



Centre Communautaire des Femmes Sud-Asiatiques

The Student strike and movement, from a Feminist Perspective: Presentations and discussion on building anti-racist feminist solidarity (by Farha Najah Hussain)

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Upon graciously accepting SAWCC's invitation to attend an information and exchange session, Rushdia Mehreen, Laurence Jutras and Beatrice from le comité des luttes sociales of the student association coalition CLASSE presented the student strike and its demands from a feminist perspective.

The goal of this session was to further learn about the student movement, from a feminist perspective, to create dialogue with respect to anti-racist feminism within social movements, and to establish links of solidarity between feminist, migrant-justice, anti-racist and student struggles.

Subsequent to a brief history of SAWCC, including its struggles against neoliberal,

racist and patriarchal control of the centre (presented by Dolores Chew and this author), the presenters provided a brief history/explanation of their committee and association. It was explained that their committee's mandate is to develop links of solidarity with activist and community groups. Furthermore, they have a role to research social struggles internationally and to keep abreast with current events so as to further develop a comprehensive analysis and contextualise the student strike within a larger framework.

They also articulated links between struggles that demand accessible education and health care by explaining that both essential services are impacted by austerity measures and neoliberal policies

(privatisation of public services), which significantly impacts women.

Presenters also provided some information with respect to the attempts to further an anti-racist analysis within CLASSE. For example, they have adopted an anti-racist and anti-colonial motion (which was initiated by Students of Colour Montreal) that speaks directly to the realities of Racialised and Indigenous women and the lack of accessible education. They have also adopted a motion in support of non-status Mexicans (MUR) - a group in Montreal - resisting repressive immigration laws and fighting for a comprehensive regularisation plan. Attempts to ensure gender representation in assemblies have also been made. (con't pg.5)

SAWCC Marches for Justice and Dignity for Migrants and Refugees (Farha Najah Hussain)

On May 26th, SAWCC workers and volunteers marched as part of the Women of Diverse Origins contingent to demand an end to deportations and detentions, status for all migrants, to oppose the double punishment of migrants with criminal records and to support the efforts to organize a "Solidarity City" for all residents of Montreal. The

demonstration took place in the context of the repressive federal immigration Bill C-31, as well as the draconian provincial law 78 and municipal by-law banning face masks. People marched the streets of Parc-Extension and Villeray neighborhoods as they chanted slogans and played musical instruments.

Endorsed by several Montreal groups - including SAWCC, the annual march was organised by Solidarity Across Borders, No One Is Illegal-Montreal, Dignidad Migrante, Immigrant Workers' centre, JOC-Montreal, and Mexicans United for Regularisation.

More info:

www.solidarityacrossborders.org



Elder's Corner: Join us as we recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 14, 2012



Together Respecting Elders

From all our **communities**

On June 14, from 1:00 to 4:30 pm.

Join us for an afternoon of activities, entertainment and refreshments in recognition of **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2012.**

At 3575 Ave du Parc (corner Prince-Arthur)
Metro Place-des-Arts / Bus 80
Wheelchair Entrance (3590 Jeanne-Mance)
514-846-8814 ext. 6462
Info: recaa.montreal@gmail.com

Sponsored by
[RECAA - Ressources ethnoculturelles contre l'abus envers les aînés](#)
[COPSI - Centre d'orientation paralégale et social pour les immigrants](#)
Co-sponsored by
[Atwater Library and Computer Centre's Digital Literacy Project](#)
[ACM - The Ageing Communications Media Research Network](#)



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

Ce mois JSA continue sa partenariat avec Equitas (Centre international d'éducation aux droits humains) pour travailler sur un projet de théâtre-forum à l'École La Voie. Les filles vont travailler sur des sketches pour 3 semaines à travers lequel nous discutons des droits d'humains, droits de la jeunesse et les relations saines.

Notre prochaine projection de film aura lieu dimanche le 24 mai, 2012 à 13h. Bienvenue à tous!

Our next film screening will be held on Sunday May 24th, 2012 at 1PM. Everyone is welcome!

Our upcoming SAY/JSA meeting will

be held on June 1 at 2PM.

Please see the calendar for upcoming events. Veuillez vérifier le calendrier pour nos activités à venir.

Member's Corner

A huge congratulations goes out to our very own **Nivatha Balendra** who is the Quebec regional winner in a competition amongst biotechnology research projects. She competed in the National competition at the 2012 Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada (SBCC), presenting her project to a panel of 7 judges who are directors/presidents of research faculties and institutions in Canada. Nivatha got an

Honourable mention and \$500 cash prize under National awards of Excellence. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

A big THANK YOU for all who came out and participated in our annual Staff/EC/Volunteer Appreciation



dinner on Thursday, May 17th – SAWCC would not function without everyone's hard work!

We are deeply sad for the loss of family members for **Nighat Shaheen Hussain and Farha Najah Hussain**, and the loss of Nandakumarn Rajendram, brother of **Ramani Balendra**. You and your entire family are in our thoughts.

SAWCC: A big caring family (Azra Naqvi)

I still remember that bright Montreal morning when someone called me for a meeting where I met a bunch of bright, enthusiastic women: Shree Mulay, Jennifer Chew, Dolores Chew, Sadeqa Siddiqui, Jean Chapman Wendy and a few others. They were exploring a possibility of starting a community centre for South Asian women in Montreal. At that time I had no idea that joining this group will have a long lasting impact on my life and personality.

I have been a part of many social organizations but have never found a dedicated and sincere group like SAWCC. This group of dedicated, committed and selfless team of women started this center and carried it on, successfully, for 30 years. Most of them were busy, professional, working ladies but they gave maximum possible time to this project and really brought positive changes in many women's lives and in the society at large. These ladies had a special knack of making every one feel special. That is why when SAWCC expanded and had a wider and varied membership, all the members had a strong sense of belongingness to the group, and had a real sisterhood.

I think in order to realize their full potential, women should first develop a sense of worth, which SAWCC provided to its members through its community activities: picnics, community lunches, International women's day celebrations, bazaars, newsletters, work-

shops, language classes etc.

Thanks to the Government of Quebec, SAWCC got a small space for its office, if I remember correctly, somewhere in Montreal East, and then there was no looking back. South Asian women had a center where they could come to socialize, share, find solutions to their problems and develop new skills to face new challenges in life. The SAWCC executive committee members were always busy writing grants and projects to the Government to tap resources but at the same time they kept a very warm relationship with its members. It was a big, caring family all the way.

Now, when I look back at the decade that I spent with SAWCC, first as a member and later on as a community worker, I feel very proud. It did not only give me, a new immigrant at that time, a sense of security and identity in a foreign land but really helped me boost my confidence in my abilities and realize my potential.

I remember when SAWCC felt a need to sensitize Canadian education, health and community agencies about South Asians immigrants: their culture; traditions and value system etc. A project was developed to give sensitization workshop in schools, hospitals, police stations and other social service agencies. I was the coordinator of the project. It was a very unique and interesting experience for me. It involved contacting different agencies and convincing

them to host our sensitization workshops. Imagine doing all that, initially, on phone and that too mostly in French language. There were some very funny and frustrating moments in that endeavor. But later on, these workshops proved to be very useful and interesting. Planning workshops involved scheduling, preparing written and visual material, arranging resource persons and preparing reports. At every step I got help and suggestions from Sadeqa, Shree, Jennifer, Dolores and of course other community workers at the center. Later on, in Saudi Arabia when I got a assignment to coordinate a center for mentally handicapped immigrant children, my experience with sensitization workshops at SAWCC proved to be very useful.

In a way, my association with SAWCC had a significant impact on my literary pursuit. Interaction with new immigrants and refugees who have come to Canada with hopes, dreams and their cultural baggage led me to a better understanding of people and communities around the world. It strengthened my belief in humanity and gave me an insight into the complexities, strengths, weaknesses and metamorphosis of human behavior. Many experiences and personalities that I had come across at SAWCC permeated into in my Urdu short stories. I think, the title of my first collection of short stories "Aangan jab pardes hua" somehow reflects my association with SAWCC.

No matter where I am, SAWCC will remain a part of me.

Centre Updates (courtesy of Ghazala Munawar & Juvaria Yasser)

SAWCC as a women's centre not only provides services but also takes part in lobbying with other women and social organisations for a better and dignified life for all women and their families. On the 15th of May 2012 we unanimously decided to take part in the "SOCIAL STRIKE" organised in collaboration with all other organisations to show our support for the students as well as to bring to the table other social issues that affect all. This

gave us the entire platform to express our dissatisfaction with the increase in the cost of HYDRO BILL, privatisation and taxing of our basic right of HEALTH, and the Harper government's new proposition to increase the age of retirement from 65 to 67.

Sawcc enjoyed the attention of a big crowd on the 25th of May between the hours of 1-4, on its **Open House**. It was a full day at Sawcc with the usual hus-

tle and bustle of the monthly potluck as well as a gathering of representatives of different organizations who wanted to learn about Sawcc and its services. We were everywhere from arranging for the potluck to meeting and greeting all guests. Every visitor got a chance to learn about Sawcc, its projects and involvements. It was a successful opportunity to outreach and create friendships among our sister organizations and sympathizers.

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
					 1	2		
3	4  ENGRENAGE NOIR	5	6	7	8	9 AGE & EC election 		
10	11	12	13	14 	15	16		
17		18		19	20	21	22	23
 24	25	26	27	28	29 	30		

Calendar events / Les événements de calendrier

- June 1—SAY meeting at 2PM
 - June 4th & 5th—Engrenage Noir community art activism training sessions 9-4PM
 - June 5th—Hydro Quebec info session
 - June 9th—SAWCC Annual AGM & EC election 9AM
 - June 14th—Activity for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
 - June 18th—Autonomous&Independent Women's Project Annual Picnic in Parc L'estre
 - June 19th—Autonomous&Independent Women's Project Annual Picnic in Parc Kent
 - June 19th—Job orientation info session with Pierre Desjardins
 - June 24—Monthly SAY film screening at 1PM
 - June 29—Monthly potluck lunch
- *****
- 1 juin—Réunion du Comité des jeunes sud-asiatiques (JSA) à 14h00
 - 4 et 5 juin—Formation d'Engrenage Noir d'art communautaire et d'art activiste 9h00-16h00
 - 5 juin— Séance d'information avec Hydro Québec
 - 9 juin—AGA de CCFSA et Élection du conseil de direction à 9h00
 - 14 juin—Activité pour la Journée internationale contre l'abus envers les aîné(e)s
 - 15 juin—Projet des femmes Autonomes et Indépendantes pique-nique annuel au Parc L'estre
 - 19 juin—Projet des femmes Autonomes et Indépendantes pique-nique annuel au Parc Kent
 - 19 juin— Séance d'information sur orientation professionnelle avec Pierre Desjardins
 - 24 juin—JSA projection de film mensuel à 13h00
 - 29 juin—Dîner communautaire

The Student strike and movement, from a Feminist Perspective (cont'd from pg. 1)

Methods to ensure that racialised students feel that they can effectively contribute to discussions have yet to be implemented, but is a reality that racialised students apart of CLASSE and those have outside of it have been discussing and debating as internal (and external) critiques have been raised.

The presenters discussed the violence of poverty and sexism in the context of the tuition hikes. They argued that tuition hikes would further marginalise racialised women. Please see "Did you know" section of this Bulletin for statistics.

Lastly, a brief discussion period was held. People asked questions, pro-

vided comments and made critiques with respect to the following points: Furthering anti-racism (both in theory and practice) within the student movement, diversity of tactics, and building solidarity.

For those at SAWCC who support the student movement (including many students who are apart of the SAWCC community), striking students request that people wear a red square. Community groups are encouraged to send a statement/press release in support.

Thank you to all those present, both from SAWCC and CLASSE. Your presence, questions and comments were all very important in a session taking

place during a historic social movement.



DID YOU KNOW? SAVIEZ-VOUS?

Pour ce qui est des étudiant-e-s en situation de migration, au niveau universitaire, 42 % d'entre elles et eux éprouvent des problèmes financiers et peinent à subvenir à leurs besoins de base, tandis que 40 % ont de la difficulté à payer leurs frais de scolarité. La vie leur coûte cher, considérant les frais reliés aux renouvellements de visas, les frais d'études 5 à 6 fois plus élevés que pour une étudiante ou un étudiant du Québec et les frais d'assurances privées.

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 or email sawcc@bellnet.ca



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.

Veillez 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'hé-

South asian women's Community centre

South Asian Women's Community Centre
Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques
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Montréal, QC H2J 2J5

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

www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca

ANNUAL PICNIC UPDATE!

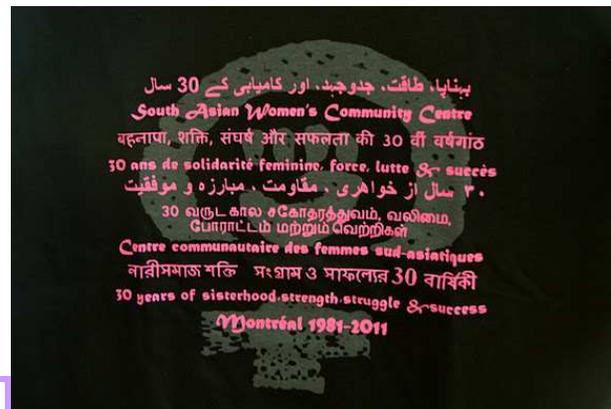
SAWCC'S annual picnic will be on
Saturday July 7th (rain date: Sat-
urday July 14th)

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

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!!!

Summer Job Opportunity

Counselor for Summer Camp

Children aged 4-14

Starting: June 26, 2012

Duration: 7 weeks

Hours: 9am – 5pm (40 hours a week)

Requirements:

- 1) This position is for students who were enrolled as full-time students in 2011 and will be full-time students in September 2012.
- 2) Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
- 3) Bilingualism (knowledge of a South Asian language is an asset)

Task and responsibilities:

- 1) Will be responsible for 15-20 children aged 4 to 14 years old. The camp

will run from 9:00am – 5:00 pm, 5 days a week for 7 weeks

2) Will plan, organize and animate the daily activities indoor and outdoor) according to the objective of the summer camp

*In-door activities: arts and craft, story telling, activities, music and dance.

* Out-door activities: Visiting historical, cultural and educational places,
* Sports and recreation: Swimming, basketball, baseball and soccer and picnicking in the park

3) Will be responsible for the safety of the children during all outdoor activities

4) Recruit and manage volunteers and parents for indoor and outdoor activities

5) Organize information session for children on the issues important for children

Knowledge of CPR is an asset (please provide certification documents)

Please send your CV by June 7, 2012 via fax 514-528-0896 or email at sawcc@bellnet.ca

