



Coast *MAGIC*

Multicultural Arts Group In Collaboration Inc

MAGIC Book Launch

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GC MAGIC launched another book Saturday 19th December, 2009 to a packed hall at Robina Town Centre. This was the "Children of War", the second book in the series on migrant experiences.

Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon was vibrant young woman, Sadaf (see photo 1). Besides being talented artistically, Sadaf holds a double degree from QUT and audits big business.



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Keynote speaker was Dr Amareswar Galla (photo 2) who is Professor of Museum Studies at the University of Qld. and an expert in sustainable heritage development. He is an international public speaker. Australia is a dynamic country, he said, benefiting from the presence of so many cultures and is truly a great place to live.



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Cieavash Arian entertained the gathering, playing the ancient bowed string instrument, the kamanche (photo 3). Traditionally the kamanche had three silk strings, the modern one has four metal strings. He also played the Persian flute (photo 4).



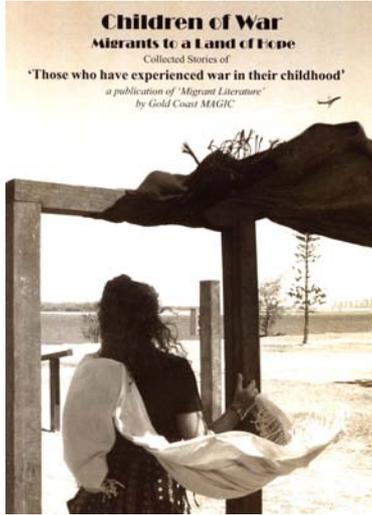
Editorial

How are you enjoying the new year? I do hope you are healthy and happy, planning how you can be more creative and get more out of life.



Many people attended the launch and were addressed by Nasrin and Chelsea.

Have you seen the recently launched MAGIC book "Children of War"?



Scene of the Community room at the Robina Library Dec. 19th.

Incredible stories of survival of our most vulnerable people, the children. As Tom Muller states in the preface, "The children of war are, perhaps, the most traumatized of all."

There are eight stories, set in different countries, experiencing different wars. I was born in Latvia and had the privilege to write one of the stories in the book, about the Latvian war child (photo, left). Aldona was a little girl when the Communists invaded Latvia. She escaped to Germany, only to experience Allied bombing and see the destruction of Dresden.



Some of the survivors in these stories were present at the book launch last month and we had the opportunity to meet them.

Left: Abraham who fled Venezuelan oppression.



This event was the last official one in MAGIC's calendar in 2009. The year 2010 promises to be an exciting year on the cultural and art stage – with the help of MAGIC! The next newsletter will outline some of the planned events.



The GC MAGIC committee has a new Treasurer this year – Amitis Mesgara, whose hobby and great source of happiness is painting. She is one of MAGIC's "Artists in Paradise".

Art is long, Life is short.

Hippocrates 460 BC -370 BC

*You're off to great places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So Get on your way!*

Dr Seuss 1904-91

I wish you a fabulous year.

Elga Kenins



President's Report for 2009

I have been honoured to be the President of Gold Coast *MAGIC* for 2009, it has been a great year, with many achievements.



The year began with a new management committee, and I would like to thank Mitra our Secretary and Miyuki our Treasurer for all their hard work. I would like to give special recognition to Nasrin, our dedicated Project Manager, for her tireless efforts! And finally I would like to thank and congratulate all of GC *MAGIC*'s group and individual members.

MAGIC is not only about providing a platform and opportunities for emerging and professional artists in the Gold Coast region, but it is about creating spaces for networking and building relationships.

2009 saw many accomplishments for Gold Coast *MAGIC*. In late 2008 we received a grant from Arts Queensland which supported the publication of the book which was launched on Saturday 19 December. The book is "Children of War: Migrants to a Land of Hope", and is the second within the series of 'Migrant Literature'. It highlights the stories of those who have migrated to Australia - specifically the Gold Coast, due to war in their regions. The central characters of the stories are people who directly experienced war in their childhood, or have been witnesses of the effect of war on their children.

Furthermore, we received funding for the Visual Artist Workshops and themed exhibition, for our collective: "Artists in Paradise". These workshops were highly successful and I am happy to announce that this project will continue into 2010. Recently, the Exhibition at the Robina Gallery was wonderfully received by all who attended the opening and who subsequently visited the Gallery.

Nasrin and I had a very successful meeting with Arts Queensland and although it was disappointing not to be successful in our s2m

application, we will receive \$25,000 from Arts Queensland towards administration costs for the organisation. I believe this will greatly benefit *MAGIC*, in that we will be able to more efficiently run the Tugan office and create a stronger presence within the community.

Another exciting project that the *MAGIC* team has been working on is the Children's Garden at the Gold Coast Botanical Gardens. *MAGIC* Artists have played a key role in designing this park and we all very much look forward to the results.

This year Nasrin and I have met with many key members of the cultural sector at both the Local and State Levels and I hope to continue these key links and connections in the future in order to bring *MAGIC* to the forefront of the cultural sector. These meetings have provided opportunities which we hope will come to fruition in 2010.

In terms of *MAGIC*'s presence and voice within the community, this year we have seen the GC *MAGIC* website have a complete overhaul, along with the publication of "Coast *MAGIC*", a regular newsletter which promotes the organisation, local artists and all things cultural on the Gold Coast.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I announce that Miyuki will retire as Treasurer, following an amazing year where she delivered many achievements for our organisation. Miyuki will continue to work with *MAGIC* as part of the Management Committee as a Committee Member.

Overall, it has been a very successful and innovative year for Gold Coast *MAGIC*, and the future has never looked so bright for the organisation! I would like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone who is not a member of *MAGIC* to join the *MAGIC* family so that you can take part in all the exciting endeavours we have in store for the future.

Phelsea Grouwell
(president)



Objectives of MAGIC:

- To promote and foster diversity through arts.
- To enhance public awareness and appreciation of cross-cultural arts and artistic productions.
- To integrate artists from diverse cultural backgrounds, promoting their interests and encouraging development.
- To create networking opportunities among artists from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- To exchange experiences and recognize newly arrived artists.

GC MAGIC is an open window to new ideas for harmony in the community through arts.



You are invited to join MAGIC and be part of the multicultural arts scene in 2010. Membership is only \$10 a year (or \$25 group membership) which will keep you informed of all the happenings and will give you discounts to RIOT art shops and at scheduled events (membership cards to be issued soon).

Remember “multicultural” means everyone. We all come from somewhere, from a multitude of backgrounds, each with something to offer to make us a well-balanced, harmonious Australia.

Membership application forms are available at events or by emailing MAGIC at **goldcoastmagic@bigpond.com**.

Web: **www.gcmagic.org.au**



The current GC MAGIC committee, holding some of the books published by MAGIC. From left: Chelsea Croawell (President), Amitis Mesgara (Treasurer), Farnoush Haeri (Committee member), Nasrin Vaziri (Project Manager), Mitra Hazini (Secretary) and Miyuki Muller (Committee member).