

# RIA Newsletter - Spring 2007

*Rochester International Association presents World Festival 2007*

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## 31st RIA's Rochester World Festival "Reaching out to the World", April 20-21, 2007 at Mayo High School

With the help of the Mayor's International Affairs Committee, Rochester Community and Technical College, #535 Community Education, the Diversity Council, Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association, Herold's Flag Shop, First Steps, and volunteers from ethnic and cultural groups in the area.

## President's Letter

With less than one month to go before our next-and 31st!-World Festival, the RIA Board members are performing their annual (as I call it) "headless chicken dance" of preparation. Emails are flying back and forth, semi-frantic calls are being made, wonderful volunteers (some old, some new) are surfacing to assure that various festival-related tasks are completed, and somehow we are cautiously confident that everything will fall-in place, at Mayo High School, for our April 20-21 event to be a great success. John Berquist - a newcomer to Rochester from Minnesota's Iron Range, and other less exotic places-is one of our braver volunteers. John is overall coordinator for this World Festival; and he joins me and the RIA Board in inviting you to join us in the final days of this wonderfully diverse (and yes somewhat frantic) "dance" in celebration of our multi-cultural roots. See you at the Festival, if not sooner! —**Frank Hawthorne, RIA President.**

## World Festival 2007

### Ethnic Talent Show

On stage Friday April 20 at 7 PM

ETHNIC DANCE, MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT  
Featuring RCTC's WORLD DRUMMERS

**Talent Show Advance Tickets:** \$8 adult, \$3 students available at Hunts Silver Lake pharmacy, Mayo Activities, (\$1 discount for RIA members) at RIA/IMAA reception desk, 300NW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. and at Mayo High school from 6:15-7:00 before the performance.

Meet the performers at a reception following the show.

### Saturday Events

April 21, from 10 AM - 3:00 PM

Free admission (contributions welcome)

GRAND OPENING

\* PARADE OF NATIONS at 10:30

CULTURAL DISPLAYS, MUSIC, FORUMS AND DISCUSSIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS, ACTIVITY CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, ETHNIC FOOD TASTING throughout the day.

### Food

Here's a sampling of the food available... Korean, Vietnamese, Indian, German, Greek, Filipino.

### Special Bonus for Attendees

Join or renew your RIA membership at the World Festival, and receive \$5 worth of food coupons at the World Festival.

## Not too late to volunteer

The RIA needs many volunteers for the 31st Annual World Festival. We invite you to take part in the entertainment program, plan and/or cook ethnic foods that you can sell at the Festival, set up cultural displays, help organize or teach games, dances and art activities for children and their families. Check the United Way Volunteer website or call volunteer coordinator, Phyllis Layton 288-1197.

## Thanks to our sponsors and contributors:

Mayo Foundation, Olmsted County Human Rights Commission, USbank, James and Judy Sloan foundation, Venture Computers, Rochester Community and Technical College.

## Latest News

### Introducing John Berquist, World Festival chair

John moved to Rochester in the summer of 2006 with his wife Carol Hepokoski, new minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Born and raised on the iron range of Minnesota, John is a Folk musician who sings and plays many instruments. He has also directed folk festivals in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. We welcome him to our community and especially to the Rochester World Festival. Come and meet him at the Festival on Friday night and Saturday.

**Diversity Council News:** The Diversity Council has a new office at the Northgate Shopping Center above the Human Garden restaurant. Check their website at [diversitycouncil.org](http://diversitycouncil.org) for information on upcoming activities on their calendar of community events.

**Know Your Muslim Neighbors.** This open invitation to visit the Mosque and to ask questions about the Muslim faith and to meet some of the followers takes place the last Saturday of each month at noon. Watch the newspaper calendar for information.

## Upcoming Events

**International Speakers Luncheons at Rochester Family Y** On the second Wednesday of each month, everyone is welcome to come to the Rochester Area Family Y for ethnic cuisine and a cultural program from 11:30-1:00 PM in Balfour Hall. Fred Regal prepares the ethnic lunches

and volunteer speakers are invited to share their stories, travel pictures or talk on an international theme. Cost for luncheon is \$8 for members of RIA or the Family Y. Visitors are welcome for \$9 or may join RIA at the luncheon. Speakers have a free lunch. Reservations are needed by Monday before each lunch. Call Betsy Munroe 289-3359 or Joyce Gossman 282-1676 for a reservation.

Programs for the next months include: **April 11:** Tina Van Hilst speaking about her years living in an Occupied Country—Poland. **May 9:** Catherine Park will speak about her country--Korea and teach us also about yoga .

No luncheon meetings in the summer months from June, July and August . Join us at the Y again in September. Volunteer who would like to speak in September or the Fall should contact Phyllis at 288-1197.

Volunteer helpers are needed to set up and help with cleanup.

**English Conversation Group** will continue to meet each month usually on the third Friday morning at 10:00AM. Americans and internationals meet informally in homes or coffee shops for friendship, snacks and of course conversation. New internationals who wish to practice their English are especially welcome to join. There will be no meeting in April as it is World Festival month. Join us again in May. Call Betsy at (507) 289-3359 for information.

**RIFG International Filmfest Friday May 4-Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Chateau Theater:** Program schedule will be announced a few weeks before the opening. Individual tax exempt contributions are requested to assist in funding this event. Please send your contribution to the RIFG International film group c/o Cathy Ashton, P.O. Box 6803, Rochester MN. 55903-6803.

**Rochesterfest parade June 22:** RIA has had a float and a walking unit carrying flags of their nations in the parade for many years. We invite other international groups or individuals to join with us. Herold's Flag Shop will provide flags to carry. Call 282-5116 for information.

**International Summer Picnic July 19:** Held in July and cosponsored by the RIA and the Mayor's International Affairs Community -- the Summer

Picnic will be held at Silver Lake West Picnic Shelter (by the Fire Station beginning at 6pm. Bring your family and your favorite picnic food to share.

**RIA Board meetings** are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the IMMA office meeting room at 300 NW 11th Ave.

**Join the RIA Board** to help plan and carry out programs for the year ahead. New members can be appointed throughout the year. Board members meet monthly to make and carry out activities. We especially welcome a diverse membership and invite RIA members from all cultures to join the Board.

## Technology Update

This newsletter and current events can be found on the website. <http://www.ria-minnesota.org>

**Email subscriptions.** Please send us your e-mail address and get up-to-the-minute updates on any postings on our website. <http://ria-minnesota.org/email-subscriptions/>

**Going Green.** If you wish to opt into only receiving your future newsletters via email, sign up at <http://ria-minnesota.org/newsletters/>

## Thank You

### **RCTC International Students**

Many international students in this community attend Rochester Community and Technical College. Glen Saponari is the advisor to the group and is a member of the RIA Board. Students take an active role in the annual World Festival and other activities and programs. We invite them to be involved in RIA activities.

### **IMAA Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association**

The IMAA has hosted the RIA in its office for many years and provided RIA's office and storage space, mailing address, phone and computer access. We appreciate this generous service as well as the friendships we have made with their staff. Their growing immigrant staff and clients need additional office space, so the IMAA is planning a move to new quarters in 2007. They have asked RIA to stay associated with them and continue to use their

mailing address. The mailing address for IMAA and RIA after June 21 will be 2500 Valley High Drive NW, Rochester 55901.

## RIA Memberships

**JOIN THE ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION** – The RIA is conducting an early membership drive for RIA and working to update and increase our membership list. Yearly memberships expire at the end of June, which ends the fiscal year for RIA and most non-profit organizations. We thank all the current members and invite those who have not yet joined to become a part of the organization and help support the activities and programs of the Rochester International Association by joining now. Expenses for World Festival and other programs cost more each year. Annual dues remain the same as they were in 1980. Additional contributions are always welcome and we thank our World Festival sponsors and loyal members who pay their dues each year to support our programs. All RIA officers and board members are due-paying volunteers.

New or current members who pay dues for '07-'08 by mail or at our membership table at the World Festival and will receive 10 food tickets (each worth \$.50) good for food at the Festival on Saturday, April 21. New individual or student members will also receive 10 food tickets. Family or organizational members will receive 20 tickets; Membership forms are on the back of this newsletter. Join today by mailing in your membership dues to RIA, 300 NW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 100, Rochester, MN 55901.

## Credits

**President:** Frank Hawthorne

**Vice President:** Addie Borja

**Secretary:** Sue Shockey

**Treasurer:** Ann Lance

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Phyllis Layton

**Memberships:** Thomas Yung

**Website & Technology:** Thomas Yung

**Newsletter Editors:** Phyllis Layton, Heidi Chaney, Thomas Yung

**Board Members:** Art Hamburgren, Phyllis Layton, George Margellos, Marcella Nixon, Glen Saponari, Lee Herold, Heidi Chaney, Thomas Yung, Nathan Lee.

Mail this membership form to RIA's office at: 300 11th Ave. N.W. Suite 110, Rochester, MN 55901.

Phone Number: (507) 289-5960, Website: <http://ria-minnesota.org>

RIA board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the board room.

**RIA membership is open to all. Please join today! 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 the community.

**Annual Membership dues:**

Individual \$20 [ ] Student/Senior \$15 [ ] Family \$30 (\$48 for 2 years) [ ] Organization \$30 [ ] Business \$50 [ ]

Name or Names:

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Address:

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Phone:

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Email (*indicate if you d like to receive future newsletters in your email instead of mailed out to you*):

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Country/Heritage:

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Interests/talents you can share:

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**Rochester International Association**

**Newsletter Spring 2007**

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