



## Meet the New MSBCA Committee



(L-R): Eeham Khoo, Hong Tram, Jonathan Looi, Giva Bala, Eshea Khoo, Patrick Teoh.  
Absent: Joyce Yit, Clara Chiew, Tracey Bong, Tiffany Bong.

*We would like to wish you &  
your family Happy Holidays!*



**Do you have a story to tell us?  
An interest to share?  
Questions or Concerns?**

**We are always looking for stories to feature in our  
MSBCA newsletter!**

Send your questions, comments or articles to: [editor@msbca.ca](mailto:editor@msbca.ca)

*Note: the newsletter is a monthly publication to 300+ readers*

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# The President's Message

To our MSBCA family,

For the first time in a year, we have good news for you. The Alberta Gaming & Liquor Commission ("AGLC") have decided to revise their findings on MSBCA – they are now satisfied that we did have charitable (as in cultural) activities during the period of that the audit covered. We provided them calling lists for these past programs, as well as began gathering many signed and notarized affidavits. Additionally, we had support from other organizations (their letters are featured in the last month's newsletter), as well as individuals. These included members and many non-members who have enjoyed our events for years.

As a result, we achieved our goal of reducing the required transfer from \$103,000 to \$36,000. That amount comprises the following:

- \$18,000 - excess facility operating costs (we're restricted to 50% of gaming proceeds);
- \$13,000 - cost-recovery events (Cultural night and Chinese New Year);
- Remaining items were for ineligible expenses.

The past year was not a fun time, and not what I had envisioned when starting this role in October 2014. Somehow, it became one of the most difficult projects I've ever had to deal with, with so much time and effort required from myself and others. This was also exacerbated by the fact that this was all on everybody's volunteer time – there is nothing to stop people from walking away, and they would have every right to do so, due to what was being asked. For myself, I would not have done this for any other club that I know of. MSBCA means so much to so many people, and their passion really shone through during this crisis. Our members came forward – both to help with this situation, and for the future.

Besides our own members, we should thank the following people for their help in resolving this situation. These individuals took many hours of their own time to help us, with nothing in return. Let's thank Thomas Ostrowerka (Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP), Ben Li, Teresa Woo-Paw, and Wayne Cao for going way beyond the call of duty.

A selfish final note on my part, which I have always forgotten to mention - I want to thank my parents, especially my dad, for giving me time off to work on this issue when it was required. The situation required more than a volunteer's commitment, due to hundreds of hours of meetings and paperwork. I also need to thank my wife for helping me and encouraging me during times of doubt. Thanks to Jonathan for sharing the burden of the stress and sticking with it as well.

As for what remains, we still have work to do. By August 1, 2016, we will need to provide to AGLC revised bylaws and documentation of our new programs. I see that the current schedule is onerous on some of our volunteers, so we will need to find a proper balance in our programming. Additionally, AGLC postulates that all of MSBCA's GICs originated from gaming funds. Our treasurer is currently performing an internal audit to determine the actual origin of these funds, and we will report this to you at the end of the year along with new quarterly financial reporting.

In regards to our membership, we had approximately 160 paid memberships last year. Relative to our attendance at a number of events, the ratio indicates we may need more members. As a non-profit organization, members are important because they are our volunteer base and our supporters. For us, they are also our cultural knowledge bank. Our membership director this year will be looking for ways to not only

increase the membership, but to improve the connections that members can have with each other.

New members are needed

- exactly one year ago, my President's Address mentioned welcoming new member Giva Balasingam to the fold. One year later – she is on our committee, and organizing the Lunar New Year celebration that I remember meeting her at last year. I am already looking forward to it.

With Lunar New Year coming up, the topic of scholarships will come up. MSBCA has always provided scholarships to students with the requisite academic achievements. Supporting education is something that is important to many of our older members, and is something the committee would like to continue. Of course, our circumstances are different. Currently all our fundraising is going towards paying for the excess facility operating costs that we have. With the audit out of the way, we are focusing on how we can use our funding in an efficient manner to continue supporting education.

Finally, our cultural team has been coming up with different types of events that we can offer. Please stay tuned to your emails from our Editor to make sure you didn't miss out. There will be a proper feedback box in the Clubhouse, as well as options for printed newsletter. We are going to make up for lost time now, so please keep connected and stay in touch!

Patrick



PATRICK TEOH

# Emergency General Meeting Nov. 7 2015

Written by Ee Harn Khoo

During the Annual General Meeting for all club members, the executive committee along with our internal auditor apprised the members in attendance of our situation with regards to the forensic audit conducted by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC). Since the very beginning, our club and committee members have been cooperative, have worked diligently and have been in constant communication with AGLC to see that the results of the audit are a true representation of the fiscal spending by the association.

As such, during one of these discussions between our President Patrick Teoh and some members of the AGLC on November 4 2015, AGLC was provided with extra information and therefore, came to a decision to allow a good sum of our expenses to be paid through our Casino funds. The AGLC proposed a new repayment amount of \$36,000.00 with the cancellation of the hearing that was to occur on November 18, 2015. In order to allow enough time to submit the request, the MSBCA committee has to make the decision of whether to accept or refuse the proposition by November 9, 2015. Due to the importance of this decision, the committee called an Emergency General Meeting for November 7, 2015 to all members who could attend.

During this meeting, we briefly recapped all that has happened to date with regards to the audit, its findings and our discussions with AGLC. Our internal auditor was able to provide us with some numbers to make the decisions a bit more concrete and allow the committee to make a final decision whether or not to accept the new repayment amount offered by AGLC.

Below is a quick recap of the meeting:

- Original repayment amount to AGLC was \$102,000.00 (transfer this amount from our general account to the casino account)
- New repayment amount to AGLC is

\$36,000.00 (transfer this amount from our general account to the casino account)

- Breakdown of the repayment amount difference: what expenses were included and what information did we provide that proved to AGLC these were allowable expenses

During the meeting, members brought up many good and valid questions and issues that the committee has started looking into. Some of these included:

- Sustainability of the clubhouse (this was the main contention of our expenses with AGLC)
- What is considered an allowable expense according to AGLC?
- Are there any other avenues the club can turn to for funding?
- What does our budget look like? Are there any unnecessary expenses that can be cut or expenses that can be re-allocated?

By the end of the meeting, it was decided and agreed upon by all present that we would accept the new repayment amount suggested by AGLC, which reduced our total payment by almost \$80,000.00, and cancel the hearing on November 18.

Now that we have agreed to the new repayment amount, approximately \$12,000.00 will be transferred from our general account to the casino account every year for the next three years in order to repay AGLC. This audit period has been a difficult time and we are grateful for the patience and cooperation that our club members have given us.

We, the committee members, will strive to do our best for this club and its members, not only for the current generation but for future generations as well. Again, we would like to thank you all for your patience and cooperation. If you have any comments, questions or ideas that can help better ourselves, either as a committee or an association as a whole, please feel free to bring it up to us at secretary@msbca.ca.



Welcome our new committee for 2015/2016!

## MSBCA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2015/2016

### PRESIDENT

**Patrick Teoh**  
president@msbca.ca

### VP MALAYSIA

**Jonathan Looi**

### VP SINGAPORE

**Joyce Yit**

### VP BRUNEI

**Vacant**

### SECRETARY

**Eshea Khoo**  
secretary@msbca.ca

### TREASURER

**Eeharn Khoo**  
treasurer@msbca.ca

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

membership@msbca.ca

### GENERAL COMMITTEE:

committee@msbca.ca

**Clara Chiew**

**Giva Bala**

**Hong Tram** *AGLC Representative*

### EDITOR

**Tracey Bong**  
editor@msbca.ca

### WEBMASTER

**Tiffany Bong**  
msbcalgary@gmail.com

### MSBCA Mailing Address:

#301, 114-3rd Ave SW

Calgary, AB T2P 0E7

NEW Tel/Fax: 587-323-6828

# Message from VP Malaysia & Cultural Director



Friends of MSBCA, I would like to give my sincerest appreciation for everyone who has supported us through the audit process. In particular, my deep gratitude is to those who answered calls from AGLC representatives and gave a representation of your involvement with MSBCA. Patrick and I understand it may have been a challenging experience but we truly appreciate your support and willingness to be involved.

In addition to the notable people Patrick has thanked in his President's Address, I would like to give my appreciation to two offices which wrote letters of support which were presented to AGLC. These are the office of the Canadian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, headed by Her Excellency Judith St. George, and the office of the Malaysian Consulate General in Vancouver, headed by His Excellency Mohd Adli Bin Abdullah. Their letters to AGLC affirmed MSBCA's role in facilitating people-to-people ties in Canadian society and in offering a wide range of Southeast Asian cultural activities to the public.

With support from our friends and members, our audit process ended with a favourable outcome. We have succeeded in proving our past ability to meet AGLC's criteria overall. MSBCA will continue to serve the Calgary community as a non-

profit, ethno-cultural organization in partnership with AGLC and in accordance with AGLC guidelines. MSBCA shall continue to strive towards accountability and transparency as we preserve and share our unique Malaysian, Singaporean and Bruneian cultures and heritage with the community-at-large.

To this end, as your Cultural Coordinator, I will be seeking many, many avenues to utilize our AGLC funding to its fullest potential. In other words, to truly be a worthy recipient of funding, we need to spend wisely and constructively. These initiatives will enrich our Southeast Asian cultural portfolio and offer opportunities for Southeast Asian cultural learning to our members and the public.

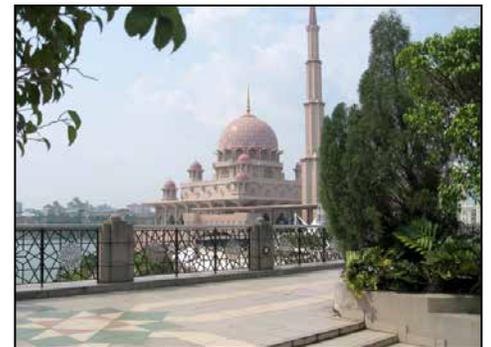
- One-time or regular employment of instructors qualified in Malaysian/Singaporean/Bruneian dance, pottery, painting, calligraphy, and other fine and performing arts
- Guest speakers knowledgeable of Malaysian/Singaporean/Bruneian culture and history
- Promotional activities of Malaysian/Singaporean/Bruneian cuisine
- Promotional public exhibitions of Malaysian/Singaporean/Bruneian culture
- Field trips to strategic, cultural and educational sites for cultural sharing within Alberta

Supporting people to people, culture to culture, and community to community relations through MSBCA's participation in multicultural activities and events in Alberta

These goals are broad and high-level. To narrow down our logistic goals, I strongly encourage anyone to approach myself or fellow members of the committee for your ideas.

- Is there anyone you know who can teach cultural dance, art, calligraphy, etc?
- Is there anyone you know who can give a short talk on culture or history?
- Is there anyone you know who can cook for large groups?
- Is there any public place where we should exhibit our culture?
- Is there any place you want to learn more about in Alberta?
- Is there any community project we should participate in?

Jonathan Looi



*Note to our members: For the December 12th Christmas Party – We apologize if we weren't able to register you to the event due to our maximum capacity from the Fire Department. We hope you will be able to join us in the next event!*

# What's on at the Clubhouse

The following calendar will be posted on the Clubhouse's front door. The Club will be open whenever the below activities are happening, whether to use the library or join in. We are looking for responsible volunteers to help open the Clubhouse, as well as those volunteers who have a special cultural activity or hobby they would like to share, such as cooking or art.

We also have equipment such as a traditional carrom and a table tennis set up available for public use!  
Please contact Eshea Khoo ([secretary@msbca.ca](mailto:secretary@msbca.ca)) to apply.

## DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance	3 6:00pm to 9:00pm Centre Street Church – Bible Study Outreach	4 6:30pm to 9:30pm MSBCA Committee Development Workshop	5 9:00am to 4:00pm MSBCA Committee Development Workshop
6	7 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance	8	9 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance	10 6:00pm to 9:00pm Centre Street Church – Bible Study Outreach	11 5:00pm to 10:00pm Preparation for the Christmas Party	12 9:00am to 10:00am Tai Chi 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance 5:00pm to 11:00pm Christmas Party
13	14 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance	15	16 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance	17 6:00pm to 9:00pm Centre Street Church – Bible Study Outreach	18 7:00pm to 10:00pm Open Mike	19 9:00am to 10:00am Tai Chi 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance 1:30pm to 3:30pm Cultural Fan Dance
20	21 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance 7:00pm to 9:00pm Ballroom and Latin Dance Practice	22	23 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance	24 6:00pm to 9:00pm Centre Street Church – Bible Study Outreach	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!	26 9:00am to 10:00am Tai Chi 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance 1:30pm to 3:30pm Cultural Fan Dance
27	28 10:30am to 1:30pm Wellness Dance	29	30	31 6:00pm to 9:00pm Centre Street Church – Bible Study Outreach	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!	2

## YAY! Snowshoeing

Friday, Jan. 1, 2016  
Bragg Creek

Meeting Time and Place:  
10am, Bragg Creek Village

Deadline to register  
is Dec 23-15.

Registration & more details  
Contact Joyce: 403-473-8812

## Photo of the month



Photo by: Tracey Bong. At Elephant Rocks 15km west of Denmark, Western Australia.

# Upcoming Events

December 2015

12<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party

January 2015

1<sup>st</sup> Snowshoeing

At the blink of an eye, the year 2015 has come to an end. With many memories we've had and many more to come, we would like to present to you some of the possible activities waiting for us in 2016!

We would like to know if there is enough interest to have the activity set up.

Wishing you & yours Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

# Board Game Night

Check in the new year for upcoming board game nights!

For more information, please contact [events@msbca.ca](mailto:events@msbca.ca)

# SUNDAY LUNCH

## Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to organize and serve Sunday Lunches in 2016

If you are interested, please contact Eshea at [secretary@msbca.ca](mailto:secretary@msbca.ca) or 403-383-1678.

We currently do not have volunteers for these two months. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

## Mari Mamasak

January 16 - 4PM

January 30 - 4PM

One of the most unique aspects of our culture is our cuisine.

For anybody who is interested, let's get together to share our recipes, practice cooking, and have fun!

Drop-ins are welcome, but RSVP requested.

Contact: [events@msbca.ca](mailto:events@msbca.ca)

We always welcome volunteers if you are interested in helping out.

# MSB COMMUNITY NIGHT

Feel like hanging out? Come check out Community Night @ the MSBCA Clubhouse.

Here's how it will work – Volunteer hosts will indicate on our club calendar [www.msbc.ca/events/calendar](http://www.msbc.ca/events/calendar) when they are planning to host a Community Night and the type of activity that will be taking place.

Upcoming Community Night information will not be posted in the newsletter but will be updated in real-time on our website and Facebook!

RSVP required so we know you're coming and can inform you of any changes.

Contact – Eshea Khoo - [events@msbca.ca](mailto:events@msbca.ca)

NEW

## Open Mic Nights

The clubhouse will now be open on

**Fridays 7PM - 10PM.**  
**COST: \$1**

For more information, please contact Irene.  
[phongirene65@gmail.com](mailto:phongirene65@gmail.com)

## Tai Chi Exercise

Come join us at the MSBCA Clubhouse as we focus on improving our health through the power of Tai Chi.

**Thursdays at 10AM**  
**Saturdays at 9AM**

For more information, contact [events@msbca.ca](mailto:events@msbca.ca)

## Fan Dance Class

Looking for volunteers who would like to learn a fan dance, and may want to perform in MSBCA's Chinese New Year Banquet 2016.

**Saturdays**  
**1:30PM - 3:30PM**

## Wellness Dance

Every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday

10:30AM

**MSBCA CLUBHOUSE**

This is a very basic stretching session to help counter any leg and back problems. Hopefully these sessions will allow people of all ages to live a healthier life.

Contact Irene Phong at [phongirene65@gmail.com](mailto:phongirene65@gmail.com)

## SUNDAY LUNCH - KELANTAN LAKSA

Written by Theresa Khoo

On Sunday, October 4, 2015, Team Mari Memasak organised a Fall Sunday Lunch. It was perfect cool fall weather for this delicious Kelantan Laksa with Sweet Beancurd, gingko & barley dessert. The Kelantan Laksa is made up of fish broth, salmon, rice noodle & condiment of pineapple, cucumber, lettuce, mint plus numerous Malaysian spices. This yummy, warm, aromatic, and comfort inducing combination was served to over 80 members and guests. Team Mari Memasak sold a total of 90 bowls of Kelantan Laksa and dessert.

Team Mari Memasak was a joyful, energetic and fun group. We thank all of them. **Cooks: Jannette Ho; Kitchen**

**Helpers: Jill Heng, Rina Robertson, Molly Chan, Kathy Teoh, Paul Teoh, Theresa Khoo; Volunteers: Francis Tan, Jennie Soo, Emily Teoh, Adeline Chan.**

Team Memasak also thank all members and their guests who attended and supported this lunch. We encourage all interested parties to check MSBC website and newsletter to find out when the next delicious Sunday Lunch is scheduled.



# Educational Workshops at the Clubhouse

Starting in January, MSBCA Clubhouse will hold some presentations and workshops to our members.

**Shim Law** has generously donated their time and personnel to provide us with the first couple of workshops such as “**Will Writing**” and “**Estate Presentation.**” Each session will be about an hour or less, once a month on a weekend morning.

If you are interested in these workshop, have a topic you would like us to hold a session on or would like to volunteer your knowledge, please send an e-mail with the title “Educational Workshop” to [events@msbca.ca](mailto:events@msbca.ca) or call 403-383-1678.

More details to come.



## DRAWING WITH ROD ZILLMAN

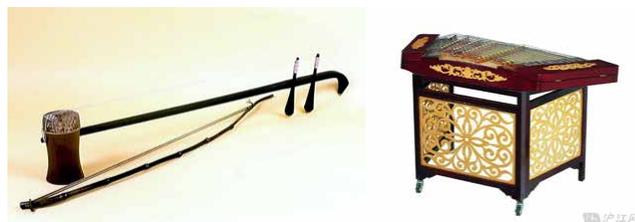
One of our members has graciously offered to share his love and passion for drawing and sketching with others in a weekday time slot. As a mostly retired architect, Rod has always held a pencil in his hand for as long as he could remember. Here are some samples of his work.



If you are interested in this activity, please send an e-mail with the title “**Drawing with Rod Zillman**” to [events@msbca.ca](mailto:events@msbca.ca) or call 403-383-1678 to express your interest.

## MUSIC WITH THE FOLKS!

We have some members and non-members who will be practicing their music skills at the clubhouse during weekdays. Some of the instruments are traditional such as **erhu** and **yangqin**. All instruments are welcome! Please send an e-mail with the title “**Music with the Folks!**” to [events@msbca.ca](mailto:events@msbca.ca) or call 403-383-1678 to express your interest.



## ART TO CONNECT!

Whether it is visual, literary, culinary, performance or any other art, let's have fun in an evening full of creativity, passion and culture. During this time, we would discuss, perform and/or experiment with the different types of arts that exist out there. If you are interested in hosting one or multiple nights, please contact us.

This activity may require payments for recovery cost. Details are to come depending on the number of people interested in the activity. If this interests you, please send an e-mail with the title “Art to Connect” to [events@msbca.ca](mailto:events@msbca.ca) or call 403-383-1678 to express your interest.

# BALLROOM AND LATIN DANCE PRACTICE

As you may have attended a session or two, Michael and Molly Chan have given us an opportunity to put on our dancing shoes and step out onto the stage! With their love for Ballroom Dance and Latin Dance, they have volunteered their time to open the Clubhouse so we can dance the night away! Or at least until 9pm. There will be some instructional videos playing in the background while others will be moving to the rhythm of the music.

The time is to be confirmed but it will be on a weeknight, from 7pm to 9pm. If this interests you, please send an e-mail with the title "Ballroom and Latin Dance Practice" to [events@msbca.ca](mailto:events@msbca.ca) or call 403-383-1678 to express your interest.

## Membership Notice

Memberships\* are valid from January to December; prompt payment is appreciated to take advantage of member benefits.

Members who paid for 2016 membership in November 2015 (listed alphabetically by last name):

- Update will be in next month's newsletter

If you have paid and your name is not on this list please email [membership@msbca.ca](mailto:membership@msbca.ca) and it will be reflected on the next newsletter and on our membership records.

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<u>2016 Fee Schedule</u>	Single \$15.00	Family \$25.00†
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†Family membership is considered 1 spouse and may include dependent children in same household. Individuals who are 25-year-old and older will need to pay single membership to be a member.

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## NOT YET A MEMBER? JOIN US!

Fill out the online membership form at [www.msbca.ca/about/membership/](http://www.msbca.ca/about/membership/). Be sure to send it along with cheque payment to:

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

- Renewing members only need to remit cheque payment without the membership form. Each newsletter will list all members who have paid or renewed in the last few months up to the newsletter publication month in lieu of paper receipts.
- If your name is missing from the newsletter's member paid list, please contact Patrick Teoh at [membership@msbca.ca](mailto:membership@msbca.ca) ASAP with your name, date of payment (or upcoming major MSBCA event), total amount of payment, and method (cash or cheque).

Please do not postal mail cash with your membership as we cannot be responsible for cash lost in the postal system.

\*MSBCA Membership is open to all residents of Alberta 18 years of age and over. Memberships must be paid in full no later than February of each year (except Lifetime members). Membership application will be subject to approval by the MSBCA Board of Directors. All members are expected to comply with the MSBCA Bylaws found on the membership webpage.

## MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL? CHANGE OF MEMBER INFO?

Please contact  
[membership@msbca.ca](mailto:membership@msbca.ca)  
to keep your details current!



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to get updates and check out event  
photos.