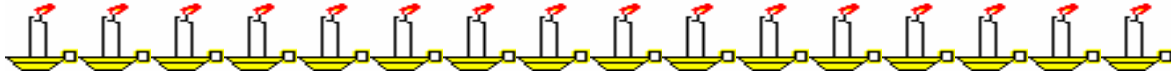




Newsletter

Burmese American Association of Texas

November 2007



BAAT CELEBRATES THIDINGYUT/TAZAUNG DINE FESTIVAL

Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

It has been two years that I served you as the president of BAAT. It was a real honor to serve the Burmese Community in Texas. I would like to thank all the people who supported me. With your continuing support, I look forward to serving you one more year.

As you can see, all the BAAT's activities are in full swing. We are holding three get together functions a year for members and friends. We are getting involved in community functions, and we are devoting ourselves in helping new comers from Burma to Houston, Texas. Our latest project the "Resettlement Committee" for new comers has been gaining momentum thanks to Ko Shwe Tun Aung, Ma Lillian Min, Ma Aye Khaine, and Charlotte O'Sullivan. They are the ones leading the "RC". I would also like to thank Terry Win, Sui Hnuang Chin (Chin Ko Shwe), Ko Ko Naing, Zaw Myo Aung, and Go Than Tuang for being the members of the "RC" and putting extra effort.

This year's entertainment will be special. We are bringing Burmese famous singer Mie Mie Win Pe. Mie Mie Win Pe has been visiting US from Burma. She has performed quite a number of shows in other cities throughout United States. It is a rare opportunity that Mie Mie has agreed to come and perform for us in a short notice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members and friends, especially the working committee and food committee for making BAAT events possible. We will also have three events in the year 2008 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 17 gathering to participate and celebrate. I hope to see all of you there without fail.

Sincerely,

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 Wa Wa Myint

VP Austin

512-451-2348

Dr. Tin Aung Hla

VP San Antonio

210-490-0519



Invitation

BAAT's annual Thidingyut/ Tazaungdine/ Thanksgiving party will be held at the **Tracy Gee Community Center** on Saturday, November 17, 2007. BAAT presents special entertainment by famous singer **Mie Mie Win Pe**. Members and friends of BAAT are cordially invited for an evening of fun, great food, music, and fellowship.

WHEN: Saturday, November 17, 2007 (5:00 PM to 10:30 PM)

WHERE: Tracy Gee Community Center; Westcenter, Houston, Texas 77077. Phone: 713-266-8193

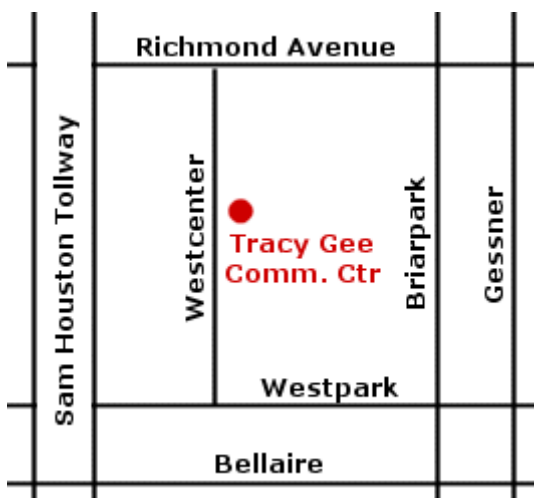
Please see the map above for directions and location. If you need further assistance, please call Ko Myo Aye Thane (281-221-6255), Ma Thant Zin Han (832-633-9598) and James Yoe (832-265-3400).

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 Lane. 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 Lane. The center is on the left.

The Map of the Tracy Gee Center



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.

Schedule of Events:

Member/Guest Registration	5:00 - 6:00 PM
Dinner	6:00 – 7:00
Entertainment by Local Talents	7:00 – 7:30
BAAT Inaugural Ceremony	7:30 – 7:45
Traditional Burmese Dance by Wa Wa Myint	7:50 - 8:00
Mie Mie Win Pe's Music Program	8:00 - 8:45
Break	8:45 - 9:00
Special Presentation from Resettlement Committee	9:00 - 9:15
Resume Mie Mie Win Pe's Musical Program	9:15 – 10:30
Clean-up Time	10:30 PM

Dinner: BAAT will serve main dishes such as Mohingha, chicken curry, beef curry, seafood salads, Malaysia style noodles and many more. Please bring your favorite dessert and have fun sharing it with fellow members.

Entertainment:

No admission fee required. Your dessert will get you in the door. Come and enjoy the talented singer **Mie Mie Win Pe's** vocal mastery. Additionally, let the budding local talents entertain you with their performances. This is **THE** event that you do not want to miss.

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, U 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.

Please call Aye Aye Kyi at 281-265-3300 or James Yoe at 832-265-3400 for the following:

- to become a BAAT event planning volunteer,
- to participate in BAAT events as a performer, and
- to provide news or articles for the BAAT newsletter.

Message from the Resettlement Committee

Since its formation a year ago, BAAT's Resettlement Committee (RC) has been assisting people of Burma who relocated to Houston. Due to the recent surge of Burmese families relocating to Houston (approximately 70- 80 refugee families), RC is in dire need for committed volunteers.

Please note that the majority of newly relocated people are not equipped with language and job skills that would enable them to quickly integrate into an English-speaking, industrialized society. Because of their social, educational and economic background, the limited relocation assistance they receive from the resettlement agencies is not enough for them. Unfortunately, Houston does not have an adequate bus system that will take them to places they need to go. And they are yet to learn the limited Metro bus routes and challenging roads of Houston. Therefore, RC is actively looking for Burmese language translators, teachers for various topics including English and life skills, and volunteer drivers. (RC plans to have a training session and curriculum for teachers/trainers). RC is also collecting clothing and shoes for all ages especially cold weather clothing for young children, undergarments, toys, books and any educational material that would help expedite the English language learning process of the newcomers.

Presently there are about 10+ volunteers in RC who are assisting newcomers in many ways. When providing assistance, **Burmese Refugees are assisted and supported regardless of their origin and their religious background. It is our goal to help everyone equally due to the fact that they are fellow Burmese and human beings in need of our help.** RC thanks BAAT's Board of Directors, other volunteers, especially Daw Terry Win, Sui Hnuang Chin (Chin Ko Shwe), Ko Ko Naing, Zaw Myo Aung, and Go Than Tuang for their unwavering assistance to the newcomers. Thanks are also due to those who made monetary contributions large and small. If you are bilingual (Burmese, Karen, Chin and English) or have time and interest to help out the newcomers who desperately need and appreciate your assistance, please contact Shwe Tun Aung (713-447-0438), Lillian Min (832-236-6900), Aye Aye Khaine (832-563-4827 or email: bhag.now@tmail.com) and Charlotte O'Sullivan (832-746-9086). They will gladly find a volunteer opportunity that suits your interest, talent and time constraints. If you have donation items, please contact Shwe Tun Aung to arrange for a pick up.

Please become a RC volunteer if you can. It will be emotionally rewarding for you. The slightest help you can give (even words of encouragement) to the newcomers will profoundly impact their lives in a positive way. **YOU** have successfully open doors of opportunity for **YOURSELF** in the US. Now **YOU** can help open the doors of opportunity for **OTHERS**.

Condolences

BAAT sends warmest sympathy to the members and their families who recently lost their love ones. Those who passed away are as follows:

- DR U Aung Myint, farther-in-law of U Thant Zin Tun and Daw Phyu Phyu Khin, passed way on October 22, 2007 in Yangon.
- BAAT member, Dr. Than Than Nu, passed way on October 27, 2007 in Houston.

Congratulations

BAAT extends heartiest congratulations to the following members and shares their joy.

Marriages

Resettlement Committee VP, Ko Shwe Tun Aung and Ma Nyut Nyut Wai for their marriage on October 30, 2007.

Ma Ei Ei Khine, and Sonny Thanh Truong, for their forthcoming marriage on November 11, 2007 in Austin. Ma Ei is the daughter of BAAT active members, Dr. Tin Nyunt and Daw Aye Kyain.

New Borns

Paul and Newni Lim of Austin for the birth of their daughter, Kate T. Lim.

Ko Ko Naing and Ma Thida of Houston for the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Wai Thazin Naing.

Htoo K'Pla Paw and Lay Kler Htoo for the birth of their son, Ku Lay



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.

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 17, 2007 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 7:15 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 2007-2008

Candidate Names	Position
U Myo Aye Thane	President
U Robert Chan	VP - Executive
U James Yoe	VP - Social
U Maung Maung Lay	VP – Community Affairs
Daw Thant Zin Han	Secretary
U Wai Lwin	Treasurer
U Htin Aung Win	VP – Dallas/Fort Worth
Daw Wa Wa 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.