

Newsletter

Burmese American Association of Texas

February 2007

ပြည်ထောင်စုနေ့ အထိမ်းအမှတ်

Message from the President

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 - Daw Wah Wah Myint**
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Visit us at www.baatx.org

Dear Members and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to greet you for the first time in the year 2007. I wish all our members and friends to be successful at whatever you are doing or plan to do in 2007 and beyond. 2006 was a successful year for BAAT. Not only did we get together for three times, but also we successfully formed BAAT resettlement committee to help people of Burma origin to settle in Houston and surrounding areas.

Celebration of the Union Day Event has become a tradition for BAAT. I cannot think of more appropriate day to celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of our people. No matter how we are diverse, we have the same goal to promote friendship and culture to Burmese and non-Burmese alike. After all, BAAT was founded on these ideas.

We have members from Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Mon, Myanmar, Rakine, Shan, Burma born Chinese origin and Burma born Indian or Pakistani origin and others. Our unity is stronger than ever. We will need to continue staying this way and pave the road for our children.

This year's Union Day Event is nothing short of extraordinary. BAAT managed to invite visiting famous actress/singer from Burma, **Tint Tint Tun** to Houston, Texas. Ma Tint has been to the United States for four times and this is her first time to Houston, Texas.

On the same note, I would like to cordially invite you to attend our first gathering of the year on February 10, 2007. We are going to have a great time.

Yours truly,

Myo Aye Thane
President, 2007



Invitation

BAAT's annual Union Day Event will be held at the Tracy Gee Center on Saturday, February 10, 2007. 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. We encourage you to wear traditional attires.

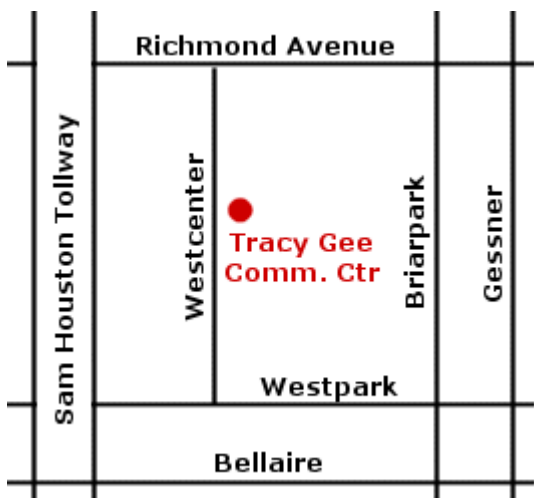
- When:** February 10, 2007 (5:30 PM to 10:30 PM)
- Place:** **Tracy Gee Community Center**, 3599 Westcenter, Houston, Texas 77077. Phone: 713-266-8193
Please see the map above for directions and location. If you need further assistance, please call Ko Myo Aye Thane 281-221-6255; Ma Thant Zin Han 832-633-9598; Ko James Yoe 832-265-3400.

Driving Directions:

If coming from the south or south west Houston, come to Beltway 8 North (Sam Houston Toll Way) and Westpark junction. Turn right and go east on Westpark. Turn left onto Westcenter Drive. The center is on the right.

If coming from the north or north west Houston come to Beltway 8 South (Sam Houston Toll Way) and Richmond junction. Turn left and go east on Richmond. Turn right onto Westcenter Drive. The center is on the left.

The Map of the Tracy Gee Center



Dinner:

There will be a variety of food items such as Mote Hin Khar, Chicken Curry, Egg Curry, Mix Vegetarian Dish, Seafood Fried Noodles, Fried Rice, Samosa, Indian Tea, and many dessert items. Due to time constraints, dinner will not be served after 7:30 PM. We'd like to encourage each family to bring your home-baked or favorite desserts to share with other members. Please come early, but do not forget to bring your big appetite to help yourselves.

Entertainment:

BAAT is presenting once in a lifetime event featuring famous actress/singer *Tint Tint Tun* who is visiting the United States for a short time.

There will be an **admission fee of \$ 10.00 per person.** Children under and up to the age of 12 are waived from the admission fee. Also free admission for people of Burma origin who has been in the United States for less than 6 months.

The entertainment program of the night will be as follows:

Schedule of Events:

Member/Guest Registration	5:00 - 6:00 PM
Dinner/ Local Entertainment	6:00 – 7:30
Musical Entertainment	7:45 - 9:00
Door Prizes	9:00 – 9:15
Musical Entertainment	9:15 – 10:30
Clean-up Time	10:30 PM

Tint Tint Tun



Door Prizes: A ticket will be given out for every paid admission. Please save your tickets and you might win more than your admission fee. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be given out.

BAAT Membership Dues: Members are not required to pay past dues for the years before 2006. Dues for 2007 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

Accommodations: The nearby Hotel/Motel/Inn, please choose from the following: **Motel 6** at 713-334-9188 (approx. rate \$48.99 + tax (2 Beds)); **Homestead Village** at 713-785-8550 (approx. rate \$54.00 + Tax (2 Beds)); **Best Western** at 713-782-1515 (approx. rate 72.99+ tax (6 people)); **Red Roof Inn** at 713-785-9909 (approx. rate \$49.99 + tax (2 Beds)); **Sun Suites** at 713-780-8200 (approx. rate \$59.99 + tax (2 Beds)). Please call hotel phone numbers for more information and reservation.

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.

Congratulations!

BAAT congratulates Ma Thant Zin Han, current BAAT Treasurer for her degree B.A. in accounting from University of Houston -Downtown. A job well done.

Union Day

This year BAAT celebrates only two days short of the sixtieth anniversary of this great day.

Post-World War II geopolitics and self-interest of the Great Powers fragmented continents and divided countries. We saw two sets of Chinas, Koreas, Germanys and Vietnams. The subcontinent of India was divided into three countries.

Myanmar could have been on that list if not for the wisdom, fore-sight, and courage of those principals at Palaung on February 12, 1947. Myanmar is a geographically diversified country with mountain ranges, great valleys, and wide rivers. It would have been very easy to divide and rule its citizens by wedging our bonds by pointing out the lingual and cultural differences, though we are of the same ancestors and origins. Even in post-war years there were attempts from outside and within.

Today, more ethnics groups are arriving to this land of hope and promise. Twist of fate brings together Kachins from Myitkyina and Burmese from Myeik as neighbors in Los Angeles. Rakhines and Mons now work side by side in motor factory in Fort Wayne. Karens, Kayars, and Chins worship concertedly in Texas. Shans and Chins strive together in Florida. This gives us the opportunity to know and respect each other. We all struggle to succeed and prosper in hope of building a better future for our children and paving the way for less-fortunate relatives back home. We cannot do it without the collaborative strength of unity. Union Day and its spirit are much more meaningful now then before.

A house divided
leads to ruin
A bundle of firewood
is more difficult to
break than a lone
stick
What one individual
cannot achieve, ten
thousand can
perform a miracle
E Pluribus Unum
Samagganum Tapaw
Sukhaw

WunZinMin

A Union Day message from Angel Tin Mar Lwin /Ma Zin

Burma, O Motherland, my native land, Why do I love thee? Let me count the colors. From the golden spires of the majestic Shwe Dagon to the silver shimmer of the Irrawaddy on a moonlit night. The saffron robes of the highest order to the yellow padauk petals (the latter albeit once a year) Pure white thazin on jet-black crowning glory. All shades of green from the verdant woodlands to the seedling paddy fields to precious Imperial jade. Truest jewel tones of red rubies. The awning of bright blue skies. The purple Shan mountains. All skin tones of beloved people in the hills and plains. A kaleidoscopic palette perceived by the eyes . Pledged only by the heart that the brilliance shall last.

Report from the Resettlement Committee

The BAAT resettlement committee is in full swing. As of now, we have Ko Shwe Tun Aung, Ko Ko Naing, Sui Hmuang Chin (Chin Ko Shwe), Go Than Tuang, and Zaw Moe Aung working for the committee. They have helped 10 families with about 50 people with clothing, baby dolls, toys, small kitchen appliances and some monetary assistance. They are also helping new comers with translation, job seeking, and transportation. We have numerous donations from U Eddy and family, U Than Shwe and family, U Pe Win and family, Ko Stephen and family, Ko Myint Thu and family, Dr. Moe Oo Zaw and family, Ko Soe Chit Han and family, Ko Nyan Soe Kyaw and family, Ma Wai and AMD family, Ko Myo Gyi, and Chinese Lutheran Church. If we miss some names, we apologize. Please keep the donations coming.

Thank you!

BAAT appreciates the efforts of all volunteers for the November event and generous contributions. BAAT strives to acknowledge the names of all volunteers who brought in the delicious food items, participated in the event, and assisted with the setup and cleanup before and after the event. There is too long a list to mention your name individually. BAAT wishes to thank all of you such as members, board members and EC members for your support, time, and effort. Once again, BAAT beseeches you for your collaborative efforts for the future events. Thank you all for your contributions, large or small.

Major Races of Myanmar



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HUMOR: A DAY IN LIFE OF BURMESE FOLKS

- Two young Burmese computer programmers took a job exam for a single position at a computer company. Each missed only one of the questions. The president of the company said, "We have selected the other candidate based on the question you both missed." Angrily, the rejected applicant inquired, "How the heck would one incorrect answer be better than the other?" "Simple," said the president, "Your fellow Burmese applicant put down *"I don't know"* on question #9. But you put down, *'Neither do I.'*"
- A gorgeous young lady and an old lady visited a Burmese doctor office. "What has been bothering you lately, my young lady?" asked the doctor and without delay gestured the young lady to take off her clothes for a thorough physical exam." Then, the old *dying* lady gathered up all her strength and whispered, "Doc...Doc... Doctor..., the... the... patient is *me*, ...not my grand daughter." "Oh, I see! In this case, well, let me just see your mouth and tongue." replied the doctor.
- A Burmese tax Certified Public Accountant (CPA) was talking to his client, "Believe me, $1 + 1 =$ whatever number you want and I can make it happen with my eyes closed." Perplexed right from the start, the client asked, "Why did you end up being in *jail* if you were that smart." Lowering his voice, the accountant responded, "Not because of my being smart, but my being creative brought me here." (**Lesson Learned:** Creativity is not for everyone – may be for artists. Take Enron -- very creative accountants end up in jail.).

Stephen Yoe, CPA



Burmese American Association of Texas

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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.