

Interim President's Message

Hi everyone, and A Happy Chinese New Year once again to all of you. We had a wonderful evening celebrating the MSBCA Lunar New Year Dinner at the Regency Palace on Friday February 3, 2012 and I believe all who gathered for the occasion had a meaningful and joyous evening of reunion, rekindling of ties and strengthening of bonds with family and friends. For this to have happened we owe our grateful thanks to all the volunteers who unstintingly gave of their time and expertise, without expectations of reward, to make the occasion a great success. We owe in no small measure our thanks to Adeline and Jennie our event coordinators, to Philip and Joo Teh, our emcees for the evening, to Judy and Clara our choreographers, to the Choir, for their beautiful rendition, and to the dancers and each and every volunteer... to all of you, a big Thank You!

Volunteerism is indeed a rich and self-rewarding experience and those who have

personally gone through the process will tell you the sense of pride and satisfaction one feels for having contributed in some way big or small towards the betterment of mankind. It's a great feeling, and I would encourage all of us during our quiet moments to reflect upon the wonderful things in life that we enjoy, and to try and give back to society through volunteerism so others too can have a richer life experience. Our next events will be the Sunday Lunches and Cultural Night and I and my successors (by default) would be gratified to see more volunteers coming forward, not only for these events but other projects as well.

Traditionally the Lunar New Year according to the Chinese Farmer's Calendar signifies the beginning of Spring, and indeed we look forward to a new renewal for the remaining year.

*Sincerely
Kenneth*

"When it's obvious that some part of your life isn't working, stop. Release what isn't working. Then choose another path. People will squawk at you, but you'll be happier on the other side."

~Steve Pavlina

Volunteers Wanted for Mustard Seed

Invitation to the MSBCA young adults and youth to participate serving in the Mustard Seed

Contact Adeline Chan
for more info.

**TO LIVE A
CREATIVE
LIFE WE MUST
LOOSE OUR
FEAR OF
BEING WRONG**

Joseph Hilson Pearce

Friday Night Social Nights

STARTS FEB 24 2012

**Every Friday* Night the
clubhouse will be open for
Social Night!**

6:30pm to 9:30pm

Come out and socialize, have some fun and enjoy some good company! Maybe we'll karaoke, maybe a movie? It's a night for our members!

Must Register With:

Jennie Soo 403-280-0327 **or**
Joyce Yit 403-473-8812

**Note: Some Friday nights may be reserved for private bookings and will not be available for some Friday Social Nights*

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travel editorial

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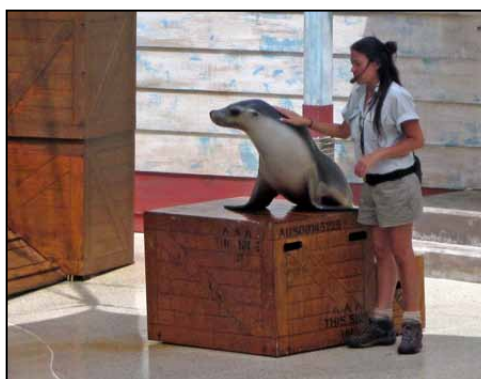
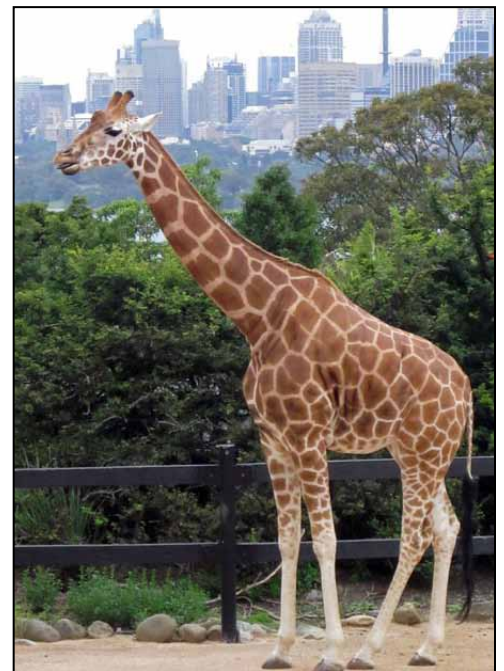
#301, 114-3rd Ave SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0E7
Tel/fax: 403.289.7711

Membership Renewal? Change Member Info?

Please contact Cynthia Tung at
membership@msbca.ca
to keep your details current!

My trip to the Taronga Zoo of Sydney: I have to say that I can't really remember the last time I visited a zoo! So I was pretty excited to see what Taronga had to offer. I can remember visiting the Calgary Zoo many years ago when the new African section just finished.. I was quite impressed with Taronga and my animal experience. The location right by the water was just beautiful, overlooking the

Harbour Bridge and Opera House. One of the first enclosures was the Komodo Dragon and it just so happened, it was the same weekend prior to the Lunar New Year, so there were lots of bright red flags around the area! I got to see the seal show and it brought back fond memories of a family trip to Sea World in San Diego. Seeing a giraffe against the city skyline was really cool, as if it was as tall as the



upcoming events

-----MSBCA CALENDAR----- of events proposed for 2010-2011

Please note that some dates are still to be announced and that the events/functions are not limited to this list. If you have any event ideas, bring them forward!

February 2012

- 3rd - Chinese New Year Banquet
- 18th - Brunei National Day – Night Celebration
- 24th - Social Night Starts

March 2012

- 4th - Sunday Lunch



SUNDAY LUNCH

MSBCA Clubhouse

March 4, 2012
12 noon to 2pm

Serving:

Chicken Nasi Biryani

Cooks:

Adeline Chan

Price:

Member \$8.00

Non-member : \$8.50

Contact:

Josephine Tse (403) 241-8680

OR Paula Lim (403) 249-4054

Please register as we need to know how much to cook!

Brunei Night National Day Dinner Celebration

February 18, 2012

7:00-10:00pm.

MSBCA Clubhouse

Nasi Lemak \$10(Member) \$15(Non-Member)

To register, contact: Cliff Son or the Committee



Editorial continued...
tallest skyscraper. At the male tiger enclosure, he came right up to the window to take a closer peek at us humans and you could just see into his beautiful eyes.

Same with the lion, those yellow piercing eyes. A very unique animal I saw was the African Bongo, with peculiar white stripes. A few other animal highlights were the penguins, a massive gorilla, and

a platypus. The zoo is always a fun place to visit for the day and to learn about the animals. So if you're ever in Sydney it's worth paying a visit to Taronga!

CNYhighlights

MSBCA Dragon New Year Celebration

Story by Philip Chan

Photos by Vincent Chiew and
Yeuchuan Choo

The Year of the Dragon is an auspicious year for many and MSBCA celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Dragon with a grand 10-course dinner banquet at the Regency Palace Restaurant on February 3, 2012.

The sleeping dragon was awakened by the thunderous roar of 8 colourful, dancing lions. This would be one of the most spectacular lion dance and celebrated performance, by the World Pak Mei Hup Ging Do Martial Arts Club, at the MSBCA CNY event yet. Those who came and saw enjoyed every moment of the exciting roaring lions as they ushered in the Dragon New Year. Thanks to Elaine & Michael Lo who generously sponsored the Lion Dance.



From the attendance of more than 370 guests at the banquet, many family and friends gathered together for a happy family reunion over a delicious Chinese meal with singing, fun and laughter, of meeting with new and old acquaintances, of wishing each other good fortune and health, of renewing and making new friendship, of sharing the happiness and



blessings with one another, wining and dining. Indeed, MSBCA is moving forward to another thriving year of growth and camaraderie.

The MSBCA banquet was pleasantly graced by the honorable MLA Teresa Woo-Paw and MLA Wayne Cao. We were also honored with the presence of various Chinatown associations, including Chao Chow Community Benevolent Society, Tsung Tsin Benevolent Association, Hainanese Association and the Thai Association.



The evening was lined up with a program of entertainment for the whole family, with many prizes to give away. The choir started the evening with 4 CNY favorites led by Adeline Chan and never a dull moment of singing and wishing Chinese New Year greeting in songs to everyone.

The program got more exciting as the evening went on with a Chinese New Year dance performance by the adult choreographed by Judy Tan and another by the children Triple "C" Explosion choreographed by Clara Chiew.



There were more singing from vocalists Chee Leong, Yuwen Choo and Weiwen Choo, and Jian Cheng Choo who entertained the audience with their talents and powerful voices. Kudos also went



CNYhighlights

MSBCA Dragon New Year Celebration

to some of the guests who were bold to come forward to sing Karaoke, including the MLA Wayne Cao.



It is not Chinese New Year without the giving of "Hong Bao". There were apparently more than 60 children, teenagers and young adults who came forward to receive the red packets from Grandma Chiang (Joyce Wong's mother) and Grandma Leow (Michelle Ng's mother). The "Hong Bao" was sponsored by Joyce and Danny Wong.

The MSBCA scholastic award was well received by 11 recipients who completed their grades in school. MLA Teresa Woo-Paw distributed the MSBCA scholastic awards to the Grade 6 recipient Char-



maine Tay (top student), the Grade 9 recipients Marcus Boon, Pauline Chiang, Joshua Cheah, Michael Vallally, Shannon Tay (top student), and the Grade 12 recipients Valene Cheah, Alvin Chiang, Diane Ding, Justin Son, Ayla Vallally. MLA Teresa Woo-Paw was also kind to include a congratulatory scroll to all the recipients as an incentive for the completion of their education. Funding for the scholastic awards would not have been



feasible without the collections from last year's Sunday lunches. Do look out for this year's Sunday lunches starting in Spring.

Lifetime membership certificates were also presented to 7 recipients including Vincent & Susan Chiew, Anna & Eugene Chieng, Cliff & Jessie Son, John & Jennie Soo, Theresa Khoo & Strom, Ivan & Eng Teo, Gerry & Jill Vogt.

Many thanks go to all the volunteers who have sponsored, donated and supported this CNY event. There's Calvin Chiew's lion dance sponsored by Michael & Elaine Lo, the children "Hong Bao" sponsored by Joyce & Danny Wong, the travel vouchers sponsored by Jojo & Michael Ho, Daisy & John Kielhorn, Paula & Ben Lim, Anna & Eugene Chieng and Peggy & Kok Sim Looi, the many door prizes donated by Linda & Jimmy Bong, Anna & Ah Nga Bong, Jennie & John Soo, Lyndley & Suzanne Vallally, Jill & Gerry Vogt, Adeline & Philip Chan, Kim & Paul Roe, Cynthia Tung, Kathy & Paul Teoh, Juliet & Hau Chong Teng, Melissa & Jesse Cheah, Vena & Christopher Palmer, Joyce Yit, Joyce & Danny Wong, Irene & Kim Chan, Winna & Bin Tan, Peter & Kim Yong and Regency Palace Restaurant.



Kudos to all the performers from the choir, dances and vocalists including Chee Leong, Philip & Adeline Chan,



Joo Teh, Joyce Yit, Paula Lim, Jennie Soo, Angie Kerr, Hong, Kate Ni, Anna & Eugene Chieng, Tony Quek, Ken Lee, Winna Tan, Angeline Teh, Kristina Chiang, Diane Ding, Yuwen & Weiwen Choo, Jian Cheng Choo, Vinshie Chiew, Sherwinn Chiew, Maya Cheung, Carly Cheung, Caelyn Chok, Judy Tan, Clara Chiew, Vincent Chiew the photographer, and the Committee members Kenneth Ang, Choo Yeu Chuan, Cliff Son, Cynthia Tung, Josephine Tse, Joyce Yit and sub-committee Jennie Soo & Adeline Chan in making this Chinese New Year banquet a joyous and memorable occasion.



Of special mention is the DJ Peter Yong (a sponsor) who has supported MSBCA well over the years in many events offering his professional service with a highly sophisticated sound system.

Thank you all for your participation and we look forward to see everyone again. Here is wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous Year of the Dragon.

More photos on our Facebook Page.

MY VISIT TO SINGAPORE

Story by Cynthia Tung

Family, shopping and food are almost always the foremost thoughts in my mind when planning a trip to Singapore.

My visit this time around primarily has to do with my niece, Zelcy's wedding. I've not attended a wedding in Spore for more than 30 years!

THE WEDDING

On the day of the wedding, the videographer & photographers arrived at our doorstep at 6:45 a.m. while we were still in our pj and I was struggling to finish icing the cupcakes.



Six beautiful bridesmaids arrived half an hour later. Now, I am scrambling to get breakfast on the table for them while my sister-in-law and the maid were busy getting lunch ready for the relatives who will be there for the tea ceremony.



Then came the groom and his entourage of best men dressed in pink top and white shorts. Before they were allowed entry into the house, they were tested by the bridesmaids with specially prepared wasabi, mustard on crackers with a piece of M&M and negotiation for the size of



the ang pows started rolling. Once they had gained access into the house, the groom and

the best men had to perform a dance to a Jennifer Lopez song.



The dinner was held at the Crystal Ballroom in Holiday Inn @ Cuppage Centre. Cost per table is \$1,100 X 40 tables. Pretty steep compared to 25 years ago. Cocktail hour was from 6:00 – 7:00 pm by the foyer outside the Crystal Ballroom. Free flow of booze and hors d'oeuvres were served by the hotel staff (obviously an influence from the West). At the end of the evening, the hotel provided a one bedroom suite and an extra room for the newly wed. Dan and his cousin, Jeo plus a few friends took advantage of the extra



room to continue on with the party until the early hour of the morning.

THE KIELHORNS

My holiday in Singapore coincided with the Kielhorns. Daisy, John and I decided to spend a day together. Daisy suggested massage at Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped. Sounded interesting wasn't it? My niece, Zelcy and I decided to take up Daisy's suggestion and



let me tell you, the price is extremely reasonable. For foot reflexology and head/shoulder massage it was \$10/20 mins session and for a full body finger press massage it was \$40 for one hour session! It is

interesting to note that they also have a mobile team who does massage at your house or office for the same price! Daisy and John have their massage done by them every time they are in Singapore. I was very impressed by their professional-



ism. After the massage, we went to NEX, which is a relatively new shopping mall, for lunch. Daisy had laksa, John ordered the char siew noodles, Zelcy had lontong and I had the Hokkien char mee. We were not too impressed with the food.

PASIR PANJANG WHOLESALE CENTRE

I have always wanted to go to Pasir Panjang wholesale centre but always ran out

MY VISIT TO SINGAPORE



of time. This time around, I did make it to the wholesale centre and was amazed at the size of this place. Due to time constraint, we only managed to visit a few shops. I bought my ikan bilis and dried shrimp and a few knick-knacks. My sister-in-law bought some salted fish. We had some the next day for dinner and it was very good.

CHINATOWN (HERBAL SHOP)



I made my annual rounds to Chinatown to buy some unique small items to give away. We bumped into a newly opened herbal shop owned by a family of an elder sister and 2 younger brothers. They are all graduates from Singapore University. I find their selections of herbs, tea, and dried products to be good. I didn't have to do any hard bargaining and they gave me a discount anyway. I bought more ikan bilis and dried shrimp from them because (delete "I find") they were fresh and the price reasonable. If you are in Singapore, pay them a visit.

MARINA BAY SAND

I had the good fortune to stay a night at the Marina Bay Sand at staff price

because my nephew, Jeo, have a friend who works there.

The first we did was to enjoy the Infinite Pool. The service at the pool was very good. Towels and cold water with lemon slices were within easy reach.

The view from the Infinite Pool was worth paying for a night stay. I did splurge a little on buffet breakfast at one of the MBS restaurants. No, it was not worth paying for it. For the four of us, the bill was about C\$140.00 something. For the breakfast and a night stay, our total bill was C\$368.62.

FOOD I HIGHLY RECOMMEND

I did have my dosage of durian. There wasn't much of a selections because October wasn't the season for it. Nevertheless, I still have (had) my share of it. I found the 3 for S\$10 to be good value for the dollar compared to the D24 variety, one of which I bought one for \$20.



We had dim sum at Yum Cha Restaurant down at Chinatown. . The ambience was good but the price is a little higher than average. The selection was very good and very fresh. They had unique dishes. Highly recommended.

We paid our annual homage to Hua Yue



Yuan Restaurant for our seafood. Their Singapore chillie crab with the buns, the small crispy cuttlefish, and their goreng mee are all highly recommended. This is a must visit the next time you are in Singapore.

Our afternoon tea at the TWG, a quaint little tea shop was quite an experience. Dan and I ordered a pot of tea each and Zelcy had a glass of cold tea and we shared a piece of cake the bill came up to C\$47!!! The dessert, service and ambience was very good. The tea came in a 18K gold plated French tea pot. . If you don't mind dishing out the money for it, by all means give it a try.



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MSBCA Newsletter has a readership of about 200 families & organizations.

CONTACT:

editor@msbca.ca

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

Photo of the month



Photo by Josephine Tse. The famous Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet. Potala Palace means Holy Palace in The Snow Land.

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

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

Note: the newsletter is a monthly publication.

Club House Rental

Holding a meeting, presentation or social event?

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

Clubhouse rental is undergoing policy changes and is not available for rental until further notice