

Kumpulan Kebudayaan Malaysia Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Malaysian Culture Group

Newsletter of the Malaysian Culture Group

June/July 2011

MCG PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH LECTURE: THE BABA AND NYONYA—O.C.B.C.?	Wednesday, 01 June
THAI TEMPLE MURALS	Tuesday, 07 June
FILM SCREENING: CHEMMAN CHALLAI (GRAVEL ROAD) BY DEEPAK MENON	Wednesday, 15 June
AFTERNOON TEA AT CARCOSA SERI NEGARA	Thursday, 21 July

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The deadline for the August 2011 issue is July 8. Please send event reports for the next issue to the appropriate event convener. If you have other material of interest to members that you would like us to include, please send it to: newsletter@malaysianculturegroup.org



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MCG members are typically a very busy lot and so it is always a cause for celebration when all of the MCG committee members are in one place at one time. But here we are at the board meeting in April! Many thanks to outgoing committee members Sue, Joanneke and Elizabeth for respective jobs well done. The new committee members are listed to the left. A warm welcome to Catherine, Stefanie and Charlotte who are already hard at work on MCG business.

Recently, there has been a shift in MCG programs. We added another book group, due to the enthusiasm of our membership, and the groups have started making outings to learn more about the places and people in the books they read. Explorers has been suspended but this also reflects a change in the interests of our membership and points us in a new direction. The committee hopes that, just as the dissolution of the Study Groups years ago led to the emergence of an Explorers Group, this adjustment in our structure will lead to some different programming. Perhaps the former Explorers will step forward and organize some adventures to which the whole membership will be invited. We look forward to that! MCG exists to enhance our experience of living in Malaysia and we will continue to be dedicated to providing a learning environment for our members.

The energy of MCG was reflected in our AGM. Thank you for your attendance, your questions and your involvement. And while we are on the topic of the AGM - we thank Noriyati for her inspiration! We are grateful to all the women in our world who use their voices to promote discourse on the important issues. "Aku Siapa?" is a question we should be asking ourselves all the time...

We have a lot of activities planned for June and then we take a break for a month and come back in August. We hope to see you at an event soon.
 Editor

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH LECTURE : THE BABA AND NYONYA - O.C.B.C.? AN INTRODUCTION TO PERANAKAN CULTURE

DATE: Wednesday, 01 June, 2011
TIME: 10.00 am for 10.30 am start
PLACE: Meritz Condominium, opposite KLCC
COST: Members RM15, Guests RM25
RSVP: mcgevents@yahoo.com



Baba & Nyonyas are sometimes mistaken as a local community as they have adopted local costumes and speak in the local patois. In the eyes of the diehard Chinese, they are deemed as 'O.C.B.C. - orang cina bukan cina' (chinese and yet not chinese).

This talk will delve on the this issue and walk you through some markers of this unique culture and will leave the audience to ponder if the above remark holds true.

The MCG is pleased to welcome back this excellent speaker. Cedric Tan is a 6th descendent Baba from Malacca and is actively researching and promoting Baba & Nyonya culture in Malaysia and Singapore. He has been a culture consultant in most Baba & Nyonya events in Malaysia amongst which includes the promotion of Nyonya Kebayas by the late YBhg Datin Seri Endon Mahmood and various Peranakan exhibitions in Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur. He is reviving the traditional Baba wedding and actively shares his thoughts and articles on the culture in the quarterly Peranakan newsletter issued by the Singapore Peranakan Association. He is also the Honorary Secretary of the Peranakan Baba Nyonya Association of Kuala Lumpur & Selangor.

THAI TEMPLE MURALS

DATE: Tuesday, 07 June, 2011
TIME: 10.00 am for 10.30 am start
PLACE: Meritz Condo, Jl Mayang, K.L.
COST: Members RM15, Guests RM25
RSVP: mcgevents@yahoo.com



In ancient times many of the Thai population could not read or write. To educate the people in religious matters the monkhood and royalty decorated Buddhist temples with colourful murals. Most Thai murals illustrate the life of the historical Buddha Sakyamuni as well as the Ramayana and the Jataka tales.

Our speaker, Michelle Pease, lived seven years in Thailand. She guided at the National Museum, Bangkok for 5 years. Join us as we delve into this fascinating and visual aspect of the culture of Thailand.

**SPECIAL FILM SCREENING : *CHEMMAN CHALLAI*
(GRAVEL ROAD) BY DEEPAK K. MENON**

DATE: Wednesday, 15 June, 2011
TIME: 10.00 am for 10.30 am start
PLACE: KLPac, Sentul Park, Jalan Strachan (off Jalan Ipoh),
 Studio Indicine
COST: Members RM15, Guests RM25
RSVP: mcgevents@yahoo.com



The MCG invites members to a private screening of *Chemman Chaalai* - a drama set in the 1960s in a rubber estate in Malaysia. The film revolves around the story of a young Malaysian Tamil girl Shantha, and her family. They all live together on a family estate, in an area where higher education for women is almost impossible. Shantha, a girl of many aspirations, wants to leave the estate and further her studies, however the financial hardships that will result make her dreams nearly impossible to achieve. The story is inspired by real events, related to the director's mother.

Director's Note

Malaysian Indians have little control on the economy and politics in Malaysia. A way forward would be education. *Chemman Chaalai* is full of hope. The film emphasis is on the importance of education for the growth of the community and nation.

The 92 min. film is in Tamil, with English sub-titles. The film was made in 2005 and has been shown at International Film Festivals in the USA, Europe, Japan, Korea, Argentina, Taiwan, Singapore, India, Thailand, Philippines. Some reviewers comments are: "Quietly lyrical", Variety; "Loveliest and most moving film I've seen in years", World Socialist Website; "A lens on the Malaysian margins", International Herald Tribune; "The strength of *Chemman Chaalai* is in the sparkling subtleties with which it depicts the socio-political and cultural inadequacies of the Indian community at large." Nantha Kumar, The Star.

AFTERNOON TEA AT CARCOSA SERI NEGARA

DATE: Thursday, 21 July, 2011
TIME: 2.15 pm for a 2.30pm start
PLACE: Carcosa Seri Negara, Taman Tasik Perdana, KL 50480
COST: RM 70- actual cost charged by Carcosa - cost will be the same for members and guests on this occasion. Please be aware the RM70 quoted is only for the traditional "Afternoon Tea" any other beverages such as Coffee or juice will be charged under separate cover.
RSVP: mcgevents@yahoo.com



We have a wonderful afternoon planned for those of you that will be in KL in July— afternoon tea at the Carcosa Seri Negara! The history of Carcosa Seri Negara is integral to the history and development of Malaysia.

The Carcosa & Seri Negara buildings were built by Sir Frank Swettenham between the years of 1896 – 1904. From this time until the invasion by the Japanese in 1941 Seri Negara became the residence of the highest British representative to the Malay States.

If the hotel rooms are unoccupied and the Butler is available we will be given a guided tour of Seri Negara (building on left as you go through the gates) where we will also have our afternoon tea.

If you would like more information on Carcosa Seri Negara please visit their website at <http://www.carcosa.com.my/>

MEMBER'S CORNER

Outgoing Explorers Convenor, Elizabeth Haverkamp, recently spoke with "Going Places" Magazine about her time in Malaysia. She was kind enough to comment on the value that MCG added to her experience here.

Thanks Elizabeth!

And all the best for the upcoming wedding and future plans.

Looking In



Char kway teow

With only a few months of expatriate life in KL remaining, Elizabeth Haverkamp says she will miss Malaysia's friendly people and most of all, the unique food.





■ **I moved to KL in 2009 with my fiancé, who was transferred here for work.** The first year was the hardest because I had lived in Washington DC for 10 years and had an established life, great friends and a career as a party cook.

■ **I am happy to say, however, that I ended up settling into KL very well.** Volunteering at Baitan Warisan (Heritage of Malaysia) Trust has gotten me involved with the Malaysian Culture Group and the American Association allowed me to meet a lot of

wonderful people. My newfound friends here have kept me busy making sweets like panna cotta, chiffon cake and papaya jam.

■ **Malaysia has so much diversity, it's a fantastic place for foodies!** I've enjoyed learning about Malaysians' cuisines, especially for sweets, and how they vary depending on their cultural background. For example, when I make pineapple jam tarts and send them to my fiancé's office, the Chinese Malaysians say it's too sweet, the Indian Malaysians say it's not, and the Malays say it could be sweeter.

■ **I like the idea of using local ingredients where I can and have had a lot of fun shopping at wet markets like the one in Jalan Chow Kit.** I like supporting the local economy and find that the vegetables are fresher and cheaper than what you can find elsewhere. These markets are a lot more fun than a typical supermarket, and I get a kick out of asking the variety of people and watching the vendors sell their goods. Almost every time I go to Chow Kit, people call out asking where I'm from and why I am shopping there. When I tell them I am buying beef for rendang (a curry dish) or papaya to make jam, they are so happy that I am using Malaysian ingredients and am trying to make local dishes.

■ **KL showcases the best of Malaysia's regional food so I think anyone who gets to experience it is lucky.** According to my Malaysian friends, however, to find the best food you must go to the source, so I have enjoyed traveling to the islands and places like Penang and Ipoh. During my travels, I've noticed quite a few regional differences in food; the islands have better seafood, Celine on Highlands has the freshest vegetables, and Melaka has rice balls instead of just rice.

■ **The thing I adore most about eating in Malaysia is the communal style.** I went back to the USA last year and was disappointed that I didn't get to sit around the table and share different dishes with people.

■ **In KL, my friends and I love to try different restaurants, especially local ones that have been around for a long time.** I love Yut Kee (15 Jalan Dang Wangi Tel: +603 2698 8108) while my fiancé's favorite is Sui Kee (14 Medan Imbi Tel: +603 2148 1374). Both these eateries have good food and an authentic ambience.

■ **We are leaving in July and I am certainly going to miss Malaysia's food.** Living in KL has influenced my cooking in many ways so I will always have Malaysia to thank for that. ☐

Elizabeth's quick takes

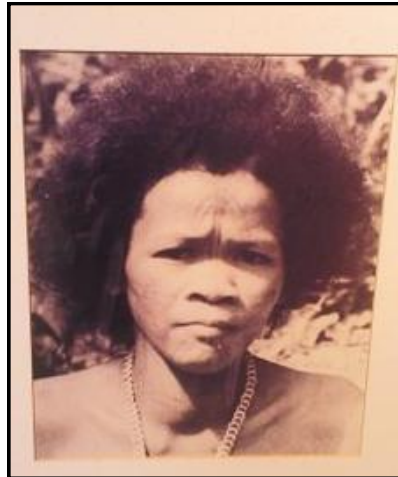
- **Favourite Malaysian holiday/festival** Anything that involves fun food such as the mooncake festival, and breaking fast during Ramadan
- **Favourite local slang/saying** Tak boleh (cannot)
- **Favourite thing to do on a weekend** Try a new restaurant or hawker stall
- **Favourite Malaysian dish** (Sweet) Sago in coconut milk, pineapple and coconut tarts; (savoury) beef rendang, char kway teow (fried flat rice noodles), salted egg yolk buns at dim sum restaurants

20 GOING PLACES JUNE 2011

PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION BY MARY ANN GARDNER

REPORTS ON PREVIOUS EVENTS

On 13 April, several members went to the Orang Asli Museum in Gombak. The trip was organised to go hand in hand with our April monthly lecture by Reita Rahim on Unity and Diversity: the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia.



Photos by Randee Duncan and Sue Nelson

Directions to the Orang Asli Museum

If coming from Ampang/KLCC side-

Take and take the exit on the left side which says **Kuantan, Genting Gombak**.

Keep going on this road as you will still be on Duke E33 till you come to the next exit which says **Batu Caves, Gombak**. Take this exit and keep to the **right side** of the road at the signal. Turn right at this traffic signal and continue straight. The signboards will have **Jln Gombak or Bentong68** on it. Pass two traffic signals in quick succession and at the third signal take a left turn. There is a big lightgreen and yellow **Mosque** at the corner and the sign boards have **Bentong68, University Islam Anterbangsa Malaysia** written on it.

From here just follow the road straight for 7kms up to the Museum. It does get single lane after a while and you will notice a **brown sign board** on the left side indicating the direction to the **Orang Asli Museum**. The Museum is just after a **Hospital JHEOA**, but on the right side of the road, so as soon as you are near the Hospital please slow down as you have to turn right and go diagonally up a slope to get to the Museum. Parking is available for visitors on the left side of the gate.

If coming from Damansara, Bangsar or PJ, please take the **Leburaya Duke E33** and follow the same exits and directions to the Museum.

INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE : KATHAK (storyteller)

There was something magical about our visit to the Indian Culture Center on April 19th. From the introduction of Kathak dance as Divine Inspiration, to the light jingle of the Ghunghroo, to the sheer beauty of the dancers, we were mesmerized. ICC instructor, Gheetanjali Singh, discussed the traditions of Kathak with poise and expertise, and her dance movements were as sure and confident as her presentation. We were graced by the presence of her mother and guru who watched proudly as Gheetanjali and her students artistically demonstrated the basic components of Kathak—rhythmic foot movements, hand and eye gestures and synchronization. There was joy in this dance and in the eyes of MCG members, both. The ICC is a new venue, operated by the Indian High Commission. They run music, dance and language classes for the community. MCG member and wife of the Indian High Commissioner, Vandana Gokhale, introduced us to the center.

Cheryl Hoffmann



ANDREW BARBER- PENANG AT WAR

The diplomat as a writer is a hallowed tradition - Neruda, Carlos Fuentes, Ben Franklin. Andrew Barber is a former diplomat, attached to intelligence, and a writer of several light historical accounts on Malaysia. He has read history at Cambridge -getting a scholarship to boot. He spoke to us of his latest book Penang At War: A history of Penang during and between the First and Second World Wars, 1914-1945.

Andrew Barber was born in Uganda as the sun set on the last days of the empire. His father was a civil servant in the colonial office. Of his early upbringing, he reminisces in an online interview: "It was all very exotic and we were a very small British administrative cadre surrounded by pastoral farmers and tribesman – the Karamajong and Turkana peoples - who fought tribal wars with spears and shields."

There are some charming anecdotes in his books. For example, in the coffee table book – Malaya- the Making of a Nation (1510-1957) he has a section on eccentrics- "*For the British, Malaya developed a reputation for housing and encouraging oddballs.*" (The frivolous set caricatures in Maugham and the "Mad dogs and Englishman" song by Noel Coward are all apparently inspired from Malaya.) He then repeats a really funny account by Liz Bird of a dinner at Hugh Low's residence in Kuala Kangsar with a large and small ape who sat at table! "*...dinner proceeded with great solemnity. The apes had their curry, chutney, pineapples, eggs and bananas on porcelain plates and so had I!*"

For this lecture, Andrew Barber focused on the small and rather awkward affair of the "Emden incident". The tale of a German light cruiser's 'derring doo' in the Indian Ocean, knocking off several (some 30!) allied ships . The **SMS Emden** was finally run aground by her captain to prevent her from sinking, after

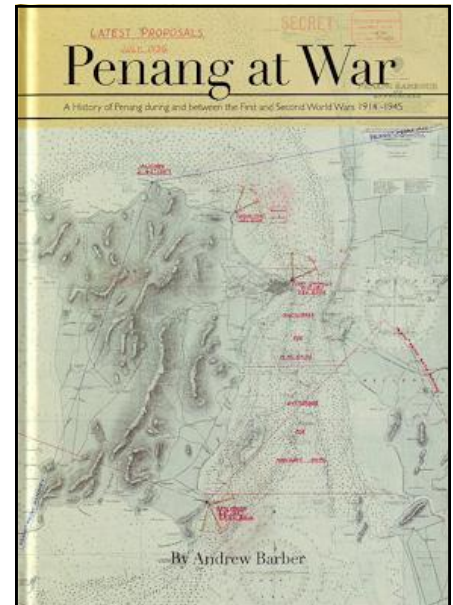


engaging the more powerful HMS Sydney in the battle of Cocos. (Yes it took the Aussies to finish it off.) His recounting was matter of fact and understated. I recall his most interesting comment was a wry aside about Churchill, when a memo on the bleak situation of the war effort WWII now and the lack of troops and resources was received by him marked for 'necessary action' as was protocol. Churchill had purportedly scribbled - "try fighting?!"

It was an engaging talk. He spoke of the Japanese occupation of Malaya and the shameful (his term) British retreat. He spoke of the geographical significance of Penang. A spate of questions kept him on his toes at the end.

During his talk, one question was uppermost in my mind— What was this writer like really? He had confessed in an online interview that he had moved from Africa to Australia and then to English countryside in Devon, and that he had grown up in the 70's being teased for preferring John Denver to Led Zepellin. Listening to him that morning, in his soft spoken and tempered assessments, it certainly showed!

Shehara de silva



EXPLORERS

NURFARM - THE GOAT MAN'S TALE

Nine Explorers found their way out of the urban jungle to Abdul Aziz Hasan's five-acre smallholding, NurFarm Agro. Adziz, as he is known, was there at the end of the track with his wife and daughter to warmly greet and usher us out of the heat and into his 'day house'. The ambience inside was reminiscent of a Hollywood prairie school-room, and indeed, Adziz keenly hosts urban school children to introduce them to the environment and the origins of their food.

Adziz spoke passionately of his post retirement endeavour to create a sustainable farm from a small range of animals and plants. He easily translated his significant animal and plant knowledge into a digestible form and gave appropriately detailed responses to Members' questions. After these discussions, drinks and homemade cake were served before the 'tour'.

Members enjoyed feeding croissants and white bread to 250 friendly goats, although talking to them as if they were babies could be a step too far (as seen in the picture of Dorothy with her "kid"). Even Adziz admitted to giving some of them names.



and who's a pretty girl then ...

There were also about fifty sheep in a separate shed, which generated a detailed discussion upon wool shearing techniques.

The principle contribution to the farm's economy comes from income generated by fertilizer and soil improvers made from the goat and sheep manure. This popular product is sold at the farm and at two farmers' markets - Pasar Tani Serdang Tapak Expo MAHA in Serdang, Saturdays from 7am to 1pm and Pasar Tani Putrajaya Purajaya Pasar Tani Site on Tuesdays from 12pm to 9pm.

The farm has many free-ranging chickens that produce eggs for chicks. In addition, a flock of geese maintain a close watch and immediately let us know, as only geese can, when our doings were not to their liking. What was it that their cacophony reminded me of?

The farm also produces a variety of flowers and fruit, including durian, mangosteen and asam gelugor (asam keeping). Although some of the names were familiar, they were not always correctly identified by city dwellers for a day 'out in the wild'.

A working farm as well as a relaxing location

Adziz showed us his homemade plant watering system that could be used to grow small fruit trees on an apartment balcony. Three fish ponds were available for anglers to pay by the kilo for specimens weighing in at up to 7 kg. Whilst some Members were disappointed that Adziz's enterprise does not produce fresh goat yoghurt, his iced passion fruit drinks and fresh passion fruits made up for it. The farm also has two Homestay houses, one of which is a hundred year old Negeri Sembilan house held together without nails that Adziz had purchased from the lady owner and rebuilt at his farm.



This was an unusual outing that was characterised by the homely welcome freely given by Adziz and his family at their peaceful farm. Adziz and his family would happily show other MCG members around his farm. He can be reached by email at

nurfarm.agro@yahoo.com.my.

The address is Lot 650, Jalan Kuari, Batu 12, Ulu Langat, Selangor Malaysia.

Stuart Wakefield

Photos by
Elizabeth Haverkamp
and Michelle Pease



ENAK

April Enak

In April the Enak group went to an Indian makan stall called Maniam's in Ampang. He and his wife Marakatham have been cooking up great Indian food for 40 years in that area. This stall is located at



the back right-hand corner of a group of out-door stalls on a double lane off Jalan Kerja Air Lama (also known as Jalan Kolam Air Lama). This group of stalls is next to the big Petronas station that includes a Mac-



Donald's, opposite the ISKL and Mutiara Schools. The Enak group went there for lunch. Maniam's is open daily from 7.30am till about 2pm. There is a variety of Indian items on offer: banana leaf, tali, dosai or just a selection of whatever you want. There is a great variety of curries: chicken, goat, tofu, fish, salt fish as well as a good range of vegetables and sides of dry meat and fish dishes.



All the curries are so tasty; with each curry having a completely different flavour. The usual rice and Indian breads are on offer to wipe up the very tasty sauce of each curry. I especially enjoyed the salt fish and goat curry gravies. Maniam and his wife

blend a lot of their own curry powders for the fish curries and use Baba curry mix for the goat and chicken. The curries are started the day before to be ready for the breakfast and lunchtime rush.



One of the MCG members, Joanne Mahendran, has been coming to Maniam's since the 70's when the stall was located closer to the Ampang Jaya junction opposite the RSPCA. Maniam has had a lot of official visitors, out-riders and all, who stop by for a good feed of his daily fare. Old timers who leave and come back for a visit also return to Maniam's for old time's sake. So if you have time and would like a good curry go down to Maniam's any day of the week to enjoy the great tastes.

Robyn Curry—text and photos

BOOK GROUPS

Book Group 1

The Disappeared by Kim Echlin

The story begins in Montreal when a 16 year-old motherless girl, Anne Greve, falls passionately and hopelessly in love with a young Cambodian, who came to Canada to study, and remained when it became too dangerous to return. The couple shares an interest in blues and jazz and spends most of their time making love and going to concerts, much to the disapproval of Anne's father.

When the border reopens, Serey feels compelled to go home to search for his family. He promises to keep in touch, but Anne receives no news from him, and cannot forget him, or the intensity of the love they shared. She remains in Montreal, studying at university and learning the Khmer language.

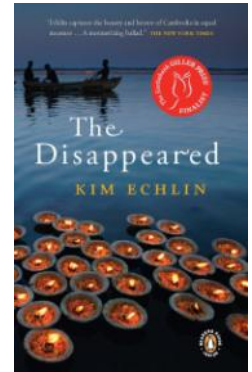
Eleven years after Serey left, Anne sees him on a television news report from Phnom Penh. She abandons her job and sets off immediately to find him. Miraculously, they are reunited and their relationship resumes.

However, this is not the end of the story. So much has changed for Serey. His parents have been killed, his brother is working for the security forces, and he does not want to reveal to Anne the true nature of his work. When he disappears at a rally, Anne loses him again, and almost loses her mind when she embarks on a dangerous and heart-breaking mission to find him. The author Kim Echlin, a writer, journalist, educator, and teacher of creative writing has a special interest in oral story-telling and language. She spent the best part of seven years writing and revising this story. She wanted her novel to reflect the spare and unembellished language that victims of rape and genocide use. The unadorned language coupled with her clever use of "I" and "you" draws the reader into Anne's most intimate thoughts, and makes the book compelling reading.

Although this is primarily a love story, it is also a historical record of some of the horrific events that occurred during and after the Pol Pot regime of the 1970s and 80s. Our group agreed that the author fulfilled Vann Nath's epigram "Tell others". Kim Echlin has researched her material thoroughly, and the authenticity of the events is never in question. Thus the book educates and shocks us with the atrocities of genocide, torture, and the people of a nation who turn against their own families. We agreed that many of us would be more likely to read the novel, The Disappeared than a non-fiction account of "The Killing Fields" of Cambodia.

When The Disappeared was published, a Canadian literary journal listed this book as essential reading. We did not rank it as essential reading, but would like to recommend it as a well-written, heart-rending story.

Fran Jones



Book Group 2

And Rain My Drink by Han SuYin

Book Club 2 met on 27th April at the home of Gwen Smith to discuss 'And Rain My Drink' by Han SuYin. This book is set in Johore, Malaya during the decade after World War 2 when the colonial British Administration took over the country and was challenged by the jungle based Malayan Communist Party. This period is referred to as 'The Emergency'. The writer is a doctor who worked in the area at that time.

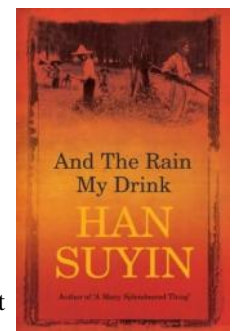
Some of our readers did not finish the book. They found it confusing and difficult to read. We agreed that the overwriting style was weighed down by lengthy descriptions and the use of terms such as 'confraternal mauling' and 'claustrophilic'. This was sometimes balanced by an apt phrase such as 'Creeping paralysis called administration'.

Some sections were autobiographical and these were easier to follow; we agreed however that the plot was complex and fragmented. The characters of the jungle fighters and the villagers were often stereotyped. The motivation that drove the girl Small Cloud to a life of duplicity as a jungle fighter / house help in the doctor's house is not clear.

The overall picture of the insecurity and hardships of the rural population does emerge. Some of the issues raised in this book are still a problem today and are being tackled by the 1Malaysia campaign.

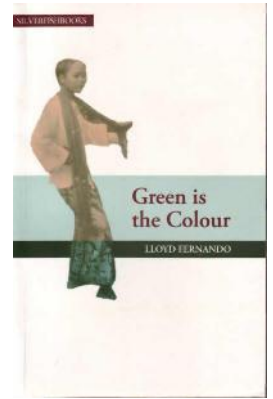
We thought that the value of this book was to stimulate interest in The Emergency period of Malaysia's history from the viewpoint of a contemporary writer. Some members said that they would prefer to read the author's best known work 'Love is a Many Splendoured Thing'.

Gwen Smith



Book Group 3**Green is the Colour by Lloyd Fernando**

As reported by Book Club 1 last month this almost dystopian novel is set in Malaysia post May 13th 1969. Fernando professed that creative writing was one of the most worthwhile things to do in life and that his objective was to 'hold up fragments of life in this part of the world for inspection and reflection.' As a group we found his narrative rather too fragmentary; both character and plot lines seemed at times to run wild and not entirely coherently. In terms of reflection, however, this novel provoked a very lively discussion.



The book centres around the breaking of religious and social taboos in a society reeling from the recent race riots. The atmosphere was heavy with words unspoken, even glances between co-workers and neighbours were guarded. As a group we explored the idea that Fernando's obfuscatory style was deliberately chosen to mirror the way in which his characters are compelled to hide themselves, their opinions, their thoughts. Despite some vivid descriptions that effectively evoked urban and rural Malaysia, many of the actual characters do not appear fully realised. Was this a deliberate attempt on Fernando's part to hint at a unifying potential within multicultural, multiracial, polyglossic Malaysian society or indeed the very impossibility of voicing individual beliefs within a constraining cultural ideology? As Sara's father comments, "There are so many who want to force you to follow the right path. Each one's right path is the only one. I am tired of seeing folly spread in the name of such right paths."

'1Malaysia' or 'Bangsa Malaysia' is often mentioned currently as a national goal. Green is the Colour led us as a group to reflect on this notion and its feasibility. The perspectives of our Malaysian members were especially interesting, from their memories of 1969 as children, to their experiences growing up and finding their way within Malaysian society. Despite being, in our opinion, a rather flawed novel, this book engendered a very stimulating discussion of the challenges and opportunities race, religion, culture and national identity present. If one of the purposes of literature is, as Fernando said, to mirror aspects of life so as encourage reflection this book certainly succeeded.

Sarah Scanlon





Kumpulan Kebudayaan Malaysia
 Kuala Lumpur & Selangor
 Malaysian Culture Group

2011 Membership Form

Membership fees: Annual Membership: January —December 2011 RM 60
Pay with PayPal via the website or mail a cheque with this form to:

**Membership Secretary, MCG
 15 Lorong Kemaris 4
 Bukit Bandaraya
 59011 Kuala Lumpur**

	First Name	Surname	Nationality
Member			
Spouse/ Partner			
Address			
Postcode			
Telephone	Are you interested in:		
Handphone	Book Group _____		
Email	Explorers _____		
	Enak! _____		

MCG is run by volunteers. What would you like to do in 2011?

- Write a report about a meeting
- Assist with Events Planning
- Assist with membership
- Give a talk about _____
- Occasionally provide a venue for meetings
- Something else?

Do you have any expertise or experience to share with MCG?