Clement Joseph Fernandez, Assistant Director, Surveillance & Compliance Division, Food Establishment Regulation Department, Agri-Food & Veterinary

The Efficiency Medal 2012

Junainah Shah Rodriguez, Litigation Assistant, Litigation Support Section, Legal Aid Bureau, Ministry of Law

The Long Service Medal 2012

Dr Barry P Pereira, Research Fellow, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore

Like us on Facebook!

Tell your friends!

Have you visited the EA's Facebook group? Join the group by searching for 'Eurasian Association, Singapore' and clicking 'Join'. Meet fellow EA members and find out about what's going on at the ECH!



Rewarding **Academic Achievement**

The ECF Education Awards ceremony, the EA's keynote annual event to recognise young Eurasians' academic success, was held in September at St Patrick's School.

More than 200 Eurasian students from primary, secondary and tertiary levels received awards for their academic progress in 2011, earning a total \$47,000 between them. The guest of honour was Minister S Iswaran, who represents the Eurasian community in the Cabinet.

The ECF Education Awards ceremony, established in 1996, aims to promote academic excellence by supporting and encouraging more Eurasian students to excel in their studies. There are four categories. The Bursary Award helps to defray certain costs of education for students from lowerincome families The Merit and Excellence Awards are based solely on academic results and serve as a reward for students who have emerged in the top 25 per cent of their cohort. The Distinction Award, the most prestigious, is given students who have achieved outstanding academic results at their level of education.

Siti Nafira Binte Mohamed Noor, 17, one of 10 Distinction Award winners, is pursuing Higher Nitec in Accounting at the ITE College East. This year, she will be embarking on an Overseas Community Involvement Programme to Vietnam to teach unprivileged children English and Mathematics. She hopes that this experience will also help her own personal development.

Tricia Fernandez, a Temasek Polytechnic graduate, who received the Outstanding





Eurasian Polytechnic Student, says: "I really enjoyed my Poly life. Not only did I study hard; I played hard, too, so as to achieve a balance. The three years in Poly flew by really fast so I would advise others not to take their Polytechnic education for granted." The 20 year old now studies psychology at Nanyang Technological

Another student, Britannie Bartlett, a recipient of the Outstanding Eurasian Sports Student 2011 says: "To excel in anything takes a lot of hard work and sports is no different. Training is tough! I train every day and play a match on the weekends. Good discipline and time

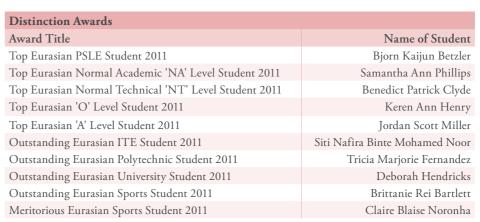


management skills definitely play an important part."

Recipient of the Outstanding Eurasian University Student 2011 is Deborah Hendricks. Now in the Credit Suisse Graduate Analyst program, Deborah aims to further develop her career in the private banking industry.

The winners are all full-time students in the formal Singapore education system from primary to tertiary levels.

The ECF Education Awards ceremony ended with a dance performance by St Patrick's School.





It Pays to **Learn**

The ninth annual Joint Tuition Awards ceremony was held at the Anglo-Chinese Junior College on 25 August. Halimah Yacob, Minister of State, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, was guest of honour.

This year, 426 students received the awards for significant improvement in their performance in national examinations. Recipients are students in the Collaborative Tuition Programme, run by the self-help groups, and have been recognised for their success in examinations including PSLE, 'N' levels and 'O' levels. When CTP centres were first launched in 2002, there were 14 tuition centres. Today, there are 63 centres throughout the island.

The EA strongly encourages Eurasian students to register for these tuition classes as they not only provide affordable, subsidised tuition at conveniently located venues but also offer the opportunity to make friends from other cultures.



Nine Eurasian students received awards at this year's awards ceremony. They were:

PSLE

Emmanuel Gerard Francisco Santa Maria Samantha Bernadette Oliveiro Brandon Ryan

'N' Level

Nurfaizah Binte Muhd Faizuwan Stefan Joseph Santa Maria Melanie Minjoot

'O' Level

Hogan Amanda Gayle Isabel Heather Andrew Krusemann Rolf Gregory

A Life of Caring



Nursing takes special personal as well as professional skills but can provide a fulfilling career for those who make the grade. We talk to two young Eurasians who are planning on a career in healthcare.

Jeremy Jerome, 18, a student from ITE College East, Nursing says: "Nursing, as people say, is not just a job; it's about passion and having the heart to take care of people you do not even know. The course teaches us a variety of skills, starting from the simplest thing like cleaning a patient up to what you have to do in an emergency when a patient goes flat line, known as 'code blue', which is when their heart stops."

Jeremy was inspired to be a nurse after undergoing surgery himself a couple of



times when he was in his teens. "When I was admitted, I appreciated how the nurses, even when tired looking and stressed out, managed to attend to you with a smile and do everything they could to take care of you until you recovered." Greatly inspired, Jeremy started reading and researching about nursing and careers in the healthcare industry.

Vanessa Rozario, 21, who is taking a Diploma in Health Services (Nursing) at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, says: "I would say that what really inspired me were stories of everyday 'heroes', who are ordinary people who lead extraordinary lives, going out of their way to bring joy to people by being helpful.

She was also inspired by two women she met at school. "They were my former

school counsellor (Mrs Adeline Cheam) and form teacher (Mdm Seerin Jaffer) from my secondary school. They both always go the extra mile to help students with financial or other problems. Their patience and understanding really inspired me to do well and help those in need," she says.

Vanessa adds: "I am attracted to being a nurse because I will be able to reach out first hand to the sick. I believe the power of touch is very important if one wants to truly care. There's a huge difference between doctors and nurses. Doctors spend an average time of about 15 minutes with each patient, whereas nurses spent their entire shift with the patients. Doctors know the patients well anatomically; nurses need to build a true rapport with the patients in order to nurse them holistically – helping the patients' physical, mental and emotional needs.

Vanessa hopes to volunteer for the Singapore Red Cross Society and provide aid to victims of natural disasters. She also hopes to become a community service organiser by organising events and campaigns for the less fortunate.

Heroes Behind the Scenes

A tribute to the volunteers who keep the EA's wheels turning

Volunteers are essential to society, and many charities would struggle to survive without the support of their unpaid helpers, who see it as their willing duty to contribute some of their time for the greater good.

As with most non-profit organisations, the EA relies on volunteers to fill many needs that would otherwise be unmet. Whether it is assisting with grounds and building maintenance, organising or helping out with a project, hosting an event or making delivery rounds in the rain to provide food parcels for needy Eurasians – or just donating some hard-earned cash – our volunteers help us to fulfil our mission more efficiently and compassionately.



The good news is that volunteers are stepping forward as never before. Volunteers come from all ages and backgrounds, and have different skills and interests to contribute, but all are united with one purpose in mind, and that is to do their part to make the world a better place.

In this issue, the EA is dedicating our cover story all our volunteers. Here, we talk to three of them to highlight the kind of role they play - and hope that they might inspire even more people to see that volunteering takes commitment and hard work - but is also immensely rewarding – and fun!



66 One of the best things about volunteering with the EA is that I get to meet and network with people from all walks of life. Plus, the warmth of the people is incredible even if it's the first time I'm meeting them 99

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Crystal Tan (pictured above right) jointly led a team of volunteers to Bangalore to help to decorate a local school. The trip taught the former winner of the EA's Top Eurasian University Student award problem solving, and doing something for free.

Now an assistant forensic scientist at the Health Sciences Authority of Singapore, Crystal has been an EA volunteer for the past year. She does it, she says, simply because she loves the experience and because it is one of the most meaningful ways to give back to society.

Racial Inter-Religious Harmony Nite 2012 (IRIR) and took part to volunteer in events such as the IRIR as I get to meet fellow organisation that you feel excited about."

Two years ago, as a Nanyang Technology University undergraduate, Eurasians," she says. "I had a fantastic time at the event together with fellow volunteers as we were always the most enthusiastic table providing the most support for our performers."

much about life in India plus the sheer enjoyment of mucking in, She adds: "One of the best things about volunteering with the EA is that I get to meet and network with people from all walks of life. Plus, the warmth of the people is incredible even if it's the first time I'm meeting them."

Crystal, who is also a member of the EA's Young Professional Eurasians (YPE), says that she is looking forward to seeing more young Eurasians getting involved and foresees that she will be She was one of the volunteers who ushered guests into the Intermore active in the association in the future. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, first determine what you have to offer in reading the declaration: "It's fun and interesting to be able and what motivates you, she suggests: "Try to connect with an



66 By volunteering in events like IRIR, I have come to witness how different communities come together to participate in various events in union and not as a separate social groups

Danielle Pereira's involvement started from a phone call from her uncle Quentin (who runs Quentin's restaurant at the Eurasian Community House), who invited her to come forward and help out at the EA. Now, Danielle has been a volunteer at the association for two years during that time has committed her time to working in several EA community projects in school as well as working with other charity organisations.

She says, doing volunteering work makes her feel good and that it is another way to give back to society. Like Crystal, Danielle was also one of the volunteers and readers for the Inter-Racial Inter-Religious Harmony Nite 2012 (IRIR): "I have come to understand what it is to be a Eurasian in a cosmopolitan society. By volunteering in events like IRIR, I have come to witness how different communities come together to participate in various events in union and not as a separate social groups."

The best part about volunteering at the EA? "Definitely the people I meet. The seniors at the EA are all friendly and approachable, which makes volunteering there a lot more fun. I am happy and grateful to have forged some good, lasting friendships."



66 As the events and activities are varied, different aspects of my abilities are involved. There are different personalities and perspectives in a group which makes interaction and team work more exciting 99

Nancy Fobrogo

After a 35-year career in the education service, Nancy Fobrogo's retirement gave her the chance to catch up with interests that her busy job had put on hold. She has been volunteering at the EA for six years and she enjoys doing it because the association gives her a sense of belonging; customs and traditions are familiar to her, and coming to the ECH gives her the opportunity to revisit her community and friends and, not least of all, to enjoy the delicious Eurasian cuisine at Quentin's.

which we carry out dutifully: work, family. We need an outlet and volunteerism presents a variety of activities to get involved in as a change from the mundane. I started volunteering rather late but I do believe that my life would have been more fun and less intense had I been a volunteer when I was much younger."

Nancy has always found volunteering a good way to keep oneself alert, engaged and interesting. She says: "As the events and activities interaction and team work more exciting."

Nancy is actively involved in the EA's Social Circle committee. She chairs the EA's Reading Club – which recently celebrated its second anniversary – and her role includes liaising with the National Library Board for reading resources. She is also the coordinator for the Artsy Craftsy Circle. This club revolves around the '3Rs' - reduce, reuse, recycle - and members of the club produced craft items that were sold at the EA's recent Red & White Lunch event.

One of her outstanding memories while volunteering at the EA was the response to an overseas crisis: "I Nancy (pictured above left) says: "Most of us have obligations remember the time when people came from all over Singapore to the Eurasian Community House to pack supplies for the victims of the Padang earthquake. Families and friends sat on the floor to sort select and pack boxes to be shipped out. It was heartwarming sight."

She adds: "Many of us need a push or a pull and we tend to allow our friends to give us a nudge. Present volunteers are in a good position to spot the talents and inclinations of our friends. We should are varied, different aspects of my abilities are involved. There are persuade them to join us and share with the larger community. different personalities and perspectives in a group which makes Publicity of the EA's successful programmes and the perks that volunteers receive might also attract others."

Can You Help?

The EA currently needs volunteers in the following departments. If you can help, or would like more information, please contact the person listed for each of the activities.

Culture & Heritage

The EA Heritage Committee is looking for volunteers to give tours of the Eurasian Heritage Centre, which houses three galleries:

The Eurasian Showcase (focusing on Eurasian culture and prominent Eurasians in

Roots of Our Community (showing the history and influence of the Portuguese, Dutch and British on the Eurasian community)

World War II - The Eurasian Story (encapsulating stories and real-life accounts of Eurasians who survived WWII)



For more information, contact Jacqueline Peeris, Education & Heritage Assistant Manager, tel: 6447 1578 or email: Jacqueline@eurasians.org

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Friends of Family Support Services



The EA's Family Support Services (FSS) is appealing for volunteers for the EA's welfare service arm. Volunteers can help with a range of welfare support that includes: helping children of FSS families with their educational and health needs; meeting clients in their homes; giving counselling and coaching for depression and after job loss; giving family support to the mentally unwell; giving food and nutrition advice; helping infirm and elderly clients living at home; helping single parents; and helping the unemployed with retraining and job placement.

You must be 21 years and above to volunteer. Training will be provided. For more information, contact Jagannathan Ramakrishnan, tel: 6447 1578 or email ram@eurasians.org

Events



Volunteers are needed for these following events:

We need artistic volunteers to decorate the Eurasian Community House from 26 November to 30 November.

Christmas Dinner and Dance 2012 on Saturday 1 December at the Eurasian Community House, Multi-Purpose Hall.

Children's Christmas Treat & Family Christmas Carnival on Saturday 15 December at the Eurasian Community House, Multi-Purpose Hall.

New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance 2012 on Monday 31 December at the Concorde Hotel, Concorde Ballroom (Level 3).

For more information, contact Bridget Basnayake, tel: 6447 1578 or email bridget@eurasians.org

Harry's Story

When the EA gives financial assistance to those in need, it can't always know exactly how much difference it makes. So it's heartening to learn of a story that ends with hope



Harry (we've changed his name) has a grounded, positive, and philosophical outlook on life. No stranger to the ups and downs of life, he has experienced multiple problems and has bounced back each and every time. In all of these circumstances, he has performed his life tasks with grace, dignity and a smile that seems to never fade.

In 1985, Harry was the victim of a hit and run accident and lost the sight of his left eye. In October 2011, he lost his right eyesight, too. This traumatic event placed an enormous strain on him – emotionally and financially. He was comatose for some six months and has undergone facial surgery.

Harry said: "It was not a pleasant experience. I had to start my life all over. I did not have a job. I had no place to stay and I have no medical insurance." Today, Harry is staying with his brother and has been receiving support, care and assistance from him.

The EA's FSS has come to his aid to help lessen his burden by providing emergency cash relief and grants as well as food vouchers. "I am very thankful for the help given to me. This gives me hope," he says.

Your Contributions Make a Difference

Your donation will enable the EA to continue to meet the needs of our community, specifically, low-income families, and youth at risk, struggling single parents and the lonely and poor elderly. Please make an online donation, by visiting: http://www.eurasians.org.sg/ a-helping-hand/fundraising/ or complete the form on page 14 and send it to your bank to make regular contributions through giro donations.

Are You Looking

for a Job?

E21 stands for Employer-Employee Institute and is the leading organisation helping job seekers towards better employment and employability. E2I provides training for job-seekers and job placements thereafter; course fees are in region of \$1,200, fully funded by the Workforce Development Agency. A \$200 allowance will be awarded to participants who have completed the 10-day programme.

Give Somebody a

Happy **Christmas**

The EA's Family Support Services is holding its annual Christmas lunch on 2 December and is looking for donations for tables at \$300 per table. Owing to our IPC (Institutions of Public Character) status, donations above \$100 are tax

During the Christmas period the EA also gives its FSS clients a hamper costing \$100. The FSS is currently supporting some 85 families.

Christine Pereira says: "As this is the time of the year for joy and blessings, please give generously for our less fortunate. Cheques are to be made out to 'EA - Family Support Services'. Please state that this contribution goes to the FSS Events & Activities Fund. We also welcome gifts that can be used for prizes and door gifts.

Culture and Heritage



Be a Regular Donor!

If you can help to contribute to the EA's valuable welfare work with regular donations through your bank, please complete this form and send it to your bank.

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Recollect, Reflect, Reconnect

Singapore HeritageFest gives the nation the opportunity to showcase its diverse cultures

Singapore HeritageFest – back for its ninth year – once again reconnected Singaporeans to their shared heritage and culture. From 20 to 29 July, nine 'festival hubs' located around the island featured interactive exhibitions, cultural performances and activities on heritage topics.

The theme for SHF this year was 'Recollect, Reflect, Reconnect'; Singaporeans were encouraged to discover their roots through the collective memories of family and friends, to reflect on what it means to be Singaporean, and to connect with their cultural roots, common spaces and shared experiences.

The Eurasian heritage was presented at the event through a cultural performance by Valerie Scully, a demonstration of soccer skills by Darren Hedger and a ballroom dancing performance by Elaine and partner from the Wanna Dance Studio. There were also exhibition booths highlighting Singapore's Eurasian Olympians.











In the Spotlight

Actor and dancer Sharda Harrison recently took on a mentoring role in September's Sprouts All-Stars dance competition at SOTA Drama Centre

Sharda Harrison has grown up in the public eye. At 10 years old, she started dancing for road show events and a TV series, *The Courtesy Show*. Her performing career continued to develop when she performed in children theatre shows Act 3 International and subsequently Act 3 Theatrics. She graduated from LaSalle College of the Arts with a BA (Hons) in Acting.

Now 25, she recently took part in the Sprouts All-Stars dance competition, mentoring Indonesian Gianti Giadi ('Gigi') one of the choreographers in a theatre piece fused with dance.

"I was merely a voice by her side that came in from time to time suggesting and giving her fresh ideas. Gigi's project explored plastic surgery. I liked her piece as it was not just a movement piece, nor just a story either; it was actually factual and informative as well as creative. She fused dance, acting and text, which is what I specialise in," says Sharda. "However, I wanted Gigi to find her own flow through this piece and I didn't want to over-play my role." She said that Gigi and her team had been "fantastic" in the show.

Earlier this year, Sharda performed in the annual Singapore Arts Festival in a challenging production, *Dream Country*, in which 35 women danced in and around urns of full water. "It was quite a feat to put together but under the guidance of four directors and one mentor, it went very smoothly and we had such an amazing experience," she says.

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Lastly, enjoy every moment on an
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66 Be open to everything.
Be disciplined. Be
grateful and humble.
Work hard. Never judge

Create a practice and

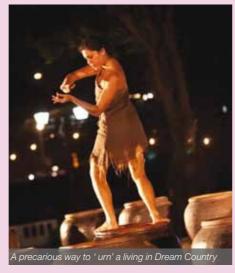
training 99





Other recent appearances included *Crossings* at the Esplanade with The Necessary Stage and *Traffik (Croatia)*, a collaboration between artists from Singapore and Croatia. Sharda is also one of the founding members of Theatrestrays, a performance and research group which trains in kalaripayattu (Indian martial arts) and contact improvisation, a dance technique

Her advice for aspiring performing artistes? "Be open to everything. Be disciplined. Be grateful and humble. Work hard. Never judge anything or anyone. Create a practice and train, as every actor needs their own training. Lastly, enjoy every moment on and off the stage."



Gathering Momentum

The EA's Youth Committee hosted its second informal get together at the Singapore Recreation Club (SRC) in September for young Eurasians.

More than 30 young Eurasians attended the Young Professional Eurasians gathering and played ice breaker games to help network and forge new friendships.

A Facebook group launched to keep YPE members in touch now has 180 members. One comment on the Facebook page reads: "It was a good time of networking and making new friends for me. What I took away from that meeting is that the EA is in need of new blood to keep the vision and mission of our predecessors going. We are blessed to have a unique and vibrant culture which adds an exotic and exciting flavour to our island state."

The Youth Committee is planning its third YPE gathering, which is slated for 8 November. It is also planning a separate town-hall-style dialogue session between themselves and members of the EA management committee.



of new blood to keep the vision and mission of our predecessors going 99

The discussion will focus on the challenges of forging a youth-driven Eurasian community. This two-hour dialogue session is slated for 24 November.



Chasing New Goals

Football fanatic Carl Benito triumphs in his new sporting role

The inaugural Singapore National Games (SNG) in September was the chance for Carl Benito to get a glimpse of life as a José Mourinho or Sir Alex Ferguson.

The 44-year-old swimming and scuba diving coach took on the role of football player/manager while he trained the team at Toa Payoh Central Constituency Sports Club (TPCSC) for their part in the games.

The team had no professional help training for the SNG, but met up every Sunday to practise. It was, he says, "just some enthusiastic football lovers getting together doing what we were all passionate about".

He adds: "The SNG was a great platform for everyone, young or old. There are many various sports and this can be a motivating factor to pursue your hobbies. It is also a great way to exercise and socialise at the same time," he says.

Carl and his team participated in the games' Football Men's Master and Football Men's Open - and were delighted to be first runner up in the Men's Master event. "It is definitely a great achievement to be the top three and representing Toa Payoh sports club - all the hard work paid off," he says happily.

The SNG was jointly organised by a number of sports and community organisations and, in addition to football, featured athletics, badminton, basketball, bowling, dragon boat racing, netball, sepak takraw, swimming and table tennis.



What was Carl's outstanding moment of the games? "Definitely the semi-final match between TP CSC and Queenstown CSC. The score was 1-0 – and I was the one who placed the ball into the net. This was the goal that placed us in the grand finals and secured us a medal," he smiles.

A major get-together of the van Huizen clan proves that Eurasian kinship is alive and well in the region

Two hundred members representing four generations of the van Huizen family gathered at the Royal Bintang Hotel in Seremban, Malaysia, over a weekend in July to launch their family tree and learn about their heritage.

The organising committee, from Seremban, started planning this milestone event early last year and the guests came not only from Malaysia and Singapore but also from further afield.

Singapore Eurasian Belinda Danker says: "Having traced our roots back to the farming village of Huizen in Holland, we discovered that my great-great grandfather joined the military in the 1800s and was sent to Jogjakarta, Indonesia, during the war. One of his children, my great-grandfather, William Joseph van Huizen married Joanna Gomes and moved to and settled in Malaysia.

"Six generations of the family were traced back; the four surviving generations attended this trip to Seremban."

The weekend began with an introductory session to meet near and distant relatives and learn who was related to whom. Soccer and hockey matches were laid on for the younger members while the older guests visited the cemetery to pay respects to past generations.

The first of the weekend's two highlights was the launch of the van Huizen family tree. "After a countdown and the push of a button on stage by our living matriarchs and patriarchs, fireworks and confetti greeted us as the bunting unfurled on stage to officially present the Van Huizen family tree," says

"It was, indeed, a proud moment for all of us. Speeches followed with an eye-opening history of Dutch-Eurasian descendants from the colonial era. A video montage was screened and by the time it ended, there was not a dry eye left," she adds.

The second highlight was a dinner in the hotel's banqueting hall where the guest of honour was Jan A Soer, deputy head of mission at the Netherlands

A group of our children filed into the hall with a flag carrying the van Huizen family crest, after which, the national anthems of the Netherlands, Malaysia and Singapore were sung as the national flags were raised on stage. A speech by Mr Soer provided fascinating insights into the Dutch culture. After the formalities, in true Eurasian fashion, there was music and dancing into the wee hours of













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A Sense of Direction

Samantha Scott-Blackhall is known for directing gritty plays such as an adaptation of William Golding's novel Lord of the Flies (2007) and Doug Wright's Quills (2005), a provocative production about the Marquis de Sade. She talks to The NewEurasian about why she enjoys plays that deal with the darker side of humanity

Tell us about your career. When did it all start?

My love for theatre and the performing arts started as far back as I can remember. My mother was a producer and I remember being very young and running about the backstage of Victoria Theatre. I'm sure unconsciously my love for theatre began there. At school, I joined the drama club, throwing myself

into every production, whether I was part of the ensemble, the choir or taking centre stage.

I commit to every production as a mother would bring up her child

When I was in my final year of the GCSE exams at United World College I chose to direct a school production for my drama exam. This is where it all started for me where directing was concerned. I realised that I had an intense desire to understand and be a part of the creation of theatre and I then decided I wanted to specialise in theatre direction.

What do you aspire to in your work?

I commit to every production as a mother would bring up her child. From birth to performance, my attention to every detail is somewhat hypersensitive. And I love collaborating with designers and artists, actors and managers on the shared vision and growth of a production. When the baby finally leaves the nest (is performed to an audience) I am so proud to showcase the work and also 'let go' to the audience as it were.

What kind of theatre excites you?

I love theatre that engaged the senses. If it is a wordy play I love when the material challenges thoughts and ideas, allows me to have a debate in my mind, keeps me thinking: "what will happen next?". I also love theatre that is visually spectacular when the set, sound and lights come together in a painting that comes to life.

Let's talk about your last project, Freud's Last Session. How did you discover it and were you apprehensive about taking on a play with controversial themes?

In many ways I feel Freud's Last Session found me. A friend recommended I read it and when I did I was hooked. The context, the characters and the subject matter appealed completely to me. The theme of religion,

> politics, war, sex and death were more of a turn-on than apprehension and concern. I suppose it was how the play treated these subjects that

made me feel safe about sharing them with an audience. The play doesn't confront the audience but rather challenges it to form a debate in their minds. I've never been one to shy away from controversial topic matters – plays I've directed such as Agnes of God, The Physicists and Quills, are testament to that.

What upcoming projects are you planning?

I'll be directing a play called Eight Women next. It's a murder-mystery comedy set in



France in the 1950s. A real 'who dunnit' play that satisfies my interest in murder/crime plays – plays with blood, guns and suspense! For reasons totally unconscious to me, I've in the past gravitated towards plays with all men casts. This play breaks that cycle with a cast of eight women. I'm not sure how directing an oestrogen-pumped cast will be, but for a gal who loves a challenge I'm quite looking forward to it!



Getting to Know You

New EA members enjoyed a hospitable and informative welcome at the ECH when they attended a new members' introduction lunch to learn how they could benefit from the association - and what they could contribute.

The management committee, secretariat and volunteers greeted them and EA representatives outlined the services and events that the association manages.

The new members learned of the rations deliveries to members in need and the counselling services run by the Family Support Services. There was information on the Young Professional Eurasians network, which offers mentoring for young professionals, and also details of the Toastmasters events that provide the dual purpose of fun and confidence building.

On the entertainment side, the recruits learned of the numerous opportunities for community bonding, including the Performing Arts Circle, which conducts Portuguese dance classes and performs



at Chingay, the balut tournament, and regular dinner dances, both casual and formal.

Their visit included a tour of the Eurasian Heritage Centre. New member Lily Goh, who attended the event, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I learnt a lot about the historical background of the association and also the Eurasian heritage and culture."

Christian Eber, who chairs the Heritage and Culture Sub-Committee: commented:

"It was an afternoon well spent as the new members left instilled with a sense of belonging. They were also very participative and some of them were impressed with how the EA can manage to balance being a self-help group while maintaining its strong cultural, heritage and social status."

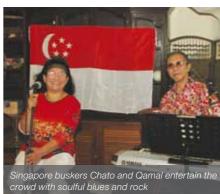
If you're interested in joining the EA – either as a Eurasian or as an associate - please contact Bridget Basnayake tel: 6447 1578.

Colourful Celebrations

Eurasians young and old gathered on 26 August for a Red & White Lunch to celebration the nation's 47th National Day in a sea of patriotic colours, from the red and white tablecloths and centrepieces at Quentin's to the dress code of the guests.

They tucked into a buffet of 30 dishes and danced to the music of Chato & Qamal. There was a lucky draw, and a cakes 'n' bakes stall offering sugee cake, pang susi and pickles.

The Social Circle showcased its activities, and to mark the second anniversary of its reading club, READ@EA, it launched Reading Month at EA. Guests received short story booklets to encourage them to read. The Artsy Craftsy Circle held its debut sale, and with the goal to 'reduce, re-use and recycle', its members put up an 'R-R-R rug' together with a Rouge et Noir shawl, which were both sold during a silent auction.





Join the **Family Christmas Party**

The EA's annual Family Christmas Carnival and Children Christmas Treat is a celebration for young and old.

Date: Saturday 15 December Where: Eurasian Community House Time: Family Christmas Carnival, 11am to 5p, Level 1. The event

will include pushcarts and stalls selling food, Christmas goodies and other items.

Children's Christmas Treat, 1pm to 5pm, Multi-Purpose Hall, 2nd level, for children aged 3 to 10 yrs.

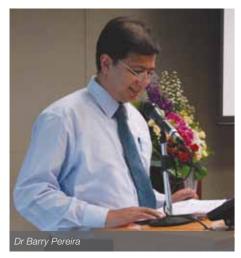
Price: Family Christmas Carnival free. Children's Christmas Treat - \$20 (includes Santa's gift and a snack pack)

To book your place on the Children's Christmas Treat, please contact Bridget Basnayake, tel: 6447 1578 or e-mail bridget@eurasians.org by 23 Nov.

A Distinguished Scientist and **Proud Eurasian**

A Tribute: Dr Barry Pereira 7 September 1962 – 20 July 2012

Friends and colleagues have paid tribute to Dr Barry Pereira, an eminent orthopaedic researcher and stalwart of the Eurasian Association, who has died from cancer, aged 50.



As a young man, Barry spent two years after graduating as a scientific officer with the Experimental Surgery Unit at Singapore General Hospital, before joining the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore at the age of 26, where he worked as a research fellow in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. That year, he married Geraldine Lewis, with whom he had five children: daughters Laura Ann and Diane Elisabeth and sons Mark Gregory, John Francis and James Mathew.

In 2004, he graduated with a PhD in Orthopaedic Biomechanics from NUS and over the years his orthopaedic research at NUS earned him many distinctions and honours.

Proudly Eurasian, Barry held numerous positions in the EA and served on the management committee. He was Vice-President of the Eurasian Association and chaired the EA's Heritage and Culture and Family Support Services committees. He was also one of the mentors in the EA mentorship programme from 1999 to 2004, working alongside other mentors including the founder Antonio Rappa, Cheryl Cordeiro, Graham Ong-Webb.

During these times, Barry was involved in the Serani3 Project on Eurasian family history and Genealogy and the Bahau Colony project. His successful and extensive research on Bahau and Eurasians history has played a huge part in establishing the World War II Gallery, now

based in the Eurasian Community House. In 2005, he was involved in The Eurasian Soldier book project chronicling the contributions of the Singapore Eurasian community in the defence of the island. Their contributions begin from 1854, when the Singapore Volunteer Corps became the first Volunteer Corps in the whole British Empire. The history follows on as a colony of the Straits Settlements state, nationhood and independence.

Barry's interest in research also led him to be a keen and knowledgeable amateur genealogist. This year, he received he received a National Day Award for his long service to the country and his contributions to orthopaedic research.

Longtime friend and colleague Kevin Shepherdson says: "He was very sociable and always willing to offer a helping hand, especially in helping people to trace their roots. He even did this to the point that I felt he was being taken advantage of. People forget that genealogy is something that takes time and effort. But Barry never complained. He really enjoyed it."

Kevin adds: "I want people to remember him for his passion in research and his love for the Eurasian community. Barry went all out to help anyone who wanted to know about their family history, and to preserve our heritage. Barry was a good father who loved his family very much and he has served the Eurasian Association wholeheartedly and unselfishly, with no hidden agendas."

Friend Fiona Hodgkins says: "I feel I have lost a dear friend who shared an uncommon bond with me - there are not many people I know who would get excited over the little bits of

information we would. I owe it to Barry for enriching and enlightening my knowledge of my Eurasian heritage and helping me to open doors which have led me to where I now am.

"I found Barry to be a most selfless and caring person in what he did to help others. I feel blessed to have known him and am just sorry that it was not for longer, but I know the impact he has had on me, and many others, will last a lifetime," she adds.

EA trustee and former MP and ambassador Joe Conceicao recalls Mr Pereira's breadth of interests and his humility. "Barry contribution to biomedical research is well-documented. His professional writings are impressive, especially within the short space of his working life.

"Barry turned out to be an imaginative and assiduous geographer. He constructed a model of the notorious Bahau settlement. Many of his friends and relatives suffered and some died there. The model at the Eurasian House is a reminder of Barry's historical recall. He was also an ardent genealogist; he delved into the history of his own family and helped others to reach into their lineage.

"But his heroism was notable in the way he battled against his fatal illness. When I and a friend met him on a number of occasions, it was a blessing to see him smiling when he was at his worst, and smiling when he thought he had a chance. Barry's fortitude reached a near-saintly mark."

Joe concludes: "Maybe, when I want to pray for him, I wonder if I should also try to pray

Career Distinctons and Eurasian Association Roles

Career Distinctions

2012: National Day Award

2007: NUS Long Service Award (20 years)

2004: Young Scientist Award, National Health Group

2002: 3rd Prize, Best Paper Award ASM, Changi General Hospital

2002: Research Paper featured in the Mosby Year Book of Hand Surgery

1999: Young Scientist Award: Tan Tock Seng Hospital

EA Offices Held

2008-10: Vice President

2008-10: Chairperson of FSS

2006-08: Honorary Secretary

2006-07: Co-Chair, Heritage Sub-Committee

2002-03: Chair of ECF Education Awards

2000-05: Member of Education

Sub-Committee



Wherever life takes you, Best Western is there.

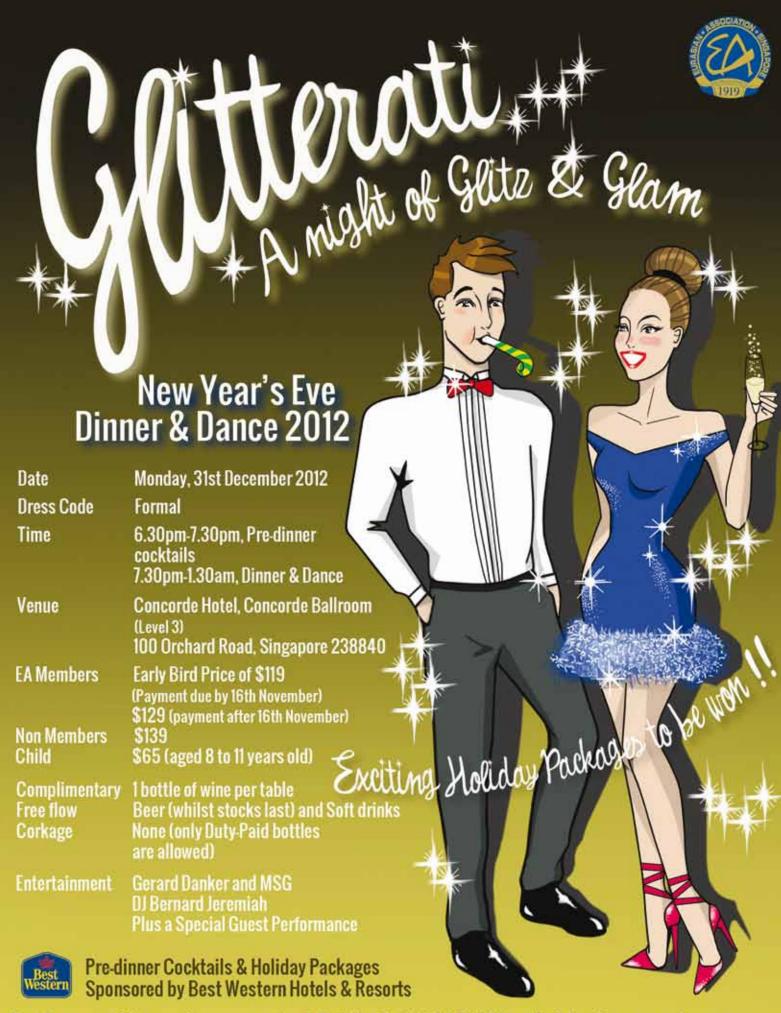
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For Reservations, please contact Bridget at 64471578 or bridget@eurasians.org