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# Malaysia Association of Southern California



## Message From The President

Selamat Kawan Kawan,

I minta ma'af for delaying this newsletter – due in March. Poor Sharifah has been very polite and has not hounded me. No excuse on my part as I cannot in all honesty say the dog ate my message.

**Your current board has served one term of two years. Ai-yah, how time flies when you are busy. Time is up and we will have the election in August. We are looking for an election officer whose duties will consist of planning and running the election. No experience needed as I will train and I have past materials. Please step up to the plate. We are also looking for Directors. This is your club and tolong-lah volunteer, or I will come twist your arm.**

Chinese New Year has come and past. We had a great time and thanks to all participants. We also had a great Easter picnic with lots of great food. Adult and children enjoyed themselves. The monthly potluck is still very popular and gathering snow like a fast moving snowball. We have added a one-hour dancing session to the potluck. So we are calling all Lamsing Kakis to come one hour early to learn, teach or just dance.

**The next big event is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and American music at the Hollywood Bowl.** This is another event you don't want to miss. It is always sold out and ticket scalping often triples the price. We pack a picnic basket with lots of wine and goodies; take a shuttle to the bowl – cars/parking is ahead; listen to music, watch fireworks, drink wine and enjoy with friends. All cares and stress will fly away. I have 20 tickets. First come - first serve. They are \$9.00 each. I did not buy children's ticket as it is too difficult for me to keep count. Call me for reservation **NOW**.

Another popular July event is the lotus festival and dragon boat race. Every year we have one team competing and we would like to have two teams this year. If you are interested call me.

Malaysia is having her big 50. For this year the board has decided to celebrate Merdeka Day in conjunction with all the other Malaysian groups like the Consulate and others. This will be a big affair may be over the weekend. Lina is representing us in the planning committee. Will keep you updated.

Stop to smell the roses, and be positive. Trust in the Lord and pray for guidance.

Love & Peace

Mama Ean





*Our member Lee P. Meach and her daughter, Rachel, 8, have penned down two poems for this special day. Our thanks to the creative duo!*

***A Mother's Love***

A mother's love is boundless  
 A mother's love is often times, unspoken  
 And often times it is in the depth of her silence  
 That we feel her love the most.

A mother's love is ageless  
 You felt her love since you were two  
 And the feeling just gets stronger  
 Even after years since you were two.

A mother's love is priceless  
 You can't buy it at any price  
 But it will help nevertheless  
 If you'd just treat her to something nice.

So, take the time to be with her  
 Take the time to love her  
 Take the time...  
 For time is what we have.

Not just your mother  
 But anyone who loves you  
 As motherly as a mother would.

Happy Mother's Day!

*By: Lee*

***My Mom is Cool***

My mom is cool  
 My mom is kind  
 She does everything to keep me alive.

She always has a smile on her face  
 Her eyes are as bright as her face  
 How can I live if she is not alive  
 She has my heart, blood and thigh.

My life is with her  
 Her life is with me  
 We spend our whole life together, you see.

My mom's the best  
 No one can please anymore than she can  
 And now  
 I love everything she's done for me.

P/s: Based on a true story.

*By: Rachel*

***Welcome New MASC Members***

Boris Lipzenko  
 Cham L Quek  
 Patrick & Jennifer Yau  
 Connie Henson

Ming Walker  
 Helen Lai  
 Desmond Fernando



## What is your Power Distance?

*A concept that helps explain why people communicate in certain ways.*

Recently, I attended an interesting seminar on a concept called power distance. Power distance is defined as the extent to which the less powerful expect and accept that power is distributed unequally.

It focuses on how a society deals with levels of status or social power, and how much they perceive such status as fair or unfair.

Power distance strongly affects the way we conduct ourselves in business, political and social spheres. Studies on this subject show that countries which have high power distance include Malaysia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and India. The United States has medium to low power distance and Austria and Denmark have the lowest power distance in the world.

People or cultures with high power distance believe that inequality is a fact of life and those in power have privileges, while low power distance people believe that everybody has equal rights and privileges are frowned upon. Thus in low power distance cultures, people are more prepared to trust one another whereas in high power distance countries, there is suspicion or mistrust that others want your power.

In the working sphere, high power distance cultures believe that “superiors/subordinates are different to you and me, and subordinates expect to be told”. On the other hand, those with low power distance believe that “superiors/subordinates are people just like me, and subordinates expect to be consulted”.



With globalization, understanding power distance has become an important communication tool. It gives a better understanding when working with people of different nationalities or origins.

The issue becomes more complex and interesting as many of us have lived and worked in Malaysia and/or Singapore (countries with high power distance) and are now living our lives in the US - a home where most Americans believe that they are just as good as the next person. How do we reconcile such different set of attitudes?

From my observations, I think most of us have managed to negotiate them rather well. And I have also noticed the interesting and strange phenomenon of Malaysians/Singaporeans reverting to high power distance attitudes when they are among themselves than when they are among people of different cultures!

Ultimately, the experts point that power distance is not a “good or bad” judgement, and it is up to each individual to choose the manner you want to communicate and see the world.

To gauge your own power distance, ask yourself these questions: How do you view power? Do you presume that all men and women are created equal? Do you like a team approach where everyone’s input is equal or do you like someone to be in charge and give directions? - Sharifah



### YOUR SAY

Dear Members

We would like to hear from you!

Feel free to contribute any article, tips, recipes, ideas, feedback or just about anything you wish to share with fellow members.

This is your forum!

## Celebrate our Heritage

The month of May is the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month. Various events are scheduled in Orange and Los Angeles counties. These include:

### Love Now

Nordstrom has chosen 17 Asian-American artists to share their interpretations of love. The "Love Now" exhibit will be displayed in several Nordstrom stores, including at Irvine Spectrum Center, throughout the month of May. The art has appeared in magazines, books, galleries and ad campaigns.

### Cold Tofu

Cold Tofu is the nation's first Asian American comedy improv group. It presents Asian American life from a fresh perspective and provides Asian actors with the space to explore comedy. Catch its performance this month.

Date: May 19, 7:30 p.m.

Venue: Maryknoll Japanese Catholic Center, 222 S. Hewitt St., Downtown Los Angeles

Cost: \$5

Sponsor: Cold Tofu

Info: 213-739-4142, [www.coldtofu.com](http://www.coldtofu.com)



## Simple Health Tip

Behavioral research shows that nature has given us a wonderful easy way to improve emotional health - *flowers*.

The presence of flowers triggers happy emotions in both men and women. Flowers have a long-term positive effect on a person's moods, and being in the presence of flowers promote increased contact with family and friends.

Spring is the perfect time to treat ourselves to flowers, either in the house or garden.

*We know that many MASC members also love to garden. Do share photos of your plants or garden with others in the newsletter or website!*



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.”

Bill Cosby

## Editorial Board

Sharifah Varnum

Pek Ean Chong