



# Centre Communautaire des Femmes Sud-Asiatiques

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### What do you think? Que pensez-vous?

- Let us know your thoughts about the new bulletin
- Que pensez-vous à notre nouveau bulletin?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language!
- Please write to Shipra at [shipra@bellnet.ca](mailto:shipra@bellnet.ca)
- Soumettez vos pensées et œuvres écrites à Shipra

## SAWCC News / Nouvelles de CCFSA

With the start of a new year, we welcome Ramani Balendra in her new position as the Centre Manager, handling the day-to-day operation at SAWCC. We continue to seek out applicants for the Centre Coordinator position (see Job Opportunity on pg. 6). Ramani will continue her responsibilities working with the Sri Lankan community.

**Ramani Balendra** a travaillé comme intervenante communautaire au Centre des Femmes Sud-Asiatiques, depuis 1990, en travaillant étroitement avec la communauté Sri Lankaise. Elle est également une des membres fondateurs du Congrès Tamoul

du Canada (en Quebec). Elle est aussi impliquée dans plusieurs campagnes pour l'élimination des abus de droits de l'homme contre les tamouls au Sri Lanka.

In addition to the monthly potluck held on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, where clients, members, staff, EC, supporters, family and friends alike gathered, we also celebrated 2011 with a year-end potluck party at CEDA (2515, rue Delisle). There were games for all ages, face painting, kids' drawing and crafts corner, performances by Nivatha Balendra (Bharatha Naatiyam dance) and SAWCC workers (Hands of Lady Justice play), dancing, and

delicious food brought by everyone. Over 100 participants attended the event – wives, husbands, children – the entire family came out to support the end of a successful year at SAWCC.



Ms. Nivatha Balendra dancing at the Year-End party

## A New Year's Message / Un message de nouvel an

Je souhaite une bonne année à tous les membres, travailleuses, amis, collaborateurs, et participants du CCFSA. Félicitation à ceux qui ont impliqué avec CCFSA pendant les 30 dernières années! Nous avons pu célébrer notre

diversité avec un perspectif féministe et nous aider dans nos luttes, communes et personnelles, le long du chemin. Comment CCFSA peut prospérer pendant 30 ans de plus? Comme toujours, nous avons besoin votre

aide. Veuillez prendre le temps à participer aux activités du centre, appeler nous si vous voulez contribuer au bulletin mensuel, ou suggérer des façons afin que CCFSA puisse améliorer en tant qu'une organisation. (cont'd pg. 5)

## Elders Speak Up / Les paroles des aînées

SAWCC's senior representatives on the Executive Council, wishes all members and friends of SAWCC a very Healthy and Successful 2012 in all endeavours personal and organizational!

**"We turn not older with years, but newer every day" Emily Dickinson**

We look forward to meeting you through the newsletter and at functions at SAWCC in the New Year.

Best Wishes.

(Madhu Nambiar and Anne Caines)

### **Letter from RECAA:**

Dear SAWCC members,  
RECAA wishes you peace and good health for the New Year 2012!

RECAA will continue to use its theatre workshop "Towards a Culture of Respect" and our self defense course for elders "ACTION: sagesse" to promote discussion and to explore ways to prevent and reduce the incidences of

abuse in our communities.

We hope that you will continue to share RECAA's resources and experiences to find solutions that are imaginative, innovative and as diverse as the elders in our communities. (Ethel Baines, President)



## South Asian Youth (SAY) / Jeunes sud-asiatiques (JSA)

SAY began their monthly film screenings on December 4<sup>th</sup> with the film "Bol" (2011) to commemorate the Polytechnique tragedy on December 6, 1989. The screening was followed by a thought-provoking discussion about violence against women as depicted in the film, as well as issues such as gender roles and treatment of inter-sex children and adults. To commemorate December 6<sup>th</sup> and in memory of the 14 women who lost their

lives in 1989 at École Polytechnique, 14 candles were lit.

Our next screening will be on Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. It will be open to youth aged 15-35 years, in a queer-friendly space.

If you are youth and are looking to get involved with the group, please join us at our next SAY meeting on January 6, 2PM, at SAWCC. We will be discussing exciting projects such as

movie nights, Alternative Valentine's Day, and International Women's Day for the New Year!  
(Nailasada Alidina)



## Member's Corner / Coin de membre

Congratulations to Maya Khankhoje's short story "Tlatelolco, 2 October" featured in an anthology released on December 19! Her story sets against the background of political turmoil in Mexico during the 1968 Olympics.

Authors in the anthology read from their pieces at the **Canadian Authors Association Anthology: Writings**

book release at the Thomas More Institute on Dec. 19, 2011. Copies of the book are for sale: \$14 ([514-865-6616](tel:514-865-6616) for more info)



Also a big congratulation to Vijaya Mulay, who received two big honours in India: the National Book Award for

her book From Rajahs and Yogis to Gandhi and Beyond and the Golden Lotus National Award given to her by the President of India on Sept. 7. She was honoured by the SNDT University with a Doctor of Literature degree. She will also attend the Mumbai International Film Festival (Feb. 3) as the guest of honour.

## Women Around the World / Femmes autour du monde

Christine Schuler-Deschryver, nommée une de Femmes de 2011 par The Guardian UK, gère City of Joy, un centre pour les survivantes de viol et d'autres formes de la violence de genre à Bukavu, dans le République démocratique du Congo. Le centre offre aux survivantes les sessions sur 'de-traumatisation', les droits de femmes, programmes d'alphabétisation, et informations sur l'économie, la comptabilité, l'agriculture, la production, les affaires, l'auto-défense, et l'internet. Bahati



Christine Schuler-Deschryver

Bachu, une coordonnatrice au centre et une activiste féministe, souligne qu'est-ce que le féminisme congolais. Le centre est basé sur l'idée que "even the most traumatised and brutalised people need not be mere passive recipients of foreign aid, but can in fact become political leaders".

Samira Ibrahim, l'activiste égyptienne qui a enduré l'horrible 'examen de virginité' de l'armée égyptienne, est

un autre récipiendaire du prix 'Femmes de 2011'. Elle n'a pas seulement dénoncé l'agression sexuelle, mais elle est actuellement en train de le combat devant un tribunal.

D'autres gagnantes du prix sont : Leymah Gbowee, Tawakkul Karman, et Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, les trois ont aussi chacune gagné le prix Nobel de Paix. Seulement 12 femmes ont déjà gagné le prestigieux prix Nobel. Sirleaf a dit en recevant le prix, "My sisters, my daughters, my friends – find your voice," un message fort qui résonne avec les femmes à travers les frontières. (The Guardian UK)

## December 6th Commemoration / Commémoration le 6 décembre

At noon on December 6th, 2011, SAWCC joined the Comité des 12 jours d'action, a conglomerate of feminist organizations in Québec, in solidarity at Palais de justice de Montréal (1, Notre Dame est) to denounce violence against women (VAW) and commemorate the victims of the l'École Polytechnique tragedy. Furthermore, we also protested against the Québec government's endorsement of banning the long-gun registry in Loi C-19, yet another obstacle in the struggle to end VAW. Approximately 100 people gathered outside Palais de justice –

reporters, activists, feminists, students, photographers, and passersby – all adorning the commemorative white ribbons and bowing their heads in a moment of silence for the victims. The organizers then expressed their concern regarding VAW through theatre, skits, speeches, and shout-outs. Vigils and commemorations continued throughout the day, across Montréal, in various neighborhoods.

Nous avons été aussi invités à assister à une réunion de déjeuner chez Femme Du Monde. Helen Fotopulos qui est une conseillère de la ville de

Montréal et aussi responsable du dossier municipal du statut des femmes, a été également invitée ce jour à parler au sujet de cette tragédie. Les invitées ont été servies un déjeuner cuit par les femmes du centre. L'équipe du centre a présenté trois pièces de Forum théâtre avec la situation différente de violence faites aux femmes.

(Keren Tang & Ghazala Munawar )

## Healthy Eating / Manger santé—Black Bean Chili

### Ingredients:

Onions chopped - 2 cups  
Garlic cloves chopped - 2  
Water - ½ cup  
Cumin ground - 1 tbsp  
Coriander ground - 1 tbsp  
Salsa - 1 cup  
Green bell peppers chopped - 1 cup  
Black beans cooked - 3 cups (2x15 oz cans)

Tomatoes - 3 cans  
Corn - 2 cups  
Salt - to taste  
Tabasco or hot sauce to taste  
Cilantro (optional) - ¼ cup

### Method:






Cook onions, garlic and water on high heat. Stir frequently



Easy, healthy recipe of the month

for about 5 minutes. Add the cumin and coriander and stir on high heat for 1 minute. Stir in the salsa and bell pepper. Lower the heat and cook for about 5 minutes. Add the black beans and tomatoes and cook for 10 minutes. Add salt and Tabasco. Stir in cilantro. Serve with nacho chips and sour cream. (Courtesy of Farah Fancy)

# January/Janvier 2012

S/Dim	M/Lun	T/Mar	W/Mer	Th/Jeu	F/Ven	Sa/Sam
1	2	3	4	5	 6	7
8	 9	10	11	12	13	14
15	 16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	 27	28
 29	30	31				

## Calendar events / Les événements de calendrier

- Jan. 6—South Asian Youth (SAY) meeting at 2PM
- Jan. 9—language classes start at 9AM (English I & II; French I)—To register for a language class, please contact Ghazala at x104 or [mghazala@bellnet.ca](mailto:mghazala@bellnet.ca)
- Jan. 16—deadline to submit your job application for Centre Coordinator
- Jan. 16—Executive Council meeting at 6PM—all are welcome!
- Jan. 27—in the spirit of gathering and sharing, join us for our monthly potluck at 12PM
- Jan. 29—SAY movie night at 1PM

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- Jan. 6—réunion de Jeunes Sud-Asiatique (JSA) à 14h00
- Jan. 9—des cours de langue commencent à 9h00 (Anglais I & II; Français I) - inscrivez-vous par contacter Ghazala à poste 104 ou [mghazala@bellnet.ca](mailto:mghazala@bellnet.ca)
- Jan. 16—délai pour postuler à l'offre d'emploi pour Coordinatrice de CCFSA
- Jan. 16—réunion du conseil de direction à 18h00: toutes sont bienvenues!
- Jan. 27—rejoignez-vous à notre dîner communautaire mensuel à 12h00
- Jan. 29—JSA soirée du film commence à 13h00



# Cont'd pg. 1

(New Year's message)

En outre, veuillez nous informer au plus tôt que possible si vous changez d'adresse, de courriel, ou numéro de téléphone afin que nous puissions vous tenir au courant toutes les nouvelles et les activités au centre. Nos réunions du conseil de direction ne sont pas confidentielles et sont ouvertes à tous les membres. Nous vous invitons à renouveler votre abonnement ou devenir un membre pour 2012. Comme vous le savez, 2012 est l'année d'élection du conseil de direction au CCFSA. Veuillez venir participer dans notre équipe et amener vos amis et familles!

Je voudrais remercier spécialement les jeunes participants au CCFSA qui ont initié les nouvelles activités. Veuillez exprimer votre opinion, nous apprécions toutes sortes de contributions. Au nom du CCFSA, j'aimerais souhaiter la paix et la prospérité à tous ! (Sajida Imam, Présidente, CCFSA)



Photos from the Year-End Party



## Membership: April 2012—March 2013

You would like to:

- Become a new member
- Renew your membership

Country of origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in Canada: \_\_\_\_\_

Female: \_\_\_ Male: \_\_\_

### Membership fees:

- \$15.00 for salaried people
- \$7.00 for non-salaried people & elders
- \$100.00 for life-time membership
- Donation

\$\$ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in:

- Language classes
- Potluck lunches
- Income-generating co-op
- Information sessions
- Movie nights

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please return this form via mail, fax, or in-person before April 1, 2012

\* Please contact Ghazala at x104 or mghazala@bellnet.ca if you have any question.

## South asian women's Community centre

South Asian Women's Community Centre  
 Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques  
 1035, rue Rachel est, 3ième étage.

Phone: 514-528-8812  
 Fax: 514-528-0896  
 E-mail: sawcc@bellnet.ca

**South Asian Women cooking: healthy and delicious meals for your home and parties at very reasonable prices**

To order, or for menu or more info, please contact Juvaria at [juvariay@hotmail.com](mailto:juvariay@hotmail.com)

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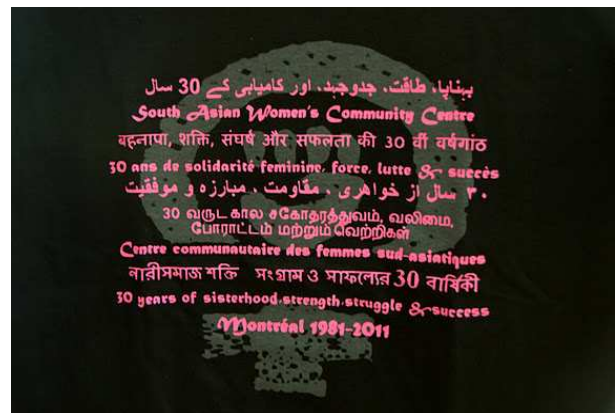
30 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2011

[www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca](http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca)

*The South Asian Women's Community Centre is a not-for-profit organization that helps women achieve their full potential in the Québec and Canadian societies and also helps them become independent.*

Announcements / Annonces:

- **Membership 2012-2013: Please renew your membership or begin a new one by returning the form on pg. 5**
- **Volunteers:** If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Ghazala (ex. 104 or mghazala@bellnet.ca) for a meeting so we can get to know your skills better!
- **SAWCC t-shirt and bags are on-sale at the Centre (10\$ ea.)!!**



(SAWCC gear writing on bags and t-shirts)  
On sale now!!!

## Notice—Job Opportunity / Avis—Offre d'emploi

Position Title: **Centre Coordinator**

### Job Description

The South Asian Women's Community Centre is a community organization whose mission is to empower women and work for their development, socially and economically, and to promote policies, measures and services that response to the specific needs of South Asian women in Montreal.

The Centre is looking for a coordinator who is responsible for maintaining and procuring core and project funding, liaises with relevant government organizations, is the public face of the organization, and will work closely with the Centre's Executive Council, the Centre Manager and the Centre staff for the functioning and well-being of the South Asian Women's

Community Centre. The Centre Coordinator ensures that all this is done in accordance with the objectives of the organization.

\*\*Please note this position will require some evening and weekend work. This is a permanent, full-time position. This position offers collective insurance and other fringe benefits as per the South Asian Women's Community Centre's current practices and policies; salary commensurate with experience and organizational scale.

### To Apply

Please send a CV, cover letter, a vision statement, and three references, no later than **Monday 16 January 2012** to "Hiring Committee c/o SAWCC Coordinator" by email to [sawcc@bellnet.ca](mailto:sawcc@bellnet.ca)

### Pour postuler

S'il-vous-plaît, envoyez un CV, une lettre de motivation, un énoncé de vision, et trois références, au plus tard le **lundi 16 janvier 2012**, à «Comité d'embauche c / o Coordonnatrice « CCFSA » par courriel à [sawcc@bellnet.ca](mailto:sawcc@bellnet.ca)

**(Requirements and responsibilities see website or contact the centre)**

