



Rochester International Association

<http://www.ria-minnesota.org>

RIA Newsletter Spring 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RIA's president Frank Hawthorne was honored by Olmsted County Human Rights Commission with their annual Human Rights Award at the Diversity Council's Annual Meeting in March. He was nominated by his co-workers at the Rochester Public Library. We are proud of Frank's award and pleased to have his many years of service in the Rochester International Association.

The Rochester International Association

welcomes everyone to join them in celebrating the 30th Annual Rochester World Festival dedicated to the memory of Fuad Mansour, founder of the Festival

“Around the World in 30 Years”

April 7th and 8th 2006

Century High School, 2525 Viola Road NE

ETHNIC DANCE, MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT

On stage Friday, April 7, 2006 at 7 PM

April Dahl, artistic director

30th anniversary reception following the performance

Tickets: \$6 adults (\$5 in advance only for RIA members) \$3 students
Available at RIA / IMAA reception desk at 300 NW 11th Ave. Suite 110
and at Hunt's Silver Lake Pharmacy, Mayo and IBM Activities Centers
Remaining tickets sold at the door beginning at 6:15 pm

ETHNIC FOOD and FESTIVAL EVENTS

Saturday, April 8, 2006 10 AM-3 PM Free admission

10:30AM: Parade of Nations, 11AM-3PM: Ethnic Food tasting

10AM-3PM: Cultural Exhibits, Displays, Demonstrations, Entertainment

Children's Activities in the Gym: 10:30AM -2:00PM

Silent auction of Festival quilt and other items until 3 PM

For further information or to volunteer, call 288-1197 or 289-5690.

Everyone is welcome!

Thanks to our sponsors and contributors:

Mayo Foundation, US Bank, Olmsted County Human Rights Commission, James and Judy Sloan Foundation, Venture Computers, Rochester Community and Technical College, Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

ria-minnesota.org for the updated information about events and opportunities. Our website is set up and managed by Thomas Yung. The new design features a cleaner look and dynamic structure, which makes it easier to find information that you need. We have utilized the free WordPress software which allows for user registrations, comments, and content postings. It allows us to manage content for the website very much like a traditional newspaper editorial process.

The front page features the latest announcements and calendar events for RIA. Some of the more prominent features in the website are the World Festival pages, the latest on our volunteer opportunities, quarterly newsletters in electronic form, information on the organization, and the RIA membership form that you can print and send back to us.

NEWS and EVENTS

International Luncheons at the Y These monthly luncheons meet each month September through May at 11:30 AM on the second Wednesday of each month in Balfour Hall at the Rochester Family Y. Anyone is welcome to come, but reservations are needed. Please call Betsy at 289-3359 or Phyllis at 288-1197 to attend or volunteer to help setup and cleanup at the luncheons. We will also be looking for volunteer speakers when next September-November.

We mourn the recent death of Meta Kiss, a long-time member of our group.

April 12: Go on Safari in Africa with Julie Gilkinson, pictures, music and talk

May 10: Kim Sin, former student and now on staff at RCTC will speak about his home country of Cambodia, which he has recently visited.

English Conversation Group meets monthly from 10:00-12 noon usually on the third Friday of each month for friendship and informal conversation in English for new internationals and for others who wish to join us. We meet 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. Some summer meetings will be held.

RIA Board meetings are held at 7:00 pm 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. We need new board members. On April 11th, we will evaluate the recent World Festival. Anyone who has new ideas and is interested in working on the next Festival is very welcome to welcome to come.

Rochesterfest parade: Friday June 24. RIA has taken part in this event for many years. RCTC international students join us in preparing a float, dressing in their native dress and carrying the flags of their countries in this annual event. We invite you to join us this year.

Thursday, July 13, 6pm: International Summer Picnic, cosponsored by the RIA and the Mayor's International Affairs Community. The Summer Picnic will be held again at Silver Lake West Picnic Shelter (by the Fire Station) at beginning at 6pm. Bring your family and your favorite picnic food to share. Invite new international friends.

COMMUNITY EVENTS and INFORMATION

Cinco de Mayo: May 6, from 11AM-3, Mayo Park, behind the Civic Center. Come join the Mexican community in this annual celebration: food, music, entertainment.

Rochester Community College News: The RIA gives International Scholarship tuition awards of \$500 at RCTC to two international students continuing their education at RCTC. The awards will be presented at the Hill Theatre on May 4 at 7pm.

Diversity Council: Kay Hocker, former education director is now the new executive director. The Diversity Council welcomes individual and business membership in its efforts to build 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. Their office is at 220 S. Broadway; Phone: 282-9951. Check their website for their E-calendar of Multicultural Events in Rochester www.diversitycouncil.org.

Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association: IMAA provides supports services to the 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. You can also reach RIA at the IMAA phone number 289-5960; leave a message for RIA

Festival of Nations, *Celebrating Ethnic Traditions*, May4-7, St. Paul RiverCentre: Presented since 1932 by the International Center of Minnesota. Find more information on their website: www/festivalofnations.com.

THANK YOU to the RIA MEMBERS and VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to our newest volunteer, Heidi Chaney.

She will work at the office on Tuesday and Thursday until she returns to RCTC in the summer.

The Rochester International needs YOUR membership

As RIA begins a new fiscal year in July 2006, we ask you to join our active volunteer organization. If you have been a member, please renew; you will find a membership application form on the back page of this newsletter and on our website.

The RIA is a nonprofit membership organization. Although everyone is welcome to take part in our programs, members are needed to serve on our board of directors and to help provide funds and volunteer support for the organization. We invite people from all countries and cultures to join. If you can't afford membership dues, let us know. All members are welcome to become active in our organization. We welcome you to call the RIA office at 289-5960. Leave a message and we will return your call. You may call any of the board members or contact us on the new website

Rochester International Association
300 N.W. 11th Ave., Suite 110
Rochester, MN 55901
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President: Frank Hawthorne

Vice President: Addie Borja

Secretary: Sue Shockey

Treasurer: Ann Lance

Volunteer Coordinator: Phyllis Layton

Membership: Binh & Thomas Yung

Website Producer: Thomas Yung

Newsletter Editors: Phyllis Layton &
Thomas Yung

Board Members: Denise Stegall, Phyllis
Layton, George Margellos, Luna Mukher-
jee, Dottie Hawthorne, Marcella Nixon,
Glen Saponari, Lee Herold

**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.ria-minnesota.org

Membership...
The Rochester International Association
needs YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

RIA's membership year begins each July.
We thank those who renewed this sum-
mer. New memberships are welcome at
any time of the year. A membership appli-
cation form is on the back page of this
newsletter.

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.

We hope you will become an
active member of the RIA and
volunteer for the 2006 World Fes-
tival.

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 the 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 Mission: Celebrating cultural diversity and providing opportunities for mul-
ticultural 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/heritage: _____

Interest/talents you can share: _____

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