

# MV Monthly

*The latest news from our volunteers and the museum*

**Nr 2 - December 2013**

**Latest stats**

*This October we guided another record number of visitors: 210 compared to the 116 visitors in the same month last year. According to JMM, the total number of visitors to the museum was 29,174 - so we still have a long way to go...*

**Volunteer wanted!**

*After years and years of running the local schools program, Cay Maru has decided she wants to step down. So we are looking for someone to fill those shoes. Fluent in BM and English? Very good organising skills? Let us know!*

**Local school holiday**

*There are a number of special activities in the museum during the local school holidays. On 14 December there's a Tengkolok workshop at the square for kids aged 5-12. It's conducted in Malay and prebooking is essential due to limited space: 03-22671111*

**Not-to-miss Trip**

*The National Mosque is not always very accessible. But it is for us this month! On 6 and 10 December there is a special tour for Museum Volunteers. Places are limited, so if you're interested, please email [caecaylim@gmail.com](mailto:caecaylim@gmail.com)*

**Volunteer market GIS**

*Garden International School organised a morning especially for parents looking for voluntary work and the Museum Volunteers were there - and even though the next batch won't start training until next year, there were lots of people interested.*

**Save the date: 25/01**

*To celebrate the new (Chinese) New Year, the annual MV Potluck Lunch will be held on 25 January 2014. Sounds far away, but it isn't. More details will follow in next month's newsletter. To be continued...*





# YUKATA, KOTO, EDITH PIAF AND SIRIH... IT WAS SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A DINNER

On Saturday the 16th of November Simply Mel's lovely restaurant in Bangsar South formed the stage of the annual MV Dinner - a lively evening full of cultural experiences.

By Susan Haveman

Even though I have been with the MV for almost three years now, somehow I've never been able to attend the Annual Dinner. This year's edition at Simply Mel's, was the first one. And now I regret not having gone to the previous one - because it was so much fun!

## Devil Curry

The tables in the restaurant were put in long rows and quickly filled up with beautifully dressed people. Of course there were the Japanese ladies in their beautiful kimono's and yukata, but we also had a Danish husband in batik, a dashing French couple in red white and blue and a beautiful Algerian lady (I'm sorry, I forgot your name). And, as Karen said, there was a tight schedule, so the

buffet opened fairly quickly. And it was lovely, with all the Kristang food. Devil Curry, Cincalok... it was all delicious.

## Bunka no Hi

The theme of the night was *Bunka no Hi*, or Culture Day: a Japanese holiday when arts and culture are being celebrated. First we listened to some very accomplished musicians playing Japan's national instrument, the *koto*. Then it was time for the volunteers to experience Japanese culture first hand. Erina taught a group how to properly drink tea, while others (including me) were dressed in some beautiful *Yukata*. We just couldn't stop admiring the fabrics and the artful way everything was tied!

## Wine and clogs

Then it was time for some completely different cultural experiences. First of all Dany challenged everybody to figure out where all the famous French wines and cheeses are actually coming from. France has many, many different areas, and unfortunately the names didn't always

help. What did help, was to have a French MV sitting at your table... While we were still deliberating, Mique took the microphone to explain everybody about the famous wooden shoes the Dutch are wearing. She even brought a few with her, so we could try. Ashok didn't hesitate for a second - and he looked mighty handsome in them!

## The Sirih kicks in

Then it was Zahara's turn and she told us all about the truly Malaysian tradition of the sirih set. Not only did she show us the beautiful set, but she also demonstrated how to prepare and chew your betelnut leave. Some daredevils amongst us couldn't resist the temptation and tried for themselves. It was quite a kick! Last but not least, 'Simply Mel' explained to us what we had actually eaten and how she learned how to prepare those delicious meals. That was the end of the official program. But it wasn't until after midnight that the last of the MV's closed the door of Simply Mel's behind them...

## 3 SLOGANS - BUT THERE CAN BE ONLY 1!

At the annual dinner we asked all the MVs present to pick their favorite slogan out of the 26 that were sent in. This was the Top 3:

1. **Take the Mystery out of History**
2. **Take Today to know the Past**

And sharing the third place:

## Making History Interesting 2kang cerita

('tukang' is an artisan and 'cerita' is story, so it means 'story teller').

The Dato will now be asked to pick his favorite one.

**To be continued...**