



**From the Communications Team.....**

Dear Members,


For those of you who have returned to K.L. from your holidays, welcome back. For those who are still on holidays we hope you continue to have a great time and we will see you when you get back to K.L.

Michelle Pease

**Coming up...**

-  **Excursion: Walking Tour of Kampung Bharu**  
Wednesday, 17th August, 9.00 for a 9.30 start  
The invitation for this event will be sent out in the next couple of days.
-  **MCG Open House**  
Wednesday, 7th September 10.00 for a 10.30 start, to register please click [here](#)

**Reviews...**

 **Lecture - Dining with Dragons**  
Reeta Chopra



 **Enak! - Marco Polo Restaurant**  
Rosemary Chin



 **Excursions - Forestry Research Institute Malaysia**  
Robert Rosenberg




 **Excursions - Textile Tours of Pua Kumbu**  
Anjeeta Nayar



 **Explorers - Hula Langat Orchard Farm**  
Kyoko Rabbetts & Aionon Ali



 **Book Group 1 - The Lives of Others**  
Leslie Muri

**President's Message**



Hello everyone and welcome back if you have been away for holidays. To our new members we would like to say welcome!

Your Committee has been working hard to plan the next year's activities. The first major event we have coming up is our annual Open House. This is an opportunity for people to come out and see what we have to offer. Come and join us September 7th to sign up for all of the different activities we have for you. There will be some great Malaysian food and entertainment for you to enjoy. Please help us by spreading the word or even bringing along a newcomer or a friend. The more the merrier but we do ask that you RSVP so we know how much food to order!

The Committee has been busy filling all the positions to make the MCG such a fantastic member-run organization. One position that remains unfilled is that of Librarian. Our small library has several hundred titles and is available to members an hour before our lectures on Wednesdays. We need someone to open the library an hour before and to keep tabs on the loan system. If this interests you please get in touch with any of us and we can provide more information.

As mentioned previously the MCG relies on our members to help publicize our activities. The Publicity Group also tries to connect with local media and other Associations and coordinate events. I am happy to say that our intern has managed to get an article in an upcoming Senses magazine about the Open House. Keep your eyes peeled as they say!

See you on the seventh!

Pam Currie

**A Blast from the Past.....**

**"Japanese Girls' Day", March, 2006**



**Did you know that the Malaysian Culture Group has a Facebook page?**  
Click [here](#) to visit the MCG page.

**Meet your New MCG Committee.**



A Celebration of Deepavali at TFA, November, 2015

**Maryann Kozban-Diakow**  
**Vice President**

I have lived in Bukit Jalil (BJ), Kuala Lumpur since August 2013. BJ, is a 45 minute LRT ride to the Merit, but our home is only a 5 minute walk to the University where my husband now works! In 2012 we became "empty nesters" and decided that if there were opportunities elsewhere in the world we would pursue them, so now we live in KL and enjoy discovering neighbouring countries when time permits.

I graduated from Brock University and Teachers College in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada where I lived most of my life. It's only a 10 minute drive to Niagara Falls and is in a beautiful part of Canada between two Great Lakes that has orchards, vineyards and world class wines. My early years were focused on raising our 3 children, volunteering at school, church, scouting and in the community. Through scouting we travelled across Canada and the U.S., as a result we are always ready for an adventure!

When our children needed me less I returned to work in the social services sector. In my last position before retiring and moving to Malaysia, I worked with families to explore placement options for their children when the parents were not able to care for them. Bringing an extended family together so they can decide who will be the care giver to the children (to prevent them from going into foster care or being adopted), was both challenging and rewarding work.

After enjoying the laid back pace of being in KL for a year, and occasionally volunteering at the university as a "simulated patient" I needed something more interesting to fill my time. In September 2014 I went to the Open House with a friend and discovered that MCG

was a perfect fit for me! I enjoy working with people, planning events, learning about different cultures and discovering new places. Initially my husband was worried I would stop baking cookies & muffins for him, but I assured him I would not, since I enjoy doing that too! What did happen at MCG was that I meet wonderful people that have become great friends.

I was hesitant about volunteering for Vice President of MCG, but when I saw Pam take the first step at the AGM and I knew that several other committee members were staying on, it felt like the right thing to do.

My husband and I are both 1st generation Canadians, children of immigrants, and so we have a strong connection to our Ukrainian heritage. We speak the language and enjoy the rich traditions of our ancestors. Learning about other cultures, in multi-cultural Canada, has always been of interest to me. I am thrilled now to have the opportunity through MCG to learn more about Malaysia and the cultures of Southeast Asia.

Please join us at the MCG Open House on Wed. Sept. 7th from 10am-12 noon. Bring a friend so they can enrich their lives and enjoy everything MCG has to offer. Enjoy the holidays and see you in September!

The MCG Committee remains steadfastly committed to ensuring that the MCG meets the needs of our members. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact any of the Committee members by email. Yours in service of Malaysian culture!