



The MSBCA is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Southeast Asian heritage & culture. Visit us online at www.msbcacalgary.ca



From the President's desk

Dear members,

I believe most of you must be busy doing your Christmas shopping while our committee members are busy preparing for several upcoming MSBCA events.

If you have not registered for these, do so now as spots are filling up quickly — see announcements on pages 5 & 6. One that is approaching quickly is the New Year's Eve Party on December 31st, so please register ASAP.

As I mentioned in my previous message, the Calgary Reaches Out (CRO) event held on November 12th at the Calgary Stampede Round Up centre was another successful event (see page 3 for more details on the event).

Its success was once again the result of active participation from many individuals, cultural groups and community organizations (including the MSBCA).

Apart from our dancers (who were very well received), we also provided the sound system to the CRO Organizing Committee.

On behalf of the CRO Committee, I want to personally thank the following for their support & participation:

All Committee Members especially Peter Tan and Jesse Cheah, the Cultural Dance Group Daniel Sario, Sonia

Rozario, Fabian Wong, Tina Hoang, Melissa Cheah, Khoo Mock Yong, Edmund Tan, Susan Tan, Priscilla Wong and Julia Sario, members Ken Preston, Eric Ng, Khin & Cindy Chin, Richard Chin, Gigi Chin, Kong Lau, Peter & Brenda Lee, Eric & Norlee Wu, Andrew Jo, Siew Chew, Frank Zhou & friends, friends Oi-Lai Cheng and family, Raymond Lee (who assisted in the sound system), Fundraising Karaoke singers Peter & Brenda Lee, Henry Tse (MSBCA members), John Fortunato of DPH Engineering Inc., President of the Alberta Chinese Community Congress Dr. KW Chang, CK Tang, President of the Chinese Herbal Medicine Association of Calgary Dr. Lai-Heung Yuen and Ed Wong, and various Chinatown community leaders, members and friends who responded to our calls and supported the event one way or another.

We're also busy at work getting the Children's Christmas party and the New Year's Eve party going. This year, MSBCA-Calgary is inviting 15 children from Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary to our Children's Christmas party, which is being coordinated by Kim Roe.

There is also a Christmas Charity Toy Drive organized by Geraldine Sng. Please remember to drop off your

toys at the clubhouse.

In addition, Jesse Cheah, who has taken the renovation of the clubhouse on his shoulders — with the help of John Soo, Peter Tan, Bill Tong and a number of volunteers — has done a fantastic job in changing the look of the clubhouse.

The projector has now been hooked up, and full cable service is coming. Watching movies and TV will be a regular occurrence in the clubhouse soon — thanks for all your efforts!

Finally, the 2006 Chinese New Year dinner party has been scheduled for February 4th, Saturday, to be held at the Treasures of China restaurant in Chinatown. Details of the event will be announced, with ticket sales starting soon.

Kai Loo, our VP Malaysia, will be the coordinator for this. Please address all suggestions and comments to him at: 246-1338 or email vpmalaysia@msbcacalgary.ca

If you wish to volunteer or participate in any of these activities, please don't hesitate to contact any of us.

Happy Holidays!

Khin Chew



Fundraising event

Organized by the Calgary Lions Club

Venue: Treasures of China restaurant

Date: December 24th

Tickets: \$38.00 each

Includes dinner, karaoke and door prizes.

To register: Call Khin Chew at 605-6638 for tickets

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**“Rampant
consumerism and
irresponsible retailing
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PAGE 2

Editorial

As Christmas rounds the corner, and everyone is caught up with holiday preparations, I have to wonder: is it just me or is anyone else getting nauseated by the rampant consumerism of the season?

I don't know about you, but having a two-inch stack of flyers accompany my morning paper and being force-fed fifty versions of “Let it Snow” on the radio every single day is not my idea of “Holiday Cheer”.

As a retailer, it's one thing to inform customers that you have holiday specials or sales, it's another to mastermind a shopping frenzy by using the media to bombard us with ads throughout the day.

Oh, and don't get me started about the radio stations... I'm totally convinced that there's nothing worth listening to on the airwaves until Christmas is over.

My so-so, used-to-listen-to-once-in-a-while station “The Breeze” has been churning out Christmas carols with a vengeance, I believe since November...there's nothing light about Lite 96, which basically followed suit; and the strange fellows at Jack FM are still doing, err... *not* doing their thing...

What's a guy to listen to these days?

After being cornered like a bear in the headlights of a Wal-mart trailer, assailed with hip-hop versions of “Jingle Bells”, I simply had to sit down one day and ask myself, “what the heck is going on?”.

Rampant consumerism and irresponsible retailing have turned what used to be a meaningful season into “the season of more”.

Buy more. Spend more. Pay more. Eat more.

What would Christ think of all this? Christmas is after all, a

time set aside to celebrate his birth — irregardless of political correctness and the silliness about the “Holiday Trees” in the media recently.

I'm no theologian, but I suspect he'd pretty much feel the same way Buddha would if he saw the gold likenesses of himself in opulent temples. Disappointed. Sad. Hurt.

Whatever happened to think more; feel more; reflect more; share more?

Maybe the din of the music on the radio is dulling our senses, or perhaps this is a side effect of being subjected to “Here Comes Santa Claus” for the millionth time...

If it is, here's a suggestion — turn the radio off, put in your favorite CD, and remind yourself that you *do* have a choice.

Best wishes to you & yours this season — may you have a safe, thoughtful and meaningful Christmas.

Calgary Reaches Out, with great success — Khin Chew

The Calgary Reaches Out fundraising event was organized by the CRO Committee, spearheaded by Calgary Fort MLA Wayne Cao, to raise funds to help the victims of the South Asian Earthquake and Southern US Hurricane Katrina.



Held on November 12th at the Calgary Stampede Round Up center, this is the second fundraising event organized by the CRO Committee.

First formed in January 2005 to raise funds for the Asian Tsunami Relief, the CROC (Calgary Reaches Out Committee) is now an officially registered non-profit volunteer organization that represents a mosaic of caring Calgarians: individuals, cultural groups, community organizations – united and committed to providing support to victims of global disasters.



With the cocktail starting at 6.00 pm, supplemented by slide show of all sponsors and participants of the event, and the silent auction going, the event started with MC Pearl welcoming all guests and VIP's at 7.00 pm, with the affable MLA Wayne

Cao singing 'O' Canada.

There was a moment of silence for the victims of the catastrophic natural disaster of the earthquake in South Asia and the hurricanes in South USA, followed by another in memory of those Canadians who made the ultimate sacrifice in order for us to live in peace, freedom and democracy today.

Dinner commenced after Dr. John Wu's said grace on behalf of the attendees.

After dinner, the President of Pakistan Canada Association Dr. Masood Parvez and Consul general of the USA Dr. Naim Ahmed delivered their speeches. Mr. Alex Kalesnikoff, President of the



Calgary Council of Folk Arts Council, then took over as MC for the evening.

The evening's programme began with a choreographed piece from the Regent School of Irish Dance, followed by an address given by myself and Dr. Onyee Nwankpa from the African Canadian Community.

There were three more dance performances, by the Ukrainian, East Indian and our very own MSBCA-Calgary Dance groups. We were then introduced to the Hon. Consul of Guinea Mr. Giovanni de Maria, fol-

lowed by MLA Wayne Cao's presentation of a community grant cheque to the President of the Pakistan Canada Association Dr. Masood Parvel.

The event continued with contributions from the Lotus Productions Studio and a Chinese Fan Dance by the Chinese Dance Theatre. The final performance for the night was by the Canadian Filipino Federation.

To top off the evening, a fundraising karaoke session was held to generate donations as well as to have some fun.

Overall, it was a fun night filled with cultural performances from various ethnic



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groups from different backgrounds.

What mattered most about the evening was that everyone came together for a worthy cause.

Working with the CRO Committee was an eye-opening and valuable experience, mainly because of the many different people and backgrounds you get to work with.

Although it takes a lot of effort to organize an event of this scale, I'm nonetheless looking forward to work with them again in the near future.



Tropical Impressions – Heather Thompson

Here's the conclusion of this article. Thanks once again to Heather who shared this with us! Ed.



We stayed in KL twice, once in a hostel near the Padhu bus station and once at the Shangri-La on Gary's birthday.

What a contrast! It felt like we were in two different cities. We made the obligatory trip up the twin towers and the even better trip up the Menara KL for great view and an excellent audio tour as we walked around the deck.

Taman Negara was the next stop, as we went for night walks in the jungle and watched birds with an ornithologist we met one morning. We ate at the floating restaurants on the river and went for evening walks along roads lined with rows of rubber trees, all with spiral cuts dripping sap into little buckets.

From there we traveled by bus, stopping at various towns until we arrived at Kuala Trengganu on the east coast. This trip left us feeling well acclimatized.

By this time we were ready for a rest and booked a wonderful four day visit to Pulau Redang. It was very laid back and I dove and snorkeled every day. Long walks in the afternoon and plenty of long naps were just what the doctor ordered!

In Kuching we stayed at a nice hotel right along the river, next to the Main Bazaar. I chided myself for all the time wasted shopping for gifts up till now. I could have found everything here in one morning!

We found Kuching to be a very

charming city, the greenest city we visited in Malaysia. All the vegetation seemed to take the edge off of the heat and getting drenched in our first torrential rain showers helped too!

We spent a long magical evening eating dinner along the river, watching the fishermen. They crouched in their boats and cast circular nets out on the water as twilight and the rain fell around them.

After that we had another enjoyable day at the living museum in the Sarawak Cultural Village on the Denai Peninsula. As we walked through all the different styles of homes we tried to imagine what it would be like to live in such a close community, which was very different from our way of life.

We loved watching the cultural show with all the dancing and singing and were both struck by some of the similarities to Polynesian performances we had seen elsewhere and wondered if the indigenous people in Borneo share a history with the Polynesians or if perhaps their cultures were affected by trading?

Our next destination was Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, spending a few days here and exploring the town, visiting the markets and marveling at all the orchid plants for sale.

KK was also the spot where we finally tried the brand new product at Kentucky fried Chicken....Curry Crunch! It was quite tasty and I was very disappointed when we returned to Calgary to find it was not being introduced here.

From KK we flew to Sepilock and the Orangutan sanctuary. It was so cool to be able to watch the young orangutans who are being reintroduced to

the wild come down out of the forest to the feeding platforms.

After Sepilock we caught a boat from Sandakan along the coast and then worked our way inland along the Sungai Kinabatangan until we reached our lodge. Staying on the river and going for trips in the long boat with our guide and our boatman was really one of the highlights of our trip to Malaysia.

We had a wonderful time watching Proboscis Monkeys leaping (crashing) from tree to tree. We saw macaques, snakes, crocodiles, elephant tracks and even a glimpse of a wild orangutan. We found being on the river was a much better way to view animals in the jungle than walking amidst the dense brush.

We had lovely meals of fresh fruits and vegetables and lots of fresh water prawns. It's no wonder that I didn't lose any weight in Malaysia! Our three days there were wonderful; even the exciting evening when we discovered a 1.5 meter long cobra along side the garden path!

All the young men at the lodge were out with flashlights and a long stick, trying to pick it up and move it out of the yard! We were very sorry to leave our jungle lodge with its large verandah along the river especially as it signaled the end of our trip.

On our final day we enjoyed the boat ride back to Sandakan and had a tour around the town. The tour company left us at a luxury hotel with a beautiful pool to swim at and a huge buffet lunch. It was a nice treat but already we missed our verandah on the Sungai Kinabatangan.

It was time to go home.



Announcements

Looking for a venue??

Holding a meeting, business presentation or social event?

The MSBCA clubhouse features 1000 sq ft of space, a licensed commercial kitchen, state of the art audio and video equipment, plus a seating capacity of 80 people.

Rental Rates & Terms

(with effect 1 Dec. 2005):

Members (including sound system):

6 hours \$60

Full day \$110

Non-members (excluding sound system):

6 hours \$80

Full day \$130

An additional \$100 is chargeable for the use of the sound system

Damage Deposit: Applicable to Members and Non-members (refundable if there is no damage or loss to property):

- Building rental \$100
- Sound system \$400

Rental Hours: 9am to midnight

For more details, contact:

Geraldine Sng @ 242-2621 or email vp_singapore@msbcacalgary.ca

Part-time attendant, MSBCA

The MSBCA is looking for a part-time attendant to perform various duties:

- Open and close the clubhouse on Saturdays between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Do light cleaning of the clubhouse and ensure that it is kept neat & tidy

This is a paid position and will commence 1 January 2006.

For more info, contact Jesse Cheah at 274.3541 or email secretary@msbcacalgary.ca

Editor's note: If you would like to post jobs in the newsletter, please contact any of the MSBCA committee members or email: editor@msbcacalgary.ca

MSBCA 2006 Badminton Schedule

- 6 Jan to 23 Jun (25 sessions)
- Every Friday evening from
- 8pm-10pm @ Talisman Centre Gym 4

Fees:

- \$5 drop-in
- \$70/\$50 for Single
- \$140/\$100 for Doubles
- \$188/\$138 for Family

NB: Lower rate applies to Bingo volunteers



Announcements

**MSBCA Chinese New Year
Dinner 2006**

Saturday, 4 February

**Treasures of China Restaurant
(Chinatown)**

\$25 (adults), Kids/Teens (TBN)

Registration:

Please contact Kai Loo at 246.1338 or
email: vp_malaysia@msbcacalgary.ca

*Stay tuned for more details in upcoming
newsletters!*

MSBCA Calendar of events

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Sundays: | Kids' Martial Arts & Tai Chi |
| 24 Dec: | Lions Club Fundraising event |
| 31 Dec: | MSBCA New Year's Eve Party |
| 6 Jan: | MSBCA Friday Lunch |
| 14 Jan: | Bylaw discussion (Potluck) |
| 21 Jan: | Tombola / Karaoke / Char Kway Teow |
| TBN: | Use of Proceeds Guidelines (Gaming) |
| 4 Feb: | MSBCA Chinese New year Dinner |
| 18 Feb: | Movie night (TBN) |

*Some events have been finalized, please read the notices in
this issue. For others and those TBN (To Be Notified), stay
tuned for more details in upcoming newsletters!*

Tombola Nite

21 January 2006

7.30 pm, MSBCA Clubhouse

Karaoke & Makan too!

**Char Kway Teow by Jesse Cheah
(\$5.00 per plate)**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

MSBCA New Year's Eve Party

Usher in the New year with us!

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Where: | MSBCA clubhouse |
| When: | Sat 31 December 2005 (7pm -1 a.m.) |
| Cost: | Children under 14 - free;
Adults - \$5.00 each (for champagne & party gifts) |
| Menu: | Potluck (please - entrees only; dessert optional)
Free coffee & tea; cash bar (pop & beer) |
| Entertainment: | Singing & games in the early evening
Dancing from 10 pm onwards with live DJ |
| Registration: | Starts 1 Dec and ends 23 Dec
Limited to max. of 70 attendees (incl. children) |

Contact Peter Tan at: pttan@shaw.ca or call 280-2011 to register

A Children's Xmas Party to remember — George Heng

This year's Children's Christmas Party was held on Saturday, 17 December at the MSBCA clubhouse.

What made it extra special were 12 guests from Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Calgary, who attended the party at our invitation.



The afternoon's programme began with the adventures of Spongebob Squarepants; this was followed by a number of games — basketball,



hoopla and target practice, to get everyone into the swing of things. But what really got the kids going was the Limbo Rock Challenge, and Musical Chairs.



We were then entertained by a magician who amazed everyone

by pulling pigeons out of mid-air, restoring cut ropes and newspapers, and basically confounding everyone with his deft hands, and even quicker wit...



And last but certainly not least, we were paid a visit by Santa, who happened to be in the neighbourhood to drop off some gifts and spread some good cheer...

All the kids had a great time, judging by their smiles, the great food and their new found friends.



The party was a great success, but more importantly, it emphasized what could be accomplished if everyone does just a little bit...

On behalf of the MSBCA committee, we'd like to thank: Canada Safeway (Westhills branch); Kim Roe; Julia Sario; Jessie & Cliff

Son; Linda & Jimmy Bong; Joyce & Danny Wong; Becky & Harry Win; Priscilla Wong; Melissa Cheah; Elizabeth Tan; Irene Tan; Rachel Chien and John Soo.

Good job, everyone!

Note: for more photos, please check the website over the next few weeks...



Marketplace—goods, services & other announcements



“Thank You” to Malaysia Airlines For sponsoring tickets during these events:

Cultural Night 2005 Chinese New Year 2005

Change of address?

If your contact info is not up to date, you may be missing out!

Please contact Khin Chew to keep your details current!



Got something to say?

Send your questions, comments or articles to: editor@msbcacalgary.ca

We'd like to hear from you!

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MSBCA Lunch — 6 January 2006

Yong Tau Foo

by Linda Bong, Lily Chew &

Jessie Son

\$6 per person, 12 pm— 2 pm

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