



## Bulletin - May 2008

### Editorial

I guess you've all been wondering when the DBU is going to start its now-famous "Theme Nights" again! Well, I have good news for you – commencing the month of May, we are starting off with "BINGO IN CHINATOWN", where the theme will be Chinese of course (food, games and décor) and the colour will be red. This Bulletin carries the details inside.

We are also having a good old-fashioned "Sing-Song" (or Singalong as it is now popularly known) at the upstairs Members Bar/Lounge, on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> May from 8 p.m., onwards. There will be no cover charge, and all members are welcome along with their guests, if you like to sing the good old songs which we all know and love. We want to make this a monthly event, so it will be a date for your diary.

The live music on Wednesday nights continues by popular request. Pleasant music, dancing and superb ambience –

what more could one ask for to relax and unwind midweek?

The new General Committee, headed by President Nigel Austin, has been at work with sub-committee meetings at which plans are being drawn up for an eventful year. It all looks really exciting already!

This is also the month when Sri Lanka celebrates "Vesak", the festival of lights. The whole of the island will soon be festooned with lights, coloured paper lanterns and "pandals". This is one country where people will celebrate, whatever the hardships they have to endure! It is the resilient spirit which lives in all of us, and in this multi ethnic society everyone comes together to celebrate each others' festivals.

It is this resilience which has kept the DBU going strong for 100 years! And we have so much to celebrate this year. We invite you to bring in your family and friends as members at this historic time. We need

to increase the numbers of our younger members, as it will be they who will take the Union forward in the years to come.

See you all on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the DBU "Bingo in Chinatown".

Cheers  
*Anne-Marie Kellar*

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## Sub-Committees for 2008

### Entertainment

Kem Martenstyn (Chairperson)  
Carol Prins, Mervyn Dirckze,  
Dominic Kellar, Druki Martenstyn, Beverly  
LaBrooy, Anne-Marie Kellar

### Welfare

Kem Martenstyn (Chairperson)  
Fleur Mack, Jennifer Kelaart,  
Beverly LaBrooy

### Post Secondary & Tertiary Education (PSET)

Mike Anthonisz (Chairman)  
David Grenier, Warren Solomonsz

### Finance

Mike Anthonisz (Chairman)  
David Grenier, Timothy Speldewinde

### Treasury Management/Budget

Mike Anthonisz (Chairman)  
Timothy Speldewinde, David Grenier

### Catering

Dallas Martenstyn (Chairman)  
Anne-Marie Kellar, Lorraine  
Bartholomeusz, Consultant – Hemalal  
Ranawake (Kolu)

### Bar

Carol Prins (Bar Secretary)  
Joseph de Crusz, Monte Holsinger, David  
Colin-Thome, Stephen LaBrooy



### Membership Development

Anne-Marie Kellar (Chairman)  
Carol Prins, Mervyn Dirckze, Dominic  
Kellar

### Constitution & By-Laws

Stephen LaBrooy (Chairman)  
Timothy Speldewinde, David Colin-  
Thome, Anne-Marie Kellar

### Building & Garden

Stephen LaBrooy (Chairman)  
Dallas Martenstyn, Ajitha Madanayake,  
Pat Mamelka

### SNH Building

David Martenstyn (Chairman)  
Mervyn Dirckze, Dallas Martenstyn,  
Michael Anthonisz, David Grenier

### St. Nikolaas' Home

Mervyn Dirckze (Chairman)  
Fleur Mack, David Martenstyn, Caryll Van  
Dort, Anne-Marie Kellar

### Social Welfare

Anthea Muller (Chairman)  
Rosemarie Outschoorn, Mystica Flamer-  
Caldera, David Van Eyck

### Bulletin

Anne-Marie Kellar (Editor)  
David Colin-Thome

### Genealogy, Journal & Library

David Colin-Thome (Chairman)  
Stephen LaBrooy, Consultant – Victor  
Melder

### Website

David Colin-Thome (Chairman)  
Anne-Marie Kellar, Mervyn Dirckze

### Centennial Coffee Table Book Publication

David Colin-Thome (Chairman)  
Stephen LaBrooy, Consultant - Victor  
Melder

### Centenary Year Celebrations & Fund Raising

Nigel Austin (Chairman)  
Kem Martenstyn, Anne-Marie Kellar,  
Stephen LaBrooy, Mike Anthonisz,  
Timothy Speldewinde, David Colin-  
Thome, David Grenier, Keith Modder,  
Bobby Jordan-Hanson, Cheryl de Fonseka.

## Mother's Day

The second Sunday of May is the day on which most people all over the world celebrate "Mother's Day".

A day on which Mothers are honoured and treated to something special by their offspring, in appreciation of the sacrifices, love and caring that Mothers worldwide have given their children.

The DBU Bulletin salutes all Mothers in this issue – as the old song goes **"you can always get another wife, but you can never get another mother in your life"**!

Here is an article gleaned from a DBU Journal of old – titled "Mothers and Sons". Some advice which will find many mothers smiling and nodding

their heads in agreement, even in this day and age!

*The average boy is brought up in masses, I mean when school life begins for them. They are put in twenties and thirties into classes each receiving the same treatment and teaching as if equal in age. This system, as a rule, works well, as impartial justice rules the community, and honest and upright men are frequently the result. But it is before school life commences that a mother influences her son's whole later life. The life and character of a boy is largely influenced by the home training that precedes it. Olive Schreiner says "The first six years of our life make us, what is added later is only veneer". Of the parents,*



*the mother's influence is mightier, because of her deeper affection, and her continual presence with the child.*

(Contd...)

Fathers may win position for their children, but mothers impart character. The mother is generally faithful to her trust, but many fathers are indolent and careless... there is the mother who is too amiable and easy going, who forgets her dignity and the respect due her by her children, who figuratively makes a doormat of herself, forgetting that boys not trained to politeness and though for other, develop into boorish, disagreeable men.

Some mothers are fussy, constantly fussing over the health of possible accidents to their boys. Health, undoubtedly, is of great importance to a man's future welfare, but ordinary thoughtful care and silly fussiness are different things altogether, the latter being annoying to the boy and misery for the mother. It is both ridiculous and unnecessary. Accident, with ordinary care,

may be guarded against and a boy wisely trained to be aware of danger and to act with discretion. It is a silly mother who sees danger in everything. Nobody can be kept in cotton wool.

We meet some mothers who pray and lecture, and are so absurdly and unreasonably strict, that they drive their sons to do the things they would most want them to avoid, forgetting that goodness and uprightness need not necessarily mean gloom and misery...there are the mother so short sighted that they think innocence ought to mean ignorance and would fain send their sons into the world so shielded and fenced from evil that they go unaided by a wise knowledge of natural and social facts.

I must not forget the ultra-domestic mother who is so immersed in providing good meals, etc. that she loses her social status, find friends slipping away, and home becomes uninteresting to her big sons. This is a radical mistake for boys need young companions and fun suitable to their years and if this is not encouraged in a home, they will look for it elsewhere and it is quite possible that the friendships they make, and the fun they will get, may not always be quite desirable. Many errors are made purely from want of thought, so let us think about it more, and strive ever to attain the ideal.

(JDBU Volume XL October 1950)



**A MOTHER'S LOVE**  
 A Mother's love is something that no one can explain,  
 It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,  
 It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may  
 For nothing can destroy it or take that love away . . .  
 It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,  
 And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking . . .  
 It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,  
 And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems . . .  
 It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,  
 And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation . . .  
 A many splendoured miracle man cannot understand  
 And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.

*Helen Steiner Rice*

## Recipe Corner

### DUTCH APPLE PANCAKES

- 4 cups flour
- 2 tsp yeast
- Butter or margarine
- Salt
- 4 cups lukewarm milk
- Brown sugar, cinnamon, peeled and sliced apples

Put flour and salt in a bowl. Make a well in the centre and add the diluted (with a little milk) yeast. Add 2 cups milk and mix to a smooth batter. Add the rest of the milk. Leave to rise for ¾ hour. Heat enough butter in a heavy pan and pour in part of the batter. Put 3 or 4 slices of apple on top and cook on both sides. Serve with brown sugar or treacle and cinnamon if liked.



## Looking back – Extracts from the JDBU

Deprived of old status, placed in keen competition with other races who outnumber them a thousand to one, and bereft of capable leadership, the small community came to be a puzzled body of people; families were disintegrated by migration and a fatal sense of defeatism enveloped the

community which earlier had all the evidence of vigorous growth. Membership of the Union which stood at 600 in 1943, is now only 190. Weary of changes the new era had brought, members grew timid and faint hearted.

*Editorial 1967*



## Mail Room



Hello!

We enjoy your lovely Bulletin in Holland in various places; thanks for keeping us on the e-mailing list.

Ayu bowan,  
**Robert Egeter-van Kuyk**  
(Netherlands)

Dear Nigel,

I am writing in my personal capacity as former Dutch ambassador to Sri Lanka, as well as member of the VOC Chamber of The Hague.

First of all I should like to congratulate you on your election as President of the DBU, wishing you a very successful term, together with your committee, at the helm of this prestigious institution. Furthermore, our Chamber is proud to be associated with the DBU, since Mrs. Kem Martenstyn and the members of the DBU year kindly awarded members the honorable of 'Temporary Honorary Members' when we visit Sri Lanka.

Another important reason for writing to you is to forward to you and all members

of the DBU our sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the celebration of your Centennial Year! The VOC Chamber of the Hague – established in 1930 at Batavia (now Jakarta) – wishes the DBU many more happy years, with an evermembership, keeping up many of the traditional Burgher customs of Ceylon.

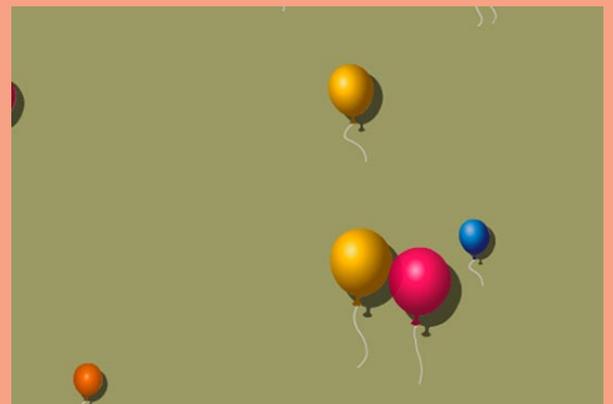
Our Chamber is delighted to continue its friendly relations with the Dutch Burgher Union of Sri Lanka. We do hope some of our members will visit your beautiful country in the near future.

**Hein C.R.M. Princen**  
*On behalf of the VOC Chamber of The Hague*

## Birthday Greetings

***We wish all our members celebrating their birthdays in May good health and happiness.***

*Ms Marize Anthonisz, Ms Marise Adolphus, Mrs Mary Joyce Bocks, Mrs Carmen Gomez, Mrs D.B.A. Jansze-Wijesoorya, Mrs Melanie Martenstyn, Mrs Dilrukshi Martenstyn, Ms Caryll Sela, Ms Linda Van Schagen, Mrs Tarini Walpola, Messrs. David Bartholomeusz, Sr., Hans Beekmeyer, Peter Minto Deckker, Olof De Weerd, Denham Emersley, Dirk Flamer-Caldera, Royden Gibbs, Deepak Hundlani, Russel Kerkoven, Brian Kelaart, Jonathan Martenstyn, Keith Modder, Graeme Overlunde, Shiran Perera, Sunil Perera, Buveneka Seniviratne, Julian Soris and Dr. Mario Gomez*



## Wednesday Night Entertainment

This will continue as usual with a variety of musicians providing music for dancing every Wednesday night at the upstairs Members Bar/Lounge.

*So!! Keep these dates free and come on over to the DBU!*

**14<sup>th</sup> May – Suriyakumar**  
**21<sup>st</sup> May – Kismet**  
**28<sup>th</sup> May – Nimal Jayamanne**

"Kismet" consists of the former members of "Pearl" Priya and Drucille, together with Drucille's daughter. An all female band, just returned from playing overseas. Hear them live at the DBU on the 21st, at the Members' Bar upstairs!

## Come Join the DBU Choir!



Here's an invitation to all members to join the DBU choir. Meroyne Dirczke will be commencing training our own choir in time for Christmas, and training will begin in July.

Those interested in joining us and having some fun singing, please give in your names to Etienne in the DBU office.

### Bar & Lounge Dress Code Reminder

A gentle reminder to Members and their guests about the dress code in the upstairs Members Bar and Lounge after 7pm is "smart casual".

**No Rubber Slippers (At any time)**

**No Collarless T Shirts**

**No Shorts**

Your cooperation is much appreciated.

### For Sale from the DBU Kitchen daily

Lamprais – Rs 275  
(Mixed Meat or Chicken)

Pork Badun – Rs 430

Beef Smore – Rs 350

Ginger Beer – Rs 135



# "BINGO IN CHINATOWN"

*Members' get-together*

*Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008 commencing 7.30 p.m.*

**Theme** – Bingo in "China Town"

**Chinese Game** – Prize for the winner

**Décor** – Chinese lanterns, streamers and bamboo

**Predominant colour** – Red

**Dress Code** – In keeping with the theme!

**It's Bingo all the way! ALL CASH PRIZES**

There will be a snowball of Rs.1,000 to the winner of a full house won in 60 numbers. At a previous Bingo Nite the snowball was won by Jackie Anthonisz! Who will be the luckiest of you all this time?



"I told you not to ring me at wok!"

## *China Town Menu*

Fried Rice with vegetable and egg

Singapore fried meehung

Chillie Chicken with nuts

Lemon Fish

Mixed vegetable chop suey

Chinese Chillie Paste

Dessert: Caramel Custard

*Guests are welcome, so do come along with your friends and help to make this a success.*

*Bookings may be made by telephone to the DBU on 258 4511 or the book provided at the Bar.*

*Closing date for bookings – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008.*

Music for dancing by  
**Outburst Entertainment**

**All this for just Rs 750 per head**