



Centre Communautaire des Femmes Sud-Asiatiques

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What do you think? Que pensez-vous?

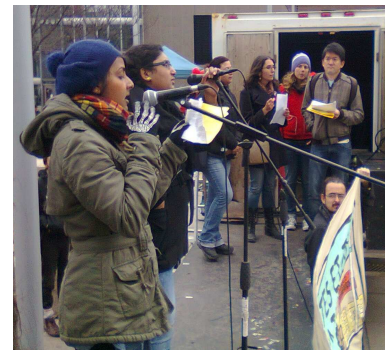
- Let us know your thoughts about the new bulletin
- Que pensez-vous à notre nouveau bulletin?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language!
- Please write to Shipra at shipra@bellnet.ca
- Soumettez vos pensées et œuvres écrites à Shipra

Développer la solidarité entre nos mouvements et dénoncer le projet de loi C-31 (by Farha Najah)

Le 9 avril 2012, la Coalition large de L'ASSÉ (CLASSE) a organisé un grand rassemblement populaire au Place Émilie-Gamelin. Pour exprimer une solidarité avec les étudiantEs, particulièrement avec les femmes et les communautés marginalisées qui luttent pour une éducation accessible, des groupes immigrants ont pris part à un moulin de paroles après que le comité de Femmes de diverses origines a été invité d'y participer auprès des femmes de la comité des luttes sociales de la CLASSE. Lors du rassemblement du 9 avril, les intervenant(E)s ont voulu continuer d'encourager les liens entre les mouvements sociaux qui luttent pour la dignité et justice.

Les discours des groupes et membres de groupes (AGIR – organisme par et pour la communauté des LGBTQ nouvellement arrivés, les membres du Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques, le Centre des travailleurs et travailleuses immigrants, le comité des Femmes de diverses origines, les Mexicains unis pour la régularisation (MUR), Personne n'est illégal, Solidarité sans frontières et Dignidad Migrante) ont fait partie des efforts coordonnés dans le cadre de continuer la résistance contre des projets néolibéraux au Québec et Canada, ainsi que les politiques d'immigration racistes, sexistes, et classistes

comme le projet de loi C-31. (continued on pg.5)



Ummey Syeda – membre de Jeunes sud-asiatiques du CCFSA et étudiante en grève (droite) et Swathi Sekhar membre de Jeunes sud-asiatiques (gauche) parlent des impacts néfastes du système d'immigration et le projet de loi C-31 sur les femmes.

Mother's Day (courtesy of Naila Alidina)

Mother's Day is a day to honour and celebrate mothers, motherly love, maternal bonds and motherhood in all its manifestations. My mother loves celebrating birthdays - to the point where a birthday is not simply a day, but a month of celebration! So, to pull on my mother's inspiring celebratory attitude I

recommend we all take the next month to celebrate mothers! Why relegate our expression of love and appreciation and awe to just one day?

And please! Do not stop at the conventional biological mother definition of mother. Mother Teresa couldn't have borne all children after all; but we still gave

her the title! Maternal bonds can be found and seen all around us.



Take a moment to appreciate the foster them.

Be creative with your gift! Show a maternal figure in your life how much you care! Happy Mother's Day!

Women Around The World—Missing Justice in Bangladesh

Demanding justice against Kalpana Chakma abduction on June 12th, 1996: Nishi Dewan, Vice-President of Hill Women Federation, Rangamati said that even after 13 years of abduction of **Kalpana Chakma** and her two brothers from their home in Lallyaghona Village, there is no trace of her; there is no report from the Investigation committee and no punishment for those who were identified as the culprits.

Kalpana Chakma was a leader in the Hill women's movement, also involved in the self-determination movement of the Hill people. She was vocal against

the violence particularly rape and abuse of women by the armed forces in the hill areas. Kalpana Chakma is still missing with no information whether she is dead or alive, the Jhum women continue to face the violences including rape, abduction and killing by armed forces and the outsiders. Despite the Hill Tracts Peace Accord of 1997, the situation is still the same for Jhum women. She demanded immediate disclosing of the Investigation of Kalpana Chakma abduction investigation and demand justice by punishing those who are responsible. She also demanded the security of Jhum

women in the Hill tract areas. To date, the Jhum women in the Hill tract areas of Bangladesh have seen no change. There is still a demand for disclosure of details surrounding Kalpana's abduction and a demand for justice and punishment of those involved.

(<http://www.ubinig.org>)



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

In April, members of SAY attended a workshop entitled Zoom in on girls Montreal! hosted by Girls Action Foundation. An evening speed mentorship and full day of workshops covering various topics such as engaging youth, how to tackle homophobia, and effective participatory research served to enrich us and the work we engage in. We were lucky enough to be able to share and facilitate a workshop on Teen dating violence from a

people of colour perspective.

En suivi à l'atelier du mois dernier du projet Blueprint, Swathi Sekhar, mamebre do JSA, a parlé sur le thème de violence dans les relations amoureux sur les ondes de CKUT. Pour entendre l'intervue voici la [lien](#)

Thank you to all who attending our screening of Pariah (2011) this Sunday. The screening was co-facilitated by AGIR, we had a lovely conversation touching on issues of race, queer

representation in mainstream film as well as other topics. We hope to see everyone at the next screening!

Notre prochaine projection de film mensuel aura lieu le 27 mai à 13h. Bienvenue à tous! Our upcoming film screening will be held on May 27th, 2012 at 1pm.

Our upcoming SAY meeting will be held on May 11th, 2012 at 4:00pm. Veuillez vérifier nos activités dans le calendrier.

Centre & Project Update

SAWCC would like to extend a very warm welcome to **Ms. Sivambikai Sivamoorthy**. She has been working with the Autonomous & Independent Women project since April, replacing Deleena.

Janaranjani Suntharalingam, our resident bookkeeper is has now taken on the additional role as community worker; working with the tamil-

s p e a k i n g c o m m u n i t y . We wish them both the best of luck in their new positions.

SAWCC is happy to announce that our project "South Asian Women - **Autonomous and Independent women**" (SAWAI), will continue to run this year again. The city of Montreal funds this project and they have accepted to fund it for this year. The pro-

ject SAWAI is for South Asian women living in Parc Extension and Cote des Neiges areas. This project started in the year 2006 and has now more than a thousand women from both areas. For the participants of SAWAI, it is a great relief and happiness as they can continue their language classes, programs, workshops and outings with the project. The project staff are Juvaria, Panchi and Ambika.

Reflections of Older Women in marking World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

This article is part one of a two part series in preparation for **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** marked every year on June 15th. This is a contribution from RECAA, Ressources ethno-culturelles contre l'abus envers les aînés. These observations arise from our workshops and information gathered through the years.

RECAA is not an older immigrant women's organization but in our ten years of existence we have noticed something about ourselves: that elder abuse within the cultural communities is largely seen as an older women's issue and concern.

For many older women the social conditioning to remain silent has been so instilled through religion, tradition or cultural norms that it is virtually taboo even to raise the subject. To divulge anything publically might jeopardize the family or community's reputation.

This can result in a conspiracy of silence within the family or even community because no one knows how to change the dynamic for the better. Getting help sometimes means going public and that can mean unforeseen consequences or imagined negative actions on the entire family. Unfortunately, the silence is usually shattered by head line news of murder at the hands of husband, son or grandson, extreme neglect and financial exploitation.

Older immigrant women need places to go where they can get useful information in their own language and with culturally sensitized service providers who understand and can recognize not only the signs of neglect and mistreatment but also cultural shock, post traumatic syndrome, (the latter can last for years if not treated and can lead to mental, emotional and psychological problems.)

Community Centres, English or French classes, Day Centres, Integration and settlement programs for older immigrants should be seen as safe spaces for helping to break the silence; they can provide the opportunities to help older adults adjust to ageing in a "foreign" environment. This will communicate to them that their dignity, respect and self worth are important to them and to us.

Next month: Older women speak out



Manger santé—South Asian Quiche with a Potato Crust (courtesy of Juvaria Yasser)

Ingredients:

½ lb of potatoes (peeled, grated and water squeezed out), 3 ½ tbsp olive oil, 1 ¼ tsp salt, 1 ¼ tsp pepper, ½ tsp chili flakes, 1 tsp curry powder, 1 tsp cilantro (optional), 1 onion chopped, 8 oz. button mushrooms (sliced), 1 bag of baby spinach, 3 eggs, 1 c. milk, 300 g grated cheese


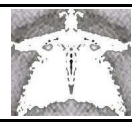










Method:

1. Pre-heat oven to 400 F.
2. Grease a quiche pan or a baking dish.
3. Mix potatoes, 1 tsp oil, ½ tsp of: salt, pepper, curry powder, and cilantro. Press firmly into the base of the baking dish. Bake until golden brown and dry for about 20-25 minutes. Let cool before filling.

4. Lower oven heat to 325 F. Heat the remaining oil and fry the onion until soft. Add the mushrooms, stirring frequently until most of the mushroom liquid evaporates. Add spinach and season with ¼ tsp salt and pepper, and ½ tsp chilli flakes. Cool slightly and spread evenly over the quiche potato base.
5. Spread a layer of grated cheese on top of the vegetables mixture.
6. Beat eggs, milk, and remaining spices and cilantro. Pour gently over the top of the quiche and bake for 20-23 minutes until it is firm at the edges and still soft in the centre. Serve warm or at room temperature.



May 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

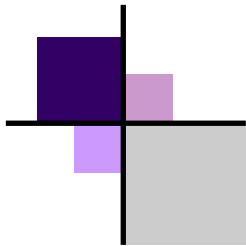
- May 1—Training session “How To Take Good Photos” (part 1) at 10AM
 - May 2—SAY YEMAYO dance performance outing 430-630
 - May 4—CLASSE speaks to SAWCC 9AM-11AM
 - May 8—Info session “How To Start A Small Business” at 10AM
 - May 11—SAY meeting at 4PM
 - May 15—Training session “ How To Take Good Photos” (part 2) at 10AM
 - May 17—Appreciation Day for volunteers, staff and EC at 6:00M
 - May 18—Immigration showcase at Palais des Congrès
 - May 25—Join us for our monthly Pot Luck and OPEN HOUSE from 1-4PM
 - May 26—Status for All March (12PM—Jean Talon and Boyer)
 - May 27—SAY monthly film screening at 1PM
 - May 28—EC meeting at 6PM, all are welcome!
- *****
- 1 mai—Formation de photographie (1er partie) à 10h00
 - 2 mai—Club des filles/JSA excursion au spectacle de danse YEMAYO 16h30-18h30
 - 4 mai—Présentation de la CLASSE 9h00-11h00
 - 8 mai—Formation de photographie (2ème partie) à 10h00
 - 11 mai—Réunion de Jeunes Sud-Asiatique (JSA) à 15h30
 - 15 mai—Formation de photographie (1er partie) à 10h00
 - 17 mai—La journée d’appréciation des bénévoles, travailleuse, et de la direction à 18h00
 - 18 mai—Salon d’immigration au Palais des congrès
 - 25 mai —Rejoignez-vous à notre dîner communautaire et PORTES OUVERTS de 13 à 16h00
 - 26 mai—Manifestation d’un statut pour toutes et tous (midi à Jean Talon et Boyer)
 - 27 mai—JSA projection de film mensuel commence à 13h00
 - 28 mai —Réunion du conseil de direction à 18h00: toutes sont bienvenues!

Continuations...

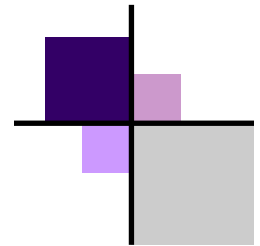
(continued from pg. 1)

Saviez vous? Des travailleuses et des membres du CCFSA ont exprimé un intérêt à discuter le mouvement étudiant, leur exigences et comment concrètement faire des liens dans le cadre de notre travail avec des militantes de la grève étudiante. Les femmes de la CLASSE vont animer une séance de discussion qui abordera ce sujet **vendredi le 4 mai, 2012 de 9hrs-11hrs au CCFSA**. Joignez vous à nous!

Did you know? Women from the student union CLASSE will lead and facilitate an information session on the student strike, how it is apart of feminist struggle, and the student movement's demands. We will discuss how to build links of solidarity among women, feminists, anti-racists and our various social justice movements. Join us on **Friday May 4th from 9-11 at SAWCC**.



LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!! If you're interested in volunteering to work on exciting theatre projects contact Juvaria at juvariay@hotmail.com for details or to sign up.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE

SAWCC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Executive Council (EC) Elections will be held on **Saturday, June 09, 2012 from 9:30AM**

To run for a position on the EC, one must be a member of SAWCC for a minimum of 1 year. Positions are as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior's Secretary, Program Secretary, Publication Secretary, Public Relations Secretary, Youth Secretary.

Please note that staff members cannot run for positions on the EC.

For more information about any of these positions feel free to contact the centre at 514-528-8812

L'assemblée générale annuelle (AGA) du CCFSA et les élections du Conseil Exécutif (CE) auront lieu **samedi le 9 juin 2012 à 9h30**

Pour remplir des postes du CE, il faut qu'on soit un membre de CCFSA au moins qu'un an. Positions disponibles sont les suivantes: président, vice-président, secrétaire, trésorier, secrétaire principal, secrétaire des programmes, secrétaire de publication, secrétaire des relations publiques, secrétaire de la jeunesse.

Veuillez noter que les membres du personnel ne peut pas s'appliquent pour les postes de la CE.

Pour plus d'informations sur ces postes, n'hésitez pas à contacter le CCFSA à 514-528-8812



SAW Catering Group



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

South asian women's Community centre

South Asian Women's Community Centre
Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques
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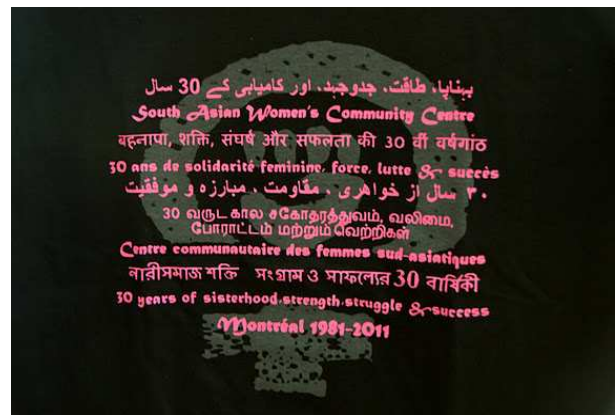
30 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2011

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:

- **IMPORTANT!!! Please renew your membership or begin a new one for 2012-2013**
- **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!!!

Bengali New Year

Bengali New Year (Bengali: নববর্ষ *Nôbobôrsho*) or **Pôhela Boishakh** (পহেলা বৈশাখ *Pôhela Boishakh* or পয়লা বৈশাখ *Pôela Boishakh*), occurring on 14th April, is the first day of the Bengali calendar, celebrated in both Bangladesh and Indian state of West Bengal, and in Bengali communities in the other Indian states like : Assam, Tripura, Jharkhand and Orissa and all over India as well where the Bengali community arises . It coincides with the New Year's Days of numerous Southern Asian calendars.

In Bengali, Pohela stands for 'first' and Baisakh is first month of Bengali calendar. Pôhela Boishakh connects all ethnic Bengalis irrespective of religious and regional differences. In India, in West Bengal, Tripura and Assam, it is a public (state) holiday and is publicly celebrated in 14 April every year (or as per the Hindu Bengali calendar) . In

Bangladesh, it is a national holiday celebrated around 14 April according to the official amended calendar designed by the Bangla Academy.

The festival is celebrated according to the Hindu Bengali calendar.

The Bengali People wishes one another by saying "Shuvô Nôbôborsho" .

The current Bengali year is **1419**. The Bengali year is 594 less than the AD or CE year in the Gregorian year if it is before Pôhela Boishakh, or 593 less after Pôhela Boishakh.

We had a wonderful celebration of Bengali and Tamil New Year on Friday April 27th during our monthly potluck lunch.

