

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY NUSS PRESIDENT, MR EDDIE LEE
AT JAZZ AT THE GUILD: THE CURTAIN FALLS
17 FEBRUARY 2017, FRIDAY, AT 7:00 PM
BUKIT TIMAH GUILD HOUSE, THE ALFRESCO**

Good evening
Fellow members and
Distinguished guests

A warm welcome to Bukit Timah Guild House. If this is your first time here, it may also be your last as Bukit Timah Guild House will be ceasing operations on 28 February.

Last week my daughter, who is a first-year FASS student, came home after a New Year gathering with her Primary School mates and commented it being so nostalgic – and here I was thinking that nostalgia was only meant for seniors and not youths.

Just like this place, I was here 40 years ago doing my first year of law school. Like many of you, we have fond memories especially of the people we have met here who have become lifelong friends and for some, life partners. Thus, the Society was excited when it was announced in 2008 that Bukit Timah Campus was to be returned to NUS.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the past presidents, Lai Kim Seng, Johnny Tan and Chandra Mohan for working so hard in obtaining the lease, as well as the renovation and restoration of this guild house.

We were awarded the Heritage Architectural Awards by URA and on the latter's website, it describes this guild house as

"Built in the late 1920s, this two-storey Art Deco bungalow was once used to house the teaching staff of the former Raffles College. It has been meticulously cajoled back to life and transformed into an elegant and exclusive alumni Clubhouse known as the Bukit Timah Guild House".

I also wish to thank the donors for making all this possible.

It is a pity and we are all so sad that the lease could not be extended due to the requirements of UNESCO but it has been 8 good years and the sweet memories will stay with us for a very long time.

With God's blessings and the efforts of some individuals, we hope to find a suitable replacement.

I wish to thank Dr Tony Makarome and the students from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music for the wonderful programme you have in store for us this evening, and I am sure all of us will have an enjoyable and enchanting evening.

Thank you.