

e•voice

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF BANGSAR
JANUARY - JUNE 2007 ISSUE
FOR MEMBERS ONLY



MADHURAM SICB Fund Raising Project

sicbangsar@gmail.com

We have come a long way. Believe it or not the Soroptimist International (SI) in Bangsar (SICB) is now in the 15th year of its existence! Much has been achieved by SICB in the promotion of understanding and service to humanity.

As we move on, it would be appropriate to remind ourselves that in touching lives, just a smile is the least one can do. It means an affirmation that we understand the plight of the marginalized and the unfortunate ones in our society.

Having said this, it would be inspiring if everyone could come forward to lend a hand whenever help is required in the spirit of sisterhood. Let us not rest on our laurels but continue the momentum of being the trailblazer in SI in Malaysia.

On behalf of SICB, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Jaya for helming SICB from March 2005 to February 2007. Her contributions are well documented in this issue of E-Voice. At the same time I would

like to congratulate and extend a warm welcome to the new President Noraini who will be leading SICB henceforth for the next two years.

Much excitement has been generated with regards to the charity dance performance, Madhura, scheduled to be held on 23 and 24 June 2007. This upcoming event organised by Amu Tharmarajah and her team, fully deserves our support. Let's pitch our efforts in ensuring a full-house attendance for each of the two night performances.

In this issue of E-Voice, we have several interesting articles and snapshots that will bring happy memories of our various contributions and the fun-filled time we had. Happy reading!

By: Noor Laila Othman



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Soroptimist Sisters,

Being the ninth SICB President since its inception in 1992, I have a challenging task ahead of me. Like any other past presidents, I have to work with our members and encourage them to come out with new projects, implement the existing programmes, ensure members are active whilst at the same time go on a recruitment drive for new members. I can foresee challenging times in getting new members below 40 years old to join SICB. Hopefully by the end of this year we will be able to reach our target of 30 members.

SICB is an interesting assembly of talented and educated ladies. The power of SICB is manifested by the services delivered and the comradeship/friendship we enjoy among ourselves. Within a span of 3 years SICB has won 4 awards, the latest being, First Runner-up for SIROM's Best Practice Award 2006, for the Personal Safety Workshop for Children carried out by Sehu Chai Kee and her team. Congratulations ladies! As we gallop along, we must also be on the look out for new opportunities, to take on new responsibilities and in meeting new challenges.

I would like us to continue our good work in existing areas and for the next TWO years, to focus on matters pertaining to:

i. Education

ii. Environment and

iii. End Violence

I would like to encourage all our members to become committed in our club's projects by being involved in at least one committee and to participate in social events held by our club as well as other SI Clubs. I believe in bonding and good communication among our members to bring us closer. Our members have been busy organising events and carrying out various projects. Currently, Amu, our Fund-raising Convenor, will be organising Madhuram : An Odissi Exposition, to be held at the Dewan Bandaraya on 23 and 24 June 2007. Let us support her and her team to make this a successful event.

I would like to urge members to continuously write and submit

articles and reports to various designated office bearers eg. to Ella for E-Voice, to Swee Han for her to send focus report to SIROM and/or SISWP. As I have mentioned before, our club carries out a number of activities but the efforts and sacrifices of the members involved will not be made known unless reported in the relevant media.

It takes planning, teamwork and commitment to make our projects work and hence for the communities we serve, a better place to live in.

I am earnestly looking forward to an exciting and fun-filled two years with all of you.

Warmest regards,

Noraini Mohd Nor
President



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SICB OFFICE-BEARERS 2007

PRESIDENT

IMM. PAST PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT ELECT

HON. SECRETARY

HON. TREASURER

PROGRAMME

PUBLICITY

MEMBERSHIP

COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE

CONVENORS

Service

Fund-raising

Social

Friendship Link

Environment

SPECIAL PROJECTS

HIV/AIDS

Janda Baik

AUDITORS

REGION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

PROXY

Noraini Mohd Nor

Dr Jaya Booshane

Sehu Chai Kee

Dr Chang Lee Hoon

Rohayah Ahmad

Leong Swee Han

Noor Laila Othman

Beh Suat Pheng

Doris Lim Swee Lian

Lam Swee Theam

Lam Swee Theam

Amuthambigai Tharmarajah

Doris Lim

Foo Li Nyuk

Agnes Tan Mee Yoke

Yeo Pei Li

Maryati Bt Mohamed

Carol Chan

Zubaidah Mohdzar

Noraini Mohd Nor

Amuthambigai Tharmarajah

Sehu Chai Kee

Dr. Chang Lee Hoon





Two years ago I accepted the chair of office from President Doris Lim. The initial stages were like treading on stones, thorns and sand. Then it was a bit like walking on pebbles and grass. With the passage of time, the footing became firmer and the pathway clearer and finally I walked with ease through it.

Being a President means Responsibility, making Time, Commitment, Sacrifices and having good Communication skills.

For me, the happiness is in leaving the club with the satisfaction that during my tenure many memorable events had taken place. Some of the highlights are :-

- Launch of the HIV/AIDS EDUCATION MANUAL in Tamil at Lake Club, Kuala Lumpur.
- Jumping Jelly Bean Concert held on 28 March 2006 at Commonwealth Club for 200 children to raise funds for Toy Resource Library
- SOS visit to UMMC Paediatric Leukemia Ward on 4 March 2006
- Represented SICB at the Brisbane SISWP Convention
- SIROM – SICB Workshop on Personal Safety for Children against Violence conducted for 50 children in September 2006
- The SI Awards – the Overall SI Best Practice Award and the SI Best Practice Award for Economic & Social Development for SICB Goat Rearing Project. Noraini as Project Convenor was nominated to represent SICB at United Nations.
- Donation of a water filter for Caring Old Folk's Home at Kajang and 4 mobile commodes for the senior inmates at King's Jubilee Home, Kuala Lumpur
- Receipt of 500,000 yen from our Friendship Link Club of SI Kyota Toka, Japan for the goat rearing project.
- Receipt of RM10,000 from Deutsche Bank Asia Foundation for the translation and printing of the career guidebook into Bahasa Malaysia and to run a workshop.
- Children's party at Hotel Renaissance and a visit to the National Library for children from Rumah Kebajikan Nur Zaharah on 14 December 2006.
- An amount of RM114,110.28 raised by SICB for the Bangsaria Building Fund was returned by The Lutheran Church.

Memories as President of SICB

March 2005 - Feb 2007

It was a hectic two years of activities, friendship within and with other clubs including lots of bonding. I represented the Club with great pride on all occasions. Gals! You will have your turn, I am sure! Wish you all the luck and happiness.

By: Dr. Jaya Booshane
Immediate Past President, SICB

SICB Members 2007



AGM

6th FEBRUARY, 2007

SICB held its 14th AGM on 6th February at Lake Club. President Dr. Jaya thanked everyone for their support during her term of office and presented each one with a gift as token of her appreciation. The new office bearers for 2007 were then duly elected. The in-coming President is Noraini who will chair SICB for the next two years until 2009.



CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE BOAR!

After the AGM, SICB members celebrated Chinese New Year with a dinner hosted by the Chinese members, and of course not forgetting the "yee sang". Did we have a good time? As the saying goes . . . a picture paints a thousand words.

By: Carol Chan

Celebrating the Year of the Boar



A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Welcome, Carol Chan and Zubaidah Modzhar, to SICB! On 6th February, 2007 just before SICB's Annual General Meeting, outgoing President, Dr. Jaya Booshane, had the pleasant duty of inducting as members Carol and Zubaidah. This brought our total membership to 25.

Carol is the Regional Administration Director, Asia Pacific for Warner Chappell Music whilst Zubaidah is a partner in a law firm, Messrs Scully, Yoon. Just a few months after their induction, both Carol and Zubaidah became very active in the Club and have made significant contributions to our projects.

By: Beh Suat Pheng
Membership Convenor





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND
HAPPY 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO NINA**





TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP

On 10th February 2007, our in-coming President Noraini organized a Team Building Workshop for the members at David's lovely bungalow at Janda Baik, Pahang. This exercise was conducted free out of goodwill by a group of team building consultants from skills focus led by Shanta Nagendran. The purpose of the team building is to assess the strength of each member, tap and capitalize on it.

There were 15 participants and they were randomly grouped into 4 teams. Team building/bonding games to challenge each other were played and they were rated based on tokens. The team with the most tokens emerged as the winner.

At the end of the day, there was a discussion on each team's presentation concerning understanding and suggestions on ways to fulfill SICB's objectives. The participants agreed that it was a most enjoyable and productive workshop. As a token of our grateful appreciation, the trainers/facilitators were presented with a fruit basket. It was a great day of bonding among SICB members. Thank you Shanta, Ivan, Chris Chiam, Divya and Jaafar Sidek.



By: Foo Li Nyuk

Team Building at Work



AIDS Fight Still Needs Education

HIV is a serious virus that leads to AIDS. This disease is infecting and affecting people of all ages, all over the world. In the global scene, more than 40 million people now are living with HIV and AIDS. Someone who is infected with HIV is likely to ultimately become sick with AIDS, but if treated with antiretroviral (ARV) medication his/her life can be prolonged, often, for many years.

Malaysia is among the countries which is not free from HIV and AIDS. It is hard to ignore the fact that there are 76,000 HIV/AIDS cases with more than 6,000 new ones diagnosed as of December 2006. This would mean there is an average of 16 Malaysians infected with HIV daily last year. As of those reported HIV patients, more than 32% are aged between 20 and 39 years (Ministry of Health statistics). The main method of HIV transmission in the country is still through the sharing of needles, which accounts for 75% of the cases. There is, however, an increase of infection through heterosexual relationships including a trend of increasing number of women infected with HIV and the practice of free sex at an early age.

It seems that with more than two decades of active anti-AIDS campaigns annually especially during the World AIDS Day and

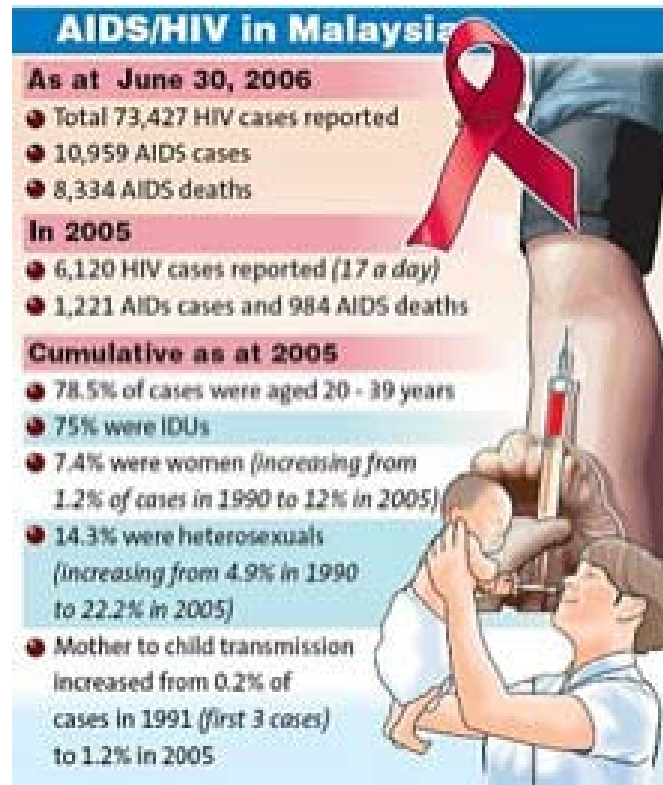
International AIDS Memorial Day, Malaysians are generally aware of AIDS and how to prevent it from spreading, yet the knowledge have not been translated into action. In conjunction with International AIDS Memorial Day in May last month, the Deputy Director for the Malaysia's Ministry of Health, Mr. Jalal Halil Khalil said that while the government is concerned

about the increasing number of HIV cases recorded annually, the government cannot be seen to be promoting the use of condom to prevent the spread of HIV because it could be interpreted as advocating promiscuity. Instead, the job has to be handed to non-governmental organizations such as Malaysia AIDS Council (MAC) and its 37 affiliates.

As one of MAC's affiliate, Soroptimist International Club of Bangsar (SICB) has embarked on the AIDS Education for Teenagers Project for 12 years now. Seeing a significant increase in the number of HIV infected youths, SICB is clearly aware of the importance of educating the young people on HIV and AIDS to help them make better decision in protecting themselves. In line with this awareness, the AIDS Education Project team is currently working on a manual to educate children about HIV and AIDS.

If there's anyone interested in finding out more about the AIDS Education Project of SICB, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Yeo Pei Li. Her e-mail address is, yeopeili@yahoo.com.sg.

By: Yeo Pei Li



Star Online, Dec 1, 2006

Personal Safety for Children Workshop



On 25th April 2007, a group of young, vibrant college students from HELP conducted SICB's Workshop on Personal Safety in Mandarin for 50 children, aged 11 and 12 from SJK (C) Tras at Raub, Pahang. It was a half-day workshop, starting from 8.30am till 1pm.

On 11th April i.e. two weeks prior to the workshop, Yeo Pei Li from SICB held a 2-hour training session for 10 students who were given the responsibility in running the workshop on the actual day. All of them are currently doing the Bachelor of Psychology Programme at HELP. Some of them had also undergone a facilitation skills training camp.

Besides sharing the program, SICB also sponsored a box of magic pens and colour pencils to each child. The money came from the balance of funds raised by SIROM from Nanyang Press Foundation for the same cause. The children really learnt about personal safety in a fun and interesting manner. SICB's aim to spread the awareness message to rural schools was also realised.



Reported By: Yeo Pei Li

MADHURAM – An Odissi Exposition is SICB's fund-raising project for 2007. It is in aid of our Janda Baik Education & Welfare Projects. We are fortunate to have renowned Malaysian Indian Classical dancer/choreographer, Dr. Chandrabhanu assisting SICB by collaborating with Dance Exchange's beautiful dancers to have a Grand Odissi recital on 23 & 24 June, 2007 at Dewan Bandaraya, Kuala Lumpur.

Donation cards are available at RM 200 (Sat, June 23) & RM 100 (Sun, June 24) at all the outlets in the poster.

What is MADHURAM? Come and watch the performance and at the same time support SICB's JANDA BAIK EDUCATION & WELFARE PROJECTS.

By: Amu Tharmarajah

INVITATIONS AVAILABLE AT :

RAGAAS MUSIC

Jalan Chantek, Off Jalan Gasing,
Petaling Jaya
Tel : +603 7960 2486
+6012 257 4481

SENTUL MEDICAL CENTRE

Jalan Sentul, Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 4041 6962

NAGAS RESTAURANT

Jalan Tun Sambanthan,
Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 2273 7475

KIDS OASIS

2nd Floor, West Wing
Bangsar Shopping Centre,
Kuala Lumpur
Tel : +603 2095 2746

For further details please contact
Ms Hemma Mobile: 012-2652507.



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) CLUB OF BANGSAR in collaboration with **DANCE EXCHANGE**

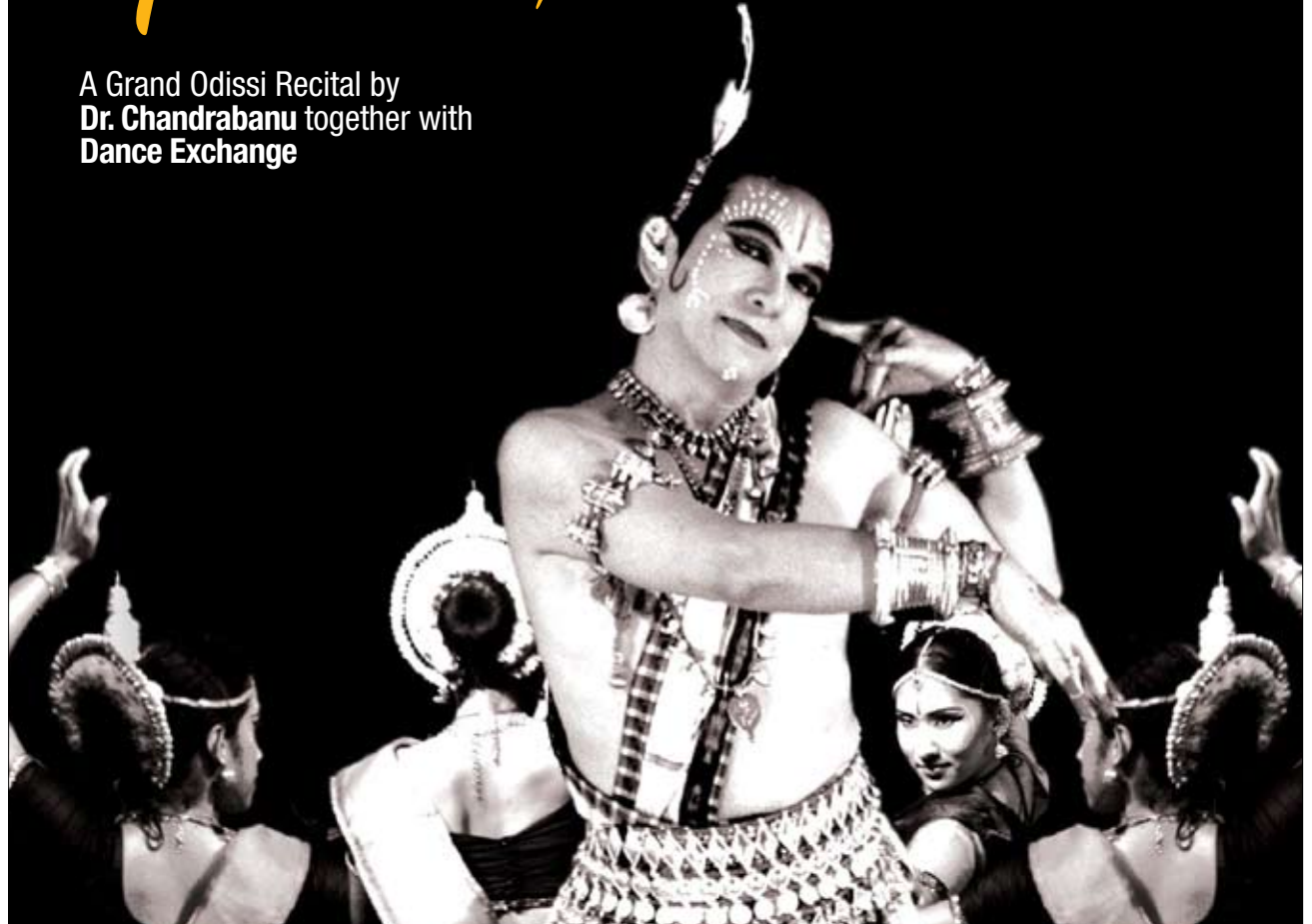
in aid of "SICB's JANDA BAIK Education & Welfare Projects"

present

Madhuram

An Odissi Exposition

A Grand Odissi Recital by
Dr. Chandrabhanu together with
Dance Exchange





CHICKEN REARING PROJECT

On 19th January 2007, the third round of 21 chicks per family were distributed to 19 Orang Asli families using the remaining RM800 of the fund from British Petroleum. Each family also received 4 kilos of feedstuff or dedak ayam. Noraini, Ella together with Cik Gu Dol and Ajah distributed the chicks.

Yahya, guardian from Rumah Jagaan Nur Zaharah also received chicks and feedstuff donated by Datin Ati.



By: Noraini Mohd Nor



BACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT

A total of 60 Orang Asli and Rumah Jagaan Nur Zaharah students in Standard 1 to Form 5 benefited from SICB's Back to School Project. Donations came from Deutsche Bank as part of the Mentor Mentee Programme. Each student received a pair of school uniform, one bag, a pair of shoes and 2 pairs of socks on 29th December 2006. Though we budgeted for RM5,000, actual cost was only RM3,407.85. Those who travelled from Kuala Lumpur and helped in the distribution were Noraini, Ella and son Othman, Diana, Dalila and Nor Hayati. Cik Gu Dol and Ajah were there to lend a helping hand with the school items.

By: Noraini Mohd Nor

Fun In English

"Fun With English" was one of the pilot programs that the Club had lined up for the year 2007. Focusing on education, its primary objective is to provide the orang asli and disadvantaged children with practical language skills to help them in schools.

We started out early that Saturday morning (7th April 2007). The drive from Kuala Lumpur to Janda Baik was a breeze. We reached the venue – Maryati's house compound at about 8.00 a.m.

Anna and Swee Theam who devised the one day activity-based program were the principal facilitators whilst Lee Hoon, Carol, Varsha (with son and nephews), Chai Kee, Rohayah (with son), Puan Muziah from Deutsche Bank and myself were their little elves. Maryati was present as the chief cook, whilst President Noraini took care of the transport logistic who also doubled up as a photographer.

The compound was hullabaloo as the children streamed in as early as 9.00 a.m. for registration and breakfast. The 60 participants comprised the orang asli, the poor local children of the Janda Baik's community and also children from the welfare home, Rumah Kebajikan Nur

Zaharah. They were quickly divided into age groups.

The Camp introduced the fun in learning English by exposing simple grammars and words to the secondary students. Adjectives took on their own personality with the aid of dictionaries. Essay writing would never be the same again. Simple yet the children's quick provocative questions had me mind-boggled.

After that exercise, we relaxed with a Treasure Hunt. The children became gung ho as they tried to best each other in cracking the codes to grab the "hidden" treasures.

The younger groups were taught phonetics. Reinforcement was done through songs. The "Old Mc Donald" and "When you are Happy" were chaotically sung as they acted out the rhymes.

It was a tiring activity as Carol and I "huff and puff" our way trying to catch up with the young and the restless. We heaved a sigh of relief when Maryati yelled for lunch.

The afternoon session for the secondary students covered the "synonyms" and "antonyms" and the younger ones

continued learning the ABC, singing along to "Sausages Sizzling Sss...Sss...Sss" and the "Violent Volcanoes Vvv...Vvv...Vvv".

The Camp ceremoniously came to a close with a rousing performance by the children singing songs that they had learnt before adjourning for afternoon tea.

And as we were about to leave, one of the parents thanked the Club for organizing the Camp and suggested we do similar sessions in the future. There were also pleas from the children for an encore.

The children's bashfulness and their innocent defiance were indeed the dose of medicine that I needed. That day my inner child was unleashed and I noticed the adults were as spirited as the children.

I observed my Soroptimist sisters had as much fun as we exchanged reminiscences of the funny moments when we jumped, ran, skipped and sang the nursery rhymes with the children.

By: Zubaidah Mohdzar



“Let us say in English”

Fire@ Nur Zaharah-the aftermath

A photograph showing the aftermath of a fire in a room. Clothes are hanging on the walls and floor, and a large pile of debris is visible. The room appears to be a balcony or a small room with a corrugated metal roof. The floor is covered with a red patterned rug. A large pile of clothes and debris is in the center of the room. A green plastic basket is in the foreground. A black suitcase is on the right. A white box with 'PHILIPS' on it is on the floor. A large pile of clothes is hanging on the walls and floor. The room is in a state of disarray.

Nur Zaharah's New Home



SICB-DEUTSCHE BANK'S SERVICE AT JANDA BAIK

It was a "spur of the moment" decision for Deutsche Bank (M) Bhd (DB) to organize a visit to Nur Zaharah Welfare Home (NZ) to offer assistance in the form of a grant of Euro 5,000. The schedule was well received with about 14 volunteers raring to go and do their charitable service for the benefit of NZ.

On 19th May, 2007, at about 9.00 am we were met by Encik Yahaya, NZ's guardian. 13 highly excited DB's staff started the journey with a lot of enthusiasm plus expectation as they had never set foot before in Janda Baik.

We stopped at a Petronas station and bought 3 cases of mineral water and lots of bread for the children. Besides that I brought some kuih muih and chocolate chip cookies baked by a DB staff. We also brought along with us toys, clothing and a coconut grinder to be donated to the community. On the way, we stopped by at Pusat Sinar Harapan, a centre for the handicapped, where we were briefed on the activities of the centre. It was observed that the place is badly in need of a bigger building to accommodate their ever increasing activities and new intakes. From there we proceeded to NZ's new home and were shown around and briefed on the progress of the renovation works. Since the ground floor was already washed and cleaned when we

arrived, we decided to do window cleaning on the upper floor. We had lots of fun doing the cleaning with the help of NZ's children. We later adjourned to Puan Aionon's place, their temporary shelter place, to have tea and socialize with the children.

At about 12.00 noon, we made our way to GT Villa for a delicious lunch. The menu consisted of fried tilapia fish, sayur kangkong, masak lemak nenas ikan masin and of course ulam and sambal belacan expertly prepared by Maryati. The DB staff was much taken in by the beautiful scenery of plants and faunas and were totally captivated by the clear stream of running water. Children and parents immersed themselves in the cool clear water. Ahhh! This is what pure bliss is all about!

At around 1.30 pm we started our journey home and made a stop at the Orang Asli's place to deliver the working books to the children. We left Janda Baik at about 2.00 pm with a feeling of satisfaction that we had in a small way contributed to the well-being of the less fortunate. All in all it was a truly fabulous and satisfying experience for the Deutsche Bank's staff!

By: Rohayah Ahmad



A Helping Hand to Nur Zaharah



THE MAKING OF SICB COOK BOOK- A NIGHT AT VARSHA'S



Varsha's yummy Gujarati vegetarian dishes

Varsha invited us to her place to give us first hand information about the eleven recipes she would be contributing to SICB cookbook. Whilst Noraini was busy taking down the recipes and Ella busy with photographing the mouth- watering food, we - Chai Kee, Dr Chang, Zubaidah and myself were just as busy helping ourselves to the yummy food. Well.. someone had to do justice to the cooking, no????? Thank you Varsha and also, Bhati (Varsha's sister) for the lovely food. Ladies, you should try-out the recipes.

By: Carol Chan

Social Bonding at Dato' Sufi's Home, Janda Baik



SICB Members at SI Seremban Charter



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SEREMBAN
CHARTER CEREMONY AND DINNER
GRACED BY
YAM TUNKU DARA TUNKU TAN SRI NAQUIAH
21 MARCH 2007



SIROM PRESIDENT-ELECT THE ELECTION

What a sensational election it was!! Was it because there was so much hype about the candidates? Was it because there was great campaigning from all quarters? Or was it because our SIROM Secretary had added spice to the contest by introducing new dimensions to the procedure?

The Preparation

For the first time in the history of SIROM the candidates were asked to submit their respective CVs. And our Secretary Madam Amu added one more condition i.e. each candidate had to write on an A sized page "WHY I WANT TO BE PRESIDENT ELECT". My first reaction was 'Because I want to be the President in 2 years' time.' But one page!! What a 'brilliant catch' for the candidates to work out on strategies for the future! Slowly I tried to recall my 13 years of experience as a Soroptimist serving in various capacities at Club as well as Region level, exploring my capabilities, my knowledge and above all my objectives for the future of SIROM.

Once the needful was submitted I found myself thrust into the full swing of campaigning. At first I thought of letting the members judge me on my past performances. But I found that my

club members out there were already promoting my candidature. "Hey! you have to be seen and heard" they claimed. It was a touching moment for me in Seremban where a good number of us from SICB were present at the Charter Dinner. All of them gathered around me to wish me success at the election. 'We are with you,' they quipped. At that moment, I felt I had won irrespective of the final outcome. This tremendous support from my club members was my triumph.

The Climax

That election morning I had to attend my nephew's wedding since I am his paternal aunt. Unfortunately I was delayed. And therefore I had to race against time to be at the AGM. The car sped lapping up miles in unbelievable time. In addition, there was further delay when we met with a minor accident. The shock left me dazed even after I reached my destination.

Fortunately, I arrived just in time. After all the reports were passed at the AGM, election of office bearers was next on the agenda. The Secretary took extra precaution to ensure smooth running of the election. The names of the clubs were mentioned and the voting delegates came up one

by one to cast their votes. Two election observers from SISWP, Lorna Mead (the President) and Margaret Mitchell (the Secretary) were present to witness the election. The final moment of vote counting kept all of us at the edge of our seats. All eyes were glued to the election-watchers. Some knew the result before the announcement was made as they were counting out with their eyes. The result was announced subsequently by President Puan Sri Siew Yong. What a relief! All our hard work had paid off. But for me the challenge has just begun. There was congratulatory messages and enquiry into my accident. My conclusion: My triumph in the election would not have been possible had it not been for members who believed in me. They made it happen for me. To them I say THANK YOU. I know it is not an easy task ahead. But, I am confident of doing my best for SIROM. Together we will strive to take SIROM to greater heights.

By: Datin Indira Naidu
President-Elect SIROM

51st COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN 2007

The reward for SICB winning the SI Overall International Best Practice Award for the Goat Project took me to the United Nations, New York. This gave me the opportunity to attend the 51st Session on the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) at the UN together with an SI delegation, comprising President Lynn Dunning, President Elect Margaret Lobo, Dawn Marie Lemonds (International Project Liaison), Rosie Coutts (Executive Officer), Margaret Alderson (Programme Assistant), Cathy Standiford (Public Relations) and Johanne Sorensen (Project FIVE O) from 25th February to 2nd March 2007. Also present were SI UN New York representatives.

The 51st Session theme was the "Elimination of all forms of Discrimination and Violence against the Girl Child."

There were two big happenings, one was NGO CSW and the other was organised by UN Mission, Agency and Inter-governmental bodies. Most of the NGO CSW events/parallel sessions were held at the Church Center Building, opposite the UN HQ building.

In a nutshell, the CSW was like a huge conference, with varied approaches - seminars, workshops, panel presentations

followed by Question and Answer sessions, NGO and country presentations.

Topics focused mainly on violence against women and girl child. Other topics were on importance of education and empowerment, trafficking, child marriages, campaign to end/stop stoning forever, runaway girls, migration, conflicts, female genital mutilation, female infanticide, women in Iraq, improving treatment of women/girls in prison, hunger, and girl child, sexual exploitation of girl child, boys, and demand for prostitution, media exploitation of girls and crimes of honour.

I also heard 3 thought-provoking quotations:

- Investing in girls' education is the best vaccine.
- The greatest prayer of man asks not for victory but for peace - *Dag Hammarskjold*
- Women are violating girls because they uphold customs - *Dr. Ephigenia, a nun from Kenya*.

Some of the key strategies are:

- Position violence against girls/women as a public health concern,

- Engage boys and men in crucial massive mobilization of effort, resources and linkages,
- Women need to negotiate safe relationships (trust between husband & wife/partner),
- Implement creative and innovative programmes

At the farewell dinner for SI delegation and UN friends on 1st April 2007, I was given the opportunity to talk about the goat project.

It was an enthralling experience being at the UN, where 1,800 participants from all over the world congregated for the same purpose to hear, learn, update and share interesting experiences and issues. The best part was knowledge gained from listening to wonderful works of many NGOs.

The trip to the UN also expanded my international networking whereby I gained new friends - SI members and wonderful NGO ladies.

I would like to thank SI and SICB for giving me this once in a lifetime opportunity to attend CSW, which I will remember forever. I feel honoured and glad that I am a Soroptimist. Feeling inspired by a speaker who urged us to go back and serve our community - yes, I will carry out more activities that will benefit the communities in my country.

By: Noraini Mohd Nor

At United Nations



At UN Conference Room

**Lynn Downing giving her speech
the SI Reception**



UNIFEM Lunch

RENDEZVOUS IN CHAPEL HILL

Meeting Patricia Witt, a member of SI Raleigh at SI's Reception at UN HQ in New York on 26th February 2007 led to another interesting meeting in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Patricia was there to greet me with 3 other SI Raleigh members namely Shirley Hall, Dr. Ruth Relos and Donna Masterson. Also present was Johnny Lee from Peace@work.

The supposedly one hour meeting stretched to 90 minutes since we were busy sharing information on the activities carried out by our respective clubs. I explained the award-winning goat project in Janda Baik and the community projects that we implemented and are still being carried out. We also exchanged ideas and stories about past work done on violence against women in the Research Triangle Area, North Carolina and in Malaysia.

Johnny Lee also explained about the work he was doing on violence against women. Johnny is the author of a book entitled "Addressing Domestic Violence in the Workplace". For more information on his book, check out this website:

<http://www.peaceatwork.org/book.htm>

By: Noraini Mohd Nor



From Left: Donna Masterson, Dr. Ruth Relos, Shirley Hall, Noraini Mohd Nor, Patricia Witt and Johnny Lee

Celebrating May Birthday Gals

