

Newsletter

Issue March 2010



Word from our president

Dear members,

By the time you read this newsletter we will have entered into The Year of the Tiger. I hope the Tiger will bring much Luck and Strength to all. Last year was a good year for the NCA as we watched our membership increase to 157 by the end of 2009.

We intend to organize many events during this year to generate income, so we can continue to support the underprivileged in Singapore. To keep the NCA running smoothly though, ideally we need more committee members, so please do contact us if you want to help.

In cooperation with HOI, a small company that organizes workshops for Dutch people who are new to Singapore, run by Liesbeth de Vegt and Jelina Kleine Staarman, we organized a coffee morning last December for both new and long-term members of the NCA. The morning was a great success.

The NCA was fortunate to find a new treasurer there, as Singapore law dictates that Jeannet Bruinsma, who has held the position for four years, must soon step down. Therefore I would like to offer a warm welcome to Anita Jansen who will take over Jeannet's position on the committee after our Annual General Meeting on April 22nd.

On behalf of the NCA, I would like to thank Jeannet very much for all her hard work over the past 4 years. We hope she'll stay around to give us a helping hand and enable new committee members to adjust.

Before our upcoming Annual General meeting we will sadly say goodbye to our Secretary Sandra Verbeek, who will return to the Netherlands after being a committee member for almost 2 years. I would like to thank Sandra for all the work she has done and wish her and her husband Ronald a safe and happy return to the Netherlands.

We are pleased to announce that Sandra's position will be taken over by Melinda Klanderman and I hereby welcome Melinda on board! I would also like to welcome Caroline Mars who will join us as a committee member effective immediately. Welcome Caroline!

While preparing this newsletter, we also found out that we must say goodbye to Corine Regelink. Corine has been the editor of our newsletter and will be leaving Singapore in April. We would like to thank her for her commitment to making this newsletter what it is today. Corine, you have done a great job and we will definitely miss you.

Barbara Jansing, wife of the Dutch ambassador to Singapore, organized her first coffee morning at the residence in February. As Honorary member of the NCA she gave us the opportunity to launch our latest fundraising activity "Have Fun and Shop". You can read about this new initiative in our newsletter or visit our website for additional information.

Colofon

NCA committee

President
Tineke Hiemstra

Vice President
Willy Rijkeboer

Treasurer
Jeannet Bruinsma

Secretary
Sandra Verbeek

Members
Anita Jansen
Melinda Klanderman
Caroline Mars
Annette Kunst
Kate Hanam

Honorary member
Barbara Jansing

Production newsletter
Corine Regelink
Sandra Verbeek

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Website
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Membership
S\$ 50 yearly
DBS Bank:
7171 014 - 014 900 181 0

**All donations are welcome
and much appreciated!**

The NCA reaches out to the elderly, the chronically ill, the physically and mentally handicapped and orphans and children of disrupted families in Singapore, in terms of financial support and voluntary work.

Registered in Singapore.

Word from our president (continued)

Should you be interested to find out more about what you can do as a volunteer or committee member in the NCA, we would be happy to explain the areas where we could use your help. Ideally, we hope to find 2 more enthusiastic committee members as this would make the workload more manageable. Feel free to contact us or if you want to attend a meeting. Just send us an e-mail and we will get back to you as soon as possible!

Warm Regards,

Tineke Hiemstra
President of the NCA

Sunny Christmas fair on a partly rainy day

With great pleasure we look back at the NCA Christmas fair held on November 19th, 2009. The day began with sunshine and everyone was confident that we could expect many visitors and the fair would be a great success. We had a delightful mix of tables selling a wide variety of products from cakes to beautiful Christmas flower pieces, Christmas cards, various brick-a-brack, handcrafted dolls, etc.

On the table of Dutch products were large piles of cakes and sweets, even after the large number of pre-ordered goods had been set aside. We were excited to see if all the items would be sold and I am glad to say that at the end of the day all that was left were just a few packs of Brinta!

In addition to the NCA tables there were a number of other charities selling items. Once again the Christmas spirit was felt by all who listened to the 2 enthusiastic performances of the choir from HOME, one of the organisations supported by the NCA.



The only damper on our sunny spirits that day was a torrential rain storm around 1pm. The skies opened up and it rained as if it had not rained in years. Parts of Bukit Timah Road were completely under water and traffic came to a complete standstill.

It took more than an hour before the traffic was able to start moving again. Despite the temperamental weather, it was still a very successful day. In closing, all of this would absolutely not have been possible without our indispensable and much appreciated main sponsors: KLM, KLM Cargo and the Hollandse Club.

Thanks to these and other generous giving sponsors there were many wonderful prizes for the Lucky Draw, with the highly coveted prize being tickets to Amsterdam. A special thanks to KLM for so generously donating these tickets. Our special thanks also go to KLM Cargo for shipping the enormous amount of Dutch products they did for us free of charge to Singapore. Also our thanks and appreciation go to the Hollandse Club for again granting us accommodation and help whenever needed. Last but not least thanks to our fantastic volunteers, who all worked very hard to make this Christmas fair a great success and to those of you who came out to the Christmas fair to support our cause.

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Financial overview 2009

Thanks to all our sponsors, members and of course our many volunteers we were able to generate a substantial sum during the Christmas Fair last November. It is not very often that we can proudly announce that the NCA earned almost S\$25,000 in a single day! Please see the Christmas fair chart below for more details.

December is always the best month to be the NCA treasurer because then you get to write all those wonderful cheques for the charities we support! They are all small charities and we have been supporting most of them for many many years! For details on the donations please see the donation chart.

Now that I am at the end of my 4 year term as treasurer of the NCA, my only wish is that these charities can all continue to count on our ongoing financial assistance for many years to come!

Warm regards,
Jeannet Bruinsma

Grand total donations 2009

Charity	Donation
Polytechnic students	11,485.00
Children Society Sunbeam	1,795.70
Boys' Town	2,000.00
Breadline	20,000.00
Sanctuary House	4,000.00
Good Shepherd	5,000.00
H.O.M.E.	5,000.00
SPD	5,000.00
Total	54,280.70

Christmas fair 2009 chart

Table	Cost	Sales	Nett
Advertising	2,473.74	1,500.00	-973.74
CCF costs	1,794.81		-1,794.81
Books	3,579.61	5,354.57	1,774.96
Childrens table	2,038.40	2,972.00	933.60
Childrens home Sunbeam		724.30	724.30
Cake stall		1,529.70	1,529.70
Christmas Wreaths	0.00	926.80	926.80
Bric a Brac	210.00	1,192.00	982.00
Memory game		575.50	575.50
Lucky Draw	180.00	2,572.00	2,392.00
Crea		2,014.00	2,014.00
Cards	3,985.65	9,151.10	5,165.45
Holl Products	11,578.67	20,654.85	9,076.18
Funky Frogs donation		140.00	140.00
Esther		800.00	800.00
2nd hand booksale		274.35	274.35
Wooden shoe donation		80.00	80.00
Cool fits donation		40.00	40.00
Subtotaal	25,840.88	50,501.17	\$24,660.29
Invited charities		5,925.00	
Totaal		56,426.17	

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Breadline Group

- 35 years of supporting the underprivileged -in wealthy Singapore-

This month I had a very pleasant conversation with Mr. Richard Lim, a dedicated member of the Breadline group. He has been involved with the Breadline Group from the day it was started to support poor people - first as a volunteer, then as Treasurer and today as the organization's Secretary.

He is still searching for sponsors and volunteers and is enthusiastic and always prepared to show a PowerPoint presentation about what is so important to him: the Breadline Group.

Mr. Lim told me, "the Breadline Group is much more than one person though, so please, let's not talk about me. There are so many people involved, both in the committee as well as all the hard working volunteers!"

The Breadline Group

In 1975 a journalist was asked to write an article on poverty in Singapore. Her first reaction was "What poverty?" One of the unexpected things she saw was: 120 aged and needy people collecting a loaf of bread every day, except on Sunday, from the Catholic Welfare Service. From the time that eye-opening article was published, the Breadline Group was formed. One of the initiators was an aunt of the journalist.

The Breadline Group decided to help on Sundays, without much in the way of funds or experience, and raised money to provide other goods to go with the bread. Breadline: the line of people waiting for their bread.....

The distribution of bread stopped in 1998 and now The Breadline Group's main activity is the Family Adoption Scheme (started in 1978). The group financially 'adopts' an individual or family in Singapore who are in great financial difficulty due to illness or old age. The cases are usually recommended by Medical Social Workers.

In order to wisely spend their limited funds, the executive committee applies strong criteria in deciding whether an individual or a family needs their help and how much. If the case is accepted, a volunteer visits the family every month and gives them financial help from the Breadline Group.

This monthly home visit is important, as it helps the volunteer to assess the condition of the family and to give assistance as needed. The volunteer also provides 'a listening ear'. About 80 Breadline Group volunteers support 200 families!

The NCA has been supporting the Breadline Group for many years and after all this time we are still aware of the 'silent and unseen poverty' in modern Singapore. In 2009 the NCA was able to sponsor the Breadline Group with S\$ 20,000, thanks to all our fundraising activities and to our members! Besides, or actually better yet, in addition to the money, there are some NCA members who also work for the Breadline Group as volunteers.

Mr. Lim's closing statement: "The needs of the poor and destitute in Singapore are so great that there is never enough done. Any assistance you give will go a long way in helping them".

For more information please visit their website at www.breadlinegroup.org or contact Mr. Lim via e-mail at nicklim1@singnet.com.sg or call 9652 9207.



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Upcoming events

Annual General Meeting NCA

Date: Thursday 22 April 2010

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Place: 23 Ridout Road (Residence of the Ambassador of the Netherlands)

After the AGM, Mr. Mohamed Jamil, Vice President of the Autism Association Singapore (ASS) will give a presentation about Autism in general and the Eden School, formally named Singapore Autism School.

This school provides students with moderate to severe autism with an education that is focused primarily on life skills.

May Fayre

Date: Friday May 14

Time: 10 am-5 pm

Place: Hollandse Club, 22 Camden Park

Garage Sale

Date Sunday May 23

Time: 9.00 am – 12 pm

Place Hollandse Club, 22 Camden Park (Rotterdam room)

For more information you can contact us via info@nca.org.sg

Workshop Chocolate Making

In the second week of February, just before Valentine's Day, Liesbeth van der Hulst conducted a workshop on Chocolate Making.

She explained the difference between three sorts of chocolates to be prepared.

The participants learned that one of the most important things to watch is the melting temperature of the chocolate.

The 11 ladies who participated made 3 different types of chocolate and finished the workshop with heart-shaped chocolate.

After putting some pink decoration on top of the chocolates, they were ready to be kept until Valentine's Day, although I'm not sure if they made it to 14th February as they looked delicious!

And with the temperature in Singapore it would be a shame to let the chocolates get spoiled!

With this workshop we raised the amount of \$ 425.



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NEW! Have fun & shop online at www.nca.org.sg

Choose an original gift for family or friends via our website and sponsor our charities directly! Depending on how much you wish to spend, gift prices range from S\$ 10,- to S\$ 175,-. The NCA has chosen to support the following charities: The Breadline Group, H.O.M.E., Good Shepherd Centre – Rose Villa, Boys' Town, Sunbeam Home, The Society for the Physically Disabled, students at the Singapore Polytechnic, Sanctuary House, and SILRA: the Singapore Leprosy Relief Association.

Please, read the instructions below, surf to our website www.nca.org.sg and give a gift from the heart!

Have fun & shop

Surprise someone in your family or a friend, a colleague or that special someone with “one month of education”, “play dough” or a “baby shower” – all gifts that are given to a specific charitable organization by you, on their behalf. They will receive a card explaining your token gift, that will also include your own personal text. This is a thoughtful gift they will feel good about receiving and certainly a gift somebody in need will never forget...

How does it work?

Visit our website www.nca.org.sg for specific information on each gift and the charity to which it is linked.

Step one: “click” on the gift you want to send on behalf of the recipient.

Step two: provide us with the details of the person you are surprising and your own details by filling in the form provided. Complete the details of both the sender and the charity on the order form.

Step three: arrange payment and we send your family member, colleague, friend or that special someone a personalised card as a special remembrance!

Choose a present you probably never gave before...

Shopping bag (S\$60)



One month of education (S\$175)



Play dough (S\$20)



Baby shower (S\$50)



Sewing kit (S\$45)



Medicine (S\$30)



Transport Fee (S\$10)



Cleaning Chemicals (S\$15)



Lesson 'The School of Tomorrow' (S\$75)



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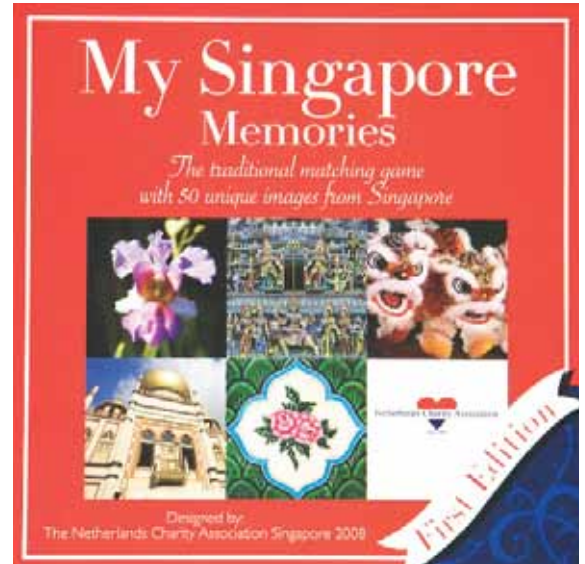
Did you get your game set yet?

Introduced in 2007, it has become one of our most popular NCA items: The NCA My Singapore Memories game set. And now the -third- edition is more available than ever!

The images are a feast of recognition for those who live or lived here with pictures of everyday Singapore icons (like Singapore taxi's, chicken rice, parking coupons, orchids, the flyer etc). All that for a very affordable S\$25.

We are pleased to inform you that our Memory game is not just available at the Hollandse School reception desk and Hollandse Club library, but also at the following retail outlets:

Toy Station @ Serene Centre /
Children's Show Case @ Loewen road
Trippies @ Kampong Glam, 42 Bussirah Street



Can't find it? Or want to place an order directly with us? Then send an email to info@nca.org.sg

Special thanks to our sponsors

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And numerous private sponsors!

To all our Sponsors: THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!