



# Centre Communautaire des Femmes Sud-Asiatiques

## SAWCC Annual General Meeting (Swathi Sekhar)

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The SAWCC Annual General Meeting was held at the Centre on Saturday June 9, 2012, from 10AM until 3PM, and was very well attended despite the extreme heat. The morning comprised of various ice-breakers and group activities that enabled everyone attending to get to know each other, to learn a bit more about SAWCC and to reflect on current and future challenges facing the Centre.

The morning opened with an interactive quiz game about SAWCC's history and current activities. Following this, time was dedicated to a presentation and reflection on SAWCC's 30th anniversary conference-forum, "Migrant Feminisms in the New Millennium: 30 years of Sisterhood, Strength, Struggle and Success" which was held in November 2011. The presenters reviewed the main points coming out of the conference-forum,

which enabled participants to either remember or learn about the events which took place that weekend. The participants then divided into small groups, where they came up with concrete steps and strategies that SAWCC can implement in the upcoming year, in light of the issues that were initially identified in the original conference forum. Overall, it was an enlightening and enriching morning session which generated some excellent, practical ideas for SAWCC moving forward.

After a delicious lunch catered by our Catering Group, we reconvened for the afternoon portion of the AGM, which primarily comprised of the election of the new Executive Council or Committee (EC), as well as the presentations of the financial and annual report for the 2011-2012 year. The afternoon allowed members to see that as an organization, we have accom-

plished a lot throughout the year, from gala to the Migrant Feminism conference, from the youth program to the Autonomous and Independent Women project, from educational classes to building resources and networking.



**Rajee Sri's performance**

### Elder's Corner

On June 14th, we participated in an Elder Abuse Awareness Day organized by RECAA (Ressources ethnoculturelles contre l'abus envers les aînés) and COPSI (Centre d'orientation paralégale et social pour les immigrants) and co-sponsored by the Atwater Library and Computer Centre's Digital Literacy Project and ACM (Ageing

Communications Media Research Network). In addition to the thought-provoking theatre performances by RECAA, we enjoyed singing from the Raging Grannies, les Mémés Déchainées, Anabelle Segovia's puppet show "Cartas de amor", piano piece played by Emily Drysdale, clowns Pilapala et Madame Confiture in the

act "Musical Chairs," and Rajee Sri in a beautiful classical Indian dance to a song about a mother-son relationship. (Cont'd on p.5)



## Annual Picnic at Magog Beach—July 7, 2012

Please join us this year for our annual SAWCC picnic on July 7th, 2012, at Magog Beach.

Bus will arrive at Metro Namur at 9:00 am and will leave at 9:30AM.

Bus will arrive at Metro Parc at 9:00 am and will leave at 9:15AM.

Cost for adult: \$18, Cost for child (13 years and under): \$10

Note: Bus seats will be reserved for 1 Adult and 1 child only, or 3 small children. Babies (under 2 years) who cannot sit, cannot come on the bus because no child can sit on any lap.

### Recommended things to bring:

- 1- Your lunch and 1-2 snacks (enough for you and your family)
- 2- Water bottles, drinks, tea in a flask if you crave tea
- 3- Napkins & tissues, disposable cutlery, plates & cups
- 4- Plastic bags for carrying and garbage disposal
- 5- A bed sheet or blanket for sitting down
- 6- A change of clothing for kids, towels
- 7- Swimming costumes and slippers

for the beach for kids

8- Thin jackets for evening, sun hats

9- Sun screen & bug spray as mosquito repellent

10- Wet wipes, hand sanitizer, medication

11- Loose change for renting boats, ice cream etc

12- Camera

### In order that we all have maximum fun with least discomfort, please:

- Wait for SAWCC staff to assign you your seat in the bus. Do not pick your own.
- Form a line each time we get on and off the bus. Be patient for our turn
- Give priority to those who can not walk well or are elderly
- Be responsible for our kids at all time
- Learn about the amenities in the park (bathroom, shops etc) and go in groups
- Pick up our own garbage ourselves and not expect others to

clean up after us

- Remember our meeting point and please be there ON TIME
- Participate in games and activities organized by the staff

Direction to MAGOG BEACH (345, Rue Du Moulin, Magog, QC J1X 4A1)

From Décarie take the ramp to:

- Merge onto AUT-15 S
- Take AUT-10 E toward AUT-30/ Sherbrooke/Québec/Vermont/I-89.
- Take EXIT 115 towards RTE-112/ Magog (Centre-Ville)/St-Benoit-du-Lac.
- Turn left onto Chemin Milletta. (Ranch Du Spaghetti & Plus is on the corner)
- Enter next roundabout and take the 1st exit onto RTE-112 E/Rue Principale O.
- Turn left onto Rue du Moulin. (Cantine Du Lac is on the corner. If you reach Rue du Lac you've gone a little too far)
- 345, RUE DU MOULIN.

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

The Youth Program ended its Club des Filles programs at École La Voie and École Simonne-Monet. Our last days together were spent watching the movies we made during our video projects, celebrating the end of the year with awards and certificates, as well as bonding over potluck lunches, pizza, and subway sandwiches. Girls at École La Voie enjoyed their movie "La Voleuse," the story of more than just a stolen necklace, but friendship, honesty, and justice.

Le programme jeunesse a fini ses Clubs des Filles à l'École la Voie et l'École Simonne-Monet. Nous avons passé les dernières journées en regardant des films que nous avons fait pendant les projets de vidéos, en célébrant le fin d'année avec des prix et des certificats, et en partageant un dîner communautaire, un pizza, et des sandwichs chez Subway. Les filles à l'École la Voie ont apprécié grandement leur film « La Voleuse, » une histoire qui raconte plus que d'un collier

manqué, mais d'amitié, d'honnête, et de justice.

Congratulations to the youth program for successfully receiving the Violence Prevention grant from Canadian Women's Foundation for \$25,000!

En outre, félicitation au programme jeunesse pour avoir réussi le fonds de prévention de la violence, soutenu par la Fondation canadienne des femmes.



École La Voie



École Simonne-Monet



Youth at the Annual General Meeting

## L'R AGM 12-14 June 2012 at Shawinigan (Ghazala Munawar)

June is the month when all the women's organizations and the umbrella organizations have their annual general meetings (AGM). It's a very busy time of the year, but despite the limited staffing at our own centre, we try to attend as many meetings as possible, as they are important informational and networking opportunities.

Throughout the year, we have worked very closely with these groups and organizations for the betterment of women and their families. Often, we are in direct contact with organisations in Montreal when we attend various monthly TABLE meetings (Table de concertation des

organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes; Table régionale des centres de femmes de Montréal métropolitain/Laval; Regroupement des organismes en francisation du Québec; and Réseau d'action des femmes en santé et services sociaux). However, our contact is limited to emails with regards to the organizations in the other regions of Quebec.

The L'R des centres des femmes du Québec AGM gives us the opportunity to network with these organisations. Homa and I participated in the this AGM, held in Shawinigan this year, where we precisely met other women's groups from across Quebec

working at a grass root level for the same cause and mandate as SAWCC. The opening soirée was really extraordinarily entertaining and enjoyable with excellent food and music programs. The next day we had the AGM with all year-round reports and future planning for the year 2012-2013. That evening, we took part in a demonstration in downtown Shawinigan, organized by the local women's centre, using pots and pans to make lots of noise. Many people came out in their balconies in solidarity, while also making noises with their kitchenware. The last day, as always, had workshops on different topics with lots of information, plans and strategies to follow for the coming year.

## Centre Updates

Summer camp officially started on Tuesday June 26, already the centre is enlivened by children's laughter, talking, and running around. With the help from dedicated volunteers, our summer camp counselor **Eanjalin Kamaleswaran** is busy settling in her role and organizing games, activities, and outing for the children ages 4-14. Registration is still open until Thursday July 5th. Please come by the centre and fill out a registration form.

Le Camp d'été a commencé mardi le 26 juin. Le centre est déjà animé par les enfants qui rient, parlent, et courent partout. Avec les aides des bénévoles dévoués, notre monitrice de camp, **Eanjalin Kamaleswaran**, est assez occupée dans sa rôle d'organiser des jeux, des activités, et des sorties pour les enfants entre 4 et 14 ans.

(Cont'd on p.5)



## Healthy Recipe - Cosumalli (Indian Cucumber Lentil Salad)

A healthy, dairy free option to go with spicier lentils and curries, or to be eaten alone! Perfect for summer picnics.

### Ingredients:

- yellow mung dhal (approx 1 cup)
- 1 large cucumber (diced)
- handful of cilantro, chopped
- juice of 1 lime (or to taste)
- chopped fresh green chili
- (optional) salt to taste

### For tempering:

- 1 tsp oil (any kind)

- mustard seeds (2 tsp)
- cumin seeds (2 tsp)
- aesofetida/hing (pinch)

### Instructions:







1. Soak yellow mung dhal in some warm water for about 30 minutes or until lentils are slightly soft. Drain, rinse and put in a bowl.
2. Add the diced cucumber, the chopped cilantro, lime juice, salt and green chili if you are using it
3. On the stove, heat the oil and add the mustard seeds. Once the seeds have popped, take off heat

- and immediately add cumin seeds and aesofetida.
4. add the mustard seed mixture to the bowl and mix together, adjusting salt and lime to taste.
5. Serve cool as a refreshing side curries, rice, or bread.

(Courtesy of Swathi Sekhar)



# July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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

- July 7th—Annual Picnic at Magog Beach
- July 10th—Arts and Crafts (Origami cranes) 10:30AM—12PM
- July 17th— Information session on STM
- July 24th—Information session on ‘Starting a Small Business’ 10:30AM—12PM
- July 27th—Cooking class 10:30AM—12PM
- July 31st—Arts and Crafts (jewellery-making) 10:30AM—12PM

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- 7 juillet—Pique-nique annuel au Plage Magog
- 10 juillet—Arts et métiers (des grues origamis) 10h30—12h
- 17 juillet—Séance d’information sur la STM
- 24 juillet—Séance d’information sur le lancement de votre propre petite entreprise 10h30-12h00
- 27 juillet—Cours de cuisine 10h30-12h00

## Member's Corner (By: Swathi Sekhar)

We would like to also take this opportunity to express a warm and heartfelt thank you to our former EC members who are no longer continuing on. It was a very challenging year for SAWCC with many changes taking place. The EC was instrumental in providing guidance in decision making, as well as ensuring a smooth transition for SAWCC members and staff.

To our outgoing members: **Sajida Imam (former President)**, **Kiran Omar (former Vice-President)**, **Nighat Hussain (former Secretary)**, **Shafiq Awj (former Public Relations Secretary)**, **Rashmini Segarajasinghe-Ernest (former Treasurer)**, **Madeleine Bird (former Publications Secretary)**, **Anne Caines (Elders representative)**, **Sohnia Karamat Ali (Programs Secretary)**.



We thank these wonderful, insightful women, for their hard work and dedi-

cation to the Centre, and hope that former EC members will continue to be a part of SAWCC's activities in the future.

### NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (2012-2014)

This year was an Executive Council (EC) election year. Most members of the incumbent EC chose not to run again, or as in the case of Nighat Hussain and Sajida Imam, who had already served 3 terms and therefore could not serve this time. Rashmini Segarajasinghe-Ernest, who had been Treasurer, chose to serve again. Nominations were received from SAWCC members, some of who had served on the EC in the past. In addition there were members who had not been on the EC before, but who were interested in serving SAWCC at this time.

SAWCC is at an important juncture, having completed 30 years and also going through some re-structuring after the retirement of our long-time Coordinator, Sadeqa Siddiqui. So we are very happy to welcome a strong EC composed of some veterans and some neophytes, committed to ensuring SAWCC's continued success.

The new EC is:

President: **Dolores Chew**

Vice-president: **Rashmini Segarajasinghe-Ernest**

Secretary: **Indu Krishnamurthy**

Treasurer: **Kakali Ghosh**

Programs Secretary: **Sumera Khan**

Public Relations Secretary: **Mela Sarkar**

Publications Secretary: **France Dutilly**

Youth Representative: **Farha Najah**

It certainly promises to be an exciting and dynamic year for the EC and for SAWCC, and we look forward to hearing all the input of the EC as well as our SAWCC staff and members.



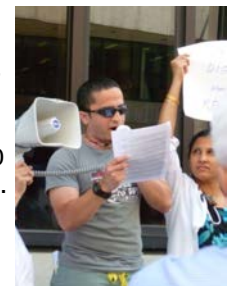
## Continuations

(From p.1) One of the objectives of the 2012 World Elder Abuse Awareness Event was to campaign for a UN convention on the Rights of Older Persons. This petition is organized by Help Age and under the project Age Demands Action(ADA) We encourage all SAWCC members to sign the petition, available [here](#).

(From p.3) At the end of June over 125,000 refugees and refugee claimants will face drastic health care cuts. This means no asthma medication for refugee children, no insulin for refugee diabetics, no heart medication for cardiac refugees, and many more.



On June 18th, as part of a national effort, we joined medical professionals in white lab coats and other community organizations holding their banners in a rally against such health care funding cuts for refugees, in front of Citizenship and Immigration Canada building on 1010 St. Antoine West.



## South asian women's Community centre

South Asian Women's Community Centre  
Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques  
1035, rue Rachel est, 3ième étage.  
Montréal, QC H2J 2J5

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

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

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

## Job Posting

Tamil-speaking Community worker.

Hours: 25 hours per week

Language proficiency: Fluent in English and Tamil as well as communicative French

### Duties as a Community worker:

-She will conduct her duties as a community worker upholding the goals and objectives of the organization.

-The community worker will provide interpretation, information and referral services to the users of the Centre. - The objective of the information and referral services is to provide assistance to new immigrants to settle in Canada and Quebec and to provide assistance to women with origins in South Asia in overcoming isolation and other difficulties within the family and outside in the workplace.

-She will do outreach in the specific community designated as her responsibility, for French and English classes, information sessions, workshops and other types of activities at the Centre. She will be guided by the coordinator in this task.

-She will counsel users of the Centre in her area of expertise or refer the person to an appropriate agency or individual.

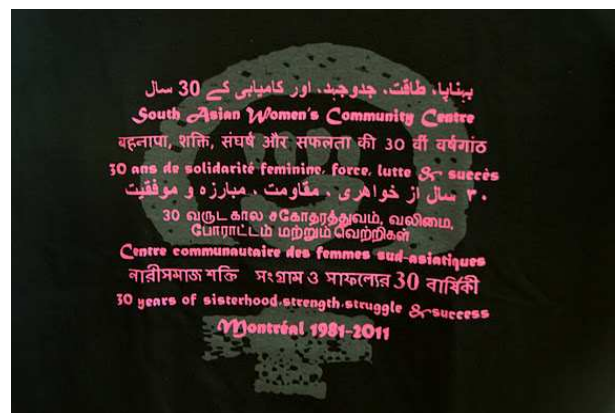
For more details and an exhaustive list of roles and responsibilities feel free to contact the centre coordinator or manager at (514)528-8812 or sawcc@bellnet.ca

**Deadline to apply: Friday July 13th, 2012**

*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: Don't forget to renew your membership!**
- **Volunteers:** If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (ex. 102 or homa@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!!!

Feel free to contact us if you are interested in making a submission to the bulletin!

### STAY IN TOUCH!

Don't forget to let us know if your address or phone number have changed.

### Gardez le contact!

N'oubliez pas de nous informer si vous avez changé votre adresse et téléphone.