

# Newsletter

Burmese American Association of Texas

April 2007

[www.baatx.org](http://www.baatx.org)

## Message from the President

**Dear Members and Friends,**

First, I would like to wish you a Happy Burmese New Year! This is the time for our favorite gathering of the year, **Thingyan**! I am sure those of us who had participated in Thingyan back in Burma remember the joyous days. For the younger generation, who has not had the opportunity to see Thingyan in Burma, they can recall BAAT's Thingyan gathering as where they've enjoyed various authentic Burmese dances and Burmese dishes, played outdoor games, and splashed water at one another.

This year's BAAT Thingyan coincides with the real Thingyan day on Burmese Calendar since we are celebrating on April 14, 2007. Hence, we will get the essence of true Thingyan Spirit as Burmese people from Myanmar and around the world celebrates on the same day.

Our last gathering in February, for Union Day, was very successful. Thanks to everyone's hard work, we all enjoyed plenty of Burmese food and entertainment by Tint Tint Tun. I would also like to thank our event sponsors who donated money and all the people who purchased tickets. Your continuing support is vital to the success of BAAT. After this Thingyan gathering, we are planning on having a big **Thazaungdine** party on November 17, 2007 (Saturday) 5 -11 PM at Tracy Gee Center. BAAT will keep you informed in advance.

But, now is the time to celebrate our New Year, Thingyan! I would like to invite all of you, your family, and your friends to our celebration of Thingyan. I hope to see you all there.

Happy New Year!

**Yours truly,**

**Myo Aye Thane  
President, 2007**

### BAAT Officers (2007)

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

U James Yoe

*Secretary*

832-265-3400

Daw Thant Zin Han

*Treasurer*

832-633-9598

U Shwe Tun Aung

*Resettlement Committee*

713-447-0438

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



## Invitation

BAAT's annual Thingyan Picnic will be held at Bear Creek Park on Saturday, April 14, 2007. You and your family are cordially invited to join us for a day of fun, sun, great food, music, fellowship and of course, splashes. Bring your friends along to share the fun. Please bring extra clothing if you are going to participate in water throwing event.

**When:** April 14, 2007 (Saturday) 10:30 am - 6:00 pm

**Place:** Bear Creek Park, Pavilion #5. Please see map for location. If you need further assistance, please call Ko Myo Aye Thane (281) 221-6255; Ma Thant Zin Han (832)-633-9598; Ko Stephen Yoe (832) 452-5757.

**Directions:** From **Belt Way 8**, exit Clay Rd and go west (towards High-way 6) for about 4 to 5 miles. Pass Eldridge Road and War Memorial Drive. Turn left on Bear Creek Drive into Bear Creek Park. From **High-way 6**, turn right on Clay Rd and go east. Turn Right again on Bear Creek Drive into Bear Creek Park. Please see the map for further clarification.

may also be sent directly to our VP – Finance, Ko Robert Chan by making **check payable to:**

**BAAT**  
**c/o Robert Chan**  
**165 N. Hall Drive**  
**Sugar Land, TX 77478**

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

**Schedule of Events:**

Member/guest arrival & registration	10:30 AM
Potluck lunch	11:45-1:15 PM
Welcoming Speech and Announcements	1:15-1:30 PM
Auction	1:30-2:15 PM
Picnic Games (Egg Toss, 3-Leg Race, Piñata, Htoat-Si, Chinlone, etc...)	2:15-3:30 PM
Afternoon tea break	3:30 PM
More Games	3:30-4:30 PM
Water Throwing Event	4:30-5:30 PM
Clean-up time	5:30-6:00 PM

**Official Announcements:**

At the picnic, please stop by at the registration desk first to pick up your **nametags** and review your **contact information** for accuracy while paying your membership dues. If you moved recently, please update your mailing address, phone number and e-mail address. Having your current contact information enables BAAT to keep you informed with the latest developments in our association.

This year's emphasis will be outdoor games. BAAT encourages you and your children to participate in the games of your selecting. However, please use your best judgment in selecting the games for BAAT or its officers are not liable for any injuries before or after the games.

**Auction:** Auction will be held after the lunch break. If you would like to participate in the auction, please bring your items to the picnic. Participants have a choice of getting cost reimbursed from BAAT or donating the proceeds to BAAT. U Norman Wong, U Maung Maung Lay, and U Than Shwe will be organizing the auction.

**Suggestions on Water Throwing:** (1) Please maintain and show the highest level of courtesy and consideration for others in throwing water. Considering a potential liability for injury, NO WATER BALLOONS will be allowed. (2) Please do not throw water at people who stay inside the pavilion or anyone earnestly requesting not to do so. Please understand and respect the needs of one another at the picnic. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**Books and Tapes Sale:** A variety of Burmese magazines, novels and tapes will be on sale with reasonable prices. (These books and tapes are compliments of our active member, Kathleen Sebecke (Ma Nwe) and Bruce. BAAT thanks Ma Nwe and Ko Bruce for donating books to BAAT for a number of years.)

**Lunch:** Lunch will be a **potluck lunch**. Please bring your favorite dish for **10 to 15 servings** to share your excellent cooking with friends. BAAT will provide steamed white rice, drinks, afternoon tea, snacks, cups and plastic ware. If you need idea on what to bring, please contact Daw Thet Thet Win (281-277-0433), Daw San San Myint (281-530-1898), and Daw Rodica Shwe (281-879-9281). **Friends of BAAT members and those who cannot bring food can enjoy lunch with us for \$5.00 per person.**

**BAAT Membership Dues:** Annual Membership Dues will be collected at the picnic. For those who have not paid membership dues for 2006, you will have the opportunity to pay them to reinstate your membership. Members are not required to pay past dues for the years before 2007. Dues



**Golfers from 2006 BAAT Golf Classic**

## Dialogue with Tha-Gyar-Min

His Reverence, Tha-Gyar –Min normally will not grant an interview to any journalist of any standing. However, little known housewife-turned-paparazzi Angel Tin Mar Lwin/Ma Zin utilized a strategy and all her charms to strike a conversation with him at Domain, the newest upscale shopping center in Austin.

**Ma Zin (MZ):** What brings you here, Your Reverence?

**His Reverence Thagyarmin (HRT):** During a brief hiatus of my Thingyan tour of USA, I'm stopping over in Austin. I read in Good Fortune 1500 of Austin being 1 of the top 10 cities in the US to live in. I'm shopping for gifts to take home for my better half.

**MZ:** What have you bought so far?

**HRT:** Chanel perfume, Estee Lauder cosmetics and Prada handbags. But man, I can't buy the whole list when things are sooo expensive. At the exchange rate of \$1=Ks.1275, it's impossible to buy the entire Neiman-Marcus store even for a Thagyarmin. About those designer jeans, they're too tight for my liking anyway. I got myself a pair of cowboy boots though.

**MZ:** Is this your first trip to the US?

**HRT:** Of course not. This is my third. In 2005 alone there were 5 of my honored Thingyan presence in 5 major cities.

**MZ:** (in awe)5 Thingyans?

**HRT:** Yes, child. So far this year, I've been to Thingyan in San Francisco last month. I'll be in Houston in April, Austin in May and New York in July to say nothing of events hosted by Burmese doctors in New York, LA and Toronto. No more need for my time-weary excuse about forgetting my pipe. Ha Ha!

**MZ:** Exactly what is your opinion regarding these events?

**HRT:** It's incredible how everybody tries to make the festivities as authentic as it is back home. Yes, all the music, dancing, glorious food. Tradition is pretty much alive and I'm happy about that.

**MZ:** How do you like American food?

**HRT:** Ooh, I love Ben&Jerry's ice cream. Starbucks coffee is good with Crispy Crème donuts. But I do miss my consort's cooking. And Dr.Ziwaka often warned me to keep carbs and fats in moderation.

**MZ:** Oh Sir, life is not just all about calories and cholesterol. It's OK to indulge in once in a while. By the way, where are the toys and candy for the kids?

**HRT:** Child, I'm not Santa's third cousin, you know and surely, the Easter bunny will bring all

the candy they can ever want! I wish you all Burmese folks all the best of health and happiness for the coming year. Be good, children. Show love and compassion towards all living beings and do make the world a better place. Ciao! Just e-mail or text-message me if more interviews are needed. Metta infinitum.

**MZ:** Thanks, Your Reverence. Mingala Ba.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual BAAT Golf Classic

**We will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual BAAT Golf Classic on Saturday April 28, 2007, at Sharpstown Golf Course. Fee is \$35 per player. SIGN UP NOW!**

### Four Man Scramble:

**All four golfers will hit from the tee. As a group, you will select the shot you like best, pick up the other 3 balls, and all hit from the same spot. You will continue this process until your ball is in the cup (No Gimmees). You must use at least 2 tee shots from each golfer on your team.**

### Official Rule:

- **You may hit from within one club length, no closer to the hole, of the ball you choose (except putting). NOTE: You can not use the 'one club length' to gain relief from a hazard.**
- **Putting must be done from the same spot.**
- **Follow the posted rules of the golf course, including all posted O.B. areas.**
- **Men will hit from the WHITE TEES, and women will hit from the standard Ladies'(RED) Tee.**

### Team Price:

**A surprise 1<sup>st</sup> price will be given to the lowest stroke team**

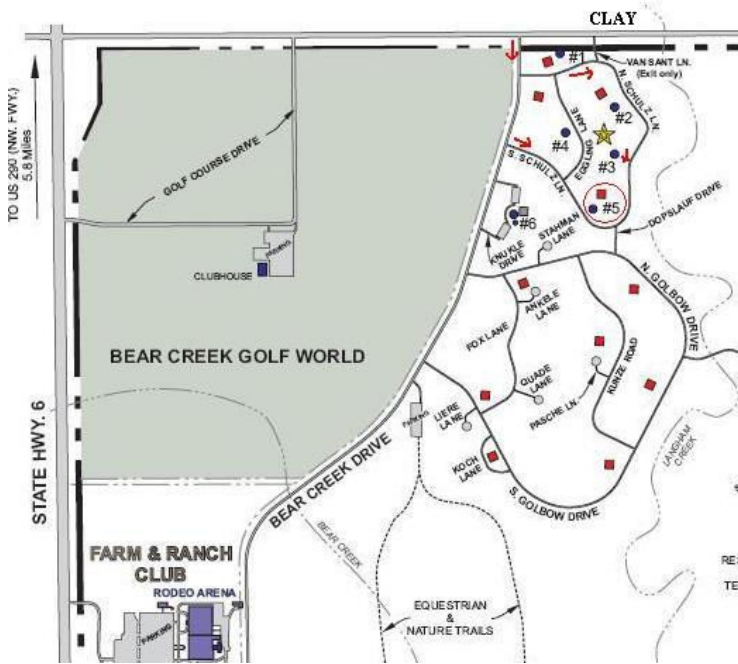
Call Sammy Thane (713-516-1768) for more information. There will be sign up sheet at the picnic.

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### 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.

- U Khin Aung Hla (Retired Captain Burma Air Force- Age 77) – the beloved father of our former BAAT president Daw Aye Aye Kyi
- Daw Sein Hla (Age 79) - the beloved mother of our active member Ko Saw Aung and Ma Thandar of Dallas, Texas.



**Burmese American Association of Texas**

c/o Myo A Thane  
 12826 Stancliff Oaks Street  
 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.*