




*Humans Of
AmCham*

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Humans of AmCham Issue 03 with Mrs. Eloisa Klecheski

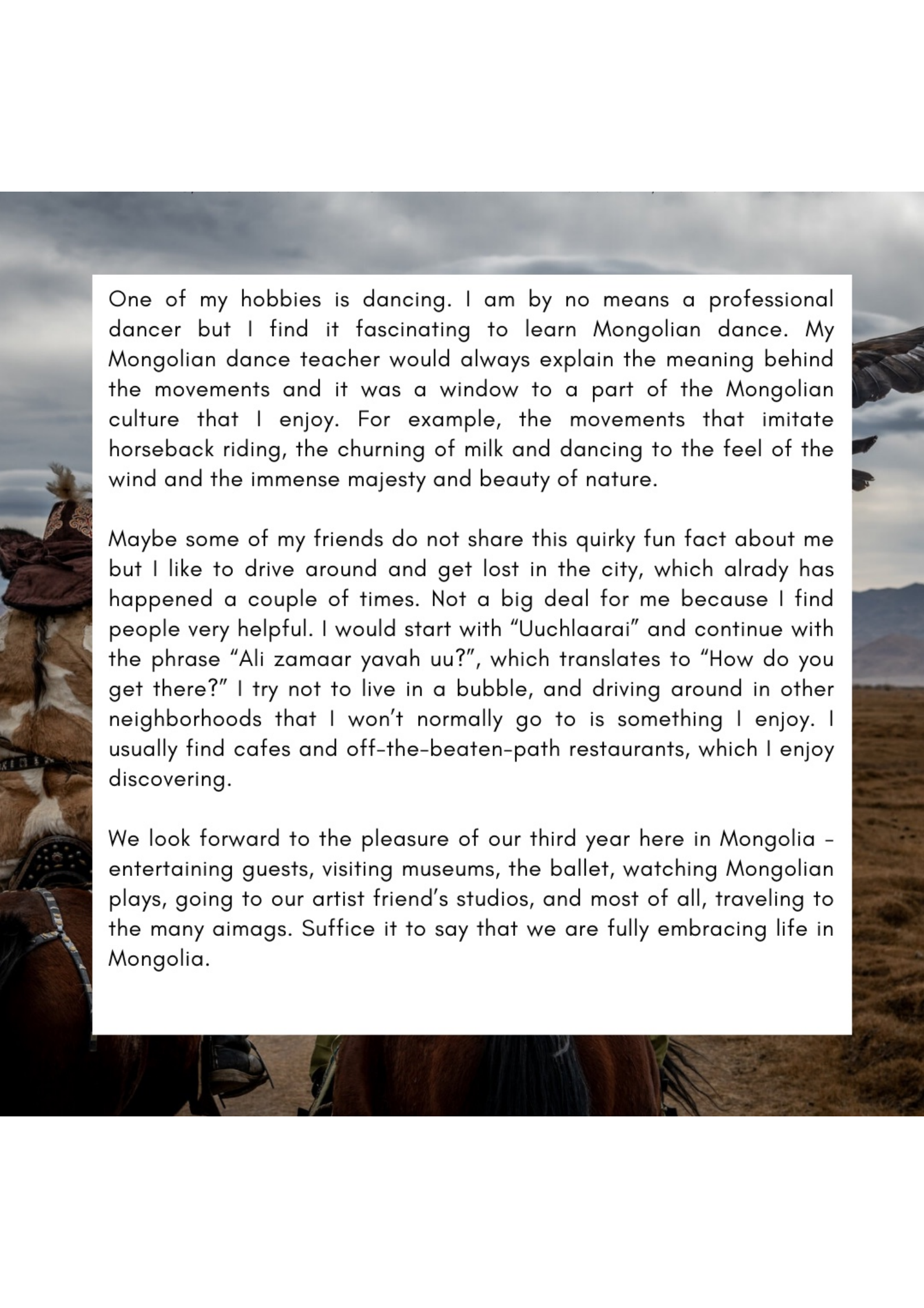
Our first foreign post was Russia, which we called home for 11 years. Other “homes” included Poland, Kazakhstan, the Philippines and Switzerland. We have three adult kids, and like us, they were very excited to learn that our next home will be Mongolia! It is another opportunity to learn about a new country, its culture, history, food and people.

For me, at the end of the day, it’s the people-to-people encounters that make the most impact. All three of our children visited Mongolia during our first year here, were left with lasting impressions and are planning to come back hopefully this year.

I feel at home in Mongolia. We Filipinos have a lot of similar aspects in our culture, such as the closeness within families, the respect for our elders, and that whenever we get together there is always an abundance of food. Also, I was raised in a matriarchal society, so I fit right in. I always get the comment, “Mrs. Klecheski, you must be Mongolian!”, for things as simple as wearing a deel. I feel it comes from the heart; we are loving our life here and getting to know the people and the country. We hope we can travel again outside Ulaanbaatar soon.



Ambassador Michael S. Klecheski and
his wife Eloisa



One of my hobbies is dancing. I am by no means a professional dancer but I find it fascinating to learn Mongolian dance. My Mongolian dance teacher would always explain the meaning behind the movements and it was a window to a part of the Mongolian culture that I enjoy. For example, the movements that imitate horseback riding, the churning of milk and dancing to the feel of the wind and the immense majesty and beauty of nature.

Maybe some of my friends do not share this quirky fun fact about me but I like to drive around and get lost in the city, which already has happened a couple of times. Not a big deal for me because I find people very helpful. I would start with "Uuchlaarai" and continue with the phrase "Ali zamaar yavah uu?", which translates to "How do you get there?" I try not to live in a bubble, and driving around in other neighborhoods that I won't normally go to is something I enjoy. I usually find cafes and off-the-beaten-path restaurants, which I enjoy discovering.

We look forward to the pleasure of our third year here in Mongolia - entertaining guests, visiting museums, the ballet, watching Mongolian plays, going to our artist friend's studios, and most of all, traveling to the many aimags. Suffice it to say that we are fully embracing life in Mongolia.