

THE neweurasian

www.eurasians.org.sg
OCT-DEC 2019



SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR, THIS CENTENNIAL YEAR!



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President Halimah Jacob and Dr Alexius Pereira with (from left) Senior Minister of State Sim Ann, docent Carol Dragon, EA's Julia D'Silva, NHB CEO Chang Hwee Nee and SPM Consultants Tresnawati Prihadi and Lucille Yap

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THE **neweurasian**
Magazine of the Eurasian Association, Singapore

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

Advertising Rates
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Copy must be submitted two weeks before publication date
Publication dates: 15 Jan, 15 Apr, 15 Jul, 15 Oct*
* Dates may change

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On stage at the EA Festival with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and (from left) PA's Executive Director Desmond Tan, MP Alex Yam, Minister for Communications and Information S. Iswaran, EA's Top PSLE Student in 2018 Trey Alexander Kian, centenarian Mdm Phyllis Clara Perreau, Deputy PM and Minister for Finance Heng Swee Keat, EA Pioneer Valerie Scully, EA's Longest Youth Volunteer Samantha Santa Maria, and MPs Joan Pereira and Christopher de Souza.

Dear friends,

I would like to begin by thanking the many Eurasians who volunteered and participated at the Eurasian Festival in July 2019. We were honoured that Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was our Guest-of-Honour. From his speech, it was clear PM Lee is very fond of the Eurasian community, and acknowledges our contributions to Singapore.

I have every reason to believe the PM thoroughly enjoyed our Eurasian hospitality at the Festival. Indeed, he even began his speech at the National Day Rally by mentioning the Festival. "This marked 100 years of the Eurasian Association, and showcased our unique Eurasian history and culture," he said.

Talking about National Day, I also want to thank 2nd Vice President Yvonne Pereira for organising yet another wonderful Red & White Lunch. Everyone had a great time with lots of food and good music.

In the midst of the happy celebrations came the sad news that former Member of Parliament and veteran diplomat Joe Conceicao passed away on 13 August. He was 95. Between 2004 and 2016,

'Uncle Joe' was a Trustee of the EA. We will remember him as a jovial man with a great sense of humour and wonderful stories to tell – he will be missed dearly. 'Uncle Joe' was always concerned about all things Eurasian and I am sure he would have loved the Eurasian Heritage Gallery.

The Eurasian Heritage Gallery is open! More than two years of painstaking work by the EA's Heritage Committee has given Eurasians something they can cherish and be proud of. On the one hand, I am sorry we could not feature everyone. But on the other hand, I take this as testimony that the contributions of Eurasians to Singapore are so overflowing that it would be near impossible to feature everyone.

Do come visit the Heritage Gallery. It is located on Level 4 of the Eurasian Community House, and opening hours are from 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday and on Public Holidays.

Until next time, warmest wishes.

Dr Alexius Pereira

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Ion Danker

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ON THE COVER

The 100th anniversary of the Eurasian Association gave us so much to be thankful for. From the celebration of the Eurasian Heritage Festival in July graced by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to the opening of the Eurasian Heritage Gallery in September honoured by Her Excellency Madam Halimah Yacob, and other happy mini celebrations in between, the Eurasian Association and our Eurasian community could not have asked for a better birthday present!



Celebrating the Eurasian
community and spirit

Be a part of the Eurasian Association's Chingay Contingent!

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

Date: 31st January and 1st February 2020 | Venue: F1 Pit Building



The word Chingay is equivalent to the Mandarin word 妆艺 (zhuangyi) which means the art of costume and masquerade in the Hokkien dialect. Here in Singapore, the Chingay Parade started in 1973 as a street parade to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Since then, it has evolved into an annual iconic event that showcases Singapore's rich and unique multi-ethnic and cosmopolitan cultures.

The annual event is characterised by vibrant performers in elaborate costumes from different ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds; dazzling display of floats; huge intricate props and structures and cultural performances from all around the world. Chingay now owns the reputation as one of Asia's largest street performance and float parade, a colourful epitome of the country's multi-cultural society.

The celebration, with all its colour and gaiety, compensated for the ban on firecrackers that was once a customary Lunar New Year

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

TRIBUTE TO

Uncle Joe

JOSEPH CONCEICAO

1924 – 2019

Almost everyone called him Uncle Joe, and to my daughters Adeline and Sarah, he was Papa. In his six decades of public service, my father Joe Conceicao served as an educator, Member of Parliament for Katong and veteran diplomat. He was also advisor to the People's Association, Adult Education Board, Singapore Press Holdings and National Museum; and served as a Trustee of the Eurasian Association.

Joe's disarming personality made him well liked and easily approachable. People from all walks of life found him genuinely humble and interested in their circumstances and wellbeing. His affection and insights made everyone feel valued in his presence and confident discussing their concerns freely with him.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong knew him as a "warm, charismatic and committed man" who left behind a distinguished legacy. Describing Joe as a distinguished member of our foreign service, Minister Vivian Balakrishnan commended him for his numerous contributions, being a fount of sound advice, and said "Joe's heartfelt dedication and service to Singapore will be missed".

His accomplishments were covered extensively in the media following his passing. Joe however, viewed any fuss over him with consternation. He always avoided the spotlight and would grimace and wave his hands dismissively at any hint of praise or accolades. What Joe treasured more than recognition was making a tangible difference to the lives of people and the communities he connected with. Especially close to his heart was helping younger Singaporeans understand that our resilience as a nation and society depended on how much we care for and are loyal to each other regardless of race, colour, religion or status.

These convictions stemmed from his experiences as a teenager in Bahau during the Japanese Occupation and later in post-war Singapore. The violence, suffering and social discord from war and communal riots left a deep impression on him and imbued him with compassion for the less fortunate and a resolve to help build a more equitable society that lives peacefully together.

Joe was an intimate witness to the frailty of life, how adversity and suffering can strip you of all that is superfluous and leave only what is essential for your survival. For Joe, this was family, community and his Catholic faith. Throughout his life they shaped his views and decisions and helped him confront issues that challenged his beliefs with courage and tenacity.



Clockwise from left: Joe Conceicao with EA Award winners and then EA President Benett Theseira; with Benett and fellow EA trustee Herman Hochstadt; relaxing at home.

Risking his parliamentary career, he voted against legislation that required doctors to perform abortions on demand, inspiring other MPs to do the same. The sanctity of life was far more precious to Joe than personal gain. He believed it was more important to be a child of God than the ruler of a kingdom.

Joe lived a long, exciting life. He helped people into new homes, schools and jobs, influenced government policy and enhanced ties with key allies. He published ten books and studied theology after he retired. When asked what kept him grounded and energised, he smiled broadly and exclaimed 'Love' – love for his wife Anita and his family, friends, and of course food, he laughed.

Thank you, Dad. The way you lived your life is an inspiration to all, and that legacy will live on. – *Ian Conceicao*

Joe Conceicao was a proud and loyal Singapore Eurasian. Through his support and urging as a Trustee of the Eurasian Association in the early 2000s, the EA was able to curate three earlier heritage galleries. His dream has come into fruition with the opening of the new Eurasian Heritage Gallery on 21 September 2019. – Timothy de Souza

Joe was a talented teacher who would inject life and humour into the texts on the study list. His lessons were always interesting and enjoyable. – Gerald Minjoot

Eurasian Festival 2019



The 2019 Eurasian Festival on 27 July at Our Tampines Hub saw an audience of more than 1,500 people. Showcasing Eurasian history and culture, the festival was organised by EA in partnership with the People's Association. Guest-of-Honour Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was joined by Deputy PM and Minister for Finance Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Communications and Information S. Iswaran, Members of Parliament Christopher de Souza and Joan Pereira, PA's Chief Executive Director Desmond Tan, and Integration Council Adviser Lim Boon Heng.

Prime Minister Lee did us the honour of cutting the Sugee Birthday Cake, surely no better edible symbol of Eurasiana! Weighing a whopping 40 kilos, it set a record for Singapore's largest sugee cake ever. The PM was joined by Mdm Phyllis Clara Perreau who, like EA, was celebrating her centennial. Others on stage to commemorate the ceremony, as featured on the cover, were EA's pioneer Valerie Scully; longest youth volunteer Samantha Santa Maria; and EA's 2018 Top PSLE Student Trey Alexander Kian.

The spirit of the Eurasian community was celebrated throughout the day with sterling performances by Vernon Cornelius & Band, Rebecca Louise and James, The Wildebeats and the Music Men. There were booths that let everyone experience Eurasian heritage and culture. Kids enjoyed the colouring booth where they got to fill in the colours of traditional Portuguese costumes and celebrations. What's more, they played hopscotch, *goli* and *chapték*, the yesteryear games we used to engage in!

PM Lee made a stop at the Eurasian-ish booth, an initiative spearheaded by Hannah Hendriks. Her youth-centric social media campaign aims to create a space for Singapore youths to voice their views and to engage the larger Singapore society on their understanding of Eurasians within our globalised society. Another stop the PM made was at the Youth Gives Back booth. Youth Gives Back ran in partnership with Club Rainbow, a non-profit organisation that centres itself on supporting chronically-ill children and their families. Many in the audience participated and engaged in activities together with the children beneficiaries of Club Rainbow. All in, it was a bright, colourful day.

EA would like to thank the performers and many volunteers who made the Eurasian Festival 2019 such a successful and joyous occasion!



The EA Dance Troupe.



From left: EA 1st VP Vincent Schoon, EA GM Lester Low, EA Trustees Edward D'Silva and Timothy de Souza, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, former EA President Benett Theseira, EA 2nd VP Yvonne Pereira, former EA President Bill Jansen, EA President Alexius Pereira, EA Hon Treasurer Martin Marini, Minister S. Iswaran and Committee Member Julia D'Silva.



The EA Choir.

SMILING FACES





Christmas Light Up Dinner & Dance

PERFORMANCE BY MUZIK LINE

DATE: 7 DECEMBER 2019

TIME: 7:00PM - 11:30PM

**VENUE: EURASIAN COMMUNITY HOUSE
MULTI-PURPOSE HALL, LEVEL 2**

139 CEYLON ROAD, S 429744

PRICE: \$45/PAX

DRESS CODE: CHRISTMAS COLOURS

**CONTACT HAZEL SOE @ 6447 1578 (EXT.206) OR
EMAIL HAZEL@EURASIANS.ORG FOR TICKETS!**

NEWS

yarn@EA

Interest group yarn@EA had two opportunities to showcase their skills and sell their products – at the Eurasian Festival on 27 July and at the Red & White Sunday Lunch on 18 August.

At the Eurasian Festival, yarn@EA also presented their choice selection to Mdm Ho Ching, wife of Guest-of-Honour Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The beautiful gifts were crafted by three members of the yarn@EA group: Jennifer Nonis, Olive Edema, and Lucille Marcus.

The note to Mdm Ho Ching (in part) read:

Dear Mdm Ho Ching,

As we celebrate our nation's bicentenary and the Eurasian Association's centenary, our craft group would like to present these gifts to you. These cover the three mediums of craft done each week.



Eurasian Festival Guest-of-Honour Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong receiving the gift on behalf of Mdm Ho Ching. With the PM are EA President Alexius Pereira and 2nd Vice President Yvonne Pereira.



Red & White Lunch

Organised in collaboration with Quentin's Eurasian Restaurant, the annual Red & White Sunday Lunch on 18 August gave everyone an opportunity to enjoy a delicious buffet spread of Eurasian dishes. The event, which was also to celebrate Singapore's 54th birthday, had the more active attendees dancing to an outstanding performance by Muzik Line. It was nice to see them having a great time!



EA president Alexius Pereira with the CD committee (from left) Suresh Menon, Pamela Menon, Dorothy Tessensohn, EA 2nd VP Yvonne Pereira, Sandra Theseira, and Melanie & Michael Smith.



Natalie Gordon speaking Mandarin to the residents.

Raising awareness among seniors

Volunteer Natalie Gordon did the community proud when she shared her first-hand knowledge of Eurasian heritage and culture with visitors at EA's booth at Tanjong Pagar GRC's Merdeka Generation Launch. To get closer to the residents, the event on 7 July was held on the Commonwealth field, which succeeded in drawing more than 1,000 visitors. Natalie spoke in Mandarin, impressing everyone with her fluency in the language. Her father Peter and brother Wesley were volunteers for this same event that helped raise awareness of the Eurasian community.

Getting the young interested

The best parts of Eurasian culture need to be shared with one and all. Bearing this in mind, EA docents Sharon Miller and Trevor Nerva conducted an informative fun-filled cultural session for the Secondary 3 cohort at Hwa Chong Institution. The event held during the morning assembly on 17 July was part of the school's Racial Harmony celebration. After an invigorating talk complete with a pictorial slide show by Sharon, Trevor sang and played the guitar, getting the students to join in his Jinkli Nona with gusto. The centuries-old Portuguese Eurasian song was simply too catchy to resist!



Clockwise from above: The boys in rapt attention as Sharon Miller conducts her talk; Jacqueline Peeris showing the steps of the Jinkli Nona; the EA team (from right) Trevor Nerva, Sharon Miller and Jacqueline Peeris with Zuliawati from Hwa Chong Institution.



For the Love of Music

The second Rock & Roll concert of the year was organised by Yvonne Pereira and Mel Ferdinands. The concerts are held three times a year to bring more fellow Eurasians together, especially those who hardly visit the EA or have never visited it at all. Everyone enjoyed this concert on 20 July and danced quite happily to the music of Muzik Line with Rani and DJ Judeson Pereira.

Smiles all round and always great fun at the Rock & Roll Concert.



In-House Balut

The 5th Round of the In-House Balut Tournament was held on 10 July. The July champion was Philip Cordeiro with 627 points. The 6th Round of the In-House Balut Tournament was held on 14 August. The August champion was Jessie de Souza with 668 points.



The 3rd Round of 35th Chivas Regal Inter-Club Balut Competition was hosted by Singapore Cricket Club on 17 July. A total of 19 teams comprising 76 players from six clubs participated. EA Team 2 was placed in 4th position with 2,369 points. EA Team 1 was placed in 16th position with 2,179 points. The Ban Khi (Yang) [pictured standing left] from EA Team 2 was awarded the top prize winner for Balut In One Throw.

The 4th Round of 35th Chivas Regal Inter-Club Balut Competition was hosted by the National University of Singapore Society on 21 August. A total of 19 teams comprising 76 players) from six clubs participated in the competition. EA Team 1 was placed 9th with 2,294 points and EA Team 2 was placed 15th with 2,204 points.

39th Chivas Regal Inter-Club Balut Competition

The 39th Chivas Regal Interport Balut Competition will be hosted by The Kinabalu Club on 22 and 23 November 2019 in Sabah, Malaysia. Three players will be representing the EA for this competition.



Our New-look Lobby

The Eurasian Community House has a new reception counter and it looks very nice! Here's where to get your fix of Eurasian memorabilia, including environment-friendly cloth shopping bags with a lovely imprint. The receptionist stationed at the counter during office hours will also help you with books written by Eurasians and concerning Eurasians. Check out some earlier books like *The Devil In Me*, by David Kraal; and *Elvis Still Lives In Katong*, by Denyse Tessensohn, as well as some of the most recent ones. A favourite is Jeremy Monteiro's *Late-Night Thoughts of a Jazz Musician*. There's also the late Joseph Conceicao's *Love and War in Old Malacca*.



\$20/TICKET

ROCK & ROLL CONCERT

26 OCTOBER, 2019

FROM 7.30PM

**EURASIAN COMMUNITY HOUSE
LEVEL 2, MULTI-PURPOSE HALL
139 CEYLON ROAD, S429744**

**HOST:
RJ**

**DEEJAY:
JUDESON PEREIRA**

**BANDS:
MUZIK LINE
WILD WEST**

**SPECIAL GUESTS::
RANI & MEL
THE DE COTTA BROTHERS**

**FOOD & DRINKS ON SALE AT PROMO PRICE!
CONTACT HAZEL SOE @ 6447 1587 (EXT. 206) OR
EMAIL HAZEL@EURASIANS.ORG FOR TICKETS!**



EA MEN'S SOCCER

July & August Games

Committee Members: Lyle Cordeiro & Christopher Pereira (Convenor)
Assisted by Gerard Goh from the Secretariat



EA Men's Soccer team after the friendly game against Pasir Ris Secondary School (PRSS) Alumni at SUTD Sports and Recreation Centre on 17 August.



EA Men's Soccer team before the friendly game against Modello FC at SAFRA Tampines on 4 August.

EA Men's vs Pasir Ris Secondary School (PRSS) Alumni	2 - 2	Draw
EA Men's vs Modello FC	3 - 3	Draw
EA Men's vs Victoria Old Boys	1 - 0	Win
EA Men's vs The Blue Team	3 - 6	Loss
EA Men's vs Opera Estate Beer Drinkers Club (BDC)	2 - 1	Win



Before the match against Victoria Old Boys at Victoria School on 21 July.



From left: EA Men's Soccer team strategising, and before the match against The Blue Team at The Cage Sports Park on 13 July.

The Eurasian Heritage Gallery Opens!

It took years in the making, but it was an achievement to crown all others in EA's centennial year.



After its genesis as a simple showcase for Eurasian culture in 2003 and undergoing major extensions in 2006 and 2011, The Eurasian heritage centre has morphed into the Eurasian Heritage Gallery, now bigger, brighter and bolder than ever before! Here are the EHG docents, all dressed up and ready to share the amazing Eurasian story with you!

In addition to being one of Singapore's charter Ethnic Self-Help Groups since 1994, the Eurasian Association, formed in 1919, is the only institution in Singapore that acts as a guardian of Eurasian heritage and culture. To commemorate its centenary, one of EA's key initiatives was to revamp the heritage centre. Now, thanks to the support of the National Heritage Board and other generous sponsors, the EA has updated its heritage centre, consolidating three galleries into the Eurasian Heritage Gallery, located on the fourth floor of the Eurasian Community House.

On 21 September, all efforts paid handsomely when over 200 guests attended the launch of the Eurasian Heritage Gallery. And when Guest-of-Honour President Halimah Yacob officially declared open the Gallery, it marked the fruition of a three-year project undertaken by the Heritage Committee who worked tirelessly with the consultants, curators and designers, not forgetting the many contributors who loaned or donated artefacts and images to make up a gallery that stands as a tribute to Eurasians.

The lively percussion music at the ECH lobby gave guests a taste of things to come. Performed by Mark de Souza and Ritmico Ensemble, it introduced a lively programme hosted by charming emcee Humphrey Conceicao. Never let it be said that Eurasians are short of talent! *Layers*, written by Judith D'Silva and Ann Hussein, and sung by Shanice Hedger and Jill Arul (in the music video available on YouTube produced by Megan Barker, you'll also see Gail Belmonte), evoked heartfelt emotions about what being

Eurasian means to us. And what better way to get to the core of this than watching *Roots*, a video presentation which is the main exhibit. If there's a Eurasian anthem, however, it has to be the EA centenary song *To Be Eurasian, To Be Singaporean - It's One And The Same*. Composed by Jeremy Monteiro, it was performed by the Jazz Association Singapore Orchestra, led by Jeremy himself and sung by Alemay Fernandez. Naturally, it is never a Eurasian party without food, drinks and lots of merriment. Chefs Quentin Pereira and Kenneth Francisco worked hard behind the scenes to ensure the feast was super delicious. Amazing talents, all!

The Gallery is a great way to reach out to the wider Singapore community and enhance understanding of our shared multiracial roots. There will be regular guided tours at the Gallery in English and Mandarin; more than two-thirds of our docents are Eurasian. Expect to see more than 130 significant artefacts, and up to 20 videos in the multimedia exhibits. For the techno-savvy or those willing to be, there are also interactive digital media displays.

The EA is organising Free Guided Tours for EA members from October to November 2019 (see table on opposite page). In addition, to celebrate EA's centenary, EA members who visit the Gallery can redeem a free Eurasian ceramic tile coaster souvenir by showing their EA membership card from 24 October until 31 December 2019.



President Halimah Yacob and EA President Alexius Pereira with the Heritage Gallery project team (from left) Percy Shepherdson, Gerardine Donough-Tan, Sharon Miller, Julia D'Silva, Geoff Morris, EA's Jacqueline Peeris, and Cedric Pereira.



President Halimah and Mr Mohammed Abdullah Alhabshee with (left) MP Christopher de Souza and his father EA Trustee Tim de Souza, and (right) Dr Alexius Pereira, Andrew Pang and Varian Monteiro.



Left: Mark de Souza (3rd from left) and Ritmico Ensemble at the Eurasian Community House lobby. Below: Jeremy Monteiro with the Jazz Association Singapore Orchestra.



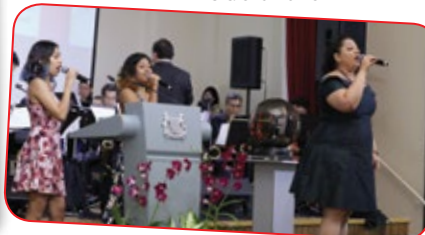
Emcee Humphrey Conceicao.



L-R: Azalea Oliveiro, Colin Choo, MP Christopher de Souza, Senior Minister of State Sim Ann, Felicia Pestana, Chloe Roberts and Ben Cheung.



Mrs Gloria Barker.



From right: Alemay Fernandez singing the EA Centennial Song, with Jill Arul and Shanice Hedger on back-up vocals.



President Halimah and Mr Mohammed Abdullah Alhabshee with chefs Ken Franciso (in white) and family and Quentin Pereira.



Delicious spread prepared by Chefs Kenneth Franciso and Quentin Pereira.



Clockwise from top left: Farleigh Clarke, Cara de Souza and her children Isabelle and Christian D'Penha, and Olivia Stewart.



EA's 2nd Vice President Yvonne Pereira and Portuguese Ambassador Luis Lorvao.



Left: Carla Barker Below: Guests eagerly waiting to view the Heritage Gallery.



FREE TOURS FOR EA MEMBERS AVAILABLE AT THE EURASIAN HERITAGE GALLERY

Date	Day	Time
OCTOBER		
24.10.2019	Thursday	11am to 12.30pm
26.10.2019	Saturday	2pm to 3.30pm
31.10.2019	Thursday	11am to 12.30pm

Date	Day	Time
NOVEMBER		
2.11.2019	Saturday	2pm to 3.30pm
7.11.2019	Thursday	11am to 12.30pm
9.11.2019	Saturday	2pm to 3.30pm
14.11.2019	Thursday	11am to 12.30pm
16.11.2019	Saturday	4pm to 5.30pm

Date	Day	Time
NOVEMBER (cont'd)		
21.11.2019	Thursday	11am to 12.30pm
23.11.2019	Saturday	2pm to 3.30pm
28.11.2019	Thursday	11am to 12.30pm
30.11.2019	Saturday	2pm to 3.30pm

- Note:**
1. Please register by emailing us at gallery@eurasians.org
 2. Minimum 10pax for the tour to proceed.
 3. Maximum 20pax per tour.
 4. EA members need to furnish their EA membership card in order to redeem the free souvenir.

The Eurasian Heritage Gallery Opens...

A happy day for the community and for all others.



Left: President Halimah Yacob and Mr Mohammed Abdullah Alhabshee with EA President Alexius Pereira. Right: Jeremy Monteiro finds he has lots of fans among the crowd.



The Shepherdsons.



Wesely Gunter and his mum Barbara Angela Peters.



Sabrina and Cheryl with their grandmother Theresa Noronha.



From far left: Julia D'Silva, Christian Eber, Timothy de Souza, Trevor Nerva, Percy Shepherdson and Portuguese Ambassador Luis Lrvao.



Humphrey and Lanette Conceicao.



From left: Pat de Souza; Sylvia McCully and her daughter Sasha Fong Pereira.



An appreciative audience.



From left: Edmund Rodrigues, Euyth Phillips and Mary Klass.



Simon De Cruz.



From left: Danielle with her mother Laura Fernandez, and Alessandria with her father Sherman Shotam and mother Nicole de Souza.



From left: Kevin Martens Wong and Andre D'Rozario from Kodrah Kristang with EA docent Alison Dragon.



Jill Arul and Terry de Souza.

Hey, that's me!



Judith Prakash nee De Cruz practised law for 18 years before being appointed a judicial commissioner in 1992, a Supreme Court judge in 1995 and (first female) Judge of Appeal in 2016.



Sylvia McCully with friends Debra De Cotta and Hansel Kryst. Behind them is a video clip of Sylvia conducting a dance rehearsal. Debra designed the dancers' costumes (in video clip and on poster).



Olivia Stewart now and as a flower girl at her godmother's wedding in 1947. Her father Stanley Stewart is one of the prominent Eurasians featured. He was the first Eurasian to head the Civil Service.

That's my dad, that's my grandfather!



Carla Barker is the daughter of the late Edmund Barker, Minister for Law from 1964 to 1988; Jane Ong is the granddaughter of the late Dr Benjamin Sheares, President of Singapore, 1970 to 1981.



Quentin The Skinny Chef!

From 'Eurasian Delight', a Kopitiam stall in Changi Business Park in June 2000 to 'Quentin's The Eurasian Restaurant' along East Coast Road in 2006 that finally settled in the Eurasian Community House in 2007, Owner and Chef Quentin Pereira, also known as The Skinny Chef, has led his business to flourish into a well-established restaurant. He continues to contribute to the Eurasian representation in Singapore's food-scape with traditional family recipes, passed down from generations.



During the Charity Fundraising Dinner in May, one of many of the centennial celebrations this year, Chef Quentin worked alongside chefs from JW Marriot Hotel to curate a 5-course menu that captures traditionally communal food into individual plating. The Appetisers featured Prawn Sambal Nanas and Feng, while the main course, 'Duo of Eurasian Delights', consisted of both Chicken Curry Devil and Pot Roast Beef.

'Quentin's Ginkli Nona', a cocktail specially concocted by Chef Quentin for the Charity Dinner was a hit amongst guests all night! And of course, It's named after popular traditional Portuguese Malaccan Folk song 'Jingkli Nona', which translates to 'Fair Maiden' in Kristang.

Taking inspiration from the event, The Skinny Chef will be opening a new outlet that will truly showcase the definition of Eurasians. Guests can expect a modern twist to the 500-year-old cuisine of where East-meets-West.



The Eurasian Tradition of feasting is often communal, much like a scrumptious feast laid out on Christmas Day. In the new Quentin's Bar & Restaurant, Quentin expresses a new concept of the Eurasian dining style in his dishes through individual dining.

Located in the heart of our Lion City's most visited attractions, Quentin's Bar & Restaurant will offer a traditional Eurasian dining experience amongst serenity with a hint of luxury.

Quentin's Bar & Restaurant is set to launch in early November 2019 at Mess Hall, Sentosa - Block 14, 2 Gunner Lane #01-08, Singapore 099567. Be sure to keep a lookout for updates on the restaurant on Social Media!

Eurasian Community Fund 2019



EA President Alexius Pereira presenting a token of appreciation to a representative of Telok Kurau Primary School Choir.



From 2nd left: Siblings Kimberly Ann, Kelly Mae, Keith Andrew and Kevin Michael Jeremiah.



Archangel Judiel Arthur Gallyot (left) and Archangel Uriel Jack Gallyot with their award certificates.



Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, speaking on the merits of hard work, and sharing a joke with a student.



From left: Enjoying delicious food; double award recipients Nur Natasha Fatin Nabila bte Sahrudin and Nur Natasha Fatheha Sahrudin; Kevin Michael Jeremiah delivering his Vote of Thanks speech.

On 7 September, The EA presented educational awards to 266 Eurasian students in recognition of their academic success. The annual Eurasian Community Fund (ECF) Education Awards Ceremony was held at the Institute of Technical Education College West. Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education was Guest-of-Honour at this annual event where 550 guests were in attendance.

Recipients had their own stories to share: Kevin Michael Jeremiah started his journey in the Normal Stream but through hard work was transferred to the Express Stream within a year. Kevin went on to become valedictorian speaker for his cohort and was placed on the Director's Honors Roll (of his polytechnic) for academic excellence for two consecutive years. His perseverance certainly paid off when he also received the Tertiary Merit Award.

Chanel Christine Roberts, an ITE student, refused to view her 'less than sterling' educational route as a stumbling block. Instead of dwelling on the negative, she concentrated her efforts on her course to achieve an impressive GPA score of 4.0.

The ECF Education Awards, which was inaugurated in 1996, helps defray the costs of education for those from lower-income families, and rewards Eurasian students for academic progression and excellence. This year, the seven main categories for the ECF Awards include the Bursary award given out to students from families with a Per Capita Income (PCI) of less than \$800. The Merit, Excellence and Distinction awards are based solely on academic results, with the quantum ranging from \$100 to \$300 to recognise Primary, Secondary and Tertiary students who have shown outstanding academic performances.

Joint Tuition Awards 2019



The 16th Joint Tuition Awards Ceremony on 17 August was organised by the Eurasian Association (EA), the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) and Yayasan MENDAKI. Collectively known as the Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these organisations presented awards to 454 well deserving students recognised for their hard work and achievements at the PSLE, GCE N and O-level examinations.

This year's Best Overall Award Recipients, Euphrasia Marie Francisco, Steven Muthukumar, Ivan Lim Jun Wei and Muhammad Firdaus bin Taufik, received the commendation from Guest-of-

From left: Derek Scully, EA 1st VP Vincent School, EA Chairperson for Education Graham Ong-Webb, JTA Recipient, Md Shazryl Hykel bin Abdullah, EA President Alexius Pereira, JTA Recipients Tessa Caitlyn Francis and Euphrasia Marie Franciso with EA MC Member Danni Jay Luke Danis.

Honour, Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education. All four work towards achieving excellence and continue to reach for the stars.

Congratulations once again to EA's Overall Best Award Recipient, Euphrasia Marie Francisco!

Joseph Schooling Sports Grant 2020

The Eurasian Association set up the Sports Grant after Joseph Schooling won Singapore's first Olympic gold medal at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. The grant recognises the achievements of Joseph Schooling, and aims to inspire young Eurasians to strive for sporting excellence.

The Grant, a cash award of \$5,000, serves to defray training and/or equipment costs incurred in pursuit of sporting excellence.

The Joseph Schooling Sports Grant will be awarded to the most deserving young sportsperson that meets the following criteria:

- a. A Singapore citizen or permanent resident;
- b. Eurasian, as defined in the Eurasian Association's Constitution;
- c. Between the ages of 14 to 19 years in the calendar year of application;
- d. In full-time education in Singapore for the majority of the Grant award year.

In addition, you must have:

- e. Demonstrated commendable performance from January to December in competitions (National Schools Competitions, SEA Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, and Olympic Games) by winning a bronze, Silver or gold medal in the preceding 12 months;
- f. Passed all requisite examinations and been promoted

to the next academic year, or secured a place at the next level of institutional learning (eg in transition from O-levels to Polytechnic or A-levels etc);

- g. Your application endorsed by your school or the relevant National Sports Association.

You must not be:

- h. Currently serving National Service or going to enlist in the year of the award;
- i. A recipient of a Spex Scholarship, or any other sports-related scholarship or grant.

All points, from 1a to 1i will apply for evaluating your application.

Applications opened on Tuesday, 1 October 2019 and will close on Tuesday 15 November

EA will set up interviews for applicants who have been shortlisted in early December 2019, and the announcement of the recipient of the Joseph Schooling Sports Grant 2020 will be made in the last week of December 2019. The full cash grant will be disbursed in mid-January 2020.

The Grant will be administered by the EA's Education Secretariat, which is responsible for shortlisting applicants and convening the interview committee. Interested applicants can apply at <http://www.eurasion.org.sg/education/awards-and-scholarships/>.

TIME TO REFLECT

By Edmund Rodrigues, Chairman of the EA's Family Support Services



“**A survey of households supported by the FSS revealed that 10% of clients suffer from some measure of renal failure. Among those surveyed, there is also a high incidence of hypertension and diabetes... higher than the national average.**”

A survey of households supported by the FSS revealed that 10% of clients suffer from some measure of renal failure, with some requiring dialysis thrice weekly.

Among those surveyed, there is also a high incidence of hypertension and diabetes. The percentage is much higher than the national average and the figures would be even higher if not for the unfortunate passing of a few of the elderly sufferers who succumbed to the illness in the last few months.

No formal studies have been initiated within the Eurasian community to study causes of the high incidence of these chronic diseases. The recent Health Promotion Board workshop, however, was a wellspring of information. The general consensus from other communities with similar medical problems is that members lead “an unhealthy lifestyle.”

The reasons for leading a so-called unhealthy lifestyle are as diverse as the individuals themselves. However, generally, this entails diet – one that is high in salt, sugar and fat. This is often accompanied by a sedentary daily routine without a regular exercise regime. Additionally, there are some instances where compulsive smoking and alcoholism contribute to the problem.

Since our inception, the FSS has been faced with the need to provide support to clients affected by chronic medical

conditions. The primary root of the problem is a lack of choice. Many of our clients may ask themselves: “How do I provide my family with a healthy lifestyle if I cannot afford the time nor the money?”

Many of our clients are in labour-intensive jobs, and parents so employed do not have the time to prepare homecooked meals. Children therefore have to rely on the nearby hawker stalls or pre-prepped convenience meals for sustenance.

The hawker stalls are always the first choice for children when it comes to the unsupervised purchase of meals. The tastier meals always come with more salt and fat, and the drinks come with more sugar. Even the common staple, rice, comes with a higher glycemc index.

Convenience and costs are the overriding factors for these poor choices and it is near impossible to envision busy parents wanting to change the arrangement. At \$4 a meal, you can't go wrong – so it seems!

The FSS is attempting to make some headway into solving this complex problem with our Quality of Life scheme, better known as the appliance scheme.

This scheme encourages the ownership of fridges and washing machines to make life easier and release recipients from time-consuming chores. Hopefully, this will revitalise a desire to buy groceries weekly – to cook at home and foster a home

environment that is more compatible with a healthy lifestyle. For example, a washing machine gets clothes clean at a fraction of the time handwashing would take. This would certainly give parents more time with their children. When you understand how the problem can be solved, you can easily see what needs to be done.

Each one of us on this committee has volunteered to take up the cause of providing support to those in need. Within our community, they are not a lot and so they have been marginalised, even forgotten. But we will not forget.

What we need now is to look ahead. We need an infusion of ideas that will inspire a whole host of workable solutions. We need to work together to build an FSS that can proudly say that we are doing everything possible for the less fortunate. We need to move forward and grow with every passing quarter.

I invite all of you here to work with me to brainstorm programmes, projects, solutions, partnerships – anything that will eventually give rise to an effective healthy eating campaign by the FSS for our clients; to break their reliance on hawker food and fast foods, and the addiction to sugary drinks.

With this, the next big step will be to get the family to exercise together, and for smokers to get rid of the habit. But that is a whole new ball game to be tackled later.

No One Left Behind

Befrienders are here for you.

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND is the motto of the EA's FSS Befrienders Programme. Initiated by FSS Sub-committee member, Martha Fernandez, the Befrienders Programme aims to reach out and extend a friendly hand beyond the basic needs of the community who have been left behind, and to also win the hearts and minds of the community as a whole. The objective to develop integral support infrastructure will require support from the whole community to ensure we one day meet the goal within the Eurasian community that no one is left behind. EA has helped more than 50% of the FSS community through its financial assistance schemes that include Cash Grants and Food Vouchers.

June, who's been with the Befriender Family Support Services since 1998, said it has helped her in many aspects of her life. She especially benefitted from its financial support, and vouchers enabled her to buy daily necessities at the local supermarket. Her Befriender Dione has given her confidence and support mentally and physically. Dione has also grown close to June's daughter, providing a listening ear whenever she needs one.

June conveyed her thanks to the FSS Team with this short message wishing EA on its 100th Anniversary: "I wish that whatever EA does will be blessed by God and nothing will ever spoil the Association and the people working here."

Dione, who accompanied June during the interview at ECH, said that since befriending June, she and her family have gained extended family members and vice versa. The two families now have meals together and enjoy each other's company. Martha also shared that in May 2018, she volunteered to lead the Befrienders Programme project so she could formalise the programme with the necessary structure, and find a way to recruit and train new Befriender volunteers.

We put a question to Martha: "The programme has currently helped 50% of the FSS members. How do you feel knowing that you have helped so many individuals through this initiative?"

Martha's reply: "Well, this means that we are still 50% behind in providing Befriender support. We hope that more will come forward to volunteer and participate in the Befriender Programme. At the moment, we are short of resources."

Martha said that the main setback was time, as "we are all volunteers". Not having direct experience and expertise also proved to be a challenge. "We reached out to agencies and existing Befriender organisations hoping to leverage on their experience. We managed to overcome the setbacks and in June 2019 officially launched the Befriender Programme at the FSS Family Day Event. By that time, we had developed and received support and approval for the Vision/Mission of the Befriender Programme, the Standard Operating Procedure and the Code of Conduct. Training was held on 24 August 2019 and our next goal is to recruit new Befriender volunteers."

At the same time, Martha would like to say a 'big thank you' to the Befriender Workgroup, to FSS Chairman Edmund Rodrigues and the FSS Sub-committee for their support. "To the twenty Volunteer Befrienders, thank you for having the courage to step forward and making the time on a Saturday to attend the training. We are all on a learning journey and we can only get better. I encourage more to step up and join us."

FSS conducted the first training session for their Befrienders Programme on Saturday 24 August 2019 in collaboration with Cornerstone Community Services. Twenty volunteers attended the enlightening session.

Volunteering as a Befriender is open to all, not only Eurasians. Be a Befriender now by emailing your details to Ram at ram@eurasians.org



June (far left) with her Befriender Dione.

Let's get the party started!

Megan Barker and Shaun Tupaz love what they do – and it shows! They tell us why they're in the business of keeping people entertained and that some risks are worth it.



Megan Barker, Party Starter

Most of your family members are lawyers. Did you ever consider being one or did you always know you wanted to be in the media industry?

Despite my family background, I always knew I wanted to work in the entertainment industry. I love to perform and be on stage and I love working with music and being behind the camera. My family has always been supportive of my dreams and have always encouraged me to follow my passions and goals in life. My grandfather once told me: "Don't work for money, just work hard and the money will follow." I hold what he said close to my heart.

You directed and choreographed a show in France with your uncle, Brandon Barker. Tell us more about this.

I worked in Paris with Uncle Brandon on a show in 2013. This was such a fantastic opportunity because we got to work with dancers from Crazy Horse and the original members of Sister Sledge.

Our dance rehearsals were in view of the Eiffel tower and Uncle Brandon put on an out-of-this world fireworks display at a vineyard in Bordeaux. Unfortunately during one of the dance rehearsals, I was dropped by one of the male dancers during

a complicated dance routine, and I broke my foot on the marble floor. I spent the next few weeks in a plaster-of-paris cast and had to steal an old woman's wheelchair to get around. (Don't worry, I only took it when she was napping.) Nevertheless, it was a wonderful experience!

Tell us something about yourself no one knows.

When I was living in Australia during my university days, I went to a shooting range for a friend's birthday party. I was inside one of the cubicles when a bullet ricocheted off the back wall and hit me in my face. It was painful to be hit on my face! But I'm very lucky it only hit the side of my nose. I still have the scar to prove it!

... during one of the dance rehearsals, I was dropped by one of the male dancers during a complicated dance routine and I broke my foot on the marble floor.



Shaun Tupaz, Stand-up Comedian, Radio DeeJay and Spin Instructor

When did you start doing stand-up comedy and who inspired you to adventure into this field?

I first started doing stand-up comedy four years ago, and my on-air partners inspired me to actually take that leap of faith. I had so much to contribute but my bosses didn't want the content on air, so I brought it out to the streets. Now I'm so thankful that I get to sell out shows every month.

As part of the morning team on oneFM, what is a piece of advice you would give to our Eurasian youth who aspire to be Radio DJs?

Don't... I already have trouble getting jobs, I don't need the competition.

If you had to pick one occupation, between being a Radio DJ, Spin Instructor or Stand-up Comedian, what would you pick and why?

If it's to be an 'occupation', it would be Spin Instructor, because it's the most fun. I love stand-up and it's a passion; that's why I don't get paid to do it. But during spin classes I get to connect with my class on a whole different level. It's the sweat and attitude that make it all worth it.

Tell us something about yourself no one knows.

Where do I begin? Actually a good place to start is for you to come to one of my stand-up shows. You'll find details on my Instagram page @Shaun_Tupaz. But one thing that I guess would be fun to share is that I actually used to be a national gymnast. Watch me split... my pants... because that was years ago.

Boba & Cakes

eurasian-ish conversations

Boba & Cakes: Eurasian-ish Conversations was a youth-led initiative organised by Team **Eurasian-ish** together with the **Eurasian Association, Singapore** and in support of the **Singapore Bicentennial**, powered by **Young ChangeMakers**.

Around forty young people aged 18 to 35 joined panellists Gareth Fernandez, Crispin Rodrigues and Kimberly Walker over bubble tea and sugée cake to engage in a conversation regarding Eurasianness. Boba & Cakes was a space to explore the four pillars of Eurasian-ish: Stories & Narratives, Connection & Engagement, Openness & Inclusivity and the Future, as imagined by youth who identified with the term Eurasian.

It was a fruitful occasion as both Eurasians and those from other communities engaged in a thoughtful discussion on the -ish's which make up a 21st century understanding of the term Eurasian. Much focus was placed on young people's desire to create a space and future where individuals can live their identities without pressure to live up to cultural expectations. Additionally, participants explored the commonalities that the term 'Eurasian' has with other communities and the larger Singaporean identity.

Overall, the afternoon was a truly heartwarming session as the attendees worked to take down the boxes commonly associated with the term 'Eurasian', and build a 21st century understanding of what it is to be Eurasian in modern-day Singapore.

EA MC Member Hannah Hendriks with panellists Kimberly Walker, Crispin Rodrigues and Gareth Fernandez.



Youth Digital Forum

Let's talk careers in Tech

The Youth Committee launched a forum centred around science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This new initiative took place on 13 July at the Working Capitol. A total of twenty youths from EA and different organisations attended the event. The interactive forum was led by four panellists – Andrew, Reuben, Anjum and Darshini – who are in the field of technology.

Participants were exposed to technology as a means of solution and understanding that technology can be found everywhere. Career prospects in STEM were also discussed during the forum.

From left: EA MC Member Danni Jay Luke Danis, Anjum Jain, Andrew Woo Schill, Darshini Santhanam and Reuben Soh.



Rating Your Social Skills Quotient

Social Skills coaches Nicolette Fernandez and Andrew Pang share their knowledge of social skills and reveal how being Eurasian has helped them in this industry.



Tell us, how and why did you venture into the Social Skills Coaching Industry?

NICOLETTE: An ex-uni mate of mine introduced me to my current company, Fleek Image. I realised that my knowledge in psychology and my previous experience working with people would be relevant to the company and job scope.

ANDREW: I've hosted events for a dating agency before and found what they do to be very meaningful in terms of coaching and helping individuals to become more aware of themselves and how to build on their social skills. I believe my background in psychology and hospitality plus my passion for coaching and training make a good combination.

How has being Eurasian helped you at work?

NICOLETTE: Eurasians have an openness to other cultures that is reflected in many aspects, including our language. I've been told I have a quality that allows them to feel comfortable very quickly. I do believe that it is because of the openness we have.

ANDREW: Being Eurasian makes it relatively easy for us to adapt and fit into different cultures. We are a mix of cultures and heritage anyway. Eurasians are known for being able to speak well and this has indeed boosted my personal branding.

What are some tips for singles who are keen to meet new people but don't know how or where to begin?

NICOLETTE: Definitely my number one tip is to expose yourself to social events more, such as the EA Singles Mixer! At the event, you'll be able to practise your interpersonal skills and expand

your social circle. But, of course, bear in mind your comfort levels. If you aren't comfortable showing up at this event alone, you may want to consider bringing a friend. The more the merrier!

ANDREW: Build your own personal brand. Know yourself and what you are about at this current stage of your life. Attend networking events and introduce yourself. With the feedback you receive, through smiles, laughter or LinkedIn connections, refine and improve. You will only get better!

What are the two most pertinent Social Skills to success at work, relationships and life in general?

NICOLETTE: To watch your tonality, and to actively listen.

ANDREW: It's hard to narrow it down to two skills but very broadly, these are: Communication – knowing how those around you share and understand information; and Adaptability – how fast you get comfortable outside what you are used to.

Any success stories to share?

NICOLETTE: Well, I am unable to disclose details of my clients' journeys. But many of them have said they feel accomplished, happier, and that they have gained more self and social awareness as well as built long lasting professional and personal relationships after coming to Fleek Image.

ANDREW: Topics we have covered at our sessions range from conversational skills to personal grooming, like getting a haircut! I have clients leaving our sessions feeling more confident and empowered. That to me is a win in its own right. I'm most happy when clients contact me after they attend social events or dates and tell me that what we spoke about worked for them.

**SIGN UP
NOW!**



SINGLES NIGHT

MEET NEW PEOPLE. MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Featuring 4 Single Estate Chocolate & 4 Single Malt Whiskies

16 Nov 2019

7pm registration

Location: Platinum Lounge, The Eurasian Association

EA members \$50, Non-members \$60

**Early bird sign ups before
10 November at only \$40 for
members and non-members**

**Please text Andrew at 818
22 858 or email Vini at
vinitha@eurasians.org**

OUR STORIES



Above: The Hogan Clan celebrating a historic get-together. Left: Vince Hogan, step-brother of matriarch Marie Hogan Pereira, with Anne Bennett, wife of Rory Hogan. Anne and Rory, who recently discovered his connections to the Hogans in Singapore, live in Ireland; Vince lives in Perth. This side of the Hogans can trace their ancestry to John Hogan, who came to Singapore with Stamford Raffles. Right: Devil Curry made by Richard Pereira, son of Marie, who turned 92 on 3 October 2019.



HOGAN'S DEVIL CURRY

On Saturday 14 September 2019, the Hogans of Singapore, Australia and Ireland got together to celebrate the bi-centennial of their ancestor's arrival in Singapore. John Hogan served in the East India Company under Sir Stamford Raffles and later went on to Penang to become the Collector of Land Revenue.

To celebrate this historic event, the Hogans extended an invitation to the Irish Ambassador to Singapore, His Excellency Pat Bourne, and were elated when he readily accepted. The Ambassador graced the reunion together with his lovely wife Sonali and gave a short speech acknowledging the role (often overlooked) that the Irish under the East India Company played in the early days of Singapore.

The reunion was attended by more than sixty people, about a third of whom made the effort to travel from Perth and as far away as Ireland; Rory and Anne came all the way from Ireland.

Braving the hazy conditions, the family had a wonderful time reminiscing over a meal of local fare, including, of course, a pot of Devil Curry Hogan-style, a must-have at any family gathering.

Family matriarch Marie Therese Hogan recounted memories of her days in Bahau during World War II. The youngest ones in attendance – children who had not known much about what was happening – had a first-hand experience as part of the vast family they belong to and discovered a wealth of information about their family history.

Family members pored over the family tree, tracing the connections to themselves down the line, and spent a good amount of time studying the beautiful collage of family photos put together by a family member from Perth.



Left: Irish Ambassador Pat Bourne addressing the family.

Below: Marie Hogan Pereira and Rory Hogan.

Right: Marie with family photos including a sepia portrait of her father Stanley Vincent Hogan.



The Conceicao Madonna



The Conceicao Madonna (Alvin Ong, Oil on Linen, 42x60cm, 2015).



Inspired by the world-famous Madonna and Child painting, John Conceicao commissioned an artist to do a portrait as a commemoration of his mother, the late Marian Agnes Conceicao.

WHEN MY MUM MARIAN AGNES CONCEICAO nee de Souza passed away in June 2015, I wanted something to commemorate her passing and the influence she had on me. I felt the expression of a relationship between a mother and child could be best articulated in the numerous depictions of the Madonna and Child. Apart from the familiar European works, there have also been various ethnic renderings. My hope was that this commissioned work would achieve the latter: a Eurasian-inspired Madonna and Child.

I got in touch with a young artist Alvin Ong whom I had known for quite a while. He had taken on several commissions of religious artworks involving inculturation.

Typical of Singapore Eurasians, my paternal and maternal ancestry spans oceans and territories – Portuguese, Dutch, Chinese, Indian and Malay, further mixed by inter-marriages between European-Asian-Southeast Asian groupings.

The oil-on-linen painting reflects this heritage. It depicts the Virgin Mary and Christ Child attired and placed in a

Portuguese-Eurasian-Peranakan setting. She is dressed in the baju panjang, attire that both my Portuguese-Malacca-Kristang paternal and Peranakan-Chinese maternal great-grandmothers donned as everyday use. The baju is fastened with the three-pinned Portuguese-inspired kerosang. The batik sarong is Javanese in design but influenced by the Dutch-Eurasian inclusion of European flowers, in this instance lilies, which happen to be associated with the Virgin Mary.

The Christ Child is in the Portuguese-European heavy-laced christening attire similar to how Eurasian infants were attired in the past for our baptisms.

The chair and side table are typical of teak furniture used in Straits Settlement homes. And the practice of sireh-chewing is reflected in a betelnut set on the table.

The setting of the artwork articulates my ethnic legacy across time frames. It depicts the journey from Portugal to Malacca to Singapore. The 16th-century Portuguese galleons anchored off the straits against the hills of Malacca, then

transported to 19th century Singapore, expressed in the Madonna and Child seated against the neo-gothic archways and terracotta tiles at the entrance to Singapore's St Joseph's Church, popularly known as Portuguese Church.

Initially, I wanted to title the painting 'First Blessing', as the Madonna is assisting the Child while he attempts to impart a blessing. However, the artist suggested that since the composition of the painting is so uniquely personal to me and my heritage, it should take on the title 'The Conceicao Madonna'.

It is also appropriate as one of the devotional titles the Virgin Mary bears – and one that is hugely popular in Portugal – is the title of 'Nossa Senhora da Immaculada Conceicao' or 'Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception'.

In my repertoire of Southeast-Asian art, 'The Conceicao Madonna' is perhaps the most cherished of all. It is personal, but at the same time a reflection of our Eurasian community, encompassing the richness of our syncretic make-up.



celebrating christmas

Four families share their special joys for the festive season... *our way!*

USUALLY RIGHT AFTER ALL SOULS' DAY, WE START OFF playing Christmas carols at home, and placing and lighting Advent candles. Then it's a rush – to make *kinchek* (pineapple jam) for tarts, *achar* (pickles) and to order the best fruitcake and sugée cake. We decorate the house and put up the Christmas tree and Nativity set. The youngest puts up the Star of David. We then attend penitential service.

On Christmas Eve, the lovely aroma of Christmas dishes fills the air as we cook up a mouth-watering feast for supper. Then the family attends midnight mass and the pageant at Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, after which we head home. My excited boys Cheyenne and Schuyler usually run to the tree to unwrap their Christmas prezzies first! Before our meal, we say grace and bless the food. As head of the household, my husband Colin carves the turkey.



From left: Parents Stephanie and Colin with sons Cheyenne and Schuyler.

After a great supper, Colin prepares the incense and walks around the house with the incense pot, blessing all the rooms and everyone present. We usually stay up until the wee hours of the morning, as a few of our relatives often pop by after midnight mass.

On Christmas morning, we usually spend the day at my Grandma's, where there'll be another feast. The best part is seeing relatives we have not met up with in a while. There's always someone with a guitar playing evergreen songs, Christmas carols or some made-up song. Everyone has their own version of Jinkli Nona.

We stay up until Boxing Day. At the stroke of midnight, we indulge in a harmless boxing match – such fun! As for food, the leftovers from Christmas are made into devil curry. This is truly when devil curry tastes its best!

— **Stephanie De Silva Holland**

After dinner, my husband Colin prepares the incense and walks around the house with the incense pot, blessing all the rooms and everyone present. We usually stay up until the wee hours of the morning, as a few of our relatives often pop by after midnight mass.

THE MONTHS BEFORE CHRISTMAS ARE THE BUSIEST TIMES FOR ME because that's when my ballet school prepares for our end-of-year charity public performance. I used to do these performances every year, but now I do it once every two years and as before, it's always a fundraiser. Last year, it was *Celebrating Christmas with Hope* in aid of Mental Health Awareness. It was a joint collaboration with Sylvia McCully School of Dancing and Clarity Singapore Ltd, which "supports persons with mental health issues towards recovery". Previous beneficiaries have included the National Cancer Centre Research Fund, Children's Charities Association and the Dyslexia Association of Singapore.

I'm really glad my grandchildren have been able to take part in the shows ever since they were ready for the stage, and in a small way do their part for charity, too. Last year, they were in Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, which is a lovely Christmas classic for ballet fans; one never tires of watching it. My grandson Julian Matteo Pereira was thrilled to play the role of the Nutcracker Soldier. He felt so important in his soldier's uniform! His younger sisters, Layla Jane and Hailey Ann, played the roles of Gingerbread Dancer and The Fox respectively. All three of them did a great job, if I may say so myself. I stood in the wings, watching them as a proud grandmother. I hope they never forget having performed in *The Nutcracker Suite* and regard it as a Christmas family tradition – whether this means being a part of the show, watching it or just listening to the music. — **Sylvia McCully**



Sylvia McCully with her grandchildren (from left) Julian, Layla and Hailey.

*I hope my grandchildren never forget having performed in *The Nutcracker Suite* and regard it as a Christmas family tradition – whether this means being a part of the show, watching it or just listening to the music.*



Nicholas, Bernadette, Ashley Vincent and Thurston.

Our whole family takes part in Christmas decorations at home. The Nativity Scene is a must; it's what Christmas is about!

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS BUILD A STRONG BOND WITHIN THE FAMILY and give a sense of belonging. It is a means to express what is important to us, and is a time of giving and sharing. We start preparations around the first week of November. Our whole family takes part in Christmas decorations at home. The Nativity Scene is a must; it's what Christmas is all about! Our youngest family member has the honour of placing the star on the top of the tree. Our family buys Christmas gifts as the weeks go by and place them under the Christmas tree.

The fruitcake is made early in November and the other cakes like suggee cake about one week before Christmas. As a family, we cut the fruitcake and wrap the slices in aluminum foil tied with green and red ribbons. These are served on Christmas Day together with gingerbread cookies and pineapple tarts. The whole family attends Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and returns home to a feast of roast turkey with cranberry sauce, honey glazed ham, devil curry and feng, just to name a few.

The exchange of presents is done after supper, with our night ending at around 5am. Finally, Christmas Day! In the morning, we take trays of Christmas goodies to my neighbours and invite them over to our place. Our family and friends will be streaming in throughout the day till late at night. In addition to this, we do a video call to Sydney because my daughter Pilar and her family are there. Hopefully one Christmas they can join us all in the celebrations. — **Bernadette D'Cruz Arlando**

CULTURE & HERITAGE

Front, from left: Thalvin Sandhu and wife Rachael Nonis, mother Margaret Nonis and son Keith Nonis. Back: Kimberly Nonis and father Fred Nonis.



Our pies are stuffed with a million things – chicken, meatballs, corn, sausages, carrot, potato, bacon, celery, everything! The pie has been something we have been doing for years, and I usually keep a few aside to present to the families we'll be visiting over the next few days!

OUR PREPPING STARTS ON 23 DECEMBER when my family goes to the supermarket to get everything we need. It normally ends up with a mountain of things in a trolley. Then, we go to Phoon Huat to get dough to cover our pies. Different tasks are delegated to each of us, and we make usual family Christmas favourites including devil curry, chicken wings, roast chicken and so on. Our pies are stuffed with a million things – chicken, meatballs, corn, sausages, carrot, potato, bacon, celery, everything! Once ready, the pies are kept overnight in the fridge to bake the next day.

The pie has been something we have been doing for years, and I usually keep a few aside to present to the families we'll be visiting over the next few days. The next day, on 24 December, some of our extended family comes over to decorate the pies together. We have lots of fun doing this. We carve snowflakes or Christmas trees out of dough or spell out our surname on the pie. We normally have a big dinner laid out after coming home from evening mass on Christmas Eve. Then we wait until midnight to open all the presents! – **Kimberly Nonis**

Carol Drysdale and son Kurt Drysdale.



CHRISTMAS FOR THE DRYSDALES IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL TIME FOR CELEBRATION

and to give thanks for the many blessings received throughout the year. Early preparation of pineapple tarts, fruit and suggee cake is a way we share the love of baking and cooking within the family. Decorating the family home in all its glory is yet another tradition and everyone's personal touch is seen throughout the house. Attending midnight mass brings our family together spiritually and the feeling of Christmas is definitely felt when the whole congregation sings together as one.

After mass comes another fun-filled activity, which is the exchanging and opening (although ripping has occurred occasionally!) of presents. Christmas Day sees the Drysdales out and about visiting grandparents and relatives, feasting away on traditional dishes such as Shepherd's Pie and Feng Curry, just to name a few. And Christmas really feels complete with Jinkli Nona playing loudly in the background. The joy of having everyone together celebrating Christmas as a family is truly a heartwarming feeling and something which the Drysdales really feel thankful for. – **Kurt Drysdale**

The joy of having everyone together celebrating Christmas as a family is truly a heartwarming feeling and something which the Drysdales really feel thankful for.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREAT

15 DECEMBER 2019

12.30PM - 4.00PM

EURASIAN COMMUNITY HOUSE
MULTI - PURPOSE HALL, LEVEL 2
139 CEYLON ROAD, S429744

AGE GROUP: 3 - 10 YEARS OLD

\$30 PER CHILD

Performance by The Amazing ToyBox!
Come and join us for a fun-filled afternoon.
Contact Hazel Soe at 6447 1578 (ext. 206) or
email hazel at [eurasians.org](mailto:hazel@eurasians.org) for tickets!
Book your tickets by 2 December.





100TH
ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating the Eurasian
community and spirit

New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance Glitz & Glam

31 DECEMBER 2019

Venue: Orchard Hotel, Orchard Ballroom
442 Orchard Rd, Singapore 238879

Time: 6.30 pm to 1 am

Early Bird Ticket:

Member \$145 | Non-Member \$150
Payment deadline: 30th November

Standard Ticket

From 1st December onwards
Member \$155 | Non-Member \$160 |
Children S\$70

Donation Table: \$3000 (Eligible for 2.5x tax rebate)

Entertainers: Band: Muzik Line | Guest Artistes: Wildebeats |

Deejay: Bernard Jeremiah | Emcee: Christian Eber

Attractive Prizes to be won:



Exciting holiday packages to Bangkok,
Ho Chi Minh and Bali sponsored by
Choice Hotels Asia Pacific

*Book a table for 10 persons so that all your guests can enjoy our member's rate.
Purchasing member must be present at the event.

*All guests' names must be provided when making the payment

*Bookings will be secured when full payment is received.

*No corkage charge on duty paid liquor.

*Price includes an International buffet spread, and ^free flow of beers, ^wines & ^soft drinks
^(while stocks last).

Contact Hazel at 64471578 (ext. 206) or hazel@eurasians.org for tickets