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Fighting for her dream

IN Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali's youth, it was very rare for women to hold high positions in any field. Even more so in the field of medicine.

This did not dissuade her from trying. Siti Hasmah became one of the first Malay women to enroll for a medical course at the King Edward VII College of Medicine in Singapore after World War II.

Siti Hasmah would later graduate from the Faculty of Medicine in University of Malaya in Singapore in 1955, and alongside Latifah Ghows and Salma Ismail, become a pioneer among women Malay doctors. She would also later marry former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Her remarkable story in medicine is now retold in a new children's picture book titled *Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali: The Accidental Doctor*, published by World Scientific Singapore.

The book is written by Eva Wong Nava with June Ho, with illustrations by Debasmita Dasgupta. It is part of the publisher's "Women Who Shaped Asia" series.

Discover the pioneer life of Tun Dr Siti Hasmah in a new children's book.

"This series aims not just to educate but also to motivate. These stories celebrate the amazing accomplishments of women from this region," read a statement by the publisher.

The book introduces readers to a young Siti Hasmah, who wants to be a journalist in a time when most girls did not go to school. It then follows her growing up, as she witnesses WWII, goes to university, and ends up in the public spotlight.

Authors Wong and Ho, who received input from interviews with Siti Hasmah, said this book is about inspiring young readers to chase their dreams despite the odds.

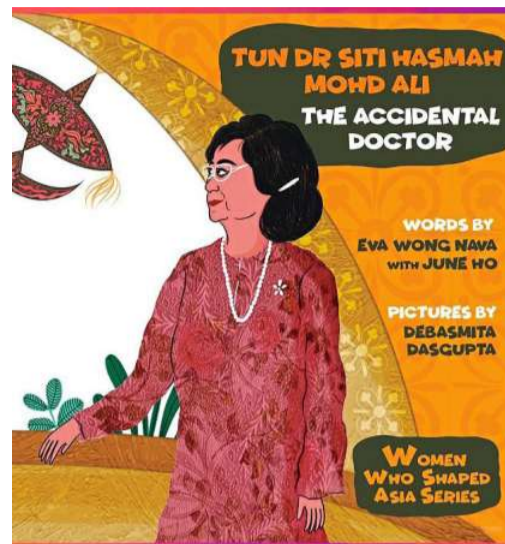
"We did agree that we want our young readers to not just read and enjoy Tun Siti's story, we want them to learn and be inspired, to imagine and to think," said Ho.

"The book also has a variety of activities (for readers) that range from simple to challenging. Readers can choose to read on their own, or parents and educators can also read it with the young ones to engage them in more meaningful conversations," she added.

Artist Debasmita said she hopes this book will inspire readers to go on and do great things.

"Changemakers like Tun Siti give voice to the voiceless. Her presence gives us hope and like every positive story, has the power to create another. Children will draw inspiration from her story and understand that we are not defined by our name, age, gender, race, or qualifications," said Debasmita.

"Instead we will always be remembered for our courage, resilience and selfless contributions to the world," she added.



A new children's book titled *Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali: The Accidental Doctor* introduces young readers to an Asian female pioneer and how she followed her dreams to study medicine. — Handout

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Gallery Weekend KL returns

THE Gallery Weekend Kuala Lumpur (GWKL) returns for its fifth edition, now with a mix of virtual events and on-site programmes.

This annual cultural event, set up in 2016 by Shalini Ganendra, director of Shalini Ganendra Fine Art, serves to provide insights into Malaysian art and culture through a series of multi-disciplinary programmes.

"GWKL makes encounters with culture fun and accessible for all groups. There is something for

everyone. The student, collector, culture vulture, general audiences, artists ... everyone," says Shalini.

She says Malaysians can have a glimpse of the different cultural aspects in the country through this event, which features art, design, curating and art practices.

The GWKL 2020 will run from Nov 26 till Dec 6, with over 30 exhibitions, gallery tours and webinars.

"You can expect local talents being showcased by galleries, independent

projects, open studios, public and private collections, as well as the famed Luminary programme," says Shalini.

She adds that in light of the pandemic, many of GWKL's offerings will primarily be virtual events, with physical groupings if they are permitted in due course.

"We see this as an opportunity to widen our international outreach. For the first time ever, the Luminary talks will be held as webinars, enabling global participation."

The panel of Luminaries features top curators, gallerists, artists and educators. It is one of the event's highlights every year.

This year's Luminary programme surrounds itself with themes of adaptation and change, with sessions titled *Balancing The Biennials, Reconnecting, Museum And Gallery Developments, Creating And Curating In This New Normal* and *Young Collectors And New Collections*.

This year's line-up will include

Patrick Flores (renowned curator), Aaron Seeto (director of The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara), Wanda Nanibush (curator of Indigenous Art at Art Gallery Toronto), Shabbir Hussain Mustafa (senior curator of National Gallery Singapore and Singapore Art Museum) and others.

A virtual programme from Galeri Petronas, a print exhibition by G13 Gallery and tours at the National Textiles Museum in KL have been confirmed. Other programmes are still in development.

For more information, visit www.gw-kl.com.



BUON APPETITO! GET A HEALTHY BITE OF ITALY

Italian food fair a showcase of the best

ACCORDING to some sources, the oldest cookbook in the world may well date back to the Roman Empire, confirming that Italians have long had a love affair with food.

And chances are that those traditional culinary influences have lingered among its people.

How else can you explain why the Italians have such an amazing array of exquisite regional dishes, all of which aren't just delicious but healthy too?

What makes Italian food a healthy option?

A giant portion of top

quality, fresh ingredients, a spoonful of simplicity, a dash of taste that lingers, and a large dose of passion!

Italian meals are, in fact, some of the healthiest because they are made with simple and natural ingredients, such as garlic, olive oil, tomatoes, green vegetables and whole grains.

Need proof? The saturated fats in olive oil help regulate your cholesterol levels; tomatoes are a great source of Vitamin C and Vitamin K, as well as fibre; and garlic has both antibiotic and antifungal properties.

If you are one of the millions of people who love Italian food, then you're in for a treat from now till Oct 4, as the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) brings you the Authentic Italian Food Excellence roadshow, featuring some of its best made-in-Italy food products.

In collaboration with Jaya Grocer, Global Pacific Victory (M) Sdn Bhd and Euro-Atlantic Sdn Bhd, the Eat Healthy, Taste Italy fair will take place at the Atrium on the ground floor of Intermark Mall in Kuala Lumpur and is set to be *delizioso!*

ITA invites you to create the vibrant colours and flavours of Italy on your own table, with the best traditional ingredients including olive oil, pasta, cheeses and ground coffee plus new selec-

tions like chocolates and confectionaries, along with specialised fresh produce.

There will be lots of new products to savour as well, including canned food, dry ingredients, vegetables and fruits such as cactus fig and fennel from Italy, which you can purchase as well as sample at the fair, so come prepared to indulge.

What's best about Italian food is that though it is incredibly diverse, there is always an emphasis on fresh, local ingredients.

And the fair hopes to raise awareness and educate people about authentic Italian food – for example, how to differentiate parmesan cheese (a generic term) from Parmigiano-Reggiano which is made only in its area of origin, is 100% natural with no additives or preservatives, is lactose-free and good for any age.

Promoting and encouraging consumption of made in Italy gourmet products is one of the main priorities of ITA, bringing the quintessential of *Vivere all'Italia* concept to the Malaysian market.

For the Week of Authentic Italian Food Excellence 2020, ITA will strive to highlight the authenticity, traceability, quality control and certifications of Italian products, to educate Malaysian consumers to make informed purchases.

To further entice customers, there will be a "spend and win" contest during the promotional period.

Participants stand to win up to RM2,000 worth of Italian products, one-night stay at Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur as well as cash vouchers to the Favola Italian Restaurant.