

THE MALAYSIA SINGAPORE & BRUNEI CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Unit 238-2680 Shell Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V6X 4E9, CANADA

Website: www.msbea.com

email: msbcahq@gmail.com

Message from the President....

Dear Members and Friends,

2021 has been an extremely difficult year during which we have continued to deal with, and still are actively dealing with, the COVID 19 pandemic with the ever changing conditions and restrictions. Much is still not known about the current OMICRON variant so we urge all members to stay strong and positive, follow public health orders and exercise personal caution.

We at MSBCA will continue to monitor and follow public health orders as we move forward. Accordingly, we cancelled this year's Children's Christmas and the New Year Eve's Parties.

As we move forward with future plans, we shall always keep the health and well being of our membership in mind. We have very cautiously provided the use of the MSBCA Clubhouse for rental opportunities with limited use in accordance with public health restrictions. We shall keep in touch with our membership through the MSBCA quarterly newsletter "The Link", MSBCA website "MSBCA.COM", and MSBCA Facebook page

"@MSBCAVANCOUVER".

We appreciate the tremendous support of the MSBCA community. Please do not hesitate to contact us by email (MSBCAHQ@GMAILCOM) in the event that you have any questions, concerns or just want to connect. We would love to hear from you and know how things are going with you and your families. Also, we hope you will suggest ideas on what you wish for us to consider to make MSBCA an association and community YOU want to have and see.

Let us remain positive in mind and spirit and be thankful for those around us as we welcome the New Year, 2022!

A Happy, Blessed New Year from all of us serving on the MSBCA Board of Directors.
Stay safe and healthy!

With Best Regards,

Polly Voon
2021-2022 President



For The Record....

First snow fall in Lower Mainland on Christmas Day 2021, 13 years ago since 2008. Lower Mainland had white Christmas in 1996, 1998, 2008 and now 2021 is added to the list.



"Happy Memories" - Photo from MSBCA New Year's Eve 2020 Celebration



From Richard's desk...

Hello Members and Friends,
Happy New Year 2022. It is like biting the tongue to say it. The new Omicron Virus is now keeping us at bay again. I think we are going back to square one like a friend of mine said while taking his 3rd shot of vaccine.



I am sure the club will make a few announcements as to where we are at with events planned for this year, such as the Chinese Lunar New Year Dinner and the annual picnic. New restrictions are in place now.

Consulate of Malaysia sent a list of countries identified to have the spread of Omicron and Canada is on the list. Protocols are included if you plan to visit Malaysia. Check their website 'moh.gov.my' for an update of protocols.

Minutes of the last meeting are published below to keep members informed of the work that Board is doing. *There is a membership drive which started last month. Renewal and new membership is offered at \$20.00 Single/Family. It expires end of March 2022.*

Lastly, Part 3 of my brief story in 'Going to America' is posted at the back page. I hope you enjoy reading it. I am a Canadian for 50 years now since I landed here in 1972 as a new immigrant. There was no big celebration for our 50th Wedding Anniversary but marking a milestone nonetheless.

Till then, all the best!

Richard Liew, Newsletter-in-Charge



Board of Directors (2021-2022)

President: Ms. Polly Voon, (604.290.7756)
Immediate Past President/ Membership: Mr. Stanley Low, (604.889.9288)
VP Malaysia: Mr. George Yee, (604.790.2468)
VP Singapore/Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Fanny Chua (604.222.2323)
VP Brunei: Mr. Danny Thong, (604.649.2931)

Hon. Treasurer: Ms. Rosemary Lai, (604.649.2006)
Director/Secretary: Mr. S.K. Chin (604.862.1887)
Director/General Affairs: Mr. Michael Mok, (604.323.0178)
Director/Rental Manager: Mr. Henry Mo, (604.307.2326)
Director/Newsletter: Mr. Richard Liew, (604.377.1201)
Director: Mr. Simon Chow, (604.537.5482)
Director/Membership-in-charge: Mrs. Sophia Chiam, (604.327.9479)
Honorary Advisor: Mr. Yeo Sing Lim, OBC



Zoom Meeting

Screen shot of MSBCA Board of Directors' meeting on December 02, 2021, hosted and chaired by President Polly Voon.

Minutes of Meeting— December 02, 2021

President Polly called the meeting to order at 6.30 pm. Approval of the last minutes of meeting was approved. Treasurer's Report was presented and documented.

ACTION ITEMS:

- a). Zumba Classes: in charge, reported 8 attending. Still 2 spaces available.
- b) New members: reported by Sophia, (Director in charge of memberships) are found on Page 3.
- c) Rental: Henry (in charge of rental) reported in November, total rental income was \$1,130. Henry also provided the Directors with the contract renters have to sign before their use of the clubhouse.
- d) Clubhouse supplies: Stanley in charge, will refill supplies when needed, for the clubhouse.
- e) Cleaning of the clubhouse: Gina, cleaning lady for the clubhouse still comes reg-

ularly twice a week.

INACTIVE ITEM: Ballroom classes are on hold as Bruce has not given us the date he will begin the classes.

- OPEN ISSUES:**
- a) Seniors using the clubhouse: It was agreed that the first proposal to let the seniors of the Association to use the premise of the clubhouse for their fellowship and get together, once a month at no charge in rental, to not go ahead. The reason is due to a number of concerns including the need for a current director to be present during the event. Any seniors wanting to use the clubhouse will have to pay rent and come under the renters contract.
 - b) MSBCA.COM: Website is fine. In charge and updating, George Yee
 - c) MSBCAHQ: No issues
 - c) MSBCA FACEBOOK: No issues

d) Proposed date for our Chinese New Year Dinner at Continental Restaurant, Richmond: February 5th 2022. Not confirmed at this time due to the COVID situation, but because we need time for preparations, to go ahead with planning. In charge of the CNY Dinner will be Directors, Richard, Stanley and Simon.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) 2021 report to BC Registrar of Societies has been filed. Director George Yee will assume this responsibility as of 2022.
- b) Christmas pot luck at the clubhouse: Stanley proposed a Christmas pot luck dinner for all Directors and close friends on the 18th December 2021 at 6.30 pm. Stanley will be in charge.

ADJOURNMENT : Meeting adjourned at 7.30 pm
NEXT MEETING: on Zoom on January 6th, 2022 at 6.30 pm.

NEW MEMBERS:

MSBCA welcome the following new members:

Family:

Regina Lee/Josel Susanto,
Frankie Tao,
Frankie Au
Grace Lui
Frankie & Angela Yu
Lang Trinh Hue
May Soo,
Tony and Jeanne Voon,
Thomas and Susie Chong,
Sandy and Molly Chew, and
Dennis Agon



Courtesy from: Clipart

Year of The Water Black Tiger

According to some write-up, this Lunar year is the Water Black Tiger. It is predicted to be a year of metamorphosis. It says you need to be modest and diplomatic to enjoy the year.



恭喜發財
Happy Chinese New Year



Articles, Stories, etc.

If you have interesting things to write and share with us, why not submit them for publishing? We love to hear from you any time.

Web Advertising Rate



Business Card Size: \$25 per month or \$250 per year with link to your webpage included.
Our Webmaster is Director Mr. George Yee



@MSBCAVANCOUVER

Please inform us by email at msbcahq@gmail.com if you are moving or have moved or have changed your email address. Also, inform us if you like your email address removed from our list.

IMPORTANT: There are members not receiving notices about events, etc. Either their email addresses are out of date or they do not have a computer altogether. Therefore it would be the member's responsibility to notify us as to how we can best communicate with them. Take a minute to send us a note or call any of the directors. Thank you.

Clubhouse Rental Rates (Effective Oct. 01, 2021)

Members —\$25 per hour

Definition: Private use by members for family parties and gatherings; not to be rented for second party use. Renter must be present for that period of time.

Non-Members/Community/Business—\$30 per hour, min.2hrs;

Definition: Non-business type Social Group Meetings, Church Groups, Community Groups. *Members and non-members.*

Definition: Business being conducted such as for dancing lessons, seminars, marketing and sales. *Members and non-members.*

Rates are subject to change without notice.
Audio/Visual Equipment not available.
Capacity: 50 people seating, 90 standing.
Please contact any of the directors for rental.

MEMBERSHIP

Please make your cheque payable to:

MSBCA
Unit 238-2680 Shell Road,
Richmond, B.C.
V6X 4C9.

Please call Membership Director for Membership Form or visit our website to print the form.

Annual Membership Fee (effective from date of application for 12 months):

	General	Life
Single/Seniors (60 & over) -	\$25.00	\$250.00

Family (excluding children over 18 years) -	\$30.00	\$300.00
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Corporate Rate: \$200.00 Annually

“GOING TO AMERICA” by Richard Liew

Part 3

The year is 1971 now. The Vietnam War was thought to be winding down, but rioting continued on, campuses sit-ins and rioting meant that you could not attend classes. The private college that I attended was spared of the disruptions. Being a foreign student, I



had to move on to complete our education. So, I stuck on till the end for three years without taking summer breaks.

Like many others, I attended a protest march with my room mates as observers in downtown San Francisco. Chanting of

slogans such as ‘love and not war’ were loud and clear. But fear soon set in when violence broke out and policemen on horses



moved in. The rioters set ablaze overturned police cars. Plume of smoke from tear gas canisters started to fill the air. We started to move out and a white American screamed at our direction, “Go

home to fight your own war”. We cleared out in a hurry for fear of getting caught up in the riot, danger of getting injured, caught and getting deported from the country.

We held gatherings on weekends to share news from home, share a toast or so for birthdays while a long way from home. There was always a reason to celebrate.

We attended a few rock concerts at the aging Fillmore West, a large indoor auditorium. There was never short of ‘grass’ to puff during the concert. It automatically passed on down the line after one puff and you would not miss it. Stoned and friendly and so it went with all the psychedelic lights and music blasting through your ears. The hippie life style I embraced for a short while was quite a ride. So life went on.



Long hair groupies hung out together and with flowers on their hair. There were few rough places we stayed away such as Haight-Ashbury District and Mission District.



On a nice cool day, we would go to Union Square to watch the Hare Krishna perform in the public square.

Close to where we live, there was this pub called ‘Sgt. Pepper Lonely Heart’ and was the place we hung out for live rock actions. The band was rocking with all the Beatles’ songs, you name it. ‘Get Back’ was the hit song then. Those days, few Asians hung out there and the crowd did not quite like us but we didn’t care and we just rocked on till closing.

In 1970, Aster Leong, my grade school sweetheart immigrated to Vancouver, BC, to be closer to where I was then. She would commute on long weekends to San Francisco often.



Not long after that, we decided to get married thereby making it easier for me to immigrate to Canada. I got everything arranged with help from my friends and room mates. On July 14, 1971, we got married in San Francisco City Hall. The chamber was full and they were not guests. They were all couples waiting for their turn before the Judge. My best man was Gordon Wong. The other best man was a great college friend, Michael Wong who was living in San Jose, California. Within a few minutes, we became a married couple. Later that evening, we had 20 guests at our wedding reception in a Chinatown restaurant named Sun Ya on Clay Street.

The following day, we took a Greyhound bus to Los Angeles for our no-frills honeymoon. Back from the trip, I stayed on in San Francisco to complete my education while Aster continued here commute back and forth from Vancouver.

My best man Michael found me a car for \$400. It was an Oldsmobile Cutlass. A few months later, he had to fix the engine gasket for me. I drove to San Jose leaving a trail of white plume of smoke down Hwy 1. I had to make a few stops to fill up the radiator. The repair work took a whole day.

So, came April 1972, I finally graduated with a BSc in Electronics. Moving day came, and the old Cutlass was loaded up with, in today’s term, all junk. Aster was with me for the drive to Vancouver. The drive was two days. Finally, we reached Peach Arch border crossing. The Customs officer said ‘make sure you drive the car back to USA when you want to junk it’. I said ‘yes sir’, then continued on down Hwy 99 to Vancouver and became a landed immigrant in Canada.