



Centre Communautaire des Femmes Sud-Asiatiques

SAWCC's Open House and Garage Sale

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On October 14th, The South Asian Women's Community Centre is holding a Garage Sale and Open House. We welcome the public to join us, to meet the centre staff, executive council, members of the South Asian Youth (SAY) col-

lective, and to learn about our exciting campaigns, programs and projects. We encourage members, supporters, friends and new faces to come visit. And while you're here, stop by our Bake Sale to indulge in some warm baked goods. Venture into our Garage Sale and you'll be amazed by the surprises we have in store!

Join us on Sunday October 14th from 12PM to 4PM. 1035 Rachel East. All are welcome! The centre is wheelchair accessible.

Interested in donating? We're looking for clothes, kitchenware, books, children's toys and textiles. We ask that everything be in good condition. If you would like to donate your time, please contact Ghazala at mghazala@bellnet.ca with "garage sale" in the subject line by October 10th.

Joignez-vous à nous Dimanche le 14 octobre de 12h à 16h. Tout le monde est la bienvenue! Notre centre est fauteuil roulant accessible.

Voulez-vous faire un don? Nous sommes à la recherche des vêtements, des ustensiles de cuisine, des livres, jouets d'enfants et des textiles. Nous demandons que tout soit en bon état. Si vous voulez donner votre temps, s'il vous plaît contactez Ghazala à mghazala@bellnet.ca avec "vente de garage" dans la ligne de sujet.

Womyn's Herstory Month—October 2012

SAWCC is very happy to announce a presentation by
VANAJA DHURVARAJAN
Saturday 20th October 2-4pm
South Asian Women's Community Centre
1035 Rachel est, 3rd floor.

A personal statement from Dr. Dhruvarajan: "Over the years, I have promoted anti-racism and anti-sexism in my teaching, research, writing and community activism. Here I provide a few examples of such activities. I developed a course on "Women of Colour in Canada," which I have taught several times. More recently, in 2004 I developed and taught a graduate level course "Knowledge Monopolies, Anti-racism and sexism in Higher Education" at the University of Toronto and taught it again in summer session of 2005. I taught an updated version of the

same course at Carleton University in fall 2005 and 2006. I also developed a course titled "Gender and Race in the 21st century" and I taught this course for the department of Sociology at University of Ottawa. I have also written papers on the impact of knowledge monopolies in higher education and my contributions to feminist activism. I have organized conferences and colloquia on the topics of gender and race, and have given many talks to varied audiences. I am a founding member of Association of Researchers and Academics of Colour for Equality (R.A.C.E.) founded in 2005."



What do you think? Que pensez-vous?

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin
- Que pensez-vous de notre bulletin?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language!
- Please write to say.jsa@resist.ca
- Soumettez vos pensées et œuvres écrites à say.jsa@resist.ca

Centre Update (courtesy of Naila Alidina)

Do you feel that chill? The sun's summer rays are slowly slipping away as the leaves crisp and turn to 50 shades of grey... I mean red. With summer coming to an end, the Centre is back to its regular hours.

Monday 9AM - 9PM
Tuesday 9AM - 5PM
Wednesday 9AM - 5PM
Thursday 9AM - 9PM
Friday 9AM - 5PM



South Asian Women Autonomous and Independent (SAWAI) is offering their free English classes, discussion groups and info sessions for women each Wednesday from 10:00 - 1:30 at 419 St. Roch (SS 14-B).

The same programs are held in Côte-des-Neiges on Fridays from 10:00am - 1:30pm at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges Room 601-3 (6th floor). Contact Juvaria Yasser for more information at juvariay@hotmail.com or 514-528-8812 Ext. 105

EC meetings are open to all members. Agenda items should be sent at least one week prior to a meeting to: dolchew@hotmail.com

Our 'retreat-type' meetings to take our Revisioning agenda forward begin this month. Please see the calendar (p.5) for upcoming meeting dates.

Membership 2012-13: call today to become a member!

Volunteers: If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or homa@bellnet.ca) for a meeting so we can get to know your skills better!

Natural Birth and Midwives by Sarita Ahooja

My son Amrik Makandal was born in the early hours of June 11th, after 22 hours of labor. I was completely fulfilled by the birthing experience and my newborn in ways I could never have imagined. I was very thankful that I had a good team of midwives that had guided me through the effective birthing positions.

I always knew that I wanted a natural birth with a midwife, and not a doctor. I grew up in an environment that promoted natural and oriental medicine, and my parents always cultivated a critical regard towards medicalized interventions. I also subscribe to the idea that midwives have been accompanying women in the birthing process for centuries, and that the western world has imposed the supremacy of doctors and the monopoly of their power to erase traditional knowledge and women's autonomy.

When I was fifteen years old, my mother and I assisted a friend of the family in her home birth. During the birth, I initially fainted when we started to see the baby crown (the head of the baby comes through the vaginal opening). I was attempting to help our friend with her breathing, but instead I hyper-ventilated from the excitement. All in all, I was very moved by the experience and told myself that I would do the same when the time came.

In December 2011, when I was 4 months pregnant, I assisted in the home birth of a good friend. I was influenced by her situation since her home is large and spacious in comparison with mine. I therefore decided that my place was too small for me to have a home birth. I thought that I would feel cramped with the number of people attending the birth (my sis-

ter, my mother, and the father of the child). Luckily, I had been accepted at the Cotes-des-Neiges Birthing Centre where a limited amount of women are accepted each month. I was already meeting with my midwife and felt very comfortable with the idea of giving birth in one of the beautifully arranged rooms of the birthing center.

My contractions began at around 5am on June 10th. I was almost fully dilated upon arriving at the birthing home that night where I began pushing. There were no complications, and I didn't use an epidural. I realized after Amrik's birth that I could have easily given birth at home because one falls into a trance due to the intense pain and endorphins that are produced throughout the birth.

Next time, I will give birth at home!

South Asian Youth (SAY) / Jeunes sud-

This month SAY begins girls clubs for the 2012-2013 academic year. We will be coordinating Club de Filles at Ecole Secondaire La Voie in Côte des Neiges as well as the South Asian Girls Association (SAGA) at Marymount Academy in NDG. We are looking forward to a year of exciting discussions and projects!

SAY will also begin weekly visits to our old friends at Jeunesse Unie with the hopes of furthering our collaboration with youth at the centre as part of our Anti-Violence Campaign in Parc-Ex.

On October 13th, SAWCC is holding a 'retreat-type' meeting where SAY members will have the chance to

further discussions about our Anti-Violence/Street Harassment Campaign with members of the SAWCC community.



Interested in joining SAY? Drop us a line at say.jsa@resist.ca

Action internationale pour l'éducation

18 octobre

13h30

Place Emilie
Gamelin



Si nous avons à retenir une chose des dernière évènements, c'est bien que nous avons la capacité d'établir un rapport de force sans précédent face au gouvernement. La lutte contre la marchandisation du savoir est loin d'être exclusive au Québec et se dé-

ploie dans un nombre croissant de pays depuis plusieurs années (l'Angleterre et le Chili n'en sont que des exemples parmi bien d'autres). C'est pourquoi des étudiants et des étudiantes du monde entier ont mis sur pied la journée internationale de l'action pour l'éducation.

L'annulation de la hausse des frais de scolarité est certes une victoire considérable, elle laisse toutefois en place un système d'éducation soumis

aux intérêts du marché et inaccessible aux moins fortunées. Le 18 octobre, montrons à nos élites que nous ne les laisserons pas tranquilles sans que cette situation perdure.

C'est pas un gel des frais

Qui nous fera plier

Nous on veut

La gratuité.

Le 2^e festival annuel de films « Through a Woman's lens » (courtesy of Indu Krishnamurthy)

Le Centre culturel Kabir, sous l'égide du Haut-Commissariat de l'Inde et en collaboration avec l'école de cinéma Mel Hoppenheim, Université Concordia, présente le 2^e festival annuel de films le 13 et 14 octobre. Des films réalisés par les femmes indiennes (sous-titres en anglais) seront présentés au 1400 Maisonnette Ouest. Veuillez consulter le site-web pour les détails: <http://www.centrekabir.com/pg/fr/whats4.html>

The Kabir cultural centre, under the auspices of the Indian High Commission and in collaboration with Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, Concordia University, presents the 2nd Annual Film Festival on 13th and 14th of October. Acclaimed films directed by Indian women, with subtitles in English will be presented at J.A de Seve Cinema, 1400 Maisonnette West. Please consult the website for more details. <http://www.centrekabir.com/pg/eng/whats4.html>.

Festival de film
Centre Culturel Kabir

Sous l'égide du Haut-Commissariat de l'Inde
Haut-Commissariat de l'Inde

En collaboration avec
École de cinéma Mel Hoppenheim,
Université Concordia
Admission, gratuite

Through a Woman's Lens

une sélection de films acclamés
15, 16, 22 & 30 Septembre
13, 14 Octobre
13:30 - 17:30
J.A. de Seve Cinema
1400 De Maisonnette W. LB-125
<http://www.centrekabir.com>
<http://www.facebook.com/events/259279654190813/>

un débat après chaque projection

Domestic Workers Fight Racism and Sexism (Courtesy of PINAY)

PINAY is a sister organization of SAWCC. Here is an excerpt of their September 17th Press Release:

In filing for judicial review of the Quebec human rights commission's decision that recently rejected their complaint, a group of eight Filipina Live-in Caregivers and PINAY, a local Filipina women's group, also claim \$10,000 each from the commission for gross negligence and irregularities in handling their complaints and for failure to protect them from civil rights violations.

This is the first time that such a high amount of damages is sought against the Commission for negligence in protecting victims of discrimination.

The case will be heard on Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 9:00 am at the Montreal courthouse, at 1 Notre Dame East, room 2.16 (note: from this general room, the case will be assigned to another courtroom). The hearing will be open to the public.

The judicial review marks the continuing saga of the 26 women who, with PINAY's assistance, filed in May 2009 a complaint with the human rights commission against John Aurora, a West-Island immigration consultant and recruiter who passed away in September 2009. Aurora often traveled to Hong Kong and other Asian cities, with a secretary, to recruit these workers at a fee (an average of \$4,000 U.S) in return for

jobs.

Once landed in Montreal, these women were subjected to abusive employment, housing and other treatments. For instance, upon arrival in Montreal at their own expenses, most of the women did not have the Live-in Caregiver job offers they were promised and had paid for overseas, nor were they reimbursed by the agency. Also, many worked unpaid for Aurora while awaiting the confirmation of a new job offer and the completion of government procedures for the issuance of a new work permit. The women also signed leases with Aurora to rent his rooming house, while enduring substandard living conditions that included sleeping on the floor and overcrowding.

These women turned to public agencies for help without success. The Quebec human rights commission first sought to dismiss their case in October 2010 due to Aurora's death and the fact that his daughter denied involvement. Despite the submission of additional evidence to discrimination and exploitation, the Commission finally dismissed their case in late 2012, citing lack of evidence. According to the legal motion filed in August 2012, the Commission's handling of the case is fraught with irregularities, negligence and other problems such as the fact that the Commission:

-Waited 9 months to meet with half of

victims, contrary to standard preliminary evaluation practice of meeting them within 2 to 3 months from the date of filing of the complaint;

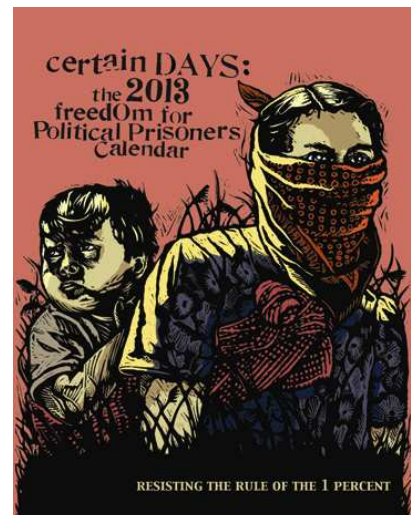
-Refused to indicate, despite numerous requests, whether it visited the premises where the women were housed in substandard conditions, and address this housing issue.

According to Ms. Evelyn Calugay, PINAY's President, "The human rights commission's handling of this case and recent complaints involving Filipina live-in caregivers clearly show that the Commission lacks the will to protect domestic workers from racial and gender discrimination, and that its failure to effectively protect these workers places Canada and Quebec in jeopardy where our international obligations on human trafficking and ensuring decent work for domestic workers are concerned."

Last year, Canada voted for the ILO's *International Convention for Decent Work for Domestic Workers*. After Uruguay, the Philippines recently ratified the Convention, making it fully applicable and binding on all state signatories.

Gift idea!

If you're looking for a good gift idea, try this! Certaindays.org presents a beautiful Political Prisoners Calendar for the year 2013. Check out their website to order your copy. <http://www.certaindays.org/>



South Asian Women's Community centre

South Asian Women's Community Centre
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31 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2012

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.

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| Oct. 11-18-25—SAY meeting
2:30PM | 11-18-25 oct—Réunion du Comité des jeunes sud-asiatiques (JSA) à 14h30 |
| Oct. 13—Special Saturday Retreat 10AM | 13 oct—Réunion spéciale à 10h00 |
| Oct. 14—Open House/Garage Sale 12PM | 14 oct—Portes Ouvertes/Vente de garage à 12h00 |
| Oct. 16—Info session on Cyber Security 10:30AM | 16 oct—Séance d'information sur la sécurité d'internet à 10h30 |
| Oct. 22—EC Meeting 6PM | 22 oct—Réunion du conseil de direction à 18h00 |
| Oct. 23—Info session on Youth Protection 10:30AM | 23 oct—Séance d'information par la Département du Protection Jeunesse à 10h30 |
| Oct. 26—Monthly potluck 12PM | 26 oct—Notre dîner communautaire mensuel 12h00 |
| Oct. 30—Info session on breast cancer awareness | 30 oct—Séance d'information sur la sensibilisation au cancer du sein |

October 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			