

## Traditions and changes

Dear members,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday. Since our last newsletter, the NCA has had a very busy time, in which many fund raising events took place.

### Workshops

Two volunteers put a lot of time and effort into organising two fantastic workshops. In March, Sophida Leebang conducted an educative, but above all tasty Thai Cooking Workshop in which she taught ((14)) women how to cook various Thai dishes. In May, Nancy Renirie gave several children a very creative afternoon in her workshop Ceramic painting. The NCA would hereby like to thank both volunteers for their inspiring workshops.

### Mayfair

The NCA also took part in the Mayfair at the Hollandse club, which she would like to thank for once again offering us free stalls. At this fair we held our customary Dutch products and cake sale, both of which were very successful due to the various charitable organisations and volunteers involved. The NCA would hereby like to extend a special thank you to the KLM, for transporting our products free of charge; to Ingrid Muller for organising the cake stall; to the volunteers who donated their delicious homemade 'cakes from around the world', and to our secret bakery for once again baking our 'Krentenbollen' (raisin buns).

### Garage sale

Another traditional event this year was our annual garage sale. Like most events, this is an occasion that greatly depends on the efforts of volunteers. The NCA would especially like to say 'thank you' to the Zadelhoff family for giving us storage space in their home. This enabled us to collect a large amount of donated goods. Also, many thanks to United Relocations for moving these goods, free of charge, to the Hollandse Club. With the help of many volunteers, including students from

the United World College of South East Asia and Overseas Family School, the garage sale was once again very successful.

### Live performance

In June, Dutch performer Renee van Bavel and pianist Daniel Debie gave an outstanding performance at the Hollandse club. Thanks to the Dutch embassy and the KLM, this perhaps somewhat small-sized event was still made into a profitable and enjoyable experience.

### Farewell

Even in these busy times, we still had to bid farewell to three of our committee members. Marijke van Munsiff (Vice President), moved to the United States of America with her family. Her position will be taken over by Catherina van der Zee. Petrie de Jongste (secretariat) and Cindy Kwinkelenberg (member) will be moving back to the Netherlands. Willy Rijkenboer has taken over the secretariat.

The NCA thanks them for all the time and effort they contributed to the association and wishes them all the best for the future.

### Wanted: Volunteers

This brings me to another important issue. With the NCA being made up almost primarily of expats, the future of the committee is always unsure. People are constantly coming and going, making us always look out for new volunteers who would like to donate some of their time to the NCA. So how about it, dear reader? If you would indeed like to join our committee, please contact us at:

[ncasingapore@hotmail.com](mailto:ncasingapore@hotmail.com).

I hope to see you all at our next big annual event: the NCA Christmas Fair!

### The committee

#### President

Tineke Hiemstra

#### Vice President

Catherina van der Zee

#### Treasurer

Jeannet Bruinsma

#### Secretary

Willy Rijkenboer

#### Members

Lya Besseling

Kate Hanan

Annette Kunst

Antoinette van der Linden

#### Honorary Member

Marianne Sanders

#### Mailing Address:

22 Camden Park  
Singapore 299814

#### Secretariat:

[ncasingapore@hotmail.com](mailto:ncasingapore@hotmail.com)

#### Website:

[www.nca.org.sg](http://www.nca.org.sg)

#### Membership fee:

S\$ 50 yearly  
Donations welcome!

#### DBS Bank:

7171 014 - 014 900 181 0



*Krentenbollensale at the Mayfair*

Tineke Hiemstra

# Volunteers needed for Children's Society

The Singapore Children's Society, helps to protect and nurture children and youth of all races and religions, especially those who are abused, neglected, and/or from dysfunctional families.

Part of the Children Society is the Sunbeam Place. The Sunbeam place is situated in the Bukit Batok area. The Sunbeam home substitutes the old place at Keramat road . A huge improvement!

Since 10 years the NCA is volunteering at the Children Society. Our aim is to put a smile on the children's faces and try to give them some extra attention.

The volunteers group of approximately 25 women is very international. Women from all over the world are joining and having a good time playing with the children and at the same time meet new women from different cultures.

This group of women is taking care of the youngest children. Age group 2 to 6 years. We also assist with the homework of the children aged 7-9, but only if you feel comfortable doing so.

With the group 2-6 year olds we do handicrafts, skipping

rope or whatever is fun and available at that moment. We do have a cabinet full with all kind of toys and handicrafts especially for the NCA group.

Our visit are on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, starting at 9 am until 11.15 am.

Each day has its own group and group coordinator. The volunteers must be available for at least 2 visits a month, except vacations of course.

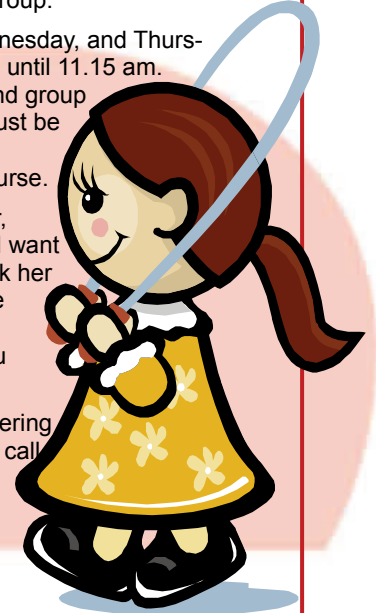
Our overall groups coordinator, Nancy Renirie, is leaving and I want to take this opportunity to thank her very much for all she has done for the NCA volunteers group. Thank you Nancy, we wish you all the best in your new job!

If you are interested in volunteering at the Sunbeam Place, please call

Karen at 90300629

or send an email to:

[ncasingapore@hotmail.com](mailto:ncasingapore@hotmail.com).



## Review: performance by Renee van Bavel

With much pleasure we look back at the benefit performance of Renee van Bavel on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Renee blessed us with her angelic voice throughout the night, in an evening of Dutch songs. Her repertoire of self-written songs was breathtaking.

Renee was accompanied on the piano by Daniël Debie.

We would like to thank our sponsors: the Dutch Embassy, KLM and the Hollandse Club. Special thanks go to the Dutch Ambassador and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Sanders, for generously offering to accommodate the artists.

## NCA Finance until July

The NCA has had some very nice revenues from various events the first half year of 2008.

Starting with sales @ Cross Roads in January, and ending with the cabaret evening in June, we accumulated approximately S\$22,000.00.

Incoming membership fees are still increasing, but company donations (either in kind or cash) have decreased in comparison to last year.

Please revert to the balance of July for more details.

BALANCE NCA 2008 July		
deposit dbs 1-July	21,204.32	
Cash 1-Jul	512.57	
bank 1-Jul	32,269.07	
events	500.00	
donations		373.60
deposit dbs 31-Jul		21,204.32
kas 31-Jul		512.57
Bank 31-Jul		32,395.47
SUB	54,485.96	54,485.96

## Generous gift for H.O.M.E.

H.O.M.E. (the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics) runs 2 shelters for men and women. Their beneficiaries either approach them directly for assistance or are referred to them by the authorities (the police, MOM, or ICA) and other civic groups and partners.

Residents of the shelters are usually victims of abuse or exploitation, or have suffered injuries in the work place. The shelters provide them with a place for refuge and respite. They may stay for a month to a year; this is essentially dependent on the process of investigations by the enforcement agencies.



H.O.M.E. doesn't only provide shelter, but also provides those who are in crisis situation with a family. They have served as family to migrants from Bangladesh, China, Congo, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. In collaboration with their volunteers and partners, HOME organizes activities, performances, workshops and outings to engage the residents during their stay. To organize all this and more, H.O.M.E. needs not only donations in kind but also financial support.

Mr. Pim Kraan, Deputy Head of Mission at the Dutch Embassy got to know H.O.M.E. and what they stand for through the NCA. Attached is a section from his letter to the NCA, dated June 2, 2008:

*"It was (...) through the NCA that I've got to know about HOME. I subsequently visited their women's shelter in*

*December 2007. Later I took my colleagues from the EU embassies to the women's shelter for an impressive visit. Having seen how urgent and real day needs are, I decided to seek assistance from centrally administered funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague.*

*The search was rewarded with a one-off grant of 50,000 Euro. This amount equals just short of 25% of the overall budget of H.O.M.E. We have finalized the paperwork and soon will sign a contract."*

The NCA is very impressed by the efforts of Mr. Pim Kraan which resulted in this generous donation.

Mr. Pim Kraan's letter further commented *"The finances granted for this project originate from the Dutch Human Rights Fund. The needs covered by the grant are in fact humanitarian by nature.*

*That implies that the origin of the money (The Human Rights Fund) is not so much an indicator for the reason why this grant was decided on. Although we are very interested in providing better conditions for foreign (domestic) workers -who quite often constitute the margins of society today- alleviating their suffering is our first aim. Covering day to day needs, as well as the right to legal assistance when needed is, in our view, as much in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as it is with the humanitarian code of conduct."*

The NCA congratulates H.O.M.E. and their dedicated president Mrs. Bridget Lew Tan on receiving this generous donation!

If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering at H.O.M.E., please visit their website at [www.home.org.sg](http://www.home.org.sg).

## Dutch Children's Books!

Every year, the NCA organizes the sale of Dutch children's books obtained from a children's bookshop in The Netherlands. In order to support the NCA projects, these books will be sold at a slightly higher price compared to the price in the Netherlands. Therefore, when buying these children's books you will not only encourage your children to read, but you will also aid people that are less fortunate than we are.

A magazine with a list of all the books that can be ordered, will be made readily available at the Hol-

landse Club and at the Hollandse School until October 15. The books can be ordered simply by filling in the order form.

The ordered books will arrive in Singapore before the Christmas fair, held on 27 November 2008 at the Hollandse Club. So, this gives you a wonderful opportunity to finish your Sinterklaas shopping on time. And why not buy some birthday presents in advance as well?



# Thai Cooking Workshop

In March, Sophida Leebang volunteered to conduct a Thai cooking class for the NCA. First, Sophida explained to the 14 ladies present where to buy the special herbs and how to use them to make Thai dishes.

Sophida then showed us how to prepare a starter named "Prawns on the Beach". Next, we learned how to cook a real Thai Curry. While Sophida was cooking the dish, she explained to us how we could carefully taste it. This turned out to be quite a "hot" experience for some of the ladies! When the curry was made it was time to learn about sweet dishes. We were taught how to cook a refreshing



dessert called "Blue Moon", made with fresh fruit.

After all the preparation was done, we had lovely lunch together, tasting all the Thai dishes cooked by Sophida.

# Upcoming events

## October

### Workshop Chinese lantern making

**When:** October 7, 2008

**Where:** 23 Swiss Club Road

**From:** 7 - 9 pm

**Price members:** \$ 60

**Price non members:** \$ 75

Bring along a stapler and staples!

This workshop will be conducted by Tony Seah. A lawyer during office hours, Tony is very active in making Chinese lanterns - especially for charities. He also conducts jewelry making classes. For more information or for signing up, please email us (see below) or call Jeannet at **98622237**.

### And also coming up...

What: **Charity Christmas Fair**

When: November 27, 10 am - 5 pm

Where: Hollandse Club, 22 Camden Park

Information: [ncasingapore@hotmail.com](mailto:ncasingapore@hotmail.com)



Our corporate sponsors:

*And numerous private sponsors.*

*Thank you all!*

**Embassy of the kingdom of the Netherlands**

**Heineken Asia Pacific Pte Ltd**

**Hollandse Club**

**Moduspec Engineering**

**Smit Singapore Pte Ltd**

# Down Syndrome Children love to paint!



Two Dutch women are currently working for the Down Syndrome Association Singapore. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, these women give occupational therapy to children with Down syndrome. They help these children to improve their art and their creativity skills, but to do so, the children need special tools and specific materials. Because the women have just started and are trying to develop a fulfilling activity for each group, there is a still a lack of materials to help all the children adequately. Therefore, they are looking for donations to be able to purchase these specific materials and special tools. If you want to help them, or want more information about the Down Syndrome Association Singapore, please e-mail us at [ncasingapore@hotmail.com](mailto:ncasingapore@hotmail.com).

Down Syndrome Association Singapore was founded 12 years ago by a group of parents. Their aim is to support families with a child with Down syndrome and to bring forward the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome. With more than 300 members, the Down Syndrome Association Singapore runs various programs. Examples of these programs are: adult enhancement program; preparing young adults for the workforce with a special focus on life skills, physical health as well as the arts; New Parents Support Group; bowling, swimming, soccer, and arts (drama, dance, and visual arts).



Down syndrome is a genetic disorder first described by John Langdon Down in 1866.

It is the most common cause of intellectual disability and caused by an additional chromosome in chromosome number 21. For this reason, it is also called trisomy 21. Down syndrome can happen to

anyone and affects approximately one in 800 births. It occurs spontaneous, irrespective of race, nationality or social class. Each person with Down syndrome is a unique individual. Each person has their own unique strengths, interests and abilities. Just like any other person they enjoy friendships and want to be accepted. With improved care and understanding, the lifespan of individuals with Down syndrome has increased dramatically. With guidance, individuals with Down syndrome are able to contribute to society just like any other person.

Helping these Down syndrome children will be so appreciated!!!!





# 15 November 2008 Intocht Sinterklaas



Hij komt, hij komt, de lieve goede sint, de vriend van ieder kind!!! Op een dag als vandaag mag deze heerlijke lekkernij niet ontbreken: *De Zwarte Piet kruidtaart*. Hij is voor groot en klein, voorzien van snoep en zoetigheid, zo lekker en zo zoet.



**Zwarte Piet Kruidtaart**  
**Prijs \$28 Leden NCA**  
**Prijs \$33 Niet leden**

## Recept

### Zwarte Piet kruidtaart:

- Eenmalige aanbieding
- Bestellen vóór 1 November as.
- Af te halen op 15 November, na 3 pm op de Hollandse Club (dag van de intocht!)
- Heel goed in te vriezen tot 5 december!
- Zelf de bijgeleverde versiering aanbrengen
- Opbrengst ten gunste van de NCA



De kruidtaart wordt afgeleverd met toebehoren, maar behoort zelf opgemaakt te worden.

**Betalingen uitsluitend met crossed cheque of cash. Uiterste besteldatum 1 November 2008; gaarne voor betaling uw crossed cheque tnv "Netherlands Charity Association" toevoegen!**

Bestelstrook sturen naar NCA, c/o Hollandse Club, 22 Camden Park S 299814

Aantal: \_\_\_\_\_

Naam: \_\_\_\_\_

Adres: \_\_\_\_\_

Telefoonnummer: \_\_\_\_\_

Voor eventuele vragen kunt u contact opnemen met:

Jeannet, h/p 98622237, of emailen naar [ncasingapore@hotmail.com](mailto:ncasingapore@hotmail.com)