



India Association of Minnesota:  
Association Records

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## Community focus

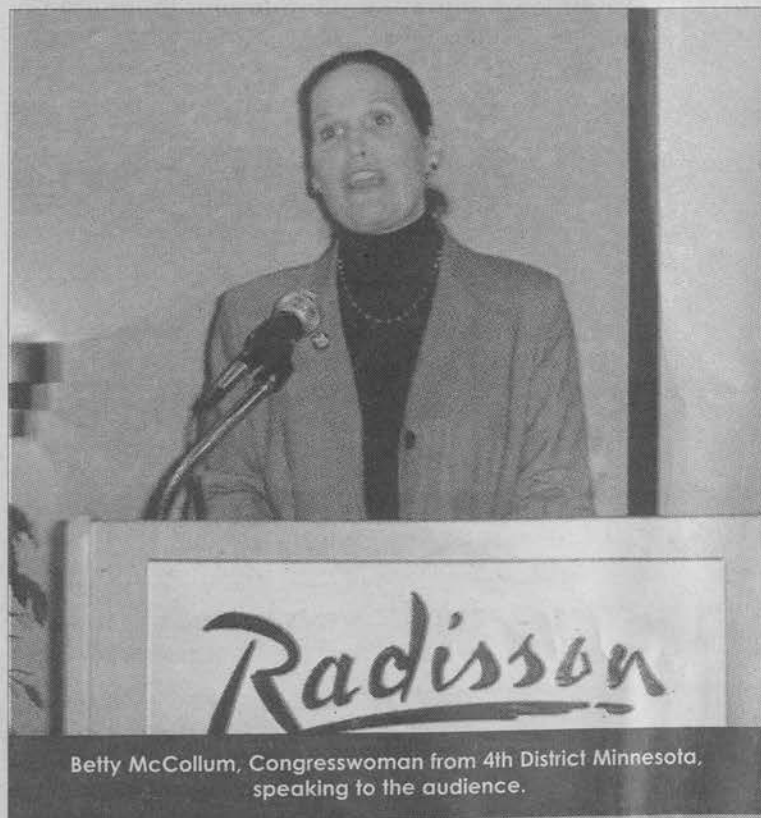
COMMUNITY FOCUS

# India Association of Minnesota, Annual Dinner

Text and photos by Hari Gori

**"T**he choices we make as Americans have a tremendous impact on governments, economies, the environment and the lives of individuals throughout the world. So let me ask a question: What kind of world do we want to pass on to the next generation? What kind of a world do we want to help shape with our choices, voices, and votes in this very important Presidential election year?" asked Betty McCollum, Congresswoman, 4th District, Minnesota. She was the

November's election and then come to Congress for an emergency supplemental appropriation! Very clever! They don't want to have the \$50 billion that is projected to meet our troops needs added to their already exploding budget deficits." Explaining how this deception has hurt our nation's credibility, she said that people around the world want to trust U.S. leadership, want to believe our President's words, but much of the world feels deceived and let down. Comparing this massive expendi-



Betty McCollum, Congresswoman from 4th District Minnesota, speaking to the audience.



IAM President, Rabinder Bains (center), with special guests and Board members.

and academic positions in the UK for several years before moving to the U.S. with her husband, Sarjit, in 1985. Mother of three children, she is a very active member of IAM. She is currently working as a Senior Economic Policy analyst at the State Department of Transportation.

Giving a brief background of IAM, she described how from 1973 it had grown to its present status. "The demographics of Minnesota have changed dramatically over the last ten years. Besides the increase in the number of minority immigrants, the number of people of Indian origin has more than doubled over that period," she said. "One of the missions

The Senator spoke about his recent trip to India where he attended the "Pravasi Bharatiya Divas" (NRI Conference). He said that NRIs around the world had come there to share the heritage and experiences of their Motherland. Quoting an NRI who was a Professor from Harvard School of Business, he said that to attract more investments into India, it must conduct itself like a "brand." A brand is a promise of quality, an expectation of service. If India also adheres to the quality of service; it could attract an abundance of investments.

Each year, the IAM selects an individual who has made significant

Meena Natarajan, in 2001. For his accomplished leadership and excellence in the field of theater, his contributions and commitment to the community, his involvement with Abhinaya Children's Theater, and the School of India for Languages & Culture, Dipankar was chosen for this prestigious award.

Meena Natarajan spoke about Pangea World Theater and showed a small clip of Pangea's various plays. Since Pangea's formation in 1995, Meena and Dipankar's productions have brought to life the stories and voices of numerous cross-ethnic perspectives. Whether the tale of a



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## NATIONAL

U.S. - China hold currency talks in Washington • P2



## BUSINESS

Hmong American Chamber of Commerce Banquet • P4



## EDUCATION

St. Paul schools add Asian foods to lunch menu • P10



Volume XXII: No 49

WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2003

Website: www.aapress.com

# Asian American Press

"Building Community Within Diversity"



Hung Thanh Le, 34, charged for the 1992 slaying of fellow refugee Hai Hong Nguyen

## Oklahoma reviewing man's death sentence

OKLAHOMA CITY, Dec 10 (Reuters) - Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry's office said on Wednesday it would review a state parole board recommendation to commute the death sentence of a Vietnamese national scheduled to be executed next month.

Hung Thanh Le, 34, is set to be put to death on Jan. 6 for the 1992 slaying of fellow refugee Hai Hong

### Festival promotion or training organizations

Minn. Dept. of Tourism  
www.exploreminnesota.com  
651-297-2635  
RiverCentre  
www.rivercentre.org  
651-265-4814  
Minn. State Arts Board  
www.arts.state.mn.us  
651-215-1600  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
www.dnr.state.mn.us  
651-296-6157  
Tour Minnesota Association  
www.tourminnesota.org  
952-890-0690  
St. Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau  
www.stpaulcvb.org  
651-265-4900  
Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association  
www.tourminnesota.org  
612-767-8028  
U of MN Tourism Center  
www.tourism.umn.edu  
612-624-4947  
International Institute of Minnesota  
www.iiimn.org  
651-647-0191

## Marketing Ethnic Festivals in Minnesota

By Tom LaVenture  
Asian American Press



AAP Photos by Tom LaVenture

Dr. Bruce Corrie, chair, Roundtable, invites a guest from the audience to speak on the subject of ethnic festivals at the Vietnam Center Wednesday. To the right of Dr. Corrie is Colleen Tollefson, Minnesota Dept. of Tourism, and Carrie Rosener, St. Paul RiverCentre. The Roundtable Forum explored ways to share resources and better market and promote ethnic festivals in Minnesota.

ST PAUL (December 10, 2003) - Can ethnic festivals in Minnesota somehow share resources and work together for sponsorships, promotion, and attendance? The answer seemed to be yes by the conclusion of the Asian Pacific Policy Roundtable Forum Wednesday, at the Vietnam Center. Several community leaders representing many area ethnic festivals were present to discuss the topic of "Marketing Ethnic Festivals in Minnesota," and building a collaborative network to promote events.

Dr. Bruce Corrie, chair, Roundtable, invited Colleen Tollefson, Minnesota Department of Tourism, and Carrie Rosener, St. Paul RiverCentre to speak on how mainstream promotional mechanisms can help with festival outreach efforts.

Tollefson said the Tourism Dept. publishes the Minnesota Explorer Newspaper, which has a 750,000 distribution. "We list events at no charge," she said. "If you want the public to attend your event then this is a good avenue for you."

The publication is biannual and listings cannot be added closer than six-weeks out from the printing. Tollefson recommended groups that have annual or biannual events to submit the dates, places, and times of their events, along with the description as

ROUNDTABLE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Leaders



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## NATIONAL

San Francisco China town gets lite-rail and Filipino Center • P2



## BUSINESS

CVS Pharmacy opens store in St. Paul • P4



## EDUCATION

U of M research evolves from sutures to stem cells • P10



# Asian American Press

Volume XXIII: N°48

"BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY"

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10 • 2004

❖ HAPPY HOLIDAYS ❖

## Dilip Mallic elected IAM President

By Sanhgamitra Sahu

ST. PAUL (December 4, 2004) – The India Association of Minnesota (IAM) held its annual General Beady Meeting Dec. 4 at the International Institute of Minnesota in St. Paul. The meeting was reportedly well attended by IAM members and Indian community representing a broad spectrum of groups from around the twin cities.

The organization, which has membership from all ethnic and religious groups of the Indian subcontinent living in Minnesota, elected 21 Board Members and Officers.

The meeting started with opening remarks from the outgoing President for 2004 Rabinder K Bains,

IAM

Continued on page 9

"I am honored to serve this prestigious organization that was established in 1973," said Mallic. "I plan to fulfill my responsibilities as president and work towards a better future for IAM. The benefit from the activities of IAM go to you, your family and to the next generation. I am confident that we have an excellent team for 2005 and hope to be able to do more for you. Please bring your friends and family to IAM programs."



Dilip Mallic, newly elected President of India Association of Minnesota.

## Hmong arrivals update

The Department Of State – Population, Refugees and Migration (DOS-PRM) this week released updated arrival information regarding the Hmong refugees from the Wat Tham Krabok in Thailand.

As of this week the arrival numbers nation wide (in 19 states) total 8,513, according to Gus Avenido, Refugee State Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Human Services.

The predominant receiving states follows with Minnesota (3,053); California (2,829); Wisconsin (1,941); Michigan (186); and North Carolina (166).

In Minnesota, the new arrivals are sponsored by relatives, but are also supported by Voluntary Resettlement Agencies (VOLAGS). The Volags work with sponsoring relatives to ensure that refugee families have food, shelter, clothing, health and education screening, social security cards, job training, and public assistance when necessary.

The new arrivals co-sponsored number: International Institute of

## Sailors proud to serve on the USS Chung-Hoon

By Tom LaVenture  
Asian American Press

HAWAII – U.S. Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Anthony Ohl is proudly serving on the USS Chung-Hoon, one of the Navy's most recently commissioned vessels, and the first U.S. warship to be named in memory of an Asian American.

Lt. Ohl is a communications officer on the Chung-Hoon. He is the son of Chintana and Gregory Ohl of Minneapolis. Their other son Alex Ohl is a U.S. Marine and recently returned from serving in Afghanistan.

"Anthony is one of the first Thai-



Rear Admiral Gordon Pai'a Chung-Hoon (1910 – 1979) was awarded the Silver Star and Navy

## GROVELAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Groveland Park Elementary School opened its doors and welcomed 26 Hmong students on Wednesday. The students are from families that recently immigrated to Saint Paul from

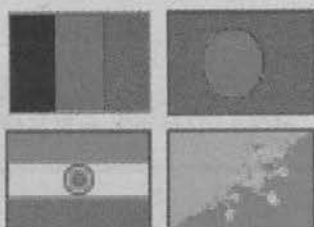




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# The South Asian



One Year Anniversary Issue

www.thesouthasian.org

December 2003

## The Brahmaputra River linking examined

A mega River Linking project is being hatched and actively touted by the Indian government. However, details of the project are lacking and as usual, transparency of the planning process - a critical measure of participation of the people who will be affected by the project, if undertaken - is absent. A number of internet groups are discussing the issues involved, but few are familiar with Assam's particular concerns and needs. It is in the context of this vacuum that I decided to get into the subject, with more questions than answers, hoping that it will generate an interest on the subject among Assam's well-wishers.

As we well know, Assam and the North-East's interests and concerns are rarely heard and heeded even less. I attempt to draw attention to what is at stake in Assam, and thereby be counted in the planning process before a massive fraud is foisted on the people.

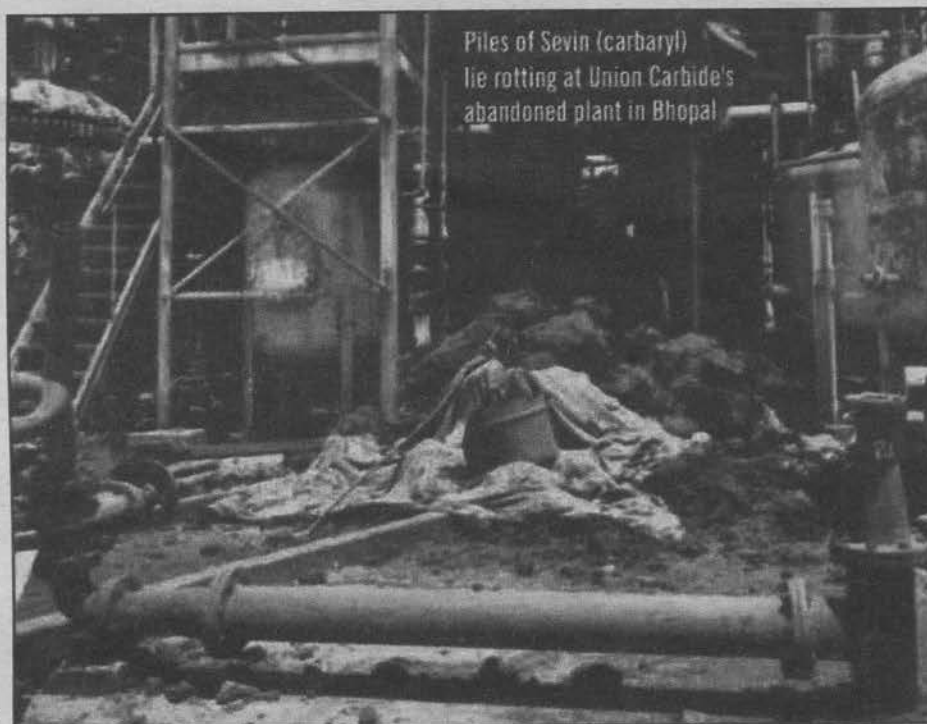
### The Origins

My understanding, which is based on a speech by the President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam, is that the river linking project has been undertaken by the Center on the directive of the Supreme Court, as the result of a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by a citizen.

### The Premise and the Solution

As articulated by the President, the premise of the project is to divert water from flood prone areas, equate to water-surplus areas, to drought affected or water-shortage areas. The solution proposed is to link the river systems in a way to

[continued on page 17]



Piles of Sevin (carbaryl) lie rotting at Union Carbide's abandoned plant in Bhopal

Union Carbide's plant in Bhopal, India. Deadly gas leaked and killed 15,000 people in 1984 and continues to claim lives to this day. Read report on page 12

## Indians in MN An Oral History

In 1992, Godan Nambudiripad, attended an exhibit about Asians in Minnesota which was developed by the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. Although he enjoyed the exhibit, it was curiously lacking any mention of migrants who came from South Asia. Godan called to mention their oversight, and was eventually connected with Jim Fogerty, the head of the Oral History Department of Minnesota Historical Society.

Out of their conversation was born the Indian Association Oral History Project, which is now entering its tenth year. The project has been pursued in several phases, each of which seeks to capture the spoken

[continued on page 15]

## After Cancun?

The big boys have returned home, this time empty handed. They have vowed they will be back. The failure of Cancun Ministerial only strengthens their resolve to re-emerge with new ruthless manipulations.

Developing countries too, have learned the hard way the dictum of international trade, lobbying, coercion. No wonder, in just a span of four years, two of the WTO Ministerial collapsed. First Seattle in 1999, and now the sudden death at Cancun 2003, has demonstrated that the developing world will no longer take it lying down. Its anger and rebellion has caused the

[continued on page 4]

## Female Migration from Sri Lanka

Women in Sri Lanka are no longer secondary income earners within the family. Globalization, market liberalization and structural adjustment have influenced the increase in the number of women in the labor force and the nature of their employment, both within and outside the country. Women constitute 70% to 90% of the labor force in the top three foreign currency generating industries of Sri Lanka. Yet there is a clear deskilling process in all three sectors as these women are integrated into the labour market on unequal terms and are denied access to the acquisition of new skills that would make them upwardly mobile.

Migrant worker remittances brought USD 1.3 billion to Sri Lanka in 2002. Since it is the country's second largest foreign exchange earner and a major boon to restore Sri Lanka's war torn economy, the government actively promotes such migration. The annual outflow of persons from Sri Lanka averaged over 170,000 from 1998 to 2002. Women's contribution to this income is remarkable: a staggering 70% of migrant workers are women; most of them are employed in the Gulf States, Hong Kong, Cypress and Singapore as "unskilled" domestic workers ("housemaids"). Labor ministry officials say that out of 851,000 Sri Lankans employed in the Gulf states alone, 70.6% are women. In 2002, the total outflow of migrant workers from Sri Lanka was 203,710, of which 132,984 were women.

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After Cancun?

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## NATIONAL

Bryan Clay is new  
decathlon champion

• P2



## EDUCATION

Lue Her to lead new  
Augsburg Academy

• P10



## ARTS

Baayork Lee re-directs  
The King and I • P12



# Asian American Press

Volume XXIII: N°28

"BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY"

WEEK OF JULY 13, 2004

## Neighbors meet to end fighting

By Tom LaVenture  
*Asian American Press*

ST. PAUL (July 21, 2004) – A community meeting at New Spirit Elementary School Wednesday evening offered neighbors an opportunity to voice their concerns about how to avoid the days of recent fighting that resulted in several serious injuries and the death of teenager Cheng Thao. Tate Danielson, District 7 Planning Council, officiated the meeting.

More than forty people were present,

mostly nearby residents and employees, educators, and community leaders in the Thomas-Dale neighborhoods. The focus was on crime prevention but included social related social concerns.

Danielson said the meeting was about educating and helping new neighbors. He would like the existing residents to show newcomers how neighborhoods work, what organizations are here, where to go with trouble, the police contacts and support networks, including crossing cultural and language barriers.

"This is an important part of crime

prevention and community outreach," he said.

St. Paul Police Department Sgt. Patricial Englund, described the scenario surrounding the murder as several nights of reoccurring violence on the 200 block of Charles Avenue that were responded to by police. The people involved in the incidents were not forthcoming with the cause of the violence and there was no indication that it would continue. After several incidents resulted in stabbings,

FIGHTING CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

*A benefit for  
the family of  
Cheng Thao  
July 25, 7p.m.  
Linwood Center  
860 St. Claire  
Ave., St. Paul*



U.S. Ambassador to Laos Douglas Hartwick made St. Paul his first stop upon returning from Laos to complete his three-year post in Vientiane.

## Ambassador Hartwick honored

By Tom LaVenture  
*Asian American Press*

ST. PAUL (July 17, 2004) – The Lao/Hmong community in Minnesota and Wisconsin sponsored a



## "Jap Road" in Texas to get name change

BEAUMONT, Texas, July 19 (Reuters) – A decade-long fight over a quiet country lane called "Jap Road" ended on Monday when local



A dragon boat team makes its way to the starting point on Lake Phalen last Sunday, as part of the Second Annual Dragon Boat Races and Festival last weekend. A total of 20 teams competed for fun and trophies in what has become the largest pan-Asian event of the year.

SHAPED





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## HOME OWNERSHIP

Finding Your Dream Home  
• P4



## EVERYDAY LIVING

Brain Injury Association of  
Minnesota offers support • P7



## ARTS & CULTURE

Warm Strangers - Vienna Teng  
releases second album • P12



# Asian American Press

Volume XXIII: N°6

"BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY"

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20, 2004

## Last Lyfoung brother dies

By Tom LaVenture  
Asian American Press

FRESNO—Tougeu Lyfoung, 84, the youngest and only remaining member of the three famous Lyfoung brothers has died. Lyfoung passed away February 10, 2004, in Fountain Valley, California. Services and a cremation ceremony are being held in Fresno from February 20 through February 23, 2004. General Vang Pao and members of the Lao Royal Family (from France) are expected to attend.

Tougeu Lyfoung, along with his two elder brothers Toubu and Toulia Lyfoung were the first ethnic Hmong

in Laos to receive a college education and go on to hold high ranking posts and elected office in the Royal Laotian government.

Mai Na Lee, a Ph.D. student of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is writing a dissertation on the Hmong under French colonialism and through interviewing Tougeu Lyfoung, described him "as an extremely rare figure in Hmong history."

"He was the last of the three famous Lyfoung brothers and he was the most accomplished in terms of political position and intellectual prowess," said

**LYFOUNG**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Tougeu Lyfoung, as Director General of the ministry of justice in Laos in the 1960s. Photo courtesy of Hmong Cultural Center in St. Paul.

"Tougeu  
Lyfoung was  
an extremely  
rare figure in  
Hmong  
history"



Tougeu Lyfoung in recent years. Photo courtesy of the Lyfoung family.

"He has always been my role model in education and he has always been a good leader for the Hmong community."

- Dr. Yang Dao.

"I have a lot of respect for him and the work that he has done to advance the image of the Hmong people."

- Lee Pao Xiong.

## Brazil as an Emerging Global Power



SALVADOR, Brazil - This is one of the ABC countries of Latin



Dr. Tin Win (left) and Dilip Mallick (right) welcome the Reverend Egbert and Amy Ayea, an ethnic Karen Burmese couple, who just came to St. Paul from the border region between Thailand and Burma (Myanmar). The two were

## "What kind of world do we want to live in?"

Indian

By David Zander  
AAP Contributing Writer

felt that the actions from the White House have undermined our credibility, and have not made us





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# INDIAN REPORTER

AND WORLD NEWS

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# INDIAN REPORTER AND WORLD NEWS

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Empowering the Indian Community at Home and Abroad

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**"No need for psychologist  
ahead of Pakistan tour"**

PAGE 53

**Social security scheme for  
unorganized workers: PM**

PAGE 19



## PAKISTAN LAUNCHES OSAMA HUNT



**W**ANA - Pakistani forces, backed by helicopters and artillery, launched a major operation along the rugged Afghanistan border where Osama Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda militants are believed to be hiding. At least 20 people were detained.

Army troops completed the searches after six hours, moving into areas where the fugitives are believed to have taken refuge among local tribes near Wana, just a few kilometers from the border with Afghanistan. Among the detained are some foreigners, together with local tribesmen.

"The arrests confirm that some foreigners had been living there," Pakistan Army spokesman Gen. Shaukat Sultan said. "We will not reveal the identity or nationality of any arrested man until the investigations are completed." It was not clear if any senior Taliban or Al-Qaeda fugitives were among the detained.

Ammunition, passports, written materials, and audiocassettes have been seized, Sultan said. Earlier, troops using artillery leveled homes belonging to three tribesmen who were allegedly sheltering fugitives. Three Arab women were among those detained, though it was not immediately clear if they were under arrest. "They were given enough

time," a government official supervising the operation said. "We launched the operation when they failed to hand the terrorists over."

Pakistan Foreign Minister, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, said that foreign militants caught during military operations would be handed over to any third country based on evidence of their involvement in violent activities there only if their own country refused to accept them.

Clarifying his remarks made in a press conference, where he was reported to have indicated that if captured, Osama Bin Laden would be handed over to the U.S., he said foreign militants would be handed over to third countries based on evidence only if their own country refused to accept them.

According to the official clarification issued, Kasuri when asked if Pakistan would hand over Osama Bin Laden to the U.S. if he was caught, said, "If someone has committed crimes against any other country and is caught in an anti-terror operation, our priority is to hand him over to his country of origin. If that country does not ask for repatriation, then the terrorist is handed over to any country putting forward evidence to us."

Pakistan has already handed over 500

Osama, pg. 8

## Bush, Democrats trade jabs

PAGE 8



John Kerry



George W. Bush

**He is a good man ... thinks  
only about the nation: Najma**

PAGE 8

THIS WEEK



### COMMUNITY FOCUS

All temples of the Hindu religion resonated with the chanting of "Jai Shiv Shankar, Har Har Shankar" this February 14 to observe the Mahashivaratri—the Day of Deliverance. Be it the Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago at Lemont, or the other popular temples of Chicagoland—all were thronged by devotees who kept trickling in, throughout the night.

Page 27

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ranil Wickremesinghe launched his re-election bid, seeking support for the peace process he had been pursuing with the Tamil Tiger rebels. The theme of Wickremesinghe's campaign will be "giving peace a chance" and trying to drum up support for pushing the Norwegian-backed peace process aimed at ending three decades of ethnic bloodshed.

Page 14

### NATIONAL

Sonia Gandhi, wrapped up her election roadshow in U.P. seeking to pick holes in BJP's campaign and asking the people to give her party a chance to "correct" the "mistakes" of the NDA government. "Use your ballots judiciously and vote for Congress to save the country from the misrule of NDA government," she said.

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## Minneapolis: An emerging 'desi' cultural hub

DAKOTA DIARY | Lalit K Jha

June 11, 2005

Located on the banks of the historic Mississippi River, the twin cities of Minneapolis and St Paul over the years have emerged as a hub of Indian cultural activities.

It is not that Minneapolis ranks top in the list of maximum number of Indians in any US city. That position continues to be grabbed by other popular metros like New York, New Jersey, Washington, Houston, Chicago and Boston.

Advertisement  
0.gif" width="1" height="3">

The city does have a significant number of Indians in this mid-northern portion of the US and is increasing fast. As per an official estimate about 1,000 immigrants are coming here every year from India. The number of Indians in Minnesota - 85 per cent of whom reside in this city - is estimated to be about 25,000.

However, what has caught the attention of students of diaspora studies and academicians is the "strong foothold" the rich cultural heritage of India has managed to establish in this city.

More significant is the manner in which the Indian diaspora -- through various cultural activities - have made the traditional Indian culture like classical dances popular among the Americans here.

Bollywood does continue to have its share of popularity, but the classical Indian music, dances and other performing arts have created their own niche among the art lovers in this part of the US.

The credit definitely goes to the Indian diaspora here, which has not only maintained and preserved its culture, but has taken a step further. It is not only the Indian Music Society, now celebrating its 25 successful years, but also several other cultural organisations that have played their own part in making Minneapolis a cultural hub of Indian activities.

Founded in 1992 by Ranee Ramaswamy, the Ragamala Music and Dance Theatre has been busy popularising Bharatanatyam. Its vibrant classical work and pioneering cross-cultural collaborations demonstrate to diverse audiences the versatility, depth and also contemporary vitality of Bharatanatyam.

Katha Dance Theatre, founded in 1987 by Rita Mustaphi, is the only professional Kathak dance company in this part of the US that performs traditional Kathak dances as well as innovative dance-poems on contemporary issues and dance-theatre pieces.

As the name itself indicates, the Nrityalaya Dance Academy is performing the tough task of imparting dance classes to the second generation desis and also the Americans. Of late, there is increasing interest - it has four centres now -- among parents and their children towards classical Indian dances.

The couple -- Dipanker Mukerjee and Meena Natarajan -- has had their own significant role in popularising Indian culture through their Pangea World Theatre, set up in 1995. In 2004 it was bestowed with the Asian Pacific Leadership Award for Excellence in the Arts by the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

Not to miss is the RGK Dance and Fitness Studio, which imparts dance class. Students here are



as young as four years old and as elderly as 75 years. On popular demand, muscle toning on the beat classes has been added for the senior citizens from this year.

One of the late entrant into this area is the Leela Dance Theatre Company by Anu Sharma, choreographer.

The popularity of Indian classical dance and music could be gauged from the fact that the SPICMACAY also has opened its local chapter at the University of Minnesota, where it organises cultural events at regular interval.

The city also has a recording studio, which specialises in recording classical Indian music and dance. The Nine Volt Studio is a hub of such activities.

Providing the role of a local guardian is the Indian Association of Minnesota. In existence since 1973, the Association has played the role of a catalyst and true motivator to all such organisations motivating them to march ahead in their goals.

Printed From **HindustanTimes.com**

## BUSINESS

Trade Mission to Vietnam leads to environmental contracts • P4



## EVERYDAY LIVING

Second API Health Data Summit in St. Paul • P7



## LITERATURE

Evelina Chao's book "Yeh Yeh's House" is nominated for Minnesota Book Award • P12



# Asian American Press

Volume XXIV: N°7

"BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY"

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18 • 2005

## Asian Americans in Science and Technology Series

By Bruce P. Corrie, PhD  
AAP Contributing Writer

Asian Americans spend larger than the national average on photographic equipment, supplies and services, according to the latest national report on Consumer Expenditures, 2003. What is less well known is the pioneering work of local Asian Americans in the field of photographic equipment, supplies and services.

The Asian Pacific Policy Roundtable continues its Asian

Americans in Science and Technology Series, and features Mr. Oanh Pham, a well-known community leader who played a critical role in the formation of the The Policy Roundtable, the Vietnamese Community of Minnesota and the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce. He was also appointed to the board of the Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco (MPAAT).

What is not so well known

OANH Continued on page 10



Oanh Pham's distinguished career includes three Technical Excellence Awards in a ten-year period as a Research Specialist at 3M and later with Imation.

## Annual IAM Dinner

By Siddharth Damania  
AAP Contributing Writer

The India Association of Minnesota (IAM) held its annual banquet and awards program on February 5 at the Radisson Hotel in Roseville. This year's banquet was significant in that in addition to updating IAM members on board appointments and annual reports, all proceeds from the dinner went directly relief efforts for the tsunami that struck South Asia on December 26, 2004.

The dinner was well attended by over one hundred guests; featured keynote speakers included U.S.

Senator Mark Dayton, KSTP Channel 5 News Anchor Vineeta Sawkar, State Senator Satveer Chaudhary, and Indian Consul General Arun Kumar. The event honored India's Republic Day (Jan. 26) and those lost in the tsunami.

IAM President, Dilip Mallick, welcomed guests and offered a 2004 progress report, and detailed ambitions for the coming year. Currently, IAM is working in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society to document the life of Indian Minnesotans. The first two projects hope to capture the

IAM Continued



Photos courtesy of Rob Ramer

Mr. Dilip Mallick, President of IAM, Vineeta Sawkar, Newscaster, and Indian Consul General of India in Chicago, Arun Kumar, at the IAM Annual Banquet in Roseville on February 5.

## Mike Honda elected DNC Vice Chair



Wangden Tashi, a Tibetan monk from Drepung Loseling Monastery in India.

"President Bush spoke of freedom and democracy for all everywhere. The Cambodian government's response is to intimidate honest politicians and the long suffering people of Cambodia. We here in America must awaken our neighbors and make the plight of freedom loving Cambodians known."

Stated Suykry Path, who led the



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## REAL ESTATE

Redeveloping Midway properties - residential and commercial • P4



## EDUCATION

Animal Grossology at the Science Museum of Minnesota • P10



## MUSIC

Nirmala Rajasekar's Carnatic exploration • P12



# Asian American Press

Volume XXIV: No. 21

"BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY"

WEEK OF MAY 27 • 2005



AAP Photos by Emmett Timmons

Yvonne Cheung Ho, president and CEO of the Metropolitan Economic Development Association (right), moderated the April 15 meeting with (moving left) U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona), Stanley S. Hubbard, president and CEO of Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc. and Jesse Bethke Gomez, president of Chicanos Latinos Unidos En Servicio (CLUES).

## Immigration dialogue

MINNEAPOLIS (May 11, 2005) – The Minneapolis Foundation recently completed its 2005 series of Minnesota Meeting programs on immigration issues in Minnesota. The three meetings were held at the Downtown Minneapolis Marriott City Center from March through May 2005, and featured local and national level experts and policymakers on immigration and immigrants.

The three-part series began on March 21 with a dialogue on "Shaping Minnesota's Agenda on Immigration: A Community Conversation." More than 600 people attended the conversation, which included interactive polling and audience

participation in order to begin formulating a statewide agenda on immigration.

Fred de Sam Lazaro, correspondent for public television's *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, moderated a panel of state economic, education and health leaders.

The summary report written by Frank Clancy described a tone that diversity is the state's number one asset. Immigration has had a positive impact on the state economy, however, there was caution that a rapid influx of people with a variety of needs

IMMIGRATION — Continued on page 7



Photo courtesy of Rep. McCollom's staff.

Congresswoman Betty McCollom is greeted by Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Commerce, Laos PDR, and Dr. Yang Dao (center).

## Rebuilding relations with Lao PDR



AAP Photo by Emmett Timmons

Dr. Vacharee Peterson of Peterson & Peterson, D.D.S., in East St. Paul received the national Asian Business Leadership award last week in Washington, D.C.

St. Paul

## Sakura Matsuri





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Maria (Nguyen) Paraschou takes the oath of the Minnesota State Bar Association with others who passed the State Bar Examination recently.

## Attorneys

Continued from page 1

attorneys are in "a golden age", as they inherit a legal system built on "sweat and sacrifice," from an unestablished body of law in 1776 to the most developed and sophisticated legal system anywhere in the world today.

He detailed the important of the Supreme Court has had to help shape the country from the time of "Marbury versus Madison," an 1803 Supreme Court case that established the principle of "judicial review" for the constitutionality of laws passed by the Congress; to more assertive roles when lawmakers did not act, such as "Brown vs. the Board of Education," that "ruled 'separate but equal' is unconstitutional.

Today's lawyers better reflect the communities they serve, and the presence of color has made the legal system better and stronger. Today's lawyers are also better for their adeptness and specializations, their technological savvy, specializations "that allow precisely appropriate solutions to complex problems," and a commitment to continued legal training

He encouraged the new attorneys to ensure that all people are guaranteed representation of their interests in the courts. He reminded them that grand tradition of the legal profession is pro bono work, more so than in any other profession.

Maria (Nguyen) Paraschou passed her bar exam and is now licensed to practice law in Minnesota. She was born and raised in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and graduated from the University of

# CAPM Awards 2004

By Tom LaVenture  
Asian American Press

ST. PAUL—The State Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM) will celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and the accomplishments of the community at its annual banquet this Saturday at the Millennium Hotel, downtown Minneapolis. The 2004 community honorees are: Yvonne Cheung Ho, Hoa Nguyen, Pangea World Theater, and Dr. Roy H. Saigo.

## ROY SAIGO

### Professional Leadership Award

For the past four-years, Dr. Roy Hirofumi Saigo has served as president of St. Cloud State University, winning praise for establishing positive relationships among communities of color, the university and the city. His personable approach and natural leadership style has won friends and formed partnerships to work on complex diversity issues of Central Minnesota, and has produced a more welcoming environment to all citizens.

"President Roy Saigo has been relentless in providing leadership, mentoring and community service in the promotion of diversity awareness and the development of a culture of inclusiveness for the area, state and nation," states Nathan Church, Ph.D., vice president for Student Life and Development at St. Cloud State University, who nominated Dr. Saigo for the honor.

Among Saigo's accomplishments is establishing a community advisory board on regional economic and cultural development; working to promote the needs of underrepresented groups for access to higher education with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU); establishing police diversity awareness training programs; CommUNITY, CARD (Coalition Against Racism and Discrimination), and SASSO (the St. Cloud Area Somali Salvation Organization).

The SCSU faculty's international teaching experience rate (40 percent) is one of the highest among all

leadership as president of the campus Asia Club, her 3.62 GPA, her extra courses in Asian culture and history, foreign languages, and community service. But as Ms. Anderson noted, it was Hoa's vital presence in all aspects of college life, and for her initiative to "make the campus a more culturally understanding and diverse institution," that says she has made the campus a better place.

"(Hoa) is a role model for Asian and other multicultural students. Her initiative, creativity, boundless energy, and commitment to the organization have been instrumental in increasing the visibility of the club and teaching others about differences and similarities in traditions, customs and beliefs," said Anderson in her nomination letter.

Dr. Bohr describes her as "possessing the highest gifts of character, intellect, and organization as well as a deep dedication to multiculturalism and the well-being of Asian-Minnesotans."

Hoa took a defunct annual campus Asian New Year celebration and made it a celebrated event, instilling pride and vigor in her underclassmen to continue the tradition.

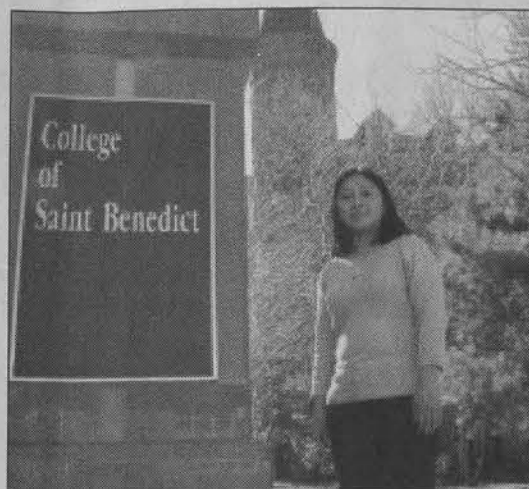
"We didn't have one last year and I wanted to bring it back, so that next year when I am gone the freshman this year will carry it on," said Hoa, emphasizing the incredible effort required by everyone. "The Asian New Year is a real passion for me to keep it going on campus. We had 750 people around Minnesota come to see performances by on and off campus participants."

She also stretched her wings to join a team of dancers in a school production of "Dreamcatcher."

Hoa said she likes the St. Benedict's environment, and makes the distinction that it is a school for women, and not a women's school. She has strived to engage in the empowering of women to show them the independence.

It has not been easy. Hoa's only brother died in a 2001 boating accident while fishing on St. Johns Lake at age 26. Hoa realized then how much she competed with him, as an athlete, and artist, and thinker.

"It changed me and made look at



Hoa Thi Nguyen stands at the gate of her school, the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota.

of which are Asian Americans," states Jodie Tanaka, a 2003 CAPM Award winner, in her nomination letter for Ms. Cheung Ho. "Much of this success is due to Yvonne's personal commitment to strengthen the ties between the majority and minority business communities and her ability to educate and influence corporate leaders to increase purchases from minority suppliers."

Since its humble beginnings, MEDA has provided business counseling, mentoring partnerships, training and loan assistance to more than 14,000 clients, and helped with hundreds of startup businesses in the metro area. They offer leadership training, loan programs for ethnic entrepreneurs, marketing assistance, transactional assistance, and an "employee menu" approach to help business with strategic growth.

No stranger to big honors (she received the 2003 Minnesota Minority Business Advocate of the Year by the Small Business Administration), Cheung Ho was "pleasantly surprised" with the CAPM honor. "This really humbled me," she said.

"The key thing is that we developed a culture in MEDA that is team effort," she added. Every team member counts, and we all work toward accomplishing results. Everyone is important. The work that I do is a reflection of their work."

Cheung Ho said MEDA continues to make changes for the better as Asian businesses evolve. MEDA must be effective at all the different stages as businesses move toward the mainstream and are represented in wider array of industries.

"We always barriers," she



Dipankar Mukherjee

be around."

She helped to develop the "One model, Construction Partnering Program (CCP)," in partnership with the city of St.

Paul. Her demonstrated insight and knowledge led to an appointment to Governor Ventura's Minority Business Working Group in 2000.

In October 2003 MEDA became a host to a Procurement Technical Assistance Center, to help establish relationships with ethnic entrepreneurs and the large contracting and subcontracting opportunities wit corporate and government markets.

"I think that we have really expanded a lot of the work we have done," she added. "We also have a construction partnering program, we launched a financial literacy program and we received funding to do training customize food related business. There is a lot of exciting things happening."

## PANGEA WORLD THEATER

### Excellence in the Arts Award

Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan, a husband and wife team that founded Pangea World Theater in 1995, wanted an organization that is committed to international works, styles and traditions that illuminate the human condition, end divisiveness and celebrate differences.

Pangea has produced "Winged Seed", about the cultural assimilation of Chinese immigrants in exile; "Partitions", about the painful aftermath of violent social divisions created along religious lines by political turmoil in India and Pakistan; and the Dwight Hobbes play "Shelter", about the personal tragedies at a homeless shelter.

Pangea is on the cutting edge of figuring out what this community is all about. They see identity as a

"I believe we are blessed to have such visionary and energetic leaders in the Asian community, who have managed to build so many bridges in our society through their work at Pangea World Theater - at a time when those bridges have never been more important," states Rabinder K. Bains, president, India Association of Minnesota in his nomination letter.

Pangea's ongoing programs 'Voices of Exile' and 'Indigenous Voices', for new and underserved audiences, offer refugee, immigrant and minority community writers and performers the opportunity to develop plays in their own languages, for audiences from their own communities. These programs have featured Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Tibetan, Sri Lankan, Hmong and Native Americans.

Meena said the award reflect their willingness to not be afraid of taking on difficult issues. More than the audience, they look for material that speaks to issues of the time, so that when people look back, they will say, 'look, Pangea had a play about that topic'.

"Theatre brings the issue to life," she said. "When you see live bodies in front of you, sweating and breathing, there is more energy from that than a movie or something you see on television."

"We're very excited and grateful to be acknowledged," said Debunker, adding that the honor is special to people who keep their nose to the grindstone and committed to their work until "somebody taps us to say 'stop, and take a look back to see what you're doing'."

With Pangea they want to avoid the polarization of artist communities. They may not always be in agreement but he feels they can help prevent people "breaking away to separate camps," with a promotion of discussion.

Their only concern is with becoming an institution where management becomes more concerned with increasing programs, marketing and fundraising. He does not want a destination for his organization, and his "goal" would be to achieve a constant journey that reflects the "never arriving" continuing experience of immigrants, and to contextualize his imagination to recognize this struggle.

"We have to keep arriving," he said. "The work comes and goes, but the vision and imagination remains. This is why we do what we do." □





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## BUSINESS

General Mills hosts  
USPAACC Panel • P4



## COMMUNITY

Chang Mi variety benefit  
for Korean orphans • P6



## ARTS

Mu Daiko's *Drums of Fire*  
at Southern Theater • P12



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WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 2003

Website: www.aapress.com

# Asian American Press

"Building Community Within Diversity"

## Democrats big winner in Hong Kong Poll

By Tan Ee Lyn and Carrie Lee

HONG KONG, Nov 24 (Reuters) - Democrats in Hong Kong have dealt a blow to their pro-China opponents in local elections, sending a clear message to Beijing that the city's people want the right to elect their own leaders.

The Democratic Party emerged as a winner in Sunday's poll for district councils, which have little power beyond responsibility for grassroots issues such as garbage collection.

The main loser was the Democratic Alliance for Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB), the most powerful pro-China party that emerged before Britain returned the city to China in 1997.

"This is a very serious defeat. It is the worst defeat we have suffered in any of the elections since the DAB was founded 11 years ago," DAB

Chairman Tsang Yok-sing told a local radio station.

Few analysts expect the push for a greater say in government to spread from Hong Kong to mainland China, but Beijing is bound to be worried by calls for more democracy on its doorstep. It recently sent a team of officials to monitor the poll.

"The Democratic Party is a big winner. The people are giving the message they want more democratic reforms and they are punishing the Hong Kong government for not heeding their voice," said Ivan Choy, a politics professor at City University.

China declined comment on the election results.

### HK ELECTION

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



REUTERS/Bobby Yip

Ip Kwok-him (L), deputy chairman of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, the territory's largest pro-China party, reacts beside his pro-democracy competitor Cyd Ho after Ip lost in a district election in Hong Kong early November 24, 2003. A record 44 percent, or more than one million voters, cast their ballots on Sunday's poll, seen as a key test of their desire for more democracy after massive demonstrations against the China-backed government in July.

## Thanksgiving and Hmong New Year



■ MEE MOUA  
State Senator (DFL-67)

Nyob Zoo Xyoo Tshab! Happy New Year!

As the old year passes, many it wash away all the sadness and misfortunes of the past year. As the new year arrives, may it bring good health, peace and prosperity to all. May we all achieve our greatest hopes and dreams, overcome all our challenges and constantly seek to better the communities in which live. □



■ KAZOUA KONG-THAO  
St. Paul Public School Board

## Grace Lee appointed to Board on Aging

AAP News

ST PAUL (November 21, 2003) - Governor Tim Pawlenty announced October 29, the appointment of Grace Lee, an active member of the Korean community



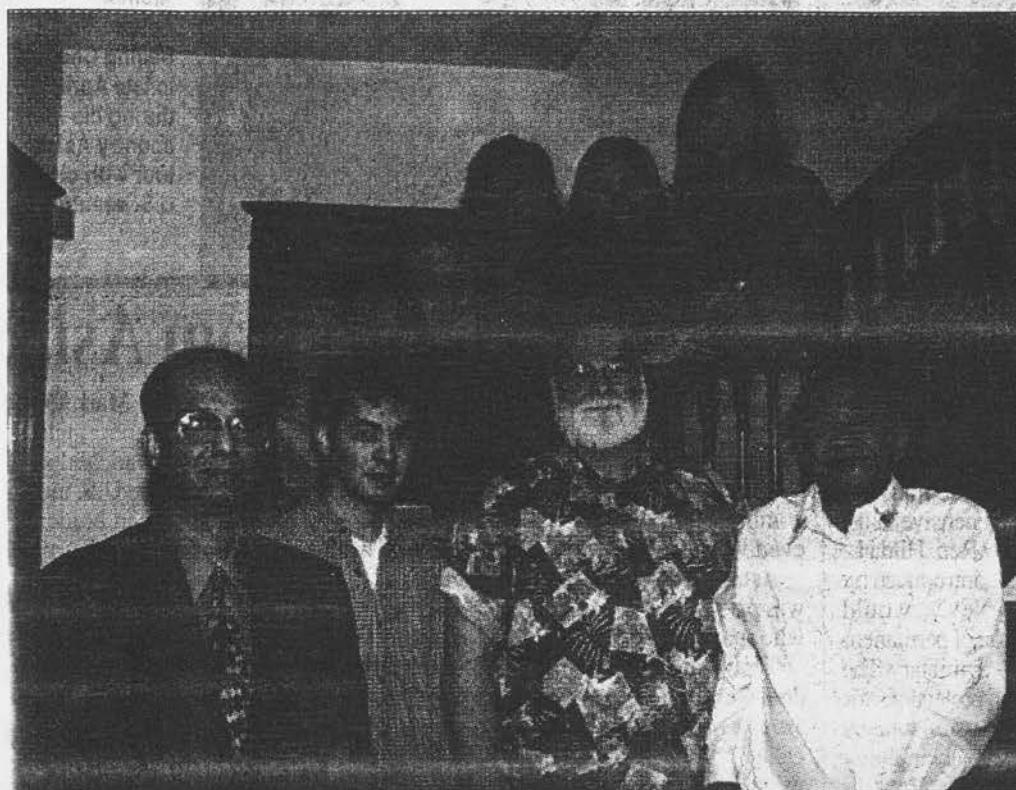


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# CAPM Leadership Awards



AAP Photos by Emmett Timmons

**CAPM Leadership Award Winners, The Dragon Festival group, at a recent planning meeting for their 2003 event in July. Front row, left to right: Dilip Mallick, Teal Bjoraker, Leo Treadway and Tin Vin. Back row, Left to right: Pacyinz Lyfoung, Hoa Young, Somly Sitthisay, Rose Wan-Mui Chu, and Karen Tanaka Lucas.**

**T**he State Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM) announced at their April 2003 meeting, the finalists of the Annual Leadership Awards. The 2003 awardees are Jasmine Dinh, president, Vietnamese Community of Minnesota; the Asian American Renaissance Festival and Dragon Boat Races; Kogen Teiko Drum Group; and Jody Tanaka of Tanaka Advertising. Adeel Lari, CAPM board member and immediate past chair, will also receive a special achievement award for his dedicated service to CAPM and the community for several years.

**BY TOM LAVENTURE**

*Asian American Press*

The recipients will be presented with their awards at the Asian Pacific American Annual Dinner and Award Presentation, at Radisson Riverfront, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul. A social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner, awards, and entertainment to follow.

"The CAPM award means a lot to acknowledge a pan Asian festival, and now the dragon boat race as essential

features to the quality of life for APIs in Minnesota, where they can have an opportunity to gather and celebrate their history, culture, heritage, and present lives," said Pacyinz Lyfoung, a member of the free event that is preparing a major change of venue on July 19 and 20 at Lake Phalen.

"These are really challenging times to find the adequate resources to pull together events of this scale, with the economy and people feeling strained by the war, the recession, government budget cuts, quality of life threats from all fronts," she added, "and yet, because of these uncertain and troubled circumstances, now more than ever, it is important to pull together as one Pan Asian community celebrating the strength, richness, and steadfastness of the API communities in Minn."

"It's humbling, and I am honored to get this award," said Jasmine Dinh, current president of the Vietnamese Community of Minnesota, an organization that organizes the largest Tet New Year event in the Midwest, and raises funds for orphans in Vietnam. "A leader is only as good as



**Jody Tanaka,**  
president, Tanaka  
Advertising



**Jasmine Dinh,**  
president,  
Vietnamese  
Community of  
Minnesota.

## A HISTORY OF APA LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

**2003**

Asian American Festival  
Jasmine N. Dinh  
Kogen Taiko  
Jodie L. Tanaka

**2002**

Joseph Hui  
Rick Shiomi  
Rita Mitra Mustaphi  
KFAI, Fresh Air Inc.  
Darina Siv, Posthumously

**2001**

Zarina Baber  
Wai Lee  
Lee Pao Xiong  
Venture Crew 6

**2000**

Chinese American  
Association  
of Minnesota  
Dr. Bruce P. Corrie  
Josee N. Cung  
Prof. Indira Y. Junghare  
Esther T. Suzuki

**1999**

Sophia Duong  
Keshini Ratnayake  
The Schubert Club  
Theater Mu  
Joyce Yamamoto

**1998**

CAAM Dance Theater  
Japanese American Veterans  
of Minnesota  
Oukhane Phrachansourath  
The Saint Paul Companies  
The School of India for  
Languages and Culture

**1997**

Sarjit S. Bains  
and Mukhtar Thakur  
Rose Wan-Mui Chu  
Gao Hong  
Stephan S. Huh  
Vietnamese Social Services

**CAPM AWARDS**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

**Cy Thao selected as  
APAICS Official**

**Asian-American So**  
Men discuss issues at Hamline

# Asian American Press

"Building Community Within Diversity"

## Lake Phalen Dragon Festival

(AAP News) – The Festival and Parade held during Asian Pacific Heritage Month each May, will now become a two-day "Dragon Festival" event in July, with the addition of the first Dragon Boat Race organized in the Twin Cities by the Asian community. More than 50 people have joined thus far to form several committees to get the project off the ground.

Chief organizers, Rose Chu, Ph.D. (Asian American Renaissance Chair) and Leo Treadway (Lao PTA and Theatre Mu) introduced the idea of the Festival and Dragon Boat Race at Lake Phalen for July 19-20, 2003, to the Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans at their December Board Meeting. The CAPM Board was excited with the news and pledged to help in outreach support.

"This is no longer an Asian Renaissance Program," said Rose Chu, adding that the Festival will do well to gain more community ownership if it has its own committees, fundraising teams, and is not under the control of an

organization as program. To do this, Chu said the effort needs the support of various organizations representing the spectrum of APIA communities of Minnesota.

The Festival Committee recently adopted the new title "DRAGON FESTIVAL" as a new name to avoid confusion with the Festival of Nations and Asian Pacific Heritage Month Banquet, which has occurred in the past with the May event.

"This is the only festival that brings all Asian and Pacific Islanders of Minnesota together, to celebrate our diversity in the community," said Chu,

For the past six years the Festival has been organized by Asian American Renaissance, and held in May to commemorate Asian Heritage Month. It has been held in several locations, from Western Bank, to the Capital grounds, to Hamline Park, to the UniDale Plaza in 2002. Each of the sites has presented some

**DRAGON FESTIVAL**  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Dragon Festival

*Continued from page 1*

limitations. Chu said the Lake Phalen site has satisfied logistical needs, parking, and the simultaneous Dragon Boat Race should be a step in the right direction for creating a pan Asian event on which to grow each year.

The planning group was motivated by the success of the First Annual Dragon Boat Race held last summer in Superior, Wisconsin, just across the harbor from Duluth, Minnesota. Many of the festival team attended the event and saw the excitement that it generated in the Asian community there, and of the interest shown by non-Asians. They felt that the region's largest Asian community in the Twin Cities should have their own event.

Chu said another difficulty of organizing the festival in May was that collaborations and attendance are strained at time when organizations are handling their own Heritage Month activities. They also feel to hold the dragon boat race in May would be risky for cold weather.

Treadway researched the several dragon boat races around the United States and invited the American Dragon Boat Association based in Iowa to visit Minnesota, and they concurred that the Lake Phalen site was an excellent choice.

Treadway feels that Lake Phalen is a good site and will accommodate every need for both the Dragon Boat Race and the Festival. They plan a cautious first year dragon race and plan to grow, as does the festival, into the premiere summer Asian community event, in a part of the metro with one of the highest concentrations of Asian communities.

To emphasize culture and history, the event will start with an "opening the eyes of the dragon ceremony" on the first day, and hold a "putting the dragon to sleep ceremony" following the festival on the second day. They hope to have dragon dance teams participate, along with speakers to teach the history of the event and make it meaningful.

Treadway said that Dragon Boat Race volunteers would provide safety training and hand out life jackets. Although it is a race by nature, with prizes, they will downplay the event as a serious competition, or a commercial event as other dragon boat races have become, to keep it a fun community building experience that will allow people 12 and older to participate and have fun.

However, the costs of operating such a race are high, and Treadway's fundraising team is seeking both community organizations to sponsor the boats, and are also seeking corporate sponsorships to help underwrite the costs of the event.

"At this point the groups, both the Dragon Boat and the separate planning group with the Festival, have been talking with each other about fundraising and logistics," said Treadway.

For information on how to get involved in the July Festival or Dragon Boat Race at Lake Phalen, contact Karen Tanaka Lucas at 952-431-1740 or email [LucasSKGL@aol.com](mailto:LucasSKGL@aol.com).