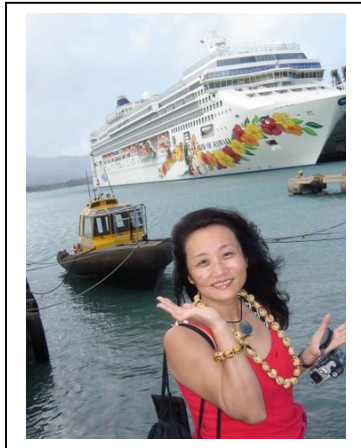




## March 2007 Newsletter & Events Calendar

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Hard Work of being a Travel Agent!



I just recently returned from a very labor intensive job of escorting a group of cruisers to Hawaii (Actually it's not work but some envious friends, who didn't come...to make them think it was hard work!!!) What a most amazing and relaxing experience. We flew over on Harmony Airways to Honolulu with excellent service and food and then checked into the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort. It's no secret that this is the best beach on the island...after major renovations to the entire downtown and the beach area, you can savor the sights, scents and sounds of Oahu...the heart and soul of Hawaii as you drench yourself in the healing wonder of the aloha spirit...hula... the spiritual dance performed to Hawaiian melodies...the dance is spiritually uplifting, as hula conveys the essence of aloha...great love, caring, sharing, kindness and compassion.

Next day, we hopped aboard the brand new NCL Pride of Hawaii and what a treat we were in for. For the next 7 nights, we sailed around and visited 5 of the most beautiful Hawaiian Islands, while enjoying daily gourmet meals, music, spa treatments and off shore excursion tours that included Haleakala Crater...the rising sun at the summit of Haleakala on Maui and then take a bike ride down 38 miles of unbelievable scenery. The Golfers had the opportunity to experience golf at Mauna Lani at Kona.

Imagine a fantasy golf course that has a moonlike landscape of black lava beds, surrounded by Kiawe mesquite forests and holes that arc over the ocean.

In many ways, Hawaii reminded me of my home, Malaysia as they have nurtured their culture so that the young do not forget their music, their dances and customs. The native Hawaiians are so much like Malaysians, tolerant and harmonious people because they all come from a community of diverse ethnicity. They are compassionate as they put great value on their families and friends. Many of the flowers grown in Hawaii are similar to the flowers from Malaysia...reminding me that I must return to Malaysia soon...and this year in particular, we must all take a journey back to Malaysia to help celebrate Malaysia's 50<sup>th</sup> Year of Independence.

### MABC HAPPENINGS:

**Gourmet Makan Club** held it's 1<sup>st</sup> gathering at Tamarind Hill Restaurant, New Westminster, Wed Feb 21<sup>st</sup>.... great food. Some Canadian guests sampled Malaysian food for the very first time.

Makan Club's 2<sup>nd</sup> night out was held at Kyung Bok Palace Restaurant at Lansdowne Mall, March 9<sup>th</sup>. This was a Korean Restaurant. Food was great and the bonus was you're inside a large Shopping Centre... so you can go jalan jalan lah!!! It was party time as we celebrated Gina's and Peter's birthdays after which some adjourned to Sheraton Four Points for more drinks and to dance. Gina received an email from an old friend in Malaysia advising her that if you travel a lot...and the older you get... the least attractive you are to kidnapers.... and if you are kidnapped the older ones are usually the first to get released!!!

Makan Club 3<sup>rd</sup> night out is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Chilli Club, (Famous for great Thai food with a great view of Granville Island)...1018 Beach Avenue, off Hornby Street, Downtown Vancouver at 6:30pm. Our Makan night will be held on the second Thursday of



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each month...members and guests, you wish to bring along will meet at a selected restaurant for an informal evening of a new dining and tasting experience in the company of fellow Malaysians and friends. Members choose whatever dish they want to sample and handle their own checks. You are free to leave when you want or stay with the group for extra activities after dining.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT!** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MABC Golf Tournament is confirmed for Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Riverway Golf Course with Dinner to follow at Golden Swan Restaurant. It's still early to start practicing your swing or to begin lessons. Last year was a tremendous success and this year will be a sell out with a Shot Gun Tournament. Your golf committee is starting to work on some great prizes, so watch for our early registration announcement.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS – WATCH YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Photography Club – learn from professional photographers how to take better pictures, through interesting field trips.
2. Floral Arrangement Introduction – Qualified instructor (Gina Hansen) will teach the basics in flower design including a field trip to the local Flower Auction (The largest in North America). You'll take home your very own arrangement plus the instructor will share with you her secrets if you ever contemplate starting a flower shop.
3. With summer coming soon watch for exciting weekend trips to experience oyster picking on Vancouver Island, fishing trips and more.
4. Business Seminars – Experts will share their knowledge and advice in their respective fields
5. Malaysian Cooking Demonstrations are being organized for the spring.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the following have agreed to act as Advisors to our Association. Datuk John Bell former Canadian High Commissioner to Malaysia from 1993 to 1996. Prior he was the Canadian Ambassador to the Ivory Coast from 1984 to 1987 and then Ambassador to Brazil from 1987 to 1990. For his service in Malaysia, Mr. Bell was awarded the title of Datuk. We are honored to have him join us and offer his advice in appropriate areas that will help our Association continue to grow.

Mr. Brian Nosko, Vice-President, Walmart Canada, has also agreed to act as an Advisor to the MABC Association. Mr. Nosko has had an active role in Shopping Centre Management and Development in Canada and is currently leading the growth of Walmart in Western Canada and has a wealth of experience to offer our Association as we bring to fruition the MABC's plans for a future Club House and Malaysian Village.

This year promises to be the most active year yet for MABC. We need your support to continue our growth. Our Annual Meeting is soon approaching.... we plan to expand our number of Directors to take on more ambitious projects. Please contact Gina Hansen with any suggested nominees. The work is very rewarding with the satisfaction that you are assisting, even in a small way, the bringing together of our fellow Malaysians and Canadian friends for Cultural, Business and Social Functions.

#### **FOOD: by Pamela Yoon Drakos**

**This article started last month, where we feature one city/regional cuisine each month. This month we feature some of the most famous foods from Seremban. Hopefully, you will find this as inspiration to start cooking some delicious mouth watering local fare and invite some friends to share with you.**

- Seremban siew pau: a type of baked bun
- Seremban-style lo-shee-fun (literally translated in Cantonese to say "rat noodles"), but trust me, there is no rats whatsoever. I guess the noodles were shaped to look like little mice.
- Seremban beef noodles: the Seremban-ites claim theirs is THE BEST!

Next month I will feature Kuching cuisine.....hmmm.... I don't even know what it is!!!. If you have nominations, do email me.

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## Your MABC Board of Directors for 2006-2007 are:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Telephone #:</u>	<u>Email address:</u>	<u>Occupation:</u>	<u>Where from?</u>	<u>MABC Responsibility</u>
President: <b>Gina Hansen</b>	604-321-6012	gina@sunclubtravel.com	Owner, SunClub Travel	Penang	everything!
Vice-President: <b>Gerald Lau</b>	604-945-3646	gcplau@shaw.ca	President, Invenacom	Kuching	everything too!
Secretary: <b>Luke Tham</b>	604-270-3031	luke_tham@hotmail.com	Owner, Bridgeport Postoffice	KL	Secretary & Membership
Treasurer: <b>Helen Yeoh-Leong</b>	604-942-6966	helenyeoh23@hotmail.com		KL	Social
Directors: <b>Edward Lee</b>	604-879-8616	e99lee@hotmail.com		Malacca	Sports
<b>Kel Tang</b>	604-803-5843	keltang@shaw.ca	Graphic Designer Madmoles Communications	PJ	Communications & website
<b>Richard Ong</b>	604-240-0088	richardong@mdi.ca	Ellie Tropical Cuisine	KL	Asst Special Projects
<b>Robin Lau</b>	604-512-6430	robinlau12155@hotmail.com	Marketing, Toyota Canada	Kuching	Special Events
Webmaster: <b>Dominic Wong</b>	604-719-3025	dominicw@shaw.ca			Webmaster
Immediate Past-President: <b>Andrew Annuar</b>	604-218-4536	aannuar@shaw.ca		KL	
Previous Past President, <b>Pamela Yoon Drakos</b>	604-623-3263	pamela_drakos@hsbc.ca	Investment Advisor Global Private Client Services HSBC Securities (Canada) Inc.	Ipoh	Newsletter editor & coordinator

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