



Newsletter

Burmese American Association of Texas

May 2008

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.

Second, I would like to express our deepest sympathy for the victims of Cyclone Nargis. The Cyclone Nargis made landfall in Irrawaddy and went all the way to Yangon and Pegu divisions. The devastation caused by the Cyclone is enormous, something our Burmese people had never experienced before in the recent history. BAAT is doing everything in its capacity to collect donations and helping out the victims. Our BAAT website, www.baatx.org has been updated for the Cyclone Relief Project. This Cyclone Relief Project is very big. We need more volunteers to step up and help us. Your help is needed more than ever.

But, now is the time to celebrate our New Year, Thingyan! Even though this year's Thingyan Picnic will be over shadowed by the tragedy we are facing, we will have our Thingyan Picnic to keep up with the traditions. There will be a donation drive at the picnic. 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, 2008**

BAAT Officers (2007)

U Myo Aye Thane

President

281-565-0364

U Robert Chan

VP Finance

281-242-8915

U James Yoe

VP Social

832-265-3400

U Maung Maung Lay

VP Community Affairs

713-291-1122

Daw That Zin Han

Secretary

832-633-9598

U Wai Lwin

Treasurer

832-492-9128

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, May 24, 2008. 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: **May 24, 2008 (Saturday) 10:30 am - 5:30 pm**

Place: **Bear Creek Park, Pavilion #6.** 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 James Yoe (832) 265-3400.

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.

Family - \$25.00

Singles - \$10.00

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.

There will be a donation box setup for the BAAT Cyclone Relief Fund. The donation drive is in full swing and BAAT encourages you to make a donation large or small.

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.

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
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

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 2007, you will have the opportunity to pay them to reinstate your membership. Members are not required to pay past dues for the years before 2008. Dues 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**

In Memory

Teacher Daw May May Nyunt, beloved mother Ma Wai Wai Oo and Ko Michael Teoh, passed way on March 3, 2008 in Yangon.

New Arrivals

- o Ko Shwe Tun Aung and Ma Nyut Wai of Houston for the birth of their Son, Ryan Tun Aung.
- o Ko Ko Naing and Ma Thida of Houston for the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Wai Thazin Naing.
- o Ko Paing Oo and Ma Soe Soe Hlaing for the birth of their daughter Kelly Jessica Oo.
- o Pah Blah and Ladybird for the birth of their son Khine Wai Htoo.

Congratulations!

- o Greater Houston Burmese Christian Fellowship (GHBCF) 3 years Anniversary held on April 27, 2008.
- o Myat Kyaw (Ko Phone) for his degree MBA from Houston Baptist University on May 17, 2008.
- o Jack Ma for president of Junior Achievement -2008-2009 of Institute of Chinese Community.
- o Aisha Shenawi for her degree MD from University of St. George in New York on May 3, 2008.
- o Moona Shenawi for her degree BS from University of Houston in December 2007.

- o Ko Run Ku and Ma Nu Mawi, niece of Saya Thong and Saya Ma Mang, for their marriage on November 3, 2007.

Burmese American Association of Texas
Please donate to Myanmar(Burma) Cyclone Relief Fund



As many of you know, on May 2, 2008, Cyclone Nargis made landfall in the Irrawaddy division in Myanmar (Burma). The Cyclone pushed a wall of water as high as 12 feet, approximately 25 miles inland over a low-lying, densely populated delta region. The World Health Organization estimates casualty numbers in excess of 100,000 dead, 200,000 missing and 2.5 million (approximately 5% of the population of Burma) severely affected. A storm surge is reported to have destroyed the vast majority of domestic dwellings

in seven townships, also causing severe storm and flood-damage to roads, communication links and other essential service infrastructure, especially water and power supplies.

Due to a unique social, economic and political situation, the humanitarian emergency in Myanmar has a potential to escalate into a disaster of severe magnitude. Millions of people in vulnerable communities are at risk of perishing not only due to the immediate aftermath but also due to the epidemics caused by a total lack of services. Your contribution will go directly to the victims who need it the most.

Your generous contribution will save many lives and help restore their economic situation. Your donation of \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100, or more is desperately needed.

Options for Donations

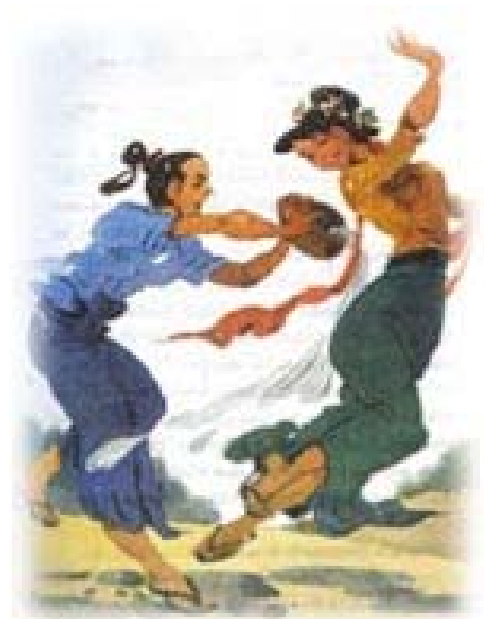
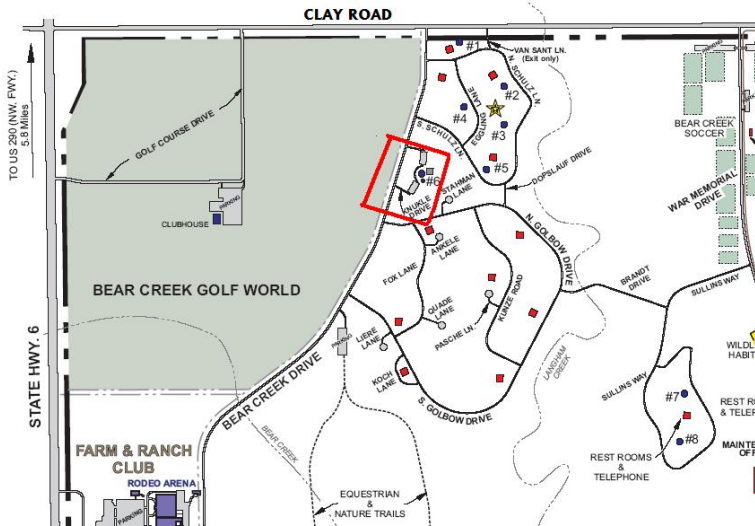
1. Donations by Credit Cards, please go to www.baatx.org
 (Online donations are processed by a secure site)
2. Donations by phone, please call AAFS staff at 713-339-3688 (from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM)
3. Donations by cash/check, please mail to:

Burmese American Association of Texas (BAAT)
P. O. Box 3359
Sugar Land, Texas 77487
Payable to: BAAT; Memo: Myanmar Cyclone Relief Fund

BAAT is a non profit organization helping for social welfare of the Burmese people in the state of Texas. For more information about BAAT, please go to www.baatx.org. You may also contact us by email at baat.hou@gmail.com. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

BAAT's Press Conference on the Myanmar Cyclone Relief Fund on May 13, 2008.





Burmese American Association of Texas

P.O. Box 3359
 Sugar Land, Tx 77487

*****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.