

The Red Feather News, Singapore

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From the Editor:

Time really flies!!! It is the start of a new beginning of the year 2017. According to the Chinese calendar, we are celebrating the year of the hen. With the start of another brand new year, the Red Feather Newsletter have its members on board. The new team consists of 4 new members, they are, Salfura, Anton, Noraini (members) and Viki (lay out). I accept the post of editor through Social Worker Rena's recommendation. Its ex editor, Ms Elizabeth decided to step down from her post after so many years. As a newly formed committee, we will still heed Elizabeth's guidance and advice whenever necessary.

As this issue is about events happening at the Home, I wish to keep readers updated of some of the events happening at Singapore Cheshire Home. As you know, these activities are meant to keep the residents meaningfully occupied as well as giving them opportunities to interact with others. These activities are being put into place by our Programme Co-ordinator, Mr Kenny Chan. Some of these minor indoor events are organised by corporate organizations or planned by companies and usually involve a session of Bingo game or karaoke singing. We enjoy playing Bingo. Bingo is one of our favorite games, as we tend to win prizes if we strike. We also love to mingle around with volunteers. Karaoke singing sessions also brings about improving the moods of the residents. The volunteers would sing oldies, such as Teresa Tseng and many others to keep us entertained.

Students from AJC and Hougang Secondary School for instance would volunteer to help the residents to tidy up the rooms. We are so grateful for their help. The students would listen attentively to our instructions as they go about attending to our needs. The needs vary from taking water, putting things in order in our room and even at common areas. Secondly, we should like to thank AETI for coming at regular intervals to help us in cleaning our compound area like cleaning fridges and wiping windows at the back of our rooms. We are so grateful for their help.

In Cheshire Home, we celebrate Founders' Day, Christmas Day & Chinese New Year annually. These significant events do a lot to revive the Home's spirit as staff and residents join in these celebrations. Speaking of Founder's Day, we celebrated this event on 10th September 2016, Saturday. On this special occasion we remember our Founder, The Late Group Captain Leonard Cheshire V.C, O.M., DSO, DFC. We will always remember his hard work and contribution in getting funds and approval to set up The Singapore Cheshire Home. Now the Home has 79 residents, 28 Day Care Clients & 56 staff to take care of us. Deeply grateful, on this special occasion, staff and residents mulled over the history of The Singapore Cheshire Home.

Apart from this, we also celebrated Christmas Day and Chinese New Year. These two events were of a festive mood for everybody. Programmes were being lined up with well wishers sponsoring buffet for us. During the Chinese New Year, staff and residents looked forward to the long stretch of holidays. We relaxed ourselves, consumed a lot of delicious home cooked food by well wishers or donors. Residents also received red packets every other day till the very last day of Chinese New Year. I will not dwell on these significant events any longer, as I believe that our readers will get a better idea when they read excerpts from my members and other residents.

Residents also got a chance to go out with corporate volunteers. All these outdoor events are sponsored. Residents are being rostered in order to take part in these outdoor events being organized. All these arrangements by the companies or the roster of the residents being selected to go for outings are being taken care of by our Programme Co-ordinator, Mr Kenny Chan. Recently, we went to the National Museum and National Stadium to watch the SG50 celebrations. Speaking of the outing to National Stadium, we were so dazzled to watch the parade live in front of our eyes.

We were so dazzled by the fireworks, the performance and the soldiers marching by. In the midst of everything, we enjoyed immensely by the wonderful company of young volunteers, food & so on etc; Quite recently we also went to National Museum, a trip being organized by State Court. The trip is so refreshing for some of us. The exhibition is all about the old days of Singapore in the 50s, 60s, 70s, and up to the modern times. Residents also got to know the stories behind the Japanese Invasion as well as the process of how Singapore became Independent in 1965. Wheeled by the volunteers from State Court through each gallery, we saw many artifacts being displayed. The artifacts related to us how Singapore went through its colonial times.

As I conclude, I wish all readers a happy and prosperous new year 2017. I now believe that when readers read this edition, they will get a better idea of events happening in Singapore Cheshire Home. All events are ongoing and these events are very important, to say the least. Events help residents to intergrate well with the outside world as well as volunteers. Thanks to all the staff for looking after all of us.

ChanYu Leong

Annual Charity @ State Court

It was 12th Aug 2016. It was a memorable day for me and Emily. Why? Because both of us were given the opportunity to go to the State Court selling some of our very own hand-made handicraft. This was my very first time unlike Emily who has sold handicrafts before. I had mixed thoughts in my mind. I was feeling nervous and shy. I kept wondering to myself whether I could pull this off. And with the encouragement given by the staff of The Singapore Cheshire Home, I put aside all my shyness and told myself "OK.. JUST DO IT! "

Upon reaching the destination, we were welcomed by the volunteers there. They were very friendly and even helped out with the setting up of the table etc. Then I started my work as a Cupcake Demonstrator of the day! I showed the volunteers how to fold the cupcakes using the hand towels and to my surprise, they were very keen on learning.

I taught them how to do it. It's funny at first, looking at the shapes they folded but after the second try, they did it very well and very fast-learners indeed! And throughout the whole day there, it was such a good, exciting and enjoyable experience for me. I do hope they felt the same way as we did. I look forward to work with them again.

Salfura Bte Alias



Salfura teaching a State Court staff to make a cupcake using hand towels. (Pictured)

My NDP 2016

I was impressed by the National Day Parade 2016 rehearsal that I have attended this year. It was so much different from what I experienced before, many years ago. It was my first time at the new National Stadium ever since it was closed down for renovation. It was a completely new vision, far from our time: a generation of shows and parade formation. I will never forget the lighting and all those pupils in uniforms.

I have attended the Malaysia Cup football matches and other sports events, but never expected to see such a big crowd like this time. There have been so many changes between before and now.

I remember in 1985 I was serving national service as an engineer. So in 1986, I was involved in marching at the National Day Parade. At that time, there was not much: not a big show like now. Nowadays it is much different from our time: And the feeling is so great as compared to that time.

This year the show was much more high-tech. Much more compared to before, especially on the lighting and the sound system. The parade participants too, as they were wearing shiny clothes, reflecting the lights from the show. The parade was good and with a fine nice weather. I was seated at the grand stand, at the top of the stadium watching the rehearsal. It was also a rare opportunity for us to meet the Guest of Honour, Minister Tan Chuan Jin and Mediacorp artiste Edmund Chen. We interacted with them and even took photos with them. The parade began at 6.30pm in the evening and ended around 8.30pm.

At the beginning of the event, we watched helicopters and jets from the RSAF flying in the sky as the show began, and there were also tanks and armored vehicles paraded followed by the soldiers marching in.

There were all kinds of different clothing worn by parade participants. Soldiers, office staff and other participants in uniform : all marching in the parade square inside the national stadium. I don't know how many people there were, but definitely a lot under various kinds of uniforms: Army, Navy, Air Force and also the participation of big sponsoring companies taking part in the show. Thank you NCSS/ ComChest for the invitation to attend the National Day Parade!!

After the show, we went back to The Singapore Cheshire Home and the traffic was very heavy with many vehicles and people leaving from the stadium.

I never expected the changes I have seen as the new parade really cannot compare with the past.

It felt great to watch the parade live again after so many long years. I would like to go again next year. Really hope so.

Perera Anton Fernando

Outing to National Museum

27th September 2016 (Tuesday): The State Court organized a National Museum outing for the residents of Singapore Cheshire Home. They hired Silver Ray transport to bring us there. Together with me were 5 staff and 8 residents, consisting of Social Workers Rena and Jeffrey, Occupational Therapist Vincent and Therapist Aides Melvin and Aica.

I was really excited about it because I have not been to the National Museum since my childhood days. And I love history. I do read books or research about World War II.

After our lunch, we headed to the National Museum. When we reached there, we were warmly welcomed and greeted by volunteers of State Court. Our Occupational Therapist Vincent gave them all a briefing on handling the wheelchair. We had a group photo taken before starting our rounds.

We were each partnered with a female and male volunteer for the outing. My volunteer Filzah was so sweet. At first, she thought that I was Chinese. I don't blame her as I look like one.

We went to the British Colony exhibit. This was all about Singapore during the British ruling time. Then we moved towards the Japanese war time exhibit. It was quite scary. I can't imagine how it were to be like if I were to survive during the war period. There was a showcase about how the dishes were during that time. It was really historic. The most curious thing was in the older days, some Chinese women had their feet bound. And I was wondering how could they bind their feet for life. It means good luck in their culture.

Then we went over to the 1960's and 1970's exhibits where Singapore became Independent. This reminded me of the toys that I used to have, like the rocking horse made of wood, the soft drink bottles and other kinds of traditional Malay and Chinese games.

Then we had a tea break. We were given pizza, some kueh and packet drinks. We shared a little about ourselves with other volunteers to get to know each other better.

Then we went to the basement, where we could see all the history of war time heroes. The most touching story to me is Elizabeth Choy's story where they featured her clothes and all about her imprisonment during the war. She was given the title of "The War Heroine"! I kept the story close to my heart. At a school event, before my admission to Singapore Cheshire Home, I went to Elizabeth Choy's wake when she passed on.

Another touching story was that of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. He really fought for Singapore to be independent. And Singaporeans will never forget him as the Father of Singapore. Sadly, he never got to see as we celebrated our 50th year of independence as he passed on in March 2015.

After all the exploring, we came to the end of the outing. Since my volunteer and I had some time, we took many pictures outside the National Museum for memories sake.

We were given a goodie bag before saying goodbye to the volunteers. Even though it was just 2 and a half hours outing, I can feel the kindness of the State Court volunteers. They were very friendly and helpful. I took the most photos on this outing as compared to previous outings.

With the help of the volunteers mentioned in this article, I would like to thank the State Court for this outing. We really appreciate that Singapore Cheshire Home has been adopted by State Court.

History means that we will not be able to travel back in time to relive it but we will keep it the good memories with us forever.

Noraini Bte Adnan



Group Photo with staff from State Court

Newsflash!

2nd August 2016 Joyous Volunteer – Sponsor of Tea, Karaoke and Performance

6th August 2016 Tampines CDC – Dinner [Outing]

8th August 2016 Singapore Cheshire Home – Pre-NDP Activities

18th August 2016 National Environment Agency – Dengue Talk

20th August 2016 17SG – Songs, Games, Musical Performance, Hair Cutting

21st August 2016 Salfura's Sister – Sponsorship of Dinner

27th August 2016 Puti Le She – Bingo, Singing of Songs

1st September 2016 IBM – Sponsorship of Tea, Songs and Bingo

3rd September 2016 Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Games, Bingo, Songs

6th September 2016 Xinmin Secondary School – Songs & Bingo

10th September 2016 The Singapore Cheshire Home – Founder's Day

13th September 2016 Simon Tay – Dinner [Outing]

17th September 2016 SAFRACS – Sponsorship of Tea, Games, Songs & Bingo

27th September 2016 State Court – Visit to National Museum [Outing]

1st October 2016 PL Concept Pte Ltd – Sponsorship of Dinner

3rd October 2016 Singapore Chinese Orchestra – NTUC Shopping & MacDonalds [Outing]

7th October 2016 Temasek – SEA Aquarium [Outing]

8th October 2016 Alester Chin Wen Le – Sponsorship of Dinner

15th October 2016 James Seah – Sponsorship of Lunch

15th October 2016 Danny's Brother – Sponsorship of Tea

15th October 2016 Anwar Ali – Sponsorship of Dinner

18th October 2016 Mrs Krish – Sponsorship of Dinner

22nd October 2016 D'perception – NTUC shopping & MacDonald [Outing]

10th November 2016 Simon Tay – Sponsorship of Lunch

12th November 2016 Josephine Ho – Songs, Bingo, Sponsorship of lunch

13th November 2016 Ming Zhu's Friend – Sponsorship of Dinner

18th Novemer 2016 Outward Bound Singapore – Visit to Pulau Ubin [Outing]

19th November 2016 ST Marine – Song, Games and Bingo

19th November 2016 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints – Songs, Games and Bingo

26th November 2016 Dr Soong – Sponsorship of Dinner and Ballon Performance

27th November 2016 Daniel & Lewis – Sponsorship of Cake

29th November 2016 Pan Pacific – Sponsorship of Lunch

30th November 2016 Ms Helene – Sponsorship of Tea

2nd December 2016 SG-enbled – Inclusive Village

2nd December 2016 British High Commissioner – Lunch at Eden Hall [Outing]

3rd December 2016 The Living Word Fellowship – Songs, Bingo & Interaction

10th December 2016 Singapore Cheshire Home Residents' Committee – X'mas Party

13th Dcember 2016 Chen Su Lan Methodist Children Home – Caroling

14th December 2016 Amcor – Sponsorship of Lunch & Bingo

14th December 2016 Chen Su Lan Methodist Children Home – Sponsorship of Tea & Dance Performance

15th December 2016 Ernst & Youngst – Bingo, Distribution of Boys Brigade Share a Gift, Sponsorship of Lunch

Newsflash!

16th December 2016 Millionlighting.com – Sponsorship of Dinner, Songs, Distribution of gifts
 17th December 2016 MediaCorp – Renovaid
 17th December 2016 Samuel & Marc – Visit to Singapore Flyer and Lunch [Outing]
 17th December 2016 Barker Road Methodist Church – Caroling
 18th December 2016 Hing Hwa Methodist Church - Caroling, Memory Game
 20th December 2016 Cleaning Express - Caroling & Sponsorship of Dinner
 23rd December 2016 KPMG - Christmas Caroling
 31 December 2016 SP Virgo - Sponsorship of Lunch
 7th January 2017 NTU RSP PC - Visit to Chinatown
 17th January 2017 AMK Police Division, Bingo Game, Sponsorship of Lunch
 18th January 2017 Century 21- Sponsorship of Tea & Bingo Game
 20th January 2017 Singapore Tourism Board - Sponsorship of Tea, Bingo Game, Guess The Place, Songs, Goodie Bag
 22nd January 2017 Lodge St Patrick & Lion of Erin - Dinner@Serangoon Garden
 4th February 2017 Jonas & Dexter & Friends - Sponsorship of Lunch & Distribution of Ang Pows
 4th February 2017 Mr Alvin Tan - Sponsorship of Dinner & Band Performance
 6th February 2017 Emerald Hill - Lion Dance & Distribution of Ang Pows
 7th February 2017 Joyous Volunteers - Sponsorship of Tea & Song Performance
 7th February 2017 The Singapore Cheshire Home - Chinese New Year Steamboat Dinner
 9th February 2017 AETI - Chinese New Year Celebration
 10th February 2017 The Singapore Cheshire Home - Lo Hei Lunch
 10th February 2017 Temasek Holdings - Lantern Making, Bingo Game, Phototaking, Uncle Ringo Stalls
 18th February 2017 Lodge St George - Movie Mania & Lunch
 18th February 2017 NTU RSP PC - Bingo Game & Interaction
 18th February 2017 Central Christian Church - Bingo Game & Interaction
 19th February 2017 Lodge St Patrick - Dinner @ Serangoon Garden
 20th February 2017 Mr & Mrs Johnson - Food Talk
 25th February 2017 NTU RSP PC - Bingo Game, Charades, Mix & Match
 1st March 2017 Singapore NPC - Talk on Cheating, Robbery & Theft
 4th March 2017 NTU RSP PC - Perler Beads Handicraft
 11th March 2017 NTU RSP PC - Visit to Chong Boon Market
 11th March 2017 Central Christian Church - Bingo & Interaction
 13th March 2017 Mr Baisho Masumoto Shamizen
 17th March 2017 Melile a Nutrition Talk
 18th March 2017 Lodge St George - Movie Mania & Lunch
 25th March 2017 Deeper Life Christian Centre - Songs & Guess The Picture & Bingo Game
 29th March 2017 Mr & Mrs - Johnson

Staff & Residents who have Left/Joined The Singapore Cheshire Home**Farewell**

Housekeeper Lek Siang Lang (23.01.17)
 SE (Admin/HR) Kelvin Lek (02.02.17)
 NA Baclig Kristal Mae Arucan (15.02.17)
 N.A. Gayan Janaka Weerkkooi Gamage (23.02.17)

New Staff

N.A. Walahena M Thushara Karunaratha (18.01.17)
 NA Gapasin Jena Shiakira (08.02.17)
 NA Batralo Wendelyn Tamayo (16.09.16)
 E (Admin/HR) Damien Ong (27.2.17)

Condolence

Resident Zainal Abideen Bin Yusoff passed away peacefully on 30.03.17

Editorial Board

Chan Yu Leong-Editor
 Salfura Bte Alias-Member
 Noraini Bte Adnan-Member
 Perera Anton Fernando-Member
 Vinayagan S/O Mohan-Lay Out Designer

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