

# Rochester International Association

## *World Festival 2008 Newsletter Edition*

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Winter 2007/2008

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## President's Letter

by Addie Borja

Greetings to all members of Rochester's international community and to all the members of the Rochester International Association (RIA). To those of you who do not know me, I am the newly elected president of the Rochester International Association, having served as vice president under Frank Hawthorne. I was appointed to this position by the Board in October, 2007. I thank them for entrusting this position to me.

As the new president, I would like to request each and every one of you to help keep our organization growing by becoming active members. Help us reach out to newcomers to include them in our community and welcome them to take part in our annual World Festival. Rochester is growing in population, especially different ethnic groups from many countries of the world. We want to be a welcoming organization. Help us reach out to new residents so that we all may understand one another better.

Please help us also to encourage new groups and individuals to attend and take part in our 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Rochester World Festival, "One World, Many Cultures" April 11 and 12, 2008. Our festival is the largest multi-cultural event in Minnesota, south of the Twin Cities, welcoming visitors and participants. John Berquist will again coordinate this year's event, which will take place at Mayo High

School, 1420 11 Ave. SE Rochester, MN on Friday evening, April 11 and on Saturday April 12. Call him at 529-1224 if you wish to perform on stage on Friday or have questions.

The Festival opens Friday evening at 7 PM with colorful performances by talented individuals and groups in native dress--dancing, singing and playing music by from around the world.. Admission tickets are \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children and students, \$20.00 for a family pass. A reception for audience and participants will follow the program.

On Saturday from 10 am - 3 p.m. the festival features a full day of activities Including: the opening Parade of Nations, cultural displays from around the world representing the rich diversity of our city and region, an international buffet of ethnic foods in the cafeteria, continuous music and dance performances, a new Marketplace and a wide variety of children's activities under the leadership of Margaret and Jim Favre including a Literacy Tent with books donated by a grant from First Steps.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. I hope to see you at the 2008 Rochester World Festival!

Addie Borja, President, RIA

# Announcements

## TAKE PART or VOLUNTEER at the 33<sup>rd</sup> ROCHESTER WORLD FESTIVAL.

Fill out and send the enclosed '08 registration form on-line at <http://ria-minnesota.org> or by mail to RIA, 2500 Valleyhigh Dr. NW, Rochester, MN 55901.

For more information, or take part in the Friday show or Saturday activities, call John Berquist, 529-1224. To volunteer, call Phyllis at 288-1197.

Photographs of last year's '07 World Festival show or activities are needed for publicity use. If you have something to share, please contact Herta Matteson, 280-8319.

If you are interested in joining the RIA board, please contact Addie Borja, Ann Lance or another board member. Our order of business will include plans for the World Festival in April 2008. All members of the RIA may take part and vote at this meeting.

**Diversity Council News:** Check out their website at [diversitycouncil.org](http://diversitycouncil.org) for all their latest news and events.

## Upcoming Events

**International Speakers Luncheons at the Y** Everyone is welcome to attend these informal monthly gatherings at Balfour Hall at the Rochester Family Y from 11:30 - 1:00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Enjoy a delicious international luncheon prepared by Fred Regal followed by a talk by a local community leader or international person. Everyone is welcome. Cost is \$8. Reservations are needed; call Betsy at 289-3359.

Our thanks to Joan Elkins and her colleague Pam Schaid from Season's Hospice who spoke at our

January meeting about attitudes toward death in various cultures and hospice care.

The following speakers will be featured in the upcoming lunches. Call Phyllis at 288-1197 or Herta, 280-8319 if you wish to volunteer to speak or attend the meeting.

- **Feb. 13:** Bonnie Bosma will show pictures and tell about her recent visit to the Amani Mission in Kenya.
- **March 12:** Addie Borja and Grace Verzosa will speak about the Philippines.
- **April 9:** Cathy Ashton will speak on Tibet and a pilgrimage to Mt. Kailish
- **May 14:** ???

**English Conversation Group** welcomes newcomers to join them on the third Friday of each month at 10:00AM for snacks, coffee and conversation. We especially welcome those who wish to practice English as a second language. We meet in coffee houses or members homes. Call Betsy Munroe at 507-289-3359 for information about each monthly meeting.

**World Festival Planning Committee** meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room at Charter House. Interested participants and volunteers are invited to join us there. The next meeting is January 30 (No meeting on Feb 6). Following that is the monthly board meeting on Feb 12. Regular monthly RIA Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the IMAA office meeting room at 2500 Valley High Drive NW. RIA members and interested friends are welcome.

**Community Events** Check the Diversity Council's Multicultural Calendar at the website: [www.diversitycouncil.org](http://www.diversitycouncil.org) for continuing up-to-date calendar of events. The Diversity Council Annual meeting was held on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> at Radisson Hotel. New board members and officers were elected. Champions of Diversity awards were presented to: Mulugeta Haileab, International Student/

Parent Liason at Mayo High School, Ron Machacek and Mary Vlazney, Diversity Council PRW Volunteers.

**Feb 2: 7:30pm RSOC concert, Mayo Civic Auditorium** “Young at Heart” featuring: Concerto for Pipa and String Orchestra with Flying Dragon Concerto, Overture to Hansel and Gretel and Scheherazade with a special welcome to Pipa player visiting from China. Tickets available at RSOC office or Mayo Civic Center box office.

**Feb. 10: Chinese New Year Party.** Celebration in Rochester on Sunday, Feb. 10 from 6:00PM - 9:00PM at Willow Creek Middle School Auditorium. Chinese traditional stage performance, art exhibition, and children’s games. Tickets: \$6 adult, \$3 student. Host: Chinese Student & Scholar Association at Mayo.

## RIA Memberships

**Renewals and new memberships are needed.** Like most non-profit groups, RIA’s fiscal year began in July. Some of our loyal members, responding to our low-key membership drive in the summer newsletter, have mailed their annual dues. We thank them and hope to hear from others. Membership dues have not been raised since the organization was formed so that everyone can join, receive our newsletter and participate in our many events. Membership information and registration form is on page 4 of this newsletter. Mail it to the new address of the IMAA. You may also join and pay dues at any RIA meeting or event. We welcome and need new members for the RIA board. Thank you for being a member of RIA!

## Technology Update

This newsletter and current events can be found on the website. <http://www.ria-minnesota.org>

**Email subscriptions.** Please send us your e-mail address and get up-to-the-minute updates on any postings on our website.

<http://ria-minnesota.org/email-subscriptions/>

**Going Green.** If you wish to opt into only receiving your future newsletters via email, sign up at

<http://ria-minnesota.org/newsletters/>

**RIA events calendar are online.** Please bookmark this web address: <http://riamn.org/ria-events-calendar>

You may also subscribe via:   

If your group would like to add events to the calendar, please email us at [webmaster@ria-minnesota.org](mailto:webmaster@ria-minnesota.org)

## Credits

**President:** Addie Borja

**Vice President:** Herta Matteson

**Secretary:** Heidi Chaney

**Treasurer:** Ann Lance

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Phyllis Layton

**Memberships, Website, Technology:** Thomas Yung

**Newsletter Editors:** Phyllis Layton, Thomas Yung

### Current RIA Board members are:

**President:** Addie Borja; **Vice president:** Herta Matteson;

**Secretary:** Max Sullivan; **Treasurer:** Ann Lance; **Volunteer Coordinator:** Phyllis Layton;

**Memberships:** Thomas Yung; **Website & Technology:** Thomas Yung; **Newsletter:** Phyllis Layton, Thomas Yung;

**World Festival Coordinator:** John Berquist; **Board Members:** Art Hambrun,

George Margellos, Marcella Nixon. Heidi Chaney,

Glen Saponari, Sushital Chowdhury, Larry Kinsey, Grace

Verzosa

Mail this membership form to RIA's office at: **2500 Valley High Drive NW, Rochester, MN 55901.**

Phone Number: (507) 289-5960, Website: <http://ria-minnesota.org>

RIA board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the board room.

**RIA membership is open to all. Please join today! RIA's mission:** Celebrating cultural diversity and providing opportunities for multicultural education and exchange. Membership is important and your way to help RIA put on the annual World Festival and other programs for international students and the community.

**Annual Membership dues:**

Individual \$20 [ ] Student/Senior \$15 [ ] Family \$30 (\$48 for 2 years) [ ] Organization \$30 [ ] Business \$50 [ ]

Name or Names:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email (*indicate if you'd like to receive future newsletters in your email instead of mailed out to you*):

\_\_\_\_\_

Country/Heritage:

\_\_\_\_\_

Interests/talents you can share:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Rochester International Association**

**Newsletter Winter 2007/2008**

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