

THE PERANAKAN

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PERANAKAN ASSOCIATION

APRIL - JUNE 2000

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AGM 2000 returns Lee Kip Lee and his team to office

Mr Lee Kip Lee was unanimously re-elected President of The Peranakan Association at the 100th Annual General Meeting held at RELC on 18 March. This is his third two-year term in office.

He was re-elected in absentia as he was out of town on urgent business, but had offered himself in writing for re-election to the high office before his departure.

Most of the members of the previous committee were also returned to office. It was heartening to see former Vice President Thomas Tan rejoining the committee as 2nd Vice President. The new office bearers are Mr Richard Tan, Mrs Irene Ooi and Mrs Maureen Lim.

The re-election of President Lee and his team was an expression of Association members' confidence in their ability to lead and to open new avenues for the Association's growth in the new millennium.

In Mr Lee's absence, 1st Vice President David Ong conducted the AGM with great skill. The proceedings went smoothly, and it was encouraging to see many new Association members among the 48 attendees, as well as those from the Youth Group.

Highlighting the Association's activities undertaken in the year under review on Mr Lee's behalf, Mr Ong said the 99th Annual Dinner and Dance on 19 November saw a record attendance of 720 guests from Singapore, Malacca and Penang.

The 12th Baba Convention on 21 and 22 November, which bore the theme, *Living Traditions — Celebrating the Peranakan Lifestyle*, was equally successful. The Association raised \$17,000 from members for the National Archives of the National Heritage Board to acquire a collection of 180 historically important photographs of Straits Chinese life, costumes, traditions and houses.

The Youth Group organised many events. These included biannual gatherings to meet and familiarise young new members with the Peranakan culture, meetings where older



The New committee (from left): Ann Chiang, Bebe Seet-Wong, Irene Ooi, Thomas Tan, Lim Geok Huay, Richard Tan, Peter Wee, Isaac Chan, Alan Koh, Peter Lee (absent Lee Kip Lee, Maureen Lim)

members demonstrated the art of traditional Baba cuisine and games, and dance performances.

Chinese New Year was celebrated with a visit to the Tiger Tavern where a caterer supplied dinner, washed down with free drinks. Among other social events were a Kueh Chang Festival plus dinner, a Yeow Kwee Club function and a talk on *Your Legal Rights* by Associate Professor Catherine Tay.

Membership continued to grow, with 97 Peranakan culture adherents joining during the year to bring the total to 1,379 life members as at end 1999. The life membership fee is now \$100 plus \$3 for a membership card, against \$50 + \$3 previously.

General Committee for 2000-2002: President Mr Lee Kip Lee; 1st Vice President Mr Peter Wee; 2nd Vice President Mr Thomas Tan; Hon. Secretary Mrs Lim Geok Huay; Asst. Hon. Secretary Mr Peter Lee; Hon. Treasurer Ms Ann Chiang

Committee Members Mr Isaac Chan, Mr Alan Koh, Mr Richard Tan, Mrs Bebe Seet-Wong, Mrs Irene Ooi and Mrs Maureen Lim. •
Anthony Oei

Editorial

Now that the dust of the Annual General Meeting of 18th March has settled and that they are in the saddle, the thought which is uppermost in the minds of the members of the newly-elected Committee will be their plan of activities for their term of office which will expire in 2002 and for this year's celebration of the 100th Anniversary of The Peranakan Association, the progenitor of which - The Straits Chinese British Association - was founded on 17th August 1900.

What is exciting is that two of the new subcommittees which have been formed are already on the ball drawing up programmes not only for a Choral Group but also for a Drama Group.

With the wealth of talent we have on tap it will not be difficult for them to attract singers and actors of quality to present themselves at the auditions.

Our venture into the field of amateur dramatics is timely. But if we wish to capture the attention of the younger audience we should depart from the mould of the traditional *Wayang Peranakan* where the dialogue was entirely in our patois which the young people did not understand and where the action in Peranakan life was portrayed as happening in the living room only.

As a commentator once remarked, whilst gazing at a photograph of his father and his European boss, "Instead of the perennial mother-in-law and daughter-in-law plot we could, for a change, step out of the bounds of our community and

have a play centred around the relationship between a British colonial character and his Peranakan chief clerk." For in those days the highest position a Peranakan in a British commercial firm could aspire to was to become either a chief clerk, chief storekeeper or a bank comprador.

Recently the welcome winds of change have been felt on the Peranakan stage where the characters are now dressed in modern clothing instead of being in sarong kebaya and speak a smattering of English and Hokkien instead of the Peranakan dialect only.

Apart from all that, we are also embarking on an ambitious programme - lasting from August 2000 to August 2001 - to commemorate our centenary year with the publication of books, and with the organising of a food fair, sale of souvenirs and perhaps ending up with a grand charity dinner in addition to celebrating our 100th Anniversary and Annual Dinner & Dance. The various committees are working hard to prepare their programmes, and announcements will be made in due course. •

Lee Kip Lee

Appreciation Ceremony at the National Archives

On the 25th of February 2000, the National Archives of Singapore hosted The Splendour of Peranakan Culture, an appreciation ceremony at the Archives Reference Room for the Association, which raised \$17,000 for the Archives to purchase a collection of about 200 photographs on Peranakan subjects.

The ceremony was presided by the CEO of the National Heritage Board Mr Lim Siam Kim, who presented a certificate of appreciation to the Association, represented by Lee Kip Lee. Donors were invited to view a wide selection of the photographs, which had been cleaned and archivally protected. The National Archives also presented all guests with a souvenir package, including five copies of photographs from the donated collection, and information about the National Archives. Spare packages are still available on a first-come-first served basis. Interested members can call the Hon. Secretary Mrs Lim Geok Huay for information at Tel. 2550704. •



PRESIDENT Lee Kip Lee

1ST VICE PRESIDENT Peter Wee

2ND VICE PRESIDENT Thomas Tan

HONORARY SECRETARY Lim Geok Huay

ASSISTANT HONORARY SECRETARY Peter Lee

HONORARY TREASURER Ann Chiang

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Isaac Chan, Alan Koh, Maureen Lim, Irene Ooi, Bebe Seet-Wong, Richard Tan

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The Youth Group

On the ROAD !

The past three months have been busy for us. We emerge happy and satisfied, ready to organise more meaningful and fun-filled activities for the youth.

In March, we welcomed new friends at our *Biannual New Members Get together*. This time, we opted for the interesting food and casual ambience of Don Noodles (Tanglin Mall). Laughter and enthusiasm ran high, and friendships were formed over the teriyaki pizzas, *otak-otak* sandwiches and Japanese noodles.

We also explored the topic *Fermentation in the Peranakan Kitchen* and Baba William Tan entertained us with the stories and *pantang* that surrounded the making of fermented food like *chinchalok* and *tapeh*, while Nonya Kim Choo demonstrated how to make *tapeh* from glutinous rice, sugar and *ragi* (local yeast). After 3 days of fermentation, we opened our boxes and enjoyed the sweet, alcoholic, Nonya dessert.

April brought us up close and personal with *Emily of Emerald Hill*. Ivan Heng, who has just joined the Peranakan Association, received rave reviews for his portrayal of the Nonya Matriarch. About 20 members who volunteered to be ushers were rostered over the 2 weeks of performances. It was a good opportunity to create awareness of the Peranakan Association, and an excellent occasion to dress up in our *sarong kebaya* for an appreciative audience. At the foyer, our hospitality and the complimentary *kueh-kueh* that was served, transported the audience away from the hustle and bustle of their workday. Elegant Nonyas and the dashing Baba Timothy set the mood for a magical theatre experience. Ivan Heng himself jokingly said, "Half my work is done for me by the time the audience steps into Jubilee Hall!" Ivan's wonderful performance and his easy-going charm has won him many ardent fans from the Peranakan community.

Two weeks before *Kueh Chang* day (5th day of the 5th lunar month), a group of youths gathered at Katong Antique House to learn *The Art of Nonya Kueh Chang*. Auntie Connie Tan's experienced hands effortlessly *ikat* the familiar shapes, whereas we got ourselves into contortions trying to do the same. Some of us ended up with *kueh chang* that looked like *bantal*, some *terluchut* and some *terbukak*!! We learnt one reassuring tip from our teacher — practice makes perfect.

Our coming *Roadshow* to the schools has entered its final stage of planning and preparation. A dedicated team has been meeting regularly, looking for innovative ways to present a slice of Peranakan life to the youngsters. Headed by Richard Tan, our Roadshow will be a multimedia affair, with hip MTV-style videos, photomontages, presenters, games and fashions that bridge the generation gap. If you'd like to be part of this exciting experience, contact Heather haichuan@cyberway.com.sg or call Patsy at 540 3504 (O).

Heather Ong



(clockwise from above) Nonya Kim Choo makes *tapeh*; our Get-together in March; *kueh chang* ingredients; member volunteers at *Emily of Emerald Hill*.

internet news

A great YOUTH effort! Singapore Chinese Girls' School students launch their own website: cyberfair.gsn.org/scgs. The theme of *Return to your Peranakan Roots*, as the site says, was chosen "because .. our school...is a Peranakan school. Before we entered SCGS, we knew nothing about Peranakan culture...We then realised that the Peranakan culture is actually dying as few still practised the customs. The younger generation in particular...show little interest in learning about their heritage. In our website, we will give you some insight into the heritage of the Peranakans and hopefully provide an opportunity for both young and old to get in touch with their roots. We hope to share our knowledge of the Peranakan culture...through this website and unite the Peranakans so that this unique culture will not disappear!"

LEARN TO PLAY CHERKI

3pm to 5 pm, Saturday 8 July,
Katong Antique House, 208 East Coast Road
Come and learn the history and the rules of this favourite Peranakan card game. Please contact Jocelyne at 835 3015 (o) to book your place.
Cost: \$12 (members)
\$15 (guests), inclusive of refreshments.

GET TOGETHER DINNER

7pm. Saturday 16th September 2000
Casa Bom Vento, 467 Joo Chiat Road
Come to this informal dinner, welcome new youth group members, and meet other Baba and Nonya. Chat over good Eurasian food and we'll split the bill at the end. Friends are welcome too. Let us know if you're interested & we'll send you a reminder nearer the date.
Email Heather: haichuan@cyberway.com.sg

The Philippine "Peranakan" Experience

Dee Huat Guan visited our website in March 2000, and was inspired enough to contribute this insight to the Chinese Filipino experience.

The first Chinese junks arrived in the Philippines around the 9th century A.D. When the Spaniards settled in the kingdom of Maynilad (today the city of Manila) in 1571, there were only about 150 Chinese settling with the natives. Upon the establishment of the Spanish colony, the number of Chinese drastically changed, and, by 1600, their number had increased to 15,000.

Over the centuries, immigration and intermarriage nurtured a distinct hybrid minority and, by the 19th century, a new breed called *Mestizo de Sangley* (in today's parlance, Chinese-Mestizo) emerged. A Mestizo was taken to be someone of mixed parentage, while Sangley (from the Hokkien *seng di*, meaning to trade) was the generic name of the Chinese as used by the Spaniards here in the Philippines.

Similar to the Peranakans of the Straits Settlements, the Chinese-Mestizo had a (Malay) Filipina mother and Chinese father. This pattern eventually paved the way for the emergence of a distinct hybrid culture easily distinguishable from the (Malay) Filipino majority. Chinese-Mestizo culture is a blend of the dominant elements of the Philippine cultural tradition: Malay, Chinese and Spanish. The Chinese-Mestizo did not speak any Chinese, the language having in any case degenerated in the marketplace into a patois of Tagalog, Hokkien and Spanish. They also developed distinct customs of kinship (based on the Chinese system) and dress.

The Chinese-Mestizo community concocted a large portion of what we today consider Filipino food. While most of the dishes are Chinese-inspired, numerous local and Spanish ingredients have been incorporated such that a newly arrived Chinese would find it difficult to attune his taste buds to the food. Inside Binondo's (Manila's historic Chinatown) 102-year-old Panciteria Toho Antigua (*panciteria* means a place where *pancit* is served, interestingly, *pancit*, the generic term for noodles in the Philippines, actually comes from the Hokkien *pian-e-sit*, meaning 'something quickly cooked'), the menu posted on the wall reveals a curious mixture of Hokkien, Tagalog and Spanish terms: *bihon guisado* (stir-fried vermicelli noodles), *Ho To Tay* (a soup dish), *siopao asado* (meat-filled buns), *arroz caldo con goto* (beef-tripe congee). The names and ingredients of the food show the unique identity of the Chinese-Mestizo. The restaurant has since abandoned its old name but it remains one of the last bastions of Chinese-Mestizo culture in Chinatown.

Even more interesting was the way Chinese-Mestizos worshipped the divine. The Spaniards, being zealous Catholics, converted the majority in no time. However, a kind of mixed worship evolved among Chinese-Mestizos, the unique product of Catholic and Buddhist intermarriage. In their homes, they burned incense and lighted candles before the images of the Blessed Virgin who became a representation of



Binondo Church, Binondo District, the heart of Manila's Chinatown, which was primarily occupied by Chinese-Mestizos from the 1500s until the mid 19th century, when new immigrant Chinese moved in.

Kuan Yin, the Buddhist deity, or Ma-Tsu, protector and patroness of the seafarers. Religious syncretism was also evident at the household altars of the Chinese-Mestizos where you could find both Catholic and Buddhist images displayed side by side. Interestingly, this practice has survived to this day and can still be found in most Chinese-Filipino homes and shops.

Another distinctive Chinese-Mestizo feature is in their names. Chinese-Mestizos commonly Hispanicised their names to avoid suspicion from the Spaniards who distrusted all Chinese, whether pure or mixed. They usually 'slurred' the components of their father's (or grandfather's) name so that if the Chinese name was Sy Kia, the Mestizo surname would be Syquia (e.g. Jose Syquia, Manuel Syquia). A good number of Filipino surnames today show obvious Chinese-Mestizo roots: Tanjuatco, Cojuangco, Ongpin, Limjap, Yangco, just to name a few.

In the field of architecture, the Chinese-Mestizo also developed their own flamboyant style similar in function to those in the Straits Settlements but different in style. What was termed the *bahay-na-bato* (literally, the stone house) was actually a type of shop house architecture where the first floor, which functioned as the store, was made of stone, and the second floor, which acted as the living quarters, was made of wood. This type of mixed architecture developed because the Philippines is a country usually plagued by earthquakes. Decorations were also varied, with (Malay) Filipino sensibilities integrating Chinese and Spanish styles. Nowhere is this *mixed* type of architecture more evident than in the city of Vigan, where the streets have retained the features of their glorious past. Up until today, residents still refer to the historic area of the city as the *Kasanglayan* section (meaning where the Chinese live). A sign of the influence of the Chinese-Mestizos is the town's Catholic cathedral with its 4 Chinese stone lions guarding its entrance. The same feature can also be found in Manila's San Agustin church and in other churches where there was a big Chinese-Mestizo community.

Today, Chinese-Mestizo culture has already been integrated into the modern Filipino identity. Where before, Chinese-Mestizos, the newly arrived Chinese and the (Malay) Filipinos were classed as different entities, today, the barriers have already been bridged and most Filipinos, regardless of ethnic origin, consider Chinese-Mestizo culture uniquely Filipino, and, though perhaps ignorant of its (continued on pg 5)

Fiery Golden Dragon Tea Dance festivity

Fiery is the appropriate adjective to use to describe The Peranakan Association's Tea Dance held at the Merchant Court Hotel on 27 February to greet the Year of the Golden Dragon.

From beginning to end, the three-hour programme was an electrifying potpourri of singing, dancing, skits, food, fashion shows and the reverberating music of Lynn & the Lovebirds for the 500-plus guests. The *sarong kebaya* and batik shirts they wore lent colour to the scene. Compere Larry Lai conducted the proceedings professionally, amid the uproarious atmosphere.

Seen for the first time in an Association social event was Line Dancing, a graceful step-and-turn movement which is reminiscent of the Western barn dance. Judging by the long line of aspirants taking part, the item was an instant hit.

Looking around at the happy faces and hearing their high-pitched laughter, one could see that they enjoyed themselves thoroughly. "Fantastic," one guest said. "Lively party," said another. "Not to be missed. Glad I came," said a third.

Naturally, they relished the spread of Peranakan fare available for the occasion. Such was its popularity that the catering assistants, particularly those in charge of the *poh-piah*, had a hard time serving the hungry guests promptly.

In short, the function (the Association's first of its kind) was a resounding success. President Lee Kip Lee said in his short address that he was overwhelmed by the huge support and the Association looked forward to offering more of the same to celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. He congratulated Mr Peter Wee, the Organising Chairman, and Deputy Chairman Ms Marlene Foo, on their excellent work in making the Tea Dance a great success. •

Anthony Oei

Philippine Experience

(continued from pg 4) beginnings, something to be proud of. Just a year ago, the local Tsinoy (Chinese-Filipino) community opened a museum called Bahay Tsinoy inside Manila's historic walled city of Intramuros. The museum highlights the positive Chinese contributions to and influences on Filipino life. As a tribute to the contributions of the Chinese-Mestizo, a big part of the exhibit is dedicated to them. It is indeed very appropriate and significant that their contributions to Philippine culture will forever be enshrined for future generations of Filipinos to learn, appreciate and reflect upon. •

The Bahay Tsinoy Museum is at 32 Anda cor Cabito Sts., Intramuros, Manila. Email Dee Huat Guan: <ihud@excite.com>



My World The art of Martin Loh



Joget, 25 x 35 cm (above)
Finishing Touch,
305 x 405 cm (right)



An exhibition of the latest works of Peranakan artist Martin Loh was held at the Substation from 26th to 30th April. Featured were themes that continue to inspire Loh — intimate and nostalgic depictions of Peranakan life. New developments included an interesting selection of works in pen and ink, as well as a group of male torsos and nude studies against a lush floral background. Colourful, complex and in the signature naive style, the works were highly sought after. Members interested in the paintings may contact the artist directly at 4484268. •

Peter Lee

Bebe's Niche

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86 East Coast Road, # 01-15/16
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Katong Antique House

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in a nostalgic journey into
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of the Peranakans

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AND MODERN CHEONGSAM
PLEASE CONTACT:

STEVEN ONG
TELEPHONE: 03-775 0892
email: sjbong@hotmail.com

DRAMATIC MALACCA

As members and friends gathered at 7 am at the Newton Hawker Centre for the coach to Malacca on Saturday 1st April, the excitement was not on shopping but to watch *Dah Sa-Chupak Tak Bolay Sa-Gantang*, staged by the Persatuan Peranakan Cina Melaka the following evening.

The journey took approximately 3 hours and as soon as we arrived we proceeded to one of its famous restaurants for an authentic Peranakan lunch. When nightfall came we left for a *tok panjang* dinner specially prepared by members of the Persatuan Peranakan Cina Melaka at their clubhouse. Meeting up with familiar faces was a happy occasion. We toured the premises, which was an object of envy for the Singapore group. When dinner was served we were entertained by music and songs performed by our hosts. It was a grand atmosphere with lots of good food and laughter especially when we played the *pisang* game and competed to dress a *bibik*. After that line dancing and *joget* got us busy on the dance floor.

The next evening the play was staged to a full house at the Equatorial Hotel ballroom. The story was an embellished and expanded version of their earlier production, and with the extra rehearsals and a cast familiar with the script, it was a polished and entertaining performance enjoyed by everyone. We had the privilege of meeting the cast after the performance. This was specially arranged for us and we felt privileged and honoured by the gracious gesture.

Before we departed for home the following day, a lunch was also arranged with the entire cast. The informal and warm ambience was a distinctive feature of Peranakan gatherings. When lunch was over we said our goodbyes and started our journey home. Everyone agreed it was an enjoyable weekend break getting to know new members and meeting old friends. With much enthusiasm we are looking forward to our next trip...

Marlene Foo



Pisang and Dress the Bibik games (above)

Our group and members of the cast (left)
Lunch with the cast (below)



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome aboard the following 120 new members whose addition increases our roll to 1508 members.

Ordinary Members

Mr Chan Chee Keon
 Mdm Chan Poh Suan Rosalind
 Mdm Cheah Gek Neo Grace
 Mdm Cheah Siew Kooi
 Ms Chee Angela
 Mdm Chee Gladys
 Mdm Chee Rosalind
 Mrs Cheong-Choo-Ng Bee Geok Jennie
 Mdm Cheong Wai Fong
 Mdm Chew Kha Jee Linda
 Mr Chia Hock Jin
 Mdm Chia Siang Ai
 Mdm Choo Sun Lin Evelyn
 Mdm Choo-Ng Bee Hua
 Ms Choo-Ng Bee Suan
 Mrs Choo-Ng Guat Teong
 Mdm Chua Char Kheng
 Mdm Chua Choo Hong
 Ms Chua Heng Mui Juniper
 Mdm Chua Leong Kim Cindy
 Mdm Chua Mary
 Mr Donville Christopher
 Ms Ferdinands Emily Theresa
 Mdm Fong Swee Peng
 Mdm Foo Faith
 Ms Foo Mei Ling Jasmine
 Mrs Foong Nancy
 Mdm George Elizabeth Agnes
 Mr Goh Chye Hock Joseph
 Mr Goh Emerson Joseph Tiburtius
 Ms Goh Mei Ling Cindy
 Mr Goh Shaun
 Mr Ho Ching Ming Terence
 Mr Ho Nee Leong Tony
 Mr Ho Weng Seng
 Mdm Hum Soo Heng Margaret
 Ms Khoo Kim Huan Lina
 Mr Khoo Wee Bin
 Ms Koh Eugenia
 Mdm Lai Ja Hiang
 Ms Lam Chiew Yuen
 Mdm Lau Ah Hong
 Mdm Lee Celine
 Ms Lee En Len Florence
 Mdm Lee S S Wik
 Mdm Lee Swee Eng Joyce
 Mrs Leong Mary
 Mdm Lim A E Susannah
 Mdm Lim Choo Neo Adeline
 Mdm Lim Choon Hong Molly
 Mdm Lim Choon Kim
 Mrs Lim Nancy nee Wee Bong Chee
 Ms Lim Suet Kwee
 Mdm Lim Whee Khen Shirley

Mr Low Tian Chye Daniel
 Mrs Ma Agnes
 Ms Ma Cheryl
 Ms Ng Pock Choo Betty
 Mdm Oei Elsie
 Mrs Oei Hoon Eng Lucy
 Mr Oei Peter
 Mr Ong Bock Teck Michael
 Mdm Ong Cheng Seng Betty
 Mdm Ong Keng Neo Nancy
 Mdm Ong Nancy
 Mr Ong Watt Teng George
 Mr Oon Alvin
 Mdm Quek Poh Suan Irene
 Mr Seah Seow Tuan
 Mr Sim Kim Chwee David
 Mr Siow Watt Choon
 Mrs Siow Yvonne
 Mr Sng Alvin
 Mdm Soh Ai Lin
 Ms Soh Ivy
 Mrs Song Jane
 Mdm Tan Dolly
 Ms Tan Eng Bian
 Mdm Tan Guat Eng Irene
 Mdm Tan Guat Hong
 Dr Tan Hooi Hwa
 Mdm Tan Joo Choo Suzanne
 Mr Tan Kheang Hock Patrick
 Mdm Tan Kim Choo
 Mr Tan Kim Chye Michael Paul
 Mr Tan Kim Hock
 Mdm Tan Lucy
 Mdm Tan Mabel
 Ms Tan Poh Gek Evelyn
 Mr Tan Poh Huat Nicholas
 Ms Tan Poh Lin Natalie
 Mdm Tan Rosie
 Ms Tan Ruby
 Ms Tan Siew Lin Ellen
 Mr Tan Ter Ming Timothy
 Dr Tan Tiang Lee Walter
 Mrs Tan-Wee Sim Suan Janie
 Mrs Tan Yinn Leng Daisy
 Ms Tann Lee Heng Nora
 Mdm Tay Poh Choo
 Ms Tay Sai Hoon Pauline
 Ms The Kim Hong
 Mdm Teo Cher Lian Magdalene
 Mdm Teo Geraldine
 Mdm Teo Marie Stephanie
 Mr Thum Nien Lung Shaun
 Mr Thum Nien Tsu Malcolm
 Mr Wee Choo Heng Brendon
 Mr Wee Liang Seng Lawrence
 Ms Wee Lin Sonya Tracy
 Mrs Wee Maureen
 Ms Wee Min Pepita Theresa
 Mrs Wong Geok Seam Ivy
 Mr Wong Hong Sze
 Mdm Yee Yoke Lee Helen
 Mdm Yeo Chwee Neo Irene
 Mrs Yeo Jeannie
 Ms Yeo Poh Ling Sharon
 Mdm Yong Siow Ying Joanne
 Mdm Yuan Eleana Mary

NOTICEBOARD

GSA PLAY CHUEH IT CHAP GOH

Gunong Sayang Association's new play *Chueh It Chap Goh*, written by GT Lye and starring GT Lye, Sally Gan among others, will be staged at the World Trade Centre Auditorium from 24th to 26th August 2000. Tickets will be available at SISTIC outlets from 1st July 2000.

PADANG NITE

Members gathered to makan-makan, ronggeng and dance to the music of a live band at the Singapore Recreation Club on Sunday 11 June 2000 from 7 to 11.30 pm. More reports in the next issue.

COMING EVENTS

13th Baba Convention in Penang
Friday 24 November to Sunday 26 November.

The Peranakan Association's 100th Anniversary and
Annual Dinner & Dance
Neptune Theatre Restaurant, Friday 1 December 2000
Details will be announced later.

Obituaries

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the following late members on their recent bereavement:

Mrs Alice Chua Boon Yew

Mrs Alice Chua Boon Yew nee Lee Siew Kheng, who died on 8 May 2000 aged 74 years, was a scion of two well-known Peranakan families. Her paternal grandmother was the legendary Mrs Lee Choon Guan, who brought her up in their family house, Mandalay Villa in Amber Road. And her maternal grandfather was the pioneer rubber planter of Malacca, Mr Tan Chay Yan. She was a devout Christian and devoted her life to the service of God. She is survived by three sons Coon, Keith and Allan, who run the Garden Hotel in Balmoral Road which she founded.

Mrs Nancy Lim

Mrs Nancy Lim, who died on 4 June 2000, aged 71 years, was an outstanding member of the Peranakan community whose humility and achievement in her career should serve as an inspiration to all of us. Mrs Lim was one of the founding members of Lim & Tan Securities Pte Ltd, and was a much-respected member of the financial community. She rose from humble beginnings to be one of the first few leading lady stockbrokers in Singapore. She attributed this to God's blessing and Providence. She was a Christian who loved the Lord. She was an ardent supporter of The Peranakan Association and thoroughly enjoyed her frequent attendance at our functions at which her presence will now be greatly missed.

August in Malacca

The 100 Years' Celebration of the
Persatuan Peranakan Cina Melaka

Members are invited to join a
TWO NIGHT THREE DAY MALACCA TRIP
by aircon coach, staying at Golden Legacy Hotel
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th August 2000
Please call Mrs Lim Geok Huay 2550704
Mrs Irene Ooi 4667149, Peter Wee 3458544

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

Drama Workshops for Beginners!

Special 4 session course on Sundays, 2.00 to 3.30 pm
Beginning 2nd July 2000
\$50 for the course or \$15 per lesson.

- Basic stage awareness & easy to pick up drama improvisation for beginners — Adults and Teens! We hope that new and aspiring actors and actresses will be discovered here — and be recruited into our newly formed Drama Group!

Look out for our upcoming Introduction to Wayang Peranakan Workshop!

Venue: 370, Alexandra Rd, Dance Circle Studios, B132, Anchorpoint (opp IKEA). Tel: 4728143. Fax: 4713120.

New Choral Group

Special 4 session course on Sundays, 4.00 to 5.30 pm
Beginning Sunday 2nd July 2000
\$50 for the course or \$15 per lesson.

- We welcome all members to our newly formed Choral Group! Guaranteed no rejects! Our first 'audition' will be held to group your voices as Tenors, Sopranos, Basses & Altos. Come and enjoy singing and bonding as a choral group!

Date of 'Audition': Sunday, 2 July at 1.00 - 2.00 pm.

Audition & Lessons at: Dance Circle Studios! (as above).

Peranakan Line Dancing!

Special 4 lesson package on Thursdays, from 8 pm
Classes start as soon as 10 students register
\$50 for the course or \$15 per lesson.

- The very first of its kind! Learn to joget, ronggeng and click your heels in unison! A unique blend of the Eastern and Western dance styles! So let's get together and master those fancy foot work! Imagine, what a showstopping number it will be, when we pack the dance floor in our next PA Social gathering!

Interested? Call us at Dance Circle Studios! (as above)

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