

**Features
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**Summer
2005**



Rochester International Association

JUNE 2005 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings to our friends of many countries, cultures, and human experience, who make our lives here in Southern Minnesota so much richer. In the busy month or so since we celebrated our 29th annual Rochester World Festival, I have met with members of our RIA Board, plus representatives of other agencies, to help plan other events that will again afford the "newcomers" among us opportunities to celebrate who we are and where we came from. Two of these--on consecutive weekends--are the World Refugee Day observance on Saturday, June 18th,* and the always festive Rochesterfest Parade, on Friday, June 24th. The former--which will begins with a celebratory walk from Silver Lake to Central Park--will join a celebration by the local chapter of the NAACP of "Juneteenth;" a holiday commemorating freedom from slavery in the United States.

The Rochesterfest parade on Friday evening will feature many of us walking in the big parade carrying flags and wearing costumes of many nations. It is the most popular event of an annual celebration of our city. It is my hope that many of you will join us for these events, and for RIA's International Summer Picnic, July 14.

However you celebrate this wonderful release from Minnesota's "Other" weather season, I extend my best wishes to you all. And, as always, please consider becoming an active member of the Rochester International Association. I guarantee you will not regret it! See details in Calendar!

Frank Hawthorne, President, RIA

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World Festival `05 Wrap-up; from Denise Stegall, RIA Board Member & Overall Festival Coordinator:

Greetings to All! The 2005 World Festival has come and gone again, with great success. We traveled the World from China to Latin America, India to Uzbekistan and all in one weekend.

Friday evening's dance recital was a smashing hit. Our special guests this year was Scoil na D'Tria, a group of Irish dancers from the Twin Cities. They were a sight too be seen and a fantastic opener for our show. They really got the crowd excited and the performers who followed were just as intriguing and exciting. I think all of those who attended the performance were impressed yet again this year. Special thanks to April Dahl our Artistic Director and Greg Miller, our most entertaining Master of Ceremonies.

Our Saturday program was equally as wonderful. Along with our loyal participants we had many new countries, cultures and local associations with displays this year. Some of this year's highlights include: Korean Martial Arts Demonstrations, Aztec Dancers, Colombian coffee samples, Henna Art, Paper Flower Art, International Instruments, a variety of children's activities and live music by the Rochester Accordion Band.

The ethnic food tasting was a tantalizing treat again this year. A variety of dishes were available from all corners of the globe. There was something there for everyone! Vietnamese, Indian, Philippine, Laotian, Somali, Greek and German cuisines were represented. Each of the groups serving food spent many hours preparing for the event and we appreciate their interest, time and hard work. Special thanks also go to board member Dottie Hawthorne, for her second year of coordinating the ethnic food area.

We thank all of those who participated, volunteered or attended the program. Without your support we would not be able to continually host the World Festival. The RIA Board of Directors has already begun working on World Festival 2006- "Around the World in 30 Years". A tribute to the 30 years the World Festival has been in existence.

We encourage anyone interested in helping to plan next year's program to contact us at 289-5960 ext. 16.

See you next year!

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"Remember the International Picnic on July 14th!"

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Rochester Community College News: Glen Saponari has returned to RCTC after his active service with the National Guard. We welcome him back to our RIA Board. We say goodbye and thank you to Melissa Mortellito, who took his place as the advisor to the International Students Club at RCTC. The president of the RCTC International Club is Michaela Gey from Germany. Her e-mail is international_club_rctc@yahoo.com. The college and the students contribute each year to the World Festival by printing programs, tickets, posters and providing many hours of volunteer help at the World Festival. Thank you, RCTC!

Diversity Council

The Diversity Council invites individual and business membership in its efforts to building a community where each person is respected and welcomed as a valuable member of our society. It collaborates with RIA and other local organizations to promote diversity. Join and get a copy of the 2005 Multicultural Calendar of events in Rochester. Their office is at 220 S. Broadway. Phone them at 282-9951. Check their website for their E-calendar of Multicultural Events in Rochester www.diversitycouncil.org.

Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association: IMAA provides support services to all the refugee communities in Rochester. Its bilingual staff also provides interpreter and translator services to the community. IMAA also provides RIA with office space, telephone service and internet access. RIA hopes to set up a new website and an e-mail service to receive your messages. You can reach RIA at the IMAA phone number 289-5960.

Host an international exchange student: The Center for Cultural Interchange is looking for families who are interested in hosting a student from a foreign country. These students are in the US for a semester or the school year. Students bring their own spending money and insurance. Interested: Call Ted at 507 288-8411 or e-mail at hst4552@aol.com.

Peace Corps is Looking for Volunteers - The Mission of the Peace Corps is to promote world peace and friendship by providing volunteers who contribute to the social, economic and human development of the interested countries. Peace Corps is currently in 70 countries around the globe.

The 30th Annual Rochester World Festival is scheduled for April, 2006 The theme will be "Around the World in 30 Years"

A poster contest will be held in the Rochester Schools. All secondary students are eligible to submit drawings. A prize of \$50 for Winner

To serve on the Festival Planning committee or on the RIA Board, contact Denise Stegall, Frank Hawthorne or Phyllis Layton. Leave a message for RIA at 289-5960.

Volunteers: More than 550 volunteers from many different cultures in our community take part in the annual World Festival. Many volunteer hours are contributed by the participants and the board. We estimate 10 hours for each person in the event this year. We will turn in a total of 5500 hours to the count of the United Way to this event each year. We thank everyone who helped to make this year's festival a great success. We hope you will be back with us next April as we look forward to the 30th anniversary of the Rochester World Festival. Our theme will be "Around the World in 30 years". Join us and help make it the best yet.

Thanks to our sponsors for helping to pay our expenses for the show and for the Festival events on Saturday.

ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP - As RIA begins a new fiscal year in July 2005, we ask you to join our active volunteer organization. If you are a current member, please renew now. Add a contribution if you can. A membership application form is on the back page of this newsletter. We also enclose an addressed envelope for your convenience. We try to include a membership expiration date on the mailing label of your newsletter. If you believe this is not accurate, please call and leave a message.

ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION EVENTS

International Luncheons at the Y: These monthly luncheons will not meet during the summer months. We hope to see you again Sept 11 at 11:30 and on the second Wednesday of each month in Balfour Hall at the Rochester Family Y. Those who would like to be speakers about their country or their culture are invited to call Phyllis Layton at 288-1197 to volunteer.

September 11: India with Luna Mukherjee.

English Conversation Group meets monthly usually on the third Friday of each month for friendship and informal conversation in English for new internationals who wish to join with us. We meet often at the home of a member or at a coffee-shop location. Call Betsy Monroe at 289-3359 for more information about the group and location of the meetings. The meeting on Friday, June 17 will be at the home of Phyllis Layton at 10:00 a.m.. Call Phyllis at 288-1197 for directions.

RIA Board Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the IMAA office meeting Room at 300 NW 11th Ave. All RIA members and friends are welcome to attend. Those who might like to join the board are welcome too.

Cinco de Mayo was celebrated April 30th with food, dance and games at Silver Lake Park by many Hispanic groups in Rochester. The RIA was there. We look forward to a warmer celebration in May next year.

Mayo Fellows Fair: June 11, Graham Arena from noon to 4:00 p.m. RIA will have a table to welcome internationals and invite them residents to attend and join in on our activities

Juneteenth Celebration, June 18, Central Park 12:30-5:00 The Juneteenth Celebration is a commemorative celebration that marks the freeing of the last slaves in Galveston, Texas (several years after the end of the civil war). This community-wide celebration marks the moment with a celebration of freedom and a remembrance of African-American history. Sponsored by the local chapter of the NAACP, this day will be celebrated by many organizations. The RIA, the Diversity Council and other organizations will have tables to inform families about our programs and encourage membership and volunteering. It will include a Celebration of World Refugee Day, with a walk from Silver Lake park at 1pm to Central Park by members of Rochester Refugee groups in collaboration with the IMAA, SMIRF and Catholic Charities.

Rochesterfest Parade, 6:30 p.m., June 26: With a World Festival float and international students from RCTC carrying flags of their countries, RIA again is sponsoring a part of the annual parade. People from all countries are invited to walk with our section. Wear ethnic costumes if you have them. Call Lee Herold, by June 24, at his Flag Shop 288-1165 from 9AM-6PM to sign up or for information on time and position in the parade or to request a flag to carry from your country.

Annual International Summer Picnic July 14. 6:30 -8:30PM at the shelter in Silver Lake Park by the Fire Station—See enclosed flyer. Please invite new international friends, bring your family, some favorite food for the buffet picnic and join us at the Park. The RIA Board and the Mayor's International Affairs committee will provide some food, beverages and musical entertainment by the Accordion Band. Call Herta 280-8319 for information.

Rochester International Film Group: We hope that you attended some of the outstanding films shown during the ninth annual International Film Festival in late April at the Chateau Theatre. It was a great success. If you would like more information about the group and next year's festival, check the RIFG website. Contributions for the filmfest are welcome and contributors will be put on the mailing list. Send a tax-deductible check to RIFG at P.O. Box 6803, Rochester MN 55903.

RIFG also co-sponsors the free iFilm series shown at 6PM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Rochester Public Library Auditorium. Check the website www.RIFG.org or at the Library for more information.

President: Frank Hawthorne
Vice President: Addie Borja
Treasurer: Curtis Schmelling
Website Producer: Rouxiang Jiang
Newsletter Editor: Kim Johnston
Board Members: Lee Herold, George Margellos, Marjorie Ginn, Luna Mukherjee, Junia Kimizuki, Ann Lance, Marcella Nixon, Dottie Hawthorne, Phyllis Layton, Denise Stegall, Glen Saponari,

RIA's Office is at IMAA, 300 11th Ave. N.W. Suite 110, Rochester, MN 55901. 289-5960, Ext. 16

RIA Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in the board room. Website: www.geocities.com/roch_ia

RIA is a membership organization. Although everyone is welcome to take part in our programs, we do need members to provide funds and volunteer support for programs. We want people from all countries and cultures to join us. If you can't afford membership dues, let us know. We always welcome you to take part in World Festival or other activities. Check your expiration date on the mailing label. Let us know if it is not correct. We thank all who send your checks to join or renew. RIA's new fiscal year begins in July. If you have not joined or renewed, please tell us why.

- * Are the dues too high?
- * Would you like a phone call a board member?
- * Have you attended an International Luncheon at the Y in the past year?
- * Did you take part or attend a recent World Festival?
- * Did you enjoy the experience?
- * How RIA can make you feel more welcome?
- * Do you want to be to take part in the April 2006 30th annual World Festival?

You may also call the RIA office at 289-5960. Please leave a message and we will return your call. You may also send an e-mail or call any of the board members.

If you receive this newsletter and are not a member, please join now.

Rochester International Association
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RIA MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL PLEASE JOIN TODAY!

RIA's office is at IMAA, 300 11th Ave. N.W. Suite 110, Rochester, MN 55901. RIA board meets on th 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the board room. RIA's phone number is 289-5960, Ext. 16. Leave a voice mail message. RIA's website is www.Geocities.com/roch_ia.

RIA's Mission: Celebrating cultural diversity and providing opportunities for multicultural education and exchange.

Membership is important and your way to help RIA put on the annual World Festival and other programs for international students and community.

Annual membership dues: Individual \$20 _____
Student/Senior \$15 _____ Family \$30 (\$48 for 2 years) _____
Organization \$30 _____ Business \$50 _____

Name or Names: _____

Address: _____

phone: _____ e-mail: _____

country: _____

Interest/talents you can share: _____

Mail to: RIA, 300 11th Ave. N.W., Suite 110, Rochester, MN 55901