

THE MALAYSIA SINGAPORE & BRUNEI CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Unit 238-2680 Shell Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V6X 4G9, CANADA

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Message from the President....

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome back to a new MSBCA year! On behalf of the 2021-2022 Board of Directors, I wish you and you families all the best in the year ahead – anticipating a year where we can move beyond some of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We thank the MSBCA community for your continuing support and encouragement as we have had to cancel the many activities and events which keep us all connected. We have all had to overcome things and learn how to do things differently in many ways. We shall continue to ensure that whatever we do, we keep the safety and health of our members and families above all.

We acknowledge and thank the 2020-2021 Board for serving two consecutive years due to the restrictions and no AGM in 2020. They have continued to “keep the lights on” - maintaining communication within the Board through the use of zoom meetings, with the membership through the newsletters and emails, and kept on top of the administration and maintenance of the clubhouse.

While I may not have served on the Board of Directors for many years, I have continued my keen interest on

the good work performed so very unselfishly by the many members who stepped up and put in the many hours and dedication to the membership. To them and those who continue to serve on the Board, we extend our deep appreciation. I had the privilege of being invited to be one of the association Advisors on several occasions, a role in which I have not had the need to exercise much due to the excellent work of the sitting Boards!

Thank you to the MSBCA membership for electing me to the 2021-2022 Board and to my fellow Board members for entrusting to me the leadership of the association as the 2021-2022 President. I look forward to working with the Board to take the association to a higher level and provide a value-added experience for our MSBCA membership. I encourage all members to feel free to contact us with suggestions, input and ideas on what you wish for us to consider to make MSBCA an association and community YOU want to have and see.

Stay safe and healthy!

With Best Regards,

Polly Voon
2021-2022 President



AGM: Members reviewing the Agenda and Financial Report prior to start of the meeting. President-Elect speaks to the members.

From Richard's desk...

Hello Members and Friends,

I hope you are well. I have posted Part 2 of my brief story in Going to America. As this issue will be dedicated more to the Association affairs, I have to cut Part 2 into Part 3. I am glad to hear that some of you enjoyed reading Part 1. It is only a cut above the surface about me living life in San Francisco in the Hippie era. There were more adventures to fill a book if I get to it, but it won't happen.



I retain the position looking after The Link as the new President Ms. Polly Voon take office for two-year term after this year's AGM.

Till then and 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 Advisors:
Mr. Yeo Sing Lim, OBC

Annual General Meeting—September 18, 2021 recorded by S K Chin

The AGM was attended by 26 members in good standing. The Chairperson Ms. Polly Voon called the AGM to order at 1.05 pm.

After confirming a 'quorum' by Secretary S K Chin, Polly welcomed all the members and thanked them for their attendance. She praised Mr. Guilbert Ho for his unyielding services to the association who could not be present this year because of health reason. She then introduced the 43rd Board of Directors cum officers by calling them one-by-one by their names. The Minutes of 43rd Annual General Meeting was adopted after being moved by Rosemary Lai, seconded by Quee Tin Shieh. All in favour.

Mr. Stanley Low gave his President's Report by welcoming the members and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting. He gave a brief description of how MSBCA was being managed and taken care of by the 43rd Board of Directors while facing the challenges posed by the Covid-19 Pandemic. He thanked the directors and volunteers for their hard work and support.

Financial Report (unaudited) for 2019 and 2020 was tabled by Treasurer Ms. Rosemary Lai and she read through the pages of her written Financial Statements which was made available to members before the General Meeting. She reiterated that due to lack of rental income and events, intake has dropped considerably. George Yee moved and Jim Foo seconded that the unaudited MSBCA Financial Statements 2019 & 2020 be accepted by

the 44th Members General Meeting. All in favour. Motion was carried.

Election of Directors 2021 – 2022 then took place and the nominees were subsequently elected to the new Board. They are Stanley Low, Richard Liew, Rosemary Lai, Fanny Chua, Danny Thong, George Yee, Henry Mo, Michael Mok, Polly Voon and Simon Chow. Albert Ng moved and Jim Foo seconded that the election of the 44th Board of Directors be concluded. All in favour. Motion carried.

Next was a report from the "New" Club House Building Committee. Richard Liew, who represented the Board in the Building Committee, reported that he and Mr. Tim Wong, Past President and a realtor did searches for premises on various locations and found either the value were too high (at \$125K - \$200K more) or no better than our existing building in terms of accessibility and parking. He proposed that the search for a new Club House to be put on hold for the time being. All in favour. Motion carried.

The AGM was adjournment at 1.36 pm.

After the AGM, the elected 44th Board of Directors proceeded into the Board Room to elect among themselves to hold various offices. The Board decided to appoint two more directors to the Board namely Sophia Chiam and S.K. Chin. The Board of Directors appear as per above on this page.

Note: The complete unedited version of the AGM Minutes of Meeting is available to members in good standing by writing in to msbcahq@gmail.com.



A big welcome to our three new Directors. Simon Chow, on the far left, is no stranger to MSBCA. He attended many of our functions over the years. Sophia Chiam is back with the Board after being absent for two years. She had volunteered her time looking after the membership pool and diligently keeping track of it over the past year or so. Her role continues on as a Director of Membership. Henry Mo has been active with the club for many years. He volunteered his time to look after many things and was appointed as a Director. At the AGM this year, he was elected to the Board as a Director and he will continue to play an important role managing the clubhouse rental.



President Stanley Low and his wife Kaleen visited Mr. Guilbert Ho at his home on August 28, 2021. Guilbert is one of the co-founding member of MSBCA and also a Past President. He is currently recuperating at home from his recent illness. Treasurer Rosemary Lai also accompanied the President in the visit. Standing on the right is Guilbert's wife Carol. Photo was taken by Life Member Lee Kim Kook. We wish him well and a speedy recovery.



AGM: L-R: Treasurer Rosemary Lai, President Stanley Low, Chair Polly Voon and Director Richard Liew.

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 included.
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 would roll up his sleeves to help me during busy hours.

Part 2

First day of registration was chaotic. I realized they were many students with the family name Patel and not that many Smith or Jones. I needed to make friends fast so to feel at home. I soon found a student from Miri, Sarawak by the name of Bujang Mat Noor. Then, he introduced me to his new friend from Kuala Lumpur by the name of M. bin Nordin. Both invited me to bunk with them. It was a two bedroom apartment unit within walking distance to the college and located right on Van Ness Avenue.

We developed our friendship fast being from the same country. I had to adapt and first thing was not to have bacon and ham in the fridge. So, my sandwiches then were mostly turkey and beef.

Things were humming along nicely until May 13, 1969, the incident in Kuala Lumpur where the Chinese and Malays clashed with loss of lives. My roommate from KL was furious, cursing, swearing and angry while he was reading the San Francisco Examiner. I asked him what it was all about. He was still steaming mad and said ‘If I am in KL right now, Richard, I will kill all the Chinese people’. I was shaken by his outbursts. He went on and on for a few minutes. I picked up the newspaper and read it. I looked at Mat Noor and he stared down at the floor and was silent the whole time. It did not take me long, fearing for my safety, in deciding to move on. So I moved the next day and Mat Noor tacked along with me. We moved to Franklin Hotel, half a block from the college. We did not talk further on that matter as we both believed that it was the West Malaysian problem they had to resolve.

The first quarter went by smoothly as I had settled down with my daily routine going to college, doing assignments in the cafeteria between breaks. Physics and Calculus were not my favorite subjects and getting by with a C+. So, I slaved on with other subjects such as basic electronics, a study of printed circuit boards and transistors and binary numbers. I started the second quarter following and not taking the summer break. The mentality was to complete my degree in the shortest time possible.

A wonderful day on a bright early morning, around the corner of Van Ness Street, I bumped into Gordon Wong from Seria, Brunei. We were family friends in Seria, where our parents worked for Brunei Shell Petroleum. It was truly a shocker. We stared at each other for a few seconds. He had this big smile. With finger pointing at me, he said ‘you must be Richard Liew’. Yes, yes I said. Hey, are you Gordon Wong? Yes, I am, he said. We were so happy, overjoyed and felt more at home then. He was studying Accounting in another building. So, we met up frequently when we could.

He found me a job working in the same place with him and at a restaurant called Magic Pan located in Ghirardelli Square, a tourist place and close to the world renowned San Francisco Fisherman’s Wharf. I started as a dishwasher while he was a busboy. The kitchen was staffed with Thais, Malaysians and Koreans, all cooking Hungarian food of all things. It was fun but hard work in the kitchen. It was steamy hot and the manager, Mr. Whitlock

We did not have working permit but we did have Social Security card for tax purposes. Frequently, we would empty out of the kitchen just by plain sight of well-dressed gentlemen at the front reception area thinking they were Immigration Officers checking for illegal workers. Poor George, the only American Chef in the restaurant, was left in the kitchen by himself. We hid in the wash-room cubicles until they were gone. But every time, they turned out to be Sales people. Later on, I became a cook, preparing Hungarian cuisine with crepe’ as their main flair. Working for US\$2.30 per hour, six days per week, I managed to make ends meet like paying weekly hotel rent and tuition fees. I became self-sufficient after a year and paid my way through college thereon. It was a relief to my family at home.

The hotel room where I stayed in cost \$35.00 per week. It was built in 1920. The building survived the earthquake in April 1969. Everything was rattling and ceiling dust clouded the room. I stood under the door frame with Mat Noor, like all the others and rode it out for a few minutes and aftershocks.

A week later after the earthquake, I watched the first Moon Landing on a very old 12” CRT black and white television set which I bought for \$20. It was an exciting day for me and the rest of my friends.

My friends, studying in the same college, were from Singapore, Hong Kong, Miri, Sarawak, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Calcutta, India and a Hawaiian. Included in the group were two Thais. Somehow, in the mix, was an older Japanese man, Takeshi Isoya, a photo album salesman from Tokyo who became a good friend of mine till this day. He now lives in the suburb of Tokyo with his wife. The Hawaiian guy was a War Vet and he shared many stories with us during his two years tour of duty in Saigon serving with the US Marines.

My ex-class mate, Chong Chung Yeung from Kota Kinabalu loved cooking. We all got tired of TV dinners and his idea of turning a 3’ x 6’ walk-in closet into a kitchen did work. Our room had a sink only. The communal bathroom was down the hallway. This make shift kitchen was almost full time with my wok going till 2 am in the morning, chopping chicken and frying it with ginger and soy sauce like there was no tomorrow. Beer was plentiful, \$2.00 for a slab of 24 cans. The cans were all dented though but were still good. Hotel guests would complain about the noise but the frying of salt fish, as the Manager would say ‘smell of dead fish in the hallway’, did come with a warning. We all enjoyed living there. The group lasted for almost six months and for good reasons we all went our separate ways. I moved many more times and finally settled down in an apartment with my Japanese friend. He too worked at the Magic Pan with me.

I kept working in the evenings. I would take the cable car to Chinatown on my way to work for cheap meals, rice with two side dishes for a dollar and twenty cents.

Next Issue: Life in America and the Hippies era.