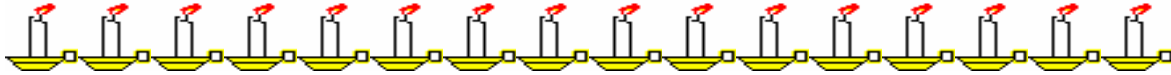




# Newsletter

## Burmese American Association of Texas

November 2006



### BAAT CELEBRATES THIDINGYUT/TAZAUNGDIENE FESTIVAL

#### Message from the President

**BAAT Officers (2006)**

**U Myo Aye Thane**  
*President*  
281-565-0364

**U Robert Chan**  
*VP Finance*  
281-242-8915

**Daw San San Myint**  
*VP Social*  
281-530-1898

**U Maung Maung Lay**  
*VP Community Affairs*  
713-291-1122

**Daw Thant Zin Han**  
*Secretary*  
831-633-9598

**Daw Sylvia Hom**  
*Treasurer*  
832-818-2986

**U Htin Aung Win**  
*VP Dallas*  
817-292-3969

**Daw Wah Wah Myint**  
*VP Austin*  
512-451-2348

**Dr. Tin Aung Hla**  
*VP San Antonio*  
210-490-0519

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**Please contact any officers above if you have any inquiries or business communication concerning the Burmese community.**

Dear Members and Friends:

Happy Holidays! This time of the year, everybody is excited about the upcoming holidays which are around the corner. In the United States, we have Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year to celebrate. In Burma, we traditionally have Thidingyut and Tazaungdine which are known as lighting festivals as well. In Texas, BAAT has been holding this celebration formally in November since 1986. This year the celebration will be held on November 4, 2006. I would like to cordially invite each and every one of you, BAAT's members and friends, to our gathering.

This year's entertainment will be special. We are bringing back Burmese comedian Ko Yin Htwe by popular demand. Ko Yin Htwe had entertained us twice in Houston already. We had overwhelming response both times. This time around it will be more special. We will also have two famous "guest" entertainers who are residing in Texas. They are our own famous entertainer May Sweet and her mother, Academy Daw Myint Myint Khin.

We have had two BAAT events already this year. One was in February for our Union Day event, and another was in April for our New Year, Thingyan event. Both events were extremely successful with great turnouts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members and friends, especially the working committee and food committee for making those impossible events possible. We will also have three events in the year 2007 as well with your continuing support. We will have the Union Day event, the Thingyan event, and the Tazaungdine event.

But, first things first, we have this November 4 gathering to participate and celebrate. I hope to see all of you there without fail.

Sincerely,

Myo Aye Thane  
President 2006



#### Invitation

BAAT's annual Thidingyut/Tazaungdine/Thanksgiving party will be held at the Sugar Land Community Center on Saturday, November 4, 2006. BAAT has special entertainment lined up featuring **Ko Yin Htwe** with special guest stars, **May Sweet** and **Daw Myint Myint Khin**. You and your family are cordially invited to join us for an evening of fun, great food, music, and fellowship. Bring your friends along to share the fun.

**WHEN:** *Saturday, November 4, 2006 (5:00 PM to 10:45 PM)*  
**WHERE:** *Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land, TX 77478*

Please see map for location. If you need further assistance, please call, Ko Myo Aye Thane (281-565-0364), Ko Stephen Yoe (832-452-5757), Ko Shwe (713-447-0438) or Ko Robert Chan (281- 645-6354).

**Driving Directions:**

Sugar Land Community Center  
226 Matlage Way  
Sugar Land, TX, 77478-3272

(See map on the last page to give you a sense of general location. The Sugar Land Community Center is right across from US Postal Service Office)

From Downtown to 59 South	Miles
Drive US 59 South till US 90 ALT Stafford exit	
Exit onto US 90 ALT West	2.2
Turn LEFT onto BROOKS Street	.06
Turn RIGHT onto GUENTHER Street	.04
Turn LEFT onto MATLAGE Way	.02

From I-10 to Hwy 6 South	Miles
Drive Hwy 6 South to US 90 ALT	
Turn LEFT onto US 90 ALT East	1.0
Turn RIGHT onto BROOKS Street	.06
Turn RIGHT onto GUENTHER Street	.04
Turn LEFT onto MATLAGE Way	.02

**Accommodations:** Below is a list of closest hotels from the Sugar Land Community Center for those out-of-townners who want to stay overnight:

Hotel	Distance
<b>Drury Inns</b> 12770 Southwest Fwy; Sugar Land, TX 77478 (281) 277-9700	1.2 miles
<b>Marriott Sugar Land Town Square</b> 16090 City Walk; Sugar Land, TX 77479 (281) 275-8400	1.8 miles
<b>Comfort Suites</b> 4820 Technipler Dr; Stafford, TX 77477 (281) 565-5566	3.3 miles
<b>La Quinta</b> 12727 Southwest Fwy; Stafford, TX 77477 (281) 240-2300	3.5 miles

**Schedule of Events:**

Member/Guest Registration	5:00 - 6:00 PM
Dinner	6:00 – 7:30
BAAT Inaugural Ceremony	7:30 – 7:45
Musical Entertainment	7:45 - 9:00
Raffle Drawing & Door Prizes	9:00 – 9:15
Traditional Burmese Dance w/ comedian	9:15 – 10:40
Clean-up Time	10:40 PM

**Dinner:** Along with sweet deserts, there will be many main dishes such as Mohingha, vegetable dishes, chicken curry, beef curry, and many more. We'd also like to encourage each family to bring your home-baked or favorite sweet desserts to the event to share with fellow members.

**Entertainment:**

There will be an admission fee of \$ 7.00 per person. Children under and up to the age of 12 are waived from the admission fee. Please note that BAAT is presenting a great entertainment program featuring Burmese comedian *Ko Yin Htwe* with guest stars *May Sweet* and *Daw Mynit Myint Khin* in musical session.

**Door Prizes:** Who knows? You may walk away with BAAT's FREE GIVEAWY grand door prizes: COOL CASH. Just be there at the event to be a lucky winner.

**Raffle Drawing:** Raffle tickets will be sold at the event. Please try your luck to have fun.

**BAAT Membership Dues:** Members are not required to pay past dues for the years before 2005. Dues may also be sent directly to our VP – Finance, Ko Robert Chan by making **check payable to BAAT.**

*Robert Chan*  
165 N. Hall Drive  
Sugar Land, TX 77478

**Family - \$25.00      Singles - \$10.00**

**Keep Us Posted:** BAAT encourages all members to inform one of its EC members or Board of Directors of any solemn occasion so that we all could pray and share the profound loss with the family in grief. Also please keep BAAT informed of any achievements or success stories of our member(s) so that BAAT could proudly congratulate the individual(s) for their accomplishments.

**Formation of a special "Resettlement" committee**

BAAT is proud to announce the formation of a special "Resettlement" committee which will be lead by Ko Shwe Tun Aung. The primary objective of this committee is to help the new comers to Houston overcome the difficulties they face in establishing themselves in a new environment.

BAAT encourages the members and friends to help the committee in any way you can. Presently, the committee is in need of clothing for all ages and small kitchen appliances. Please contact Ko Shwe Tun Aung at shwegyi@hotmail.com or 713 447 0438 if you have any article to donate. If you have substantial donation items, one of the committee members will even come and pick up.

**WHY ASSET PROTECTION?**

Living in a land of opportunities, we are in fact living in an environment where anyone can sue anyone for anything anytime. The United States has 70% of the world lawyers, who are fiercely competing for clients. Every year, over 80 million lawsuits are filed – basically an average of 150 lawsuits per minute. As opposed to behaving like an ostrich sticking its head in the sand and praying, it is advisable to be pro-actively seeking ways to minimize our exposure to lawsuits. That's where asset protection comes into play. Asset protection is the positioning of assets to make them less

likely to be reached by predators, but handily available for your financial goals and needs. Here are lawsuit and asset protection principles: 1. Minimize risks; 2. Appear broke; 3. Control your assets while hiding ownership. As with Principle #1, you may think I must be Don Quixote. Minimize risks? No brainer. Well, I have no iota of intention to insult your intelligence -- but just simply think about ways that you can minimize risks on what you do daily -- the way you talk, the way you walk, the way you drink, the way you think, the way you drive, ... , etc by watching your ways around. Those risk-minimizing systems that you put in place will make you conduct your affairs in a judicious manner, and thereby reducing your risk of exposing yourselves to lawsuits.

Other two principles are more of asset protection strategies. Lawyers work on a fixed or hourly or contingent fee basis. Their chances of getting paid are highly correlated to how much they can win in a lawsuit. So lawyers prefer to sue someone with deep pockets. Who would sue a homeless after sensing a maximum settlement one could get? A cartful of aluminum cans at best for a lawyer in luck? So "appear broke" and "control but don't own" principle will help ward off a lot of frivolous lawsuits coming your way! "Appear broke" means you don't want to attach your name to the assets that you own because lawyers prey on your assets under a magnifying glass. The harder for lawyers to locate your assets, the less likely you will get sued. In other words, hide your assets in a legal way that you are still in control of your assets legally. I am not encouraging or necessitating illegal acts such as perjury or concealment of assets in violation of law. The law itself recognizes asset protection. Here are some steps you may consider: putting your real estate in land trust; creating irrevocable trust, QPRT (qualified personal residence trust) or offshore trust; creating your own liens; claiming homestead exemptions; setting up proper legal entities such as LLC, LP, etc for lawsuit and liability insulation; etc, just to name a few.

Again, I am not giving you legal or tax advice. It is just a food for thought for you to explore a plethora of ways to protect yourself. It's your hard-earned money – should equally be hard-armored if you will. It is advisable to consult with your Lawyers, accountants, financial planners, etc. However, your first line of defense is to educate yourselves – you know that ignorance is not an excuse. I always hold this saying close to my heart: he who does not read has no advantage over he who cannot read! Need an edge? Read – make it a hobby. Wish you best of luck in creating and preserving wealth.

**Stephen Yoe, CPA**

## *In Memoriam*

BAAT was saddened to learn the recent passing of the loved ones of some of our members. All of us here at BAAT extend our most heartfelt condolences to those who have experienced such a profound loss. Please remember that our hearts, prayers and thoughts are with you at this most difficult time.

- Daw Thaug Myint, beloved wife of Dr. Fred Teoh, mother of Alfred, Wilfred, Michael, Patrick and Franklin Teoh, sister-in-law of U David, Daw Helen, U Edward, Daw Khin Thein Yee passed away in Yangon.
- U Chung, beloved father of Lai Za Nawl, brother of Sung Mang and brother in law of Rev. Thong Kho Lun passed away in Hak-ka.
- Daw Thin beloved mother of Paul Lim and Nwe Ni Aye of Austin passed away in Yangon.



BAAT greatly appreciates your time, efforts, support, contributions, delicious food items and assistance with the setup and cleanup before and after the event. BAAT wishes to thank all of you such as members, board members and EC members in advance and beseech you for your collaborative efforts for the future events. Thank you all for your contributions, large or small.

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## **Election Time!!!**

It is that time again, our annual election !!!

The Board of Directors has nominated a slate of candidates for all of you to vote on November 4, 2006 at BAAT annual party. Each due-paying family member is entitled to have two ballots, and each due-paying single member, one ballot. One side of the ballot will bear the names of all the nominated candidates and the other side will have the space for the write-in candidates. The Ballot Box will be closed at 7:30 PM, and the result will be announced immediately. Then, the discharging and installation of the new officers will follow. Please register at the entrance to vote. Make your voice heard.

If you know any individuals who are willing and able to contribute their time and energy to this association, please inform Norman Wong (Election Committee) 713-777-7600 to be on the ballot.

### **Nominated EC Members for 2006-2007**

Candidate Names	Position
U Myo Aye Thane	President
U Robert Chan	VP - Executive
Daw San San Myint	VP - Social
U Maung Maung Lay	VP – Community Affairs
U James Yoe	Secretary
Daw Sylvia Hom	Treasurer
U Htin Aung Win	VP – Dallas/Fort Worth
Daw Wah Wah Myint	VP – Austin
Dr. Tin Aung Hla	VP – San Antonio
U Shwe Tun Aung	VP - Resettlement Committee





**Burmese American Association of Texas**  
 C/O Myo Aye Thane  
 12826 Stancliff Oaks St.  
 Sugar Land, TX. 77478

**\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\***

*BAAT was incorporated with the mission to promote friendship, cooperation, and entertainment among Burmese Nationals, people of Burmese descent, and friends of Burma. BAAT's activities are conducted primarily for the benefit of its members. BAAT and its officers and members take no responsibility and will not be held responsible for any injuries or any liability that may occur during its events, howsoever caused. All participants should exercise utmost care and participate in its events at your own risk.*