

BAAT NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 2

November 2010



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Members,

It has been emotionally rewarding to provide service to fellow countrymen by way of managing BAAT affairs for two consecutive years. It always energizes me to see the events and people coming together for the good of the community we live in. History teaches us that totally different individuals can live harmoniously in the same community to reach the ultimate goal – the peaceful world. However, one must start with simple and humble activities that connect individuals together and understand about each other to promote harmony and tolerance. That is where a social club such as BAAT shines through.

I hope that mundane activities of BAAT which provide face-to-face socializing opportunities for the fellow Burmese keep on nourishing the soul of those who had to leave Burma for many personal reasons. The sound of spoken Burmese words, the Burmese music, the feedback from the speakers, the delicious Burmese meals generously offered at ridiculously low price, being in the middle of large Burmese group and ample opportunities to make new friends healed my soul when I went to a BAAT get-together some twenty years ago as starving, homesick and disoriented graduate student. I was profoundly touched by the generosity and openness of the large group of people I met there. Furthermore, instant acceptance of me for being Burmese was unforgettable. It made me feel privileged to be Burmese. Over the years, those BAAT members I met have become my extended family members. I am sure most of you can relate to my story.

Now the time is ripe to let a very capable, incoming president with impressive credentials, proven leadership skills and rich entrepreneurial spirit take BAAT to new highs. As BAAT presidents come and go, each one will serve his/her best for the good of BAAT based on his/her unique strengths and challenges encountered during his/her tenure. It is the process which one hopes never ends.

As an environmental engineer, volunteerism as defined by Muhammad Ali is especially dear to my heart. He said that "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." It is so true. Why not pay it sooner than later?

Lastly, in true Texas style, I thank you all for your unwavering support of BAAT. Please keep coming to the BAAT parties. It is nice to chat up with one's old friends, make new friends, and enjoy the music and dancing. See you at the annual party!

Yours truly,

Aye Aye Kyi, President—2010

Background of Ni Ni Win Shwe

Modern Burmese music history cannot be written without mentioning Burma's rare vocal gem – the multi-talented Ni Ni Win Shwe (Ni Ni). She can sing different genres of Burmese music: western style songs (a.k.a. stereo songs or copy/pop songs), modern Burmese songs, pre and post-war songs, semi-classical songs and classical songs.

Ni Ni started out singing popular western songs made into Burmese songs which were known as "Stereo Songs" in her early teens. After recording about five to six successful solo albums, her producer persuaded her to sing Burmese songs which had authentic Burmese tunes. In fact, he mentioned the song, Pan Yee Ban Tike (literal meaning is Nectar Bank), for her new album. Note that this song is a signature song of famed vocalist Daw Khin Thit Lwin who was well respected by her vocalist peers.

It is worth describing about this song since its lyrics are very poetic and philosophical. The rhythm is so lively and varying. The melody is very pleasing. Therefore, to bring out the best of this song, it demands the superb singing technique and certain vocal range from one who dares to sing. However, a talented woman with beautiful voice who just happened to be in her late teens did not consider it too daunting. In fact, her rendition did total justice to the song that her name escalated into hall of fame after she released her version of that song. One can guess the name of that young woman.

Release of many successful solo and duet albums, decades of recording, live performances in Burma and abroad, TV and video appearances and three movies that she starred are testaments to her long and successful career starting from the 1980s. To date, she has recorded approximately 150 solo albums. About 50% percent of the songs she recorded were original songs composed for her. That distinguished her from other vocalists from her generation. (See Page 2)

Current (2010) BAAT Officers

President: Daw Aye Aye Kyi

VP-Executive: Daw Thant Zin Han

Secretary: Daw Terry Win

Treasurer: Daw Ayemyint Twin

VP-Finance: U Robert Chan

VP-Social: Daw Lillian Miin

VP-Austin: Daw Wa Wa Myint

VP-Dallas: Daw Molly Win

Resettlement

Committee: U Shwe Tun Aung

Immediate

Past President: U Myo Aye Thane

BAAT ANNUAL TAZAUNGDIENE PARTY INVITATION

Music, solo and group Burmese dances, food and friendship.

Wear your Burmese outfit. Let's honor our rich cultural heritage.

The Best Deal in H-Town

Entertainment by

Famous Burmese Vocalist

Ni Ni Win Shwe

& Local Talents

November 6, 2010
(Saturday)

4:45 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Tracy Gee Community Center

3599 Westcenter Drive
Houston, TX 77042

Bring your family members & friends.
Enjoy Chicken Biryani, beverages and desserts.

(Ticket information on Page 2.)



PARTY DETAILS



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.

Background of Ni Ni Win Shwe from Page 1

After her marriage in 2000, she called Los Angeles home. Although life priorities shifted after the birth of her daughter, she made time to sing at functions that promote Burmese music and culture.

BAAT EC members approached her for her performance at the November 6, 2010 party although a small non-profit group such as BAAT could not offer fair-market artist fees to well-known entertainers. After learning about BAAT's mission to provide social networking opportunities for fellow Burmese and to preserve Burmese culture and heritage, she kindly accepted BAAT's offer. That speaks volumes about her dedication to Burmese music and culture, and her kindred spirit for her fellow countrymen. Ni Ni Win Shwe is truly an entertainer at heart.

Schedule of Events	
Ticket Sales Begins	4:30 P.M.
Social Hour/Dinner	4:45 - 5:50 P.M.
Announcements	4:50 - 5:00 P.M.
Music Program - Ni Ni Win Shwe and Local Talents	6:00 P.M.
Tea Break	7:50 - 8:15 P.M.
Elections	8:15 - 8:30 P.M.
Music Program Resumes	8:30 -10:00 P.M.
Closing and Cleanup	10:00 -10:30 P.M.

If you need assistance in finding Tracy Gee Community Center, please call U Myo Aye Thane (281-221-6255), U James Yoe (832-264-3400) and U Shwe Htun Aung (713-447-0438).

Sweets for Soul

Should you wish to show your generous support for BAAT, please bring a dessert item to share with fellow members at the tea break and impress them with your culinary talents. You may even get hugs.

!!!!!!TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR. TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS.

Accommodations:

The stay at nearby Hotel/Motel/Inn, please choose from the following: **Motel 6** at 713-334-9188; **Homestead Village** at 713-785-8550; **Best Western** at 713-782-1515; **Red Roof Inn** at 713-785-9909; **Sun Suites** at 713-780-8200. Please call hotel phone numbers for more information and room reservations.

Planning an event as big as this November 6, 2010 party is challenging for the planning committee. It requires the implementation of many cost saving measures. Note that monies from the ticket sales are not enough to cover the total cost for the party.

Tickets are being sold at nominal cost for this party just to cover the cost for the dinner, stage rental and audio equipment rental. The airfare for the vocalist, artist fees, newsletter printing, stamps and miscellaneous costs will be paid from BAAT's general fund. Due to the generosity of many dedicated volunteers, BAAT will spend zero dollars on ground transportation, room and board for the out-of-town vocalist and rehearsal for local talents. Desserts for the party will be from donors and the transportation of food, beverages and speakers for the party will be handled by volunteers who have been BAAT volunteers for many years.

Similarly, BAAT saves money by designing and writing newsletter in-house. It requires many man-hours to produce quasi-decent newsletter. It takes concerted effort of many dedicated volunteers to have successful BAAT events. So please do not take the longevity of BAAT parties for granted. If you enjoy them, please consider volunteering for BAAT. You do not have to be an EC member to volunteer.

To purchase tickets in advance, please call U Shwe Htun Aung (713-447-0438), Daw Lillian Min (832-236-6900), U Myo Aye Thane (281-221-6255) and Daw San San Myint (281-530-1898).

Tickets: \$10 (Adults), \$8 (Students), \$5 (Child under 12 yrs.)

Ticket covers boxed dinner, beverages, desserts and entertainment.



TICKETS

Register at the front desk and pick up your nametag, review your membership status and contact information.

If your address changed, please provide your new contact information so that you will continue to receive newsletter from BAAT.

To help BAAT save mailing cost, sign up for the electronic version of BAAT newsletter by leaving your e-mail at the registration desk. You can also send e-mail to BAAT for e-newsletter.

Check BAAT website especially in March, April, May, September, October and November for periodic updates of BAAT events.

BE THE LUCKY WINNER. BUY RAFFLE TICKETS AT THE PARTY.

Sign Up for E-newsletter

REMINDER

TRACY GEE COMMUNITY CENTER WILL NOT LET BAAT RENT THE CENTER AGAIN IF BAAT MEMBERS DO NOT USE IT RESPONSIBLY. IT IS A PUBLIC FACILITY.

PLEASE DO NOT SPILL LIQUIDS ON THE FLOOR OR TRASH THE BATHROOMS.

Election Time!!!

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

The Board of Directors has nominated a slate of candidates for all of you to vote on November 6, 2010 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 7:00 P.M. and the result will be announced. 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 **U Norman Wong (Head of Election Committee)** (713-777-6700) no later than close of business on November 5, 2010 to be on the ballot. You can also send an e-mail to baat.hou@gmail.com. Please put "Elections" in the subject line and address the e-mail to U Norman.

Nominated EC Members for Calendar Year 2011

U Stephen Yoe - President

Daw Thant Zin Han - VP-Executive

U Myat P. Kyaw - Secretary I

U Kyi Min - Secretary II

Treasurer - Daw Terry Win

U Robert Chan - VP Finance

U Shwe Htun Aung - VP Social

Daw Wa Wa Myint - VP Austin

Daw Molly Win - VP Dallas

Daw Lillian Min - Resettlement Committee Chair

BAAT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Social networking opportunities.
- Invitation to Thingyan picnic.
- Invitation to annual Tazaung-dine party.
- Opportunity to showcase your musical talents.
- Help preserve Burmese culture and heritage.
- Volunteer credits for students.
- Opportunities to volunteer.
- Periodic update of news relevant to the members.

MISCELLANEOUS

Volunteer Credits Available

The very first two students who had contacted BAAT to earn volunteer credits are Thiri Lwin (13 years) and Emerald Zaw (12 years). As members of National Junior Honor Society and school programs, each student will earn volunteer hours required by her school by performing various tasks at the November 6, 2010 party including video taping, ushering, and distribution of dinner packets, etc. Seasoned BAAT member U Victor Pe Win, a retired architect, will also serve as their resource should they encounter technical problems during their video taping session. Between the three of them, there will be nearly 100 years of solid wisdom which will be put to good use.

Thiri is the daughter of BAAT members, U Wai Lwin & Daw Moe Moe Nwe. Emerald is the daughter of BAAT members, Dr. Moe Oo Zaw & Dr. Khaing Khaing Oo.

Volunteering at BAAT is a good opportunity for the students to earn credit hours and support Burmese Community. If anyone is interested in earning volunteer credit hours, please e-mail BAAT.

Volunteers are seldom paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

Anonymous

Do you have a talented child/teenager who would like to perform at BAAT events?

Send an e-mail to BAAT mentioning the name and age, name of instrument that he/she plays and his/her availability.



Talented ADULTS are also in great demand to perform at BAAT events. Do not leave yourself out. Send an e-mail to BAAT. Don't be bashful. Let your talent shine.

MEMBERSHIP

Single membership: \$10
Family membership: \$25

Pay your BAAT membership dues at the party or mail your check to U Robert Chan (VP-Finance) at 165 N. Hall Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77478. Please make checks payable to **BAAT**.

If you have not paid membership dues in 2010, please reinstate your membership. Members are not required to pay past dues.

BAAT and Newcomers

On March 12, 2010, two members of BAAT, U Min Jack Tham and Daw Aye Aye Kyi, spoke about their careers and career opportunities for students at the career symposium sponsored by Language Institute for Newcomers (LINC). LINC is an Alief ISD program which targets high-school age immigrant students and bridges their path to success by teaching or improving their skills in English while simultaneously starting their path toward graduation. This program services students who have been in the United States for one year or less at the time of enrollment. Currently, there are 141 students in the program, from twenty-six (26) countries and speaking thirteen (13) languages. Three most common languages identified by this program are Burmese, Vietnamese, and Spanish.

If you are interested to be the speaker representing BAAT, please send an e-mail or personally contact BAAT EC members. Thank you for your interest in future generations.



BURMESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS (BAAT)
165 N. Hall Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77478.



PHOTO GALLERY OF NI NI WIN SHWE



Newsletter Printing Credits: BAAT newsletter and event tickets were printed with deeply discounted rates at Kwik Kopy Printing located at 1405 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX. Mr. Imtiaz Bangee, the owner of Kwik Kopy, has been a proud member and supporter of BAAT for decades.