



From the President's desk

Dear members;

In the March issue of the newsletter, I mentioned about MSBCA-Calgary's participation in the Asian Heritage Month 2006 event in May. Now that we are coming closer to May, preparations for the MSBCA Mosaic of Flavours - A taste of Southeast Asia 2006, which will be made up of two food fairs at our clubhouse, on 7 and 28 May, as part of the Asian Heritage Month, is in high gear. The committee and volunteers are working hard to make this a memorable event that may carry on in future years.

While volunteers are being canvassed to help in this event, the cultural group is busy practicing their dances for participation in the Global Fest South East Asian Pavilion from August 17 to August 19. We invited Encik A.R Taufik from Vancouver to help choreograph cultural dances from April 20 - April 23. This will definitely benefit our cultural dance group and further enhance their performance in future events. The cultural group will also be holding regular practices in the clubhouse to train more members who are interested in joining them.

A big "Thank You" to the following:

Joget Si Mandi Mandi: Sonia De Rozario, Eng Chang, Susan Tan, Kim Roe, Melissa Cheah, Gigi Chin, Priscilla Wong, Daniel Sario, Edmund Tan and Peter Tan

Arabian Dance: Valene Cheah, Ayla Vallaley, Michael Chien, Joshua Cheah and Joseph Cheah

Chef and food crew: Julia Sario, Jennie Soo, and Liz Tan

Special thanks to Encik Taufik for graciously taking time from his busy schedule to help us; and all who participated, especially Priscilla Wong who took it upon herself to help ar-

range Taufik's travel and lodging, pick up from and to the airport on Thursday and Sunday. Well done everyone! For those who missed out on this opportunity but would like to participate in future practices, contact our Social Director Peter Tan or any of the committee members.

As for Global Fest this year, participation is a joint effort between the Canadian Indonesian Social Club of Calgary (CISC) and the Alberta Thai-Canadian Association of Calgary (ATCAC). The South East Asian Pavilion, represented by three associations comprised of five countries - Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Thailand, will be held at the Monterey community center. The overall coordinator for the pavilion is Veronica Carter of CISC. I am the MSBCA coordinator for this event.

Apart from MSBCA's cultural performances, we'll be selling dessert and the ever-popular Tiger Beer from Singapore, while the CISC and ATCAC will be performing and selling hot meals; there will also be arts and crafts on sale at the pavilion. The audio system and lighting support for the event will be a joint CISC and MSBCA effort.

Volunteers who are willing to help in the preparation of dessert and assist in various tasks, or if you have Arts and Crafts for sale, please call me at 605-6638 for more details.

If you have performance ideas that you believe will enhance the promotion of the Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei cultures, please forward your proposals to me ASAP.

With winter gone and summer not too far away, I would like to wish all members a happy spring and wonderful summer.

Khin Chew



"With winter gone and summer not too far away, I would like to wish all members a happy spring and wonderful summer.."

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Editorial



"While I am saddened by the lack of volunteerism in the countries we came from, I am heartened by the fact that, all it took was a change in environment, and all this can be turned around ."



Watching TV one night, I came across a Canada Post(?) ad that was paying tribute to Canada's many volunteers. One thing about that ad stood out: "7 out of 10 Canadians volunteer" the ad voiceover said.

I was beside myself in disbelief — that's a 70% volunteer rate! I started to think about this further and asked myself if it could be true. I thought about Singapore, where both my wife and I were originally from, and designed a little "thought experiment". My goal was simple: How many people did we know in Singapore volunteered, compared to people we know in Canada who volunteer?

The results were shocking but not unexpected. We virtually had to scrape the bottom of the barrel to think of people we know in Singapore who volunteer. Finally, after a using a fine toothed comb, we came up with a result of 20% (or 2 out of 10). As for people we know here who volunteer, well... virtually EVERYONE we know here volunteers. The number we arrived at was about 80%.

Although this was a simple experiment, not a true random sample nor designed to stand up to any statistical scrutiny, the "results" more or less vindicated what the ad had claimed.

How did this happen? We're still the same people; why do we tend to volunteer more in Canada than when we were in Singapore?

I suppose it can be said that in the Southeast Asian countries we came from, the all-consuming pre-occupation was survival, making a living and getting ahead. But we still have to pay the bills after getting here, so what has really changed?

A friend of mine thinks it's because Canada (and North America) has strong Christian origins and roots (even though these days one may question that belief), and as such, the tendency to be more community minded and volunteer is extremely high, as well as infectious. Volunteering also helps build networks, which as we all know are invaluable to finding a job here.

I think there's some truth to that. While I am saddened by the lack of volunteerism in the countries we came from, I am heartened by the fact that, all it took was a change in environment, and all this can be turned around — 20% can become 80%.

So here's to all the volunteers; in the MSBCA and beyond — the ones who toil quietly in relative obscurity (as opposed to the ones who shout it out loud), helping in ways not always "glamorous", faithfully, and always with a smile.

You may not win any medals for public service, but for what it's worth, I know who you are, and salute you all.

MSBCA's involvement in the community at large - Khin Chew

Some members have asked me the question why MSBCA-Calgary has become so actively involved with other associations and organizations in Calgary, and why we are participating in all these events.

MSBCA XMAS Party 2005 saw 12 guests from Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Calgary joining in the fun!



Before I answer this, one most important question we should ask ourselves is: Are we satisfied that we have met all the objectives as set forth since the formation of MSBCA? Just to refresh everyone's memories, the objectives as per the MSBCA-Calgary Bylaws are as follows:

- 1.1 To preserve and maintain the cultural heritage of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei while promoting through cultural events, understanding between our Association and the community at large.
- 1.2 To provide for the recreation of the members and to promote and afford opportunity for friendly and social activities.
- 1.3 To assist in the settlement of new residents from Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.
- 1.4 To support worthwhile charitable projects in Canada, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.
- 1.5 To provide an informal cultural resource centre for use by our members and any interested parties.
- 1.6 The Malaysian Singaporean Bruneian Community Association shall be a non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit Association.

Our participants and brightly attired dancers at Global Fest 2005



Our involvement with other associations and organizations through various activities such as the celebration dinners, Asian Heritage Month including the Photo Exhibition organized by the ECCC, the upcoming Global Fest South East Asian Pavilion in the first-ever joint venture with the Canadian Indonesian Social Club and Alberta Thai-Canadian Association, the performance at the Alberta Centennial celebration in China Town, are some of the main club activities, alongside weekly badminton at the Talisman Center, Martial Arts and Tai Chi classes, and various other activities such as the Ovarian Cancer presentation by our members, and cultural dance choreographing that takes place in the clubhouse.

When the call came out for fundraising help after the tsunami of 2005, MSBCA was there



Other involvements include contributions to the Mustard Seed Ministry, Calgary Reaches Out fund-raising events; sponsoring of various events organized by our members, and donations to disaster relief efforts such as the mud slide in the Philippines, South East Asian tsunami, South Asian earthquake, Hurricane Katrina etc. Apart from just being true to our bylaws, this community involvement and participation is the very essence of what it means to be "Canadian" (see this issue's editorial).

Bowness Park Picnic 2005 to thank our volunteers for all their support & hard work



I hope that this short note helps to clear up most of the questions regarding MSBCA's community involvement. I strongly believe that we should be proud of how much has been achieved by the "small" 05/06 committee group, assisted by our forever faithful and hard working volunteers.

A big terima kaseh to them all!

Khin Chew

Asian Heritage Month — MSBCA Mosaic of Flavours 2006

MSBCA MOSAIC OF FLAVOURS
A Taste of Southeast-Asia Food Fair 2006
(Fundraising event)

Date: May 7 (Sunday) & 28 (Sunday)

Time: 11 am to 3 pm

Venue: MSBCA Clubhouse
#310, 114-3rd Avenue, SW Tel: 289-7711

Admission: \$10 per ticket booklet
(redeemable for food, drink and dessert)

Every booklet entitles you to a chance to win one return ticket to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from LA (LA-KL-LA) Conditions apply**

Authentic dishes include: Satay, Nasi Lemak, Mee Siam, Rojak, Nonya Popiah, Hokkien Prawn Mee, Beef Rendang with rice, Ayam Merah with rice, Char Kway Teow

And for dessert: Kuih Lapis, Curry puffs, Agar-Agar, Baked Tapioca Kuih and Goreng Pisang

For ticket sales (cash only), contact:
Jennie Soo @ 280-0327 (before 10 pm)
or email events@msbcacalgary.ca

Tickets will also be sold on-site on the actual days

MSBCA is proud to be a participant & patron
of Asian Heritage Month 2006

**Ticket sponsored by Malaysia Airlines



Announcements

Clubhouse Rental

(changes as of 1 May, please read)

Holding a meeting, 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 May 2006):

Rental Hours: 9am to midnight

Members (including sound system):

Mon-Fri: \$120

Sat-Sun, Holidays: \$150

Non-members (excluding sound system):

Mon-Fri: \$160

Sat-Sun, Holidays: \$200

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

Damage Deposit: Mandatory for ALL (refundable if there is no damage or loss to property):

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

With immediate effect, there will be a cleaning surcharge of \$50.00 if the clubhouse is not properly cleaned after each rental. If applicable, this will be deducted from the damage deposit.

For more details, contact:

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

Condolences

The committee and members of MSBCA-Calgary extend our deepest sympathies to Mr. and Mrs. Law Guan Lai on the loss of their father / father-in-law, Mr. Law Chiew Huat, on March 5.

Our thoughts & prayers are with you.

Asian Heritage Month

MSBCA Calgary is proud to be a participant of Asian Heritage Month 2006 and a patron of the ImaginAsian Film Festival on 17 May, officially dubbed "Singapore Night".

Singapore film maker Chia Yeow Tong will be in attendance for a question & answer session.

ALL ARE WELCOME

For more details on the film, tickets, or various events in May, please visit:

<http://www.asianheritagecalgary.ca>

Brochures on Asian Heritage Month and its events are also available at the MSBCA clubhouse.

MSBCA Calendar

(Volunteers for events are most welcome!)

Sundays: Martial Arts & Tai Chi (subject to clubhouse rentals and events)

May:

- 5 - MSBCA Event - Food & clubhouse prep
- 6 - MSBCA Event - Food & clubhouse prep
- 7 - MSBCA Mosaic of Flavours
- 12 - rental by Folkdance Group (6 hours)
- 19 - rental by Folkdance Group (6 hours)
- 26 - MSBCA Event - Food & clubhouse prep
- 27 - MSBCA Event - Food & clubhouse prep
- 28 - MSBCA Mosaic of Flavours

June:

- 10 - MSBCA Event - TBN
- 17 - rental by Sandy Su
- 24 - MSBCA Event - Bak Chang Nite / Tombola

July:

- 1 - MSBCA Event - TBN
- 22 - MSBCA Event - Bowling (tentative)

August:

- 5 - MSBCA Event - Singapore National Day
- 26 - MSBCA Event - Malaysia National Day

September:

- 9 - Picnic at Bowness Park
- 30 - Casino fundraising

October:

- 1 - Casino fundraising
- 14 - MSBCA Event - AGM

Note:

Clubhouse rentals take precedence over "TBN" (To Be Notified) events. If you'd like to rent the clubhouse on those dates, please approach any of the committee members.

B	I	N	G	O
10	20	42	59	62
5	29	39	56	75
4	17	34	60	71
11	18	32	61	66
15	19	36	47	68

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

Thanks to the following volunteers who responded on short notice and helped in the Bingo event on 22 April :

Ah Nga Bong, Angie Kerr, Ching Fatt Chin, Conrad Rumjahn, Diana Bird, Jennie Soo, Jenny Lewis, Khin Chew, Ken Charkow of the Folk Dance group, and Ken's friend Lucas Koch.



THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

The committee thanks Jennie & John Soo, Jesse & Melissa Cheah, Adeline Chan, Rajean Pillay, all the volunteers and those who came to support our Sunday Lunches and tombola events.

Please contact the committee if you can volunteer (or cook) for our Sunday Lunch events.

Marketplace—goods, services & other announcements

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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

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Membership Fees

For those who have not done so, please re-new your membership ASAP.

Hand your payment to any committee member or mail your cheques to the clubhouse at this address:

MSBCA
#301, 114-3rd Ave SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0E7

Scholastic Awards

Unfortunately due to a lack of funding, the MSBCA scholastic awards will be discontinued with immediate effect.

The MSBCA Committee

Marketplace—goods, services & other announcements



**“Thank You” to
Malaysia Airlines
For sponsoring tickets
for these 2006 events:**

**Chinese New Year
Asian Heritage Month**

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

Please note that the
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monthly publication and all
submissions are due by
the 15th of each even-
numbered month.

We'd like to hear from you!



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