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笑解か－January 1997．Issue No． 1


A collaborative publication of the CMAA，CAVL，and KCI．



VANTHANR.UN
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELORATLAW

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## 16 PINE STREET ( Suite 8), LOWELL, MA 01851

OFFICE (508) 937-2201, HOME (508) 458-7738 FAX (508) 937-2204
 ..... 4
© Live Animals in Komar Daycare? ..... 4
 їแnsmsinm ..... 6
(3) Big Turn Out for CMAA October, 1996Board Election In Spite of the Douring Rain ..... 7
(3) Anti-Immigrant Mood Moves Asians to Organize ..... 8
 ..... 8
 ..... 9
© Luz Cruz Votes ..... 9

- EEE RGCLDEEC DOMEE ..... 12
  ..... 12
 ..... 13
 ..... 14
© FAIRHOUSING ..... 16
- Learning From Lok Crew Suth ..... 17
 ..... 18
- Dear Community, ..... 18
(3) 3 ษรన్జిశวต ..... 20
© AIDS. The Second Genocide? ..... 20
- My Christmas ..... 29
- mandinn Wate lexfilval ..... 30


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## Live Animals in Komar Daycare?

Vivian Guimond

Loats and snakes in daycare? Yes, during this past summer New England Alive brought baby wild animals which had been injured and natured back to good health, to Komar Daycare. This event took place on June 20, 1996. Children and staff were able to see these very animal close up and touch them. While some staff approached the snakes with apprehension, others were quite comfortable wrapping them around their necks. The furry and feathered specimens were more comfortably approached by all. Who could resist baby goats and rabbits? A baby falcon and chicks complete the cute category. Sun and box turtles contributed to the reptile representation.

It was exciting to have such an interactive experience as Komar Daycare teaches social skills and academic readiness while building self-esteem. When learning is concrete and interesting, there is a

Continue to page 23




## An nuvitation

Vouarecordiallyinvited to joinus in celebratingour Cormunnity Achievements and an Award Dinner Gala featuringauthentic SoutheastAsian food, live music, dances and cultural entertainment throughout the evering.

The proceeds of the event will gointo supporting the many different programs of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of GreaterLoweil, Inc.

Date: Saturchay Januury 4, 1997
Time: 6:00 p.m. - Cash barCocktail
7:30 p.m. -- Dinner
8:00 p.m.-- Cultural Entertainment
$8: 30$ p.m. - Award ceremony
8:45pm.- Dancingwith the Sava Band
Place: Mekong Restaurant
590 Broadway Street, Lowell,MA
Donation: \$25.00 per person (Please make check payable to the Cambodian N.A.A.A.)

Formore information and reservation, please contact theCMAAat (508) $454-4286$

PleaseRSYP byDecember 27,1996

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## Business Opportunity

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Delicatessen and Variety Store Plus Real Estate

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# Big Turn Out for CMAA October, 1996 Board Flection In Spite of the Douring Rain <br> (Charth pierSath ) 

Ihe October 20th CMAA Election, held from 10:00 to 12:00, was a success though the rain was pouring and a sabotage attempt was made. Mr. Samkhann Khoeun, Executive Director of the CMAA, came to the office early that morning to find both front and back doors were bolted and nailed shut from the outside. Apparently, somebody did not want the election to take place. Nevertheless, cars filled the street and the parking lot in front of the CMAA. More than three hundred Cambodians, which included many elders, showed up to cast their vote.

One man, who wished not to be named, said that the reason why he got up this early was because he didn't want to see CMAA destroyed. Not long ago Mr. Samkhann Khoeun was on the verge of being fired by the former board, and he was put out of work for a month. This was not due to any wrong doing, but because of personality clashes he had with a few of the board members. This is not uncommon, since people have different self-interests, and sometimes political affiliations and foggy notions of power can put them at odds with each other. When people bring their personal agendas to the table often times such situation will occur.

As a result, the work that was very beneficial to the community was slowed down. The disunity, power struggle and the conflict of interest almost forced the CMAA out of the nonprofit business. Many would hope that this kind of thing would not happen again, and with the newly elected board, community members are hoping for better results.

This newly elected board, which consists of three women and ten men (three are former board members), vowed to work together under one common vision to bring productivity, positive results, organizational growth, maturity, money and needed human resources and services which will help members of the Cambodian community. This newly elected board has members of diverse educational backgrounds and experiences. The CMAA is happy to welcome and have them. They are listed as followed:

## Continue to page 11

# Anti-Immigrant Mood Moves Asians to Organize 

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

LOS ANGELES -- Marty Shih is the kind of person who has earned Asian-Americans the widespread characterization as the model minority. Born in Taiwan, he arrived in the United States in 1978 with $\$ 500$ to his name and began selling flowers on downtown streets here. Eighteen years later, through grit, hard work and ingenuity, he has built his company, The Asian Business Connection, into a telemarketing giant that in 1994 sold $\$ 40$ million in products to Asian-Americans. But Mr. Shih's rag-to-riches story took an unusual path last month when he established the Asian American Association to, among other things, campaign against legislation that would drastically reduce the levels of legal immigration, an issue that has galvanized Asian-Americans like no other in recent times. The not-for-profitassociation's executive director, Qingsong Zhang, a Chinese immigrant said 'we became concerned about what was going on in Washington, D.C. We all believe that if these bills become law, there will be a negative impact on the Asian community." The establishment of the association is an example of the growing political activity on the part of Asian-Americans in response to anti-immigrant sentiment. As an issue, immigration strikes particular chords among Asian-Americans, and proposals to scale it back produce particular anxieties.

Though people of Asian descent are only 3.7 percent of the American population, Asians made up 36.6 percent of immigrants to the United States citizens allowed to enter the country as permanent residents.

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## Luz Cruz Votes

Chath pierSath and Joachim Nickerson

in exciting event took place in the Young Parents Program (YPP) when Luz Cruz, a 19 year old student voted for the first time. This year voter turnout among Hispanics was the highest of any other year and Luz was proud that she participated as one of those voices.

She is from Puerto Rico and as a child she remembers her mother voting and at that time she would ask her mother if she could also vote. There is a history of performing one's civic duty in her family with her mother setting a good example.

Luz says that it is easy to register to vote. Prior to this year's election some people were in her neighborhood doing voter registration. All she had to do was give them her name, address and social security number. Later a letter arrived in the mail informing her where to go to vote. As a young mother going to school and on the transitional assistance program she realizes how important it is to get out there to vote. The political theme this year has been very anti-immigrant, with welfare and other cuts to social programs, voting for her was a way to be heard.

Luz who has two daughters feels that the U.S. gives safer refuge for her and her children compared to living in Puerto Rico. Here is this country she appreciates the many educational andjob opportunities. She started the YPP hoping to finish her GED in order to find a good job or continue her education. Now she is near completion and waiting to hear about this one job. If she doesn't get the job she will continue on to college.

YPP has about twenty students
Continue to page 25

#  Lowell Community Health Center Administration Office 585 Merrimack Street • Lowell, MA 01854 

## 面 (508) 937-6045 FAX (508) 970-0057




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#  <br> Philip Sopheap Muth Representative 

Po.Box 1744

77 E. Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01853

508-454-5054

## Continue from page 7

Mr. Rithy Uong, elected President
Mr. Tem Chea, first Vice President
Ms. Chantha Bin, second Vice President
Mr. Thel Sar, Secretary
Mr. Seng Ty, Treasurer
Ms. Sokha Diep, second Treasurer
Mr. Michael Ben Ho
Ms. Sithra Chan
Mr. Chiem Huon
Mr. Pan So
Mr. Nick P. Mann
Mr. Chiv Peter In
Mr. Ly Mao
The CMAA also thanks all former board members for their service and dedication to the community. They are listed as followed:

Mr. Nick P. Mann, President
Mr. Chiv Peter In, First Vice President
Dr. Linda Silka, Second Vice President
Mr. Dararith Ung, Treasurer
Mr. Somrith M. Kear, Second Treasurer

Mr. James L. Canavan, Secretary
Mr. Ravuth Yin, Chairman of Fundraising Committee
Mr. Vesna Nuon
Mr. Ly Mao
Mr. Kem Men
Ms. Ellen Sharkey
Mr. Sideth Im
Ms. Sann Thach
Mr. Sambath Chey Fennell
Mr. Van Chey


# BEE EELILDEEEC DRAEEE 

## Report by Joachim Nickerson Program Manager

Three years ago the Massachusetts Cultural Council approved a grant to the CMAA to teach children with and without disabilities Cambodian classical and folk dance．Bunrith Sath，a caseworker for the Monorom program was instrumen－ tal in designing the project and Joachim Nickerson wrote the grant proposal．Rany Him was recruited as dance instructor．

We named the group，The Friendship Dance Troupe．It has been a successful project which has continued with funding from the Lowell Cultural Council．

The dance troupe has performed publicly at various events and in local churches as well as for CMAA staff．It is anticipated that they will perform in march 1997，at the national conference of the National which Association for Asian and Pacific American Education will be taking place in Boston．This will be an excellent opportunity for Asian American／Pacific American educators to see first hand how children with disabili－ ties can realize their potential．

It is truly satisfying and rewarding to observe these children develop and refine dance movements．It builds self－esteem and pride in the Khmer culture for both the students with and without disabilities．Another important factor is that it fosters interest in learning and helps maintain a motivation in school and on－going knowledge．Already it has been observed that some of the children who were having difficulty maintaining boundaries in school are greatly improved，their attention span has increased as well．They learn self－ discipline in dance instruction which carries over to other areas of their lives as they realize that they have accomplished new skills．Both teachers and case－ workers see improved behavior and a more focused involvement in various subject areas．

Bunrith reports great change in these children and one has only to observe the faces of these young people and their more developed interactive skills to know that self－esteem can be built through the arts． While artistic creativity is often overlooked in favor of math and science these children show that creativity is as important in developing an integrated person．

Arts are important in changing the attitude of children，and most children who participate in extra curricular activities are more likely to do well in school．

More after school artistic programs like this should be developed and the initial funding from the Mass Cultural Council was a significant contribution．The children themselves certainly can testify to the impor－ tance and benefit of this program．


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## FAIR HOUSING

Ihe Civil Rights and Women's movements have been the impetus to disability rights. The Civil Rights law was passed in 1964 with the voting rights law enacted in 1965. The Fair Housing Act passed in 1968 and is Title 8 of the Civil Rights Act. The Developmental Disability act is an amendment to the 1968 law.

The Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988 (FHAA) was enacted by Congress to extend certain civil rights protections to people with disabilities (and others) in the sale and rental of housing. Protections are extended to people with disabilities. The FHAA provides protection to people with disabilities who have a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. The person must have a record of such an impairment or are generally regarded as having such an impairment. People who associate with individuals with disabilities are protected, too. These may be parents, siblings or other caretakers.

## HANDICAP COVERAGE

Who is handicapped as Defined by the Fair Housing Act? A person who:

- has a physical or mental impairment(including, butnot limited to, hearing, mobility, visual impairments, chronic alcoholism, chronic mental illness, AIDS, and AIDS related complex and mental retardation) that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- has a record of such an impairment; or
- is regarded as having such an impairment.

Note: "major life activities" means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

For What Act May A Handicap DiscriminationComplaintBeFiled?

- Refusing to rent, sell, or deal with a person, or otherwise denying a unit or making it unavailable because of handicap;
- Falsely indicating that a unit is not available because of handicap;
- Discriminating interms, conditions or privileges of sale, rental occupancy, or in ser-
vices of facilities in connection with a dwelling because of handicap;
- Advertising or otherwise stating a preference of limiting rental to handicapped persons;
- Failing to design and construct certain buildings of four or more units in such a manner as to incorporate accessibility and adaptive design feature described in the Act.

What Are The Time Limits For Filing A Complaint?

Complaints must be filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Housing within one year of the alleged violation. Persons may
also file private lawsuits, for which the period is two years.

What Housing Is Exempt From The Act?

Continue to page 26


# Learning From Lok Crew Suth 

Chath pierSath

At the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA), there's a middle aged, slightly bald headed man who answers the phone. I called him "Lok Crew", which means "Teacher" in Khmer. His name is Mr. Savy Suth, who was a former high school teacher of math and natural science before the Khmer Rouge occupation of Cambodia in 1975. During the Khmer Rouge, thousands of educated people, like him, were murdered. For Lok Crew, however, knowledge saved him. The Khmer Rouge needed him to gather herbs and roots used as medicine to care for the sick. They needed him to look after the children and to help them make banners and propaganda slogans to propagate Maoist agrarian collectivization. Most older people in his village didn't think he would live. They suspected that sooner or later, the Khmer Rouge would kill him too. Today, he is living in Lawrence, working at the CMAA, answering phone. When you call the CMAA, you will hear his soft, patient Khmer-English voice, "Hello, this is CMAA. May I help you?" This is a welcoming voice, which is not only good for answering phone, but also to bring your problems to as well.

A year ago, he started working for the CMAA as a volunteer. Now, he is part time staff doing Administrative Assistance. He also acts as a counselor and a case worker. Cambodians, especially single mothers, come to him for assistance and moral guidance. He listens to them and
shares with them their pain and struggle. He sympathizes with them and tries to help them as best as he can. Most of the time, people who come to him just want somebody to listen to them. Some of the women, whose husbands left them for other women, came to him in tears. They tell him about the problems they have in trying to raise two or four children by themselves. They don't know enough English to do things on their own. They can't read and write their own language. Their children don't understand them because their children don't speak enough Khmer. They get very afraid and overwhelmed by everything around them. The social, economic and political system here is very complex. When the welfare department asks them to fill out papers, they can't do it themselves. Sometimes the welfare people scream at them and even call them
names. They feel degraded, but there's little they can do. They come to the CMAA, to Lok Crew, hoping for a sense of consolation. They tell him that their boys might be in a gang. They don't like the way their boys dress. Some of them dye their hair, pierce their ears, wear loose pants and listen to rap, gangster music. They don't know what to do. They don't understand the youth culture, and they feel so alienated from the lives of their children.
"I think that I'm going crazy," one woman told him. "I want my children to get an education so they won't be in the dark like me, but they don't seem very interested in school. What's going on?"

The question has no simple answer. As a former teacher, Lok Crew is asking the same question. There's a big difference between the Cambodian children here and

Continue to page 19


Left: Savy Suth Daughters: Seimith Suth, Seiyam Suth

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Dear Community,

๙y name is Arn Chorn Pond and I am a recently hired youth coordinator at the CMAA Youth Corps: Peer Leadership Program. This program is funded by MORI (Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants).

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to work with young people. As we all may know, there are many issues and problems facing our young people. As parents, most of you fear that your children may be caught in gang involvement and violence. Some of you think that your children are safe at school and that they are learning the necessary knowledge to prepare their lives for the future. However, I am sorry to tell some of you that your children may be hanging out on the street with peers who may push or pressure them to commit crimes or even acts of violence against their fellow students.

The problems are vast and complex. Nobody is to blame. However, we need to work together to love and encourage our children more. We need to let them know how important education is to them by showing and demonstrating good examples and human values. We need to work together to come up with noninformal methods of education that will build self-esteem, sensitivity and strong character in our children.

I need your help and support. As a coordinator of the youth program at CMAA, I am now offering our young people two or three after school programs.

First, a computer center is being
Continue to page 25

## Continue from page 17

 those in Cambodia, but it wouldn't be fair to compare them either. Here, the children have their own struggles and peer pressures to deal with. They want to fit in, and a lot of them have a hard time balancing between two different cultures. Most of these children just want their parents to trust them and give them room to breathe. They want praise and encouragement and some kind of validation that they are valued. They want their parents to listen to what they have to say, to trust and believe in them."Children, especially when they are young, need a lot of encouragement and love, " said Lok Crew. Most Cambodian parents are not short of love. However, the process they use to communicate that love can sometimes be misunderstood by their children. Some parents lecture their children as a way of showing love. When they do that, they come across as being too controlling and forceful. Most Cambodian children who grow up in this country can't live up to the traditional values and beliefs of their parents. Any restriction forced upon them will cause them to rebel and run away. This is especially hard on single mothers, who often, don't know much about the kind of life their children lead outside their home. They feel that they are loosing any sense of control over the destiny of their children. Their children know the system better. They speak English. Thus, mothers often have to depend on their children for their own survival.

Lok Crew, who came to the United States in 1992, feels that he has it easier than most Cambodian parents. His wife is an educated housewife, who by choice, chooses to stay home and care for their two
daughters. The oldest daughter is ten years old, and she is already excelling academically beyond statewide expectation. She was one of the 45 spelling bee champions in the state of Massachusetts, and she's already studying a


## SPELLING BEE 14th ANNUAL

foreign language (French) in addition to English and Khmer. In April of 1996, she received two fifty dollar United States Savings Bonds. One was purchased and given by the Department of Environmental Managementand the other by Governor Weld. Lok Crew is very proud. He hangs a photocopy of his daughter's Savings Bonds on the wall at CMAA. The youngest daughter didn't even have to go to kindergarten because her IQ test score was too high.
"I try to instill a love for learning in my children when they are young. To do so, I have to love learning myself," he said.

## Lok Crew applied to two

 colleges with the hope of entering medical school. Now, he is in his 40 s , and he figured that he could probably finish medical school at the age of fifty or so."One is never too old to learn,"
he says, which is different from most Cambodians who often view age as a barrier to learning.
Lok Crew is trying to change this general view by encouraging parents who he comes in contact with to participate in the CMAA's
adult literacy program. The program, which is run by Mr. Pahim Kay, teaches illiterateCambodian adults how to read and write Khmer so that they can become better examples as parents.
"Parents must learn in order to help their children learn. They also need to share their problems with each other so that they won't ever feel alone, especially single mothers I've listened to," he said.
"I sympathize with them. It breaks my heart when they tell me about their heartache, their confusion and fear, their illnesses and their sense of loss. All I can do is to encourage them to cry while I listen. I know it's hard, especially when you're a mother with two to four children to raise all by yourself."
"Living in the United States is not easy, but with a little determination, one can make it. In Cambodia, one might not. For single mothers with four or five children, life might mean having to beg for food on the street. Here, I don't think the government would let you starve to death. No matter how poor you are, you can acquire basic shelter, food and adequate clothing. It would be different in Cambodia."

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## AIDS, The Second Genocide? Chath pierSath

Recently, the incidence of AIDS cases in Cambodia is on the rise. As more HIV testing is being done, statistics become scarier by the day. Could AIDS be the second genocide? The Cambodian people have gone through enough already. They have gone through hell in the twenty year history of war and massive violence. Cambodia does not need AIDS on top of it. The reality is, however, AIDS is already in the blood stream of some people. I can testify to it because a brother of mine died from it seven months ago. I witnessed the suffering and the fear in his eyes. It was a long, agonizing death, and I certainly don't want to see any more Cambodians go through it. However, due to the lack of education and the belief that AIDS is still a foreign disease make all Cambodians vulnerable.

Conservative estimates suggest that by the end of the decade, the AIDS virus will infect more than one million Asians each year, more than in the rest of the world combined, according to Philip Shenon in a Special Report to the New York Times.

In Cambodia, some have feared that AIDS will kill more people than the Khmer Rouge time. With an increase in bars, nightclubs and brothels in major cities, AIDS is likely to increase, and would probably become a weapon of another genocide if increased awareness does not take place, in particular in provincial areas.
Reaskmey Kongea, reporter for the Cambodia Times, wrote in the

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## Continue from page 20

September 30 - October 6, 1996 that the Incidence of HIV and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is on the rise in Kratie Province, with an estimated 38.5 percent of the people in that area afflicted by the virus. He went on to say that, according to the deputy director of the National AIDS Prevention Committee, Dr. Kiev Sokha, of 401 people who were tested for the AIDS causing HIV virus 38.5 percent tested positive.

Of the 38.5 percent, 28.5 percent were commercial sex workers, 3.7 percent were from the police force and four percent were pregnant women.

Kiev Sokha said that the statistics were released by the Provincial National AIDS Program during its eight-month operation in Kratie which began at the beginning of 1996.

Kratie has a population of 245,072 , of which 101 are prostitutes. The province has 30 brothels and two night clubs.

Kiev Sokha said aid workers have been trying to inculcate awareness among the provincial peopie, especially those in the remote areas on the AIDS problem.

He explained that the reason for the increase in the incidence of HIV was due largely to the ignorance on the subject, especially how it is spread.

However, Dr. Hor Bunleng, the director of the National AIDS Committee in the Ministry of Health told the Cambodian Times that the reported number of HIV patients in Kratie was not official.

There's no way of telling since there's no method of testing or consistent studies done. The Ministry of Health in Cambodia is
only at its primitive stage in dealing with this deadly disease. When one is infected with HIV, mostly through heterosexual contact or blood, there is no blatant evidence that person is carrying the virus, and it can sometimes take five to ten years to develop symptoms and full blown AIDS.
The virus in Asia is a subtype E which is more dangerous and easily spread than the subtype B in the U.S. Laboratory tests show that unlike subtype B, subtype E spreads most easily through the cells - called Langerhans cells - that densely line the reproductive tract of both sexes: the wall of the vagina and the foreskin of the penis, according to a report by Dan Seufert in the Lowell Sun.

When I was working in Phnom Penh as CANDO (Cambodian American
National Development Organization) volunteer, I went with my brother, who was HIV positive and later died, to several traditional herbal remedies stores and clinics. When asked, most of them told me that they have had patients who tested HIV positive, especially
military men who go and seek traditional remedies with the hope of curing it like gonorrhea or syphilis, which are treatable with herbalmedicine.

AIDS cases among the Cambodian population in the United States is fairly minute, although the Center For Disease Control, (CDC), reports 3,457 adult Asian Pacific Islander Americans with AIDS, but it doesn't mean that there's no need for awareness and education.

As Cambodia becomes more safe and prosperous to travel to, more and more Cambodian Americans will find their way back home, and some people will sometimes have fun and forget that AIDS is something to think about.

December 1st is International AIDS Awareness Day. To find out further information on prevention and testing, please call Andrea Lasky at the

Lowell Health Center on Merrimack Street at 937-6045 or Sister Willie at Julie Outreach Center at 937-2437. To speak to someone in Khmer, call Samnang Chea at (617) 889-5210 (Chelsea) or (617) 2284-6281 (Revere)


##  Citizenship Class

#  Every Saturday Morning 10 AM - 12 Noon 

<br>

Continue from page 4 better chance for children to remain interested in school. The New England Alive experience is very much in line with the concept of exploring, pretending and experimenting as a means to educational discovery.
The Komar Day Care Center serves children and their families who need assistance and education to develop safe and productive lifestyles. Our center is staffed with one director, one teacher, one Cambodian bilingual assistance teacher, and one part time counselor. We care for as many as twenty pre-schoolers by teaching them social skills and academic readiness while building their selfesteem. Most of the time they are doing children's work - playing. That is how they learn. There are areas around the room for exploring, pretending, and experimenting. Materials include color, paint,
blocks, puzzles, books, play dough, dolls, and various toys. The children color, paint, cut, and paste. They also learn songs, poems, and games while developing their physical skills. Sometimes, we go to the park for wider and more open space where they can run, skip, jump, and throw balls.

Our other activities include a field trip to the New England Alive where small wild animals who have been injured are cared for and a picnic in the park. This past summer their staff bought some animals to the Komar Day Care Center.

Parents are always welcome to visit the Komar Day Care Center. Part of our program is also directed at helping with parental skills. Our child care counselor calls parents frequently to make sure they understand everything that is happening at the daycare. We also send home information about
caring for our children, including their basic needs - dressing for changes in the weather, dental care, personal hygiene, healthy diets, and immunizations.

In last April we celebrated the New Year with a Cambodian feast and in November we have a traditional Thanksgiving feast. This year we also saw a special performance of Cambodian Dances. Recognizing cross-cultural needs and showing respect for language and values of all ethnic groups are always practiced.

There are several openings for children (ages 3-5 years) of low income families and of families on AFDC whose parents are attending classes such as ESL (English as a Second Language), GED (General Education Development Tests), and job training. Please call CMAA for more information (508) 454-4286.




















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## Continue from page 9

and all are young mothers. The class has a high expectation of these young mothers. The teacher, Judith D. Nelson, works well with the students and expects a lot from them. Luz appreciates Judith for pushing her to work hard and believing in her ability. Luz also says that the YPP focuses on individual attention as opposed to a regular high school, which makes it more possible to get the GED.

In the past year several students got their GED. One is currently enrolled in Middlesex Community College, three will start in January and one is in a specialized training program. We are proud of these students and congratulate Luz and the other young women who have experienced success.

## Continue from page 18

set up. A total of seven computers are now functional for our young people's use. Software has been installed. They can do their homework on Microsoft 3.0 and 6.0. We hope to set up E-mail and Internet system to allow young people here to communicate with those in Cambodia.

I need volunteers. Those of you who can teach basic computer literacy are welcomed.

Secondly, I will be offering a class in Khmer traditional music. Your children can sign up and learn to play a traditional Khmer instrument such as the flute and the two string troy as well as the khim. I believe in the importance of music in connecting young people with their roots and their Khmer soul. If anyone of you can offer to teach a
musical instrument, please let me know and volunteer.

Thirdly, our youth program, in collaboration with the Khmer Cultural Institute of Lowell, is organizing a theater group of Cambodian youth to write, produce, act and stage. Through this they will be able to share each other's life experiences and self-reflection.

I am working on scheduling all of these three programs as after school, non-informal activities and educational programs. Any university students, parents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts are welcomed to volunteer. I cannot do it alone.

Call me at 454-4286 or come by to CMAA at 125 Perry Street, Lowell, MA 01852.

Arn Chorn-Pond, Youth Coordinator, Singer and

Instrumentalist

Continue from page 16
－Owner－occupied buildings with no more than four units；and
－Certain single－family housing it is sold or rented without the use of discriminatory advertis－ ing or a real estate broker， agent or salesperson．

What Modifications To Existing Premises Must Be Permitted？
－A landlord or provider of housing must permit a person with disabilities to make reasonable modification，at the person＇s expense，to the existing housing or common use areas if the proposed modifications are necessary for the person＇s full use of the housing／premises．
－In rental property，where it is reasonable to do so，a landlord may give conditional permis－ sion to make a modification if the renter agrees to restore the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the modification．
－A housing provider is not required to offer housing of a fundamentally different nature．
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## Fay McCabe



F U N E R A L D I R E C T O R S

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## Frank McCabe

105 Moore St.<br>Lowell, MA 01852<br>穻(508) 459-9222











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# My Christmas 

Chath pierSath

[celebrateChristmas eventhough Iam nota Christian. I celebrate it because Jesus Christ, like other manifestations of God, taught love and compassion. He taught us to love our fellow beings and to look upon each other as equals.

Forthis Christmas, I wanttolead ahealthy, happyand productive life by understanding myself, my unique gifts and purpose in this world. Throughmy dailypractice of meditation and prayer, I know that I will gensense of self tomy commumeditate, I energy, aspiratheworld those pained can be and Iwant member as an extraorlege oflife and erate a clearer andconnection nity. As I send good love and tions into so that who are andhurt healed loved. to reeach day dinary privito allother living beings. Theworld is my home, and my home is the world. With this in mind, I will evolve into a greater and better humanbeing.

1must think of my actions each day and how they can affect the future and everything around me. I know that goodactions, gooddeeds, caringthoughts andmeaningfulmotivation aremeans to a more peaceful and constructive world. Iwantto rememberthat Iamresponsible for
myself and other people. Human beings are interdependent of each other. Tome, there's norace, color or creed. There is only being, a processofliving, thinking, working, growing, learning, playing andevolving together with all inhabitants of thisplanet. Diversityisbeautiful, and I must celebrate it as a way of life.

Wiflhaver enoughtoeat, I think of the time when I was hungry and of those who do not haveenough. When I have enoughmoneyto spend, Ispenditcarefully and think of those who are penniless. I want to practice consuming only what I need so that others may share the wealth and richness of this world. When my dream is realized, I want to help others torealize theirs.

1will support a government that works to reduce poverty, provide basic health, education and housing for all people. Iwill look for littlemiraclesinmylifeandremember my connection to my dream, vision and my heart's calling, and remember thatI can do anything as long as I do it with those who share this world with me. I believe that I have great potential to love, care, give and serve others.

Merry Christmas

Christmas...What does itmeanto you?

Timeto spend with family and share love. -Mr. Samkhann Khoeun, ExecutiveDirector

#  

is Coming to the Merrimack River August 23, 1997

[magine a beautiful summer day of festivities and fun. Imagine a colorful, joyful Southeast Asian Water Festival coming to the Merrimack River. You can hear traditional and modern Southeast Asian music, dance, listen to storytelling, get your fortune read, eat tasty ethnic food, watch boat racing and learn about environmental and health issues from the different booths we set up.

This is a replication of a Water Festival that takes place every year in Southeast Asia. In Cambodia, the Festival celebrates the direction reversal of the

Mekong River and the beginning of the harvest season. In the city of Phnom Penh, people from all over the country come to see the boat races. Men and women wear colorful costumes. Food stalls line the river bank. Music from live bands can be heard. There's fireworks and colorful, neon flotillas to lighttheriver atnight. Theriver bank in front of the royal palace is packed with people. For different non-governmental organizations working in Cambodia, it's their chance to pass out information on HIV/AIDS or landmines during


The Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association and the Lao Americancommunity arecollaborating with the city of Lowell, the City's Department of Public Health, the New England FolkLife Center, the University of Massachusetts - Lowell's Center for Family, Work and Community, and other agencies on this festival.

On November 5, 1996, our first meeting with community members took place. Attendees at the meeting included a monk, two lay nuns and various community leaders and university students. The purpose of the meeting was to get community involvement and reflect further on how the Water Festival is celebrated in Southeast Asia. Everybody wasexcited as they reminisced about what they remembered of the festival in their homeland.

This festival is for everybody toenjoy, notjustfor Southeast Asians. People of all ages will be able to en-
to renew one's hope and fortune.
The Water Festival in Cambodia was banned under the Khmer Rouge. It has only recently been revised. Today, the tradition is very much alive. Happy people are seen again every mid-November along the river in front of the palace enjoying the boat races.

We want toreplicate this tradition here along the Merrimack's Pawtucket Blvd. So far, a Southeast Asian Water Festival Group has been established, and the planning process has started.
joy food, music, storytelling and learn more about the historical and cultural connection to the Merrimack River and the Mekong in Southeast Asia. There will be a replica of a boat built exactly like the ones in Asia along with many other festivities to enjoy.

We need your involvement and support. Community members are asked to volunteer and give ideas and participate in the planning of this festival. If you would like to get involved, please call me, Chath pierSath, at CMAA at 508-454-4286.
 VuthyVann

## Senior Editor（Khmer）

Vuthy Vann，Pahim Kay and Savy Suth

Senior Editor（ English ）<br>Joe Nickerson，Judith D．Nelson and Chath pierSath

Research Director
SamkhannKhoeun and ChathpierSath

Advertising and Marketing Director<br>Samkhann Khoeun，ThirithHuth，NorethSom， Arn Chorn Pond and Rany Him

Translation
Vuthy Vann，Savy Suth and Pahim Kay

Production Manager<br>VuthyVann

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Khmer Lowell magazine is a monthly publication of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell，Inc．（CMAA），the Cambodian American Voter League of Lowell（CAVL），and the Khmer Cultural Institute（KCI）．We welcome your contribution．Send us your articles，poems，short story，opinion column，political and social com－ mentary or any kind of art work such as cartoon that you wish to be published．All articles should be limited to $800-1200$ words．Please include your name，address and phone number．We reserve the right to edit any materials for space．No part of Khmer Lowell may be re－ printed or reproduced without our written permission．Subscription rate for the first year（10－12 issues）is $\$ 25.00$（USA）；$\$ 30.00$（Canada） and $\$ 45.00$ for all other countries．All advertising inquiries should be directed to Samkhann Khoeun，Vuthy Vann，or Thirith Hut．Copyright （c） 1996 by KhmerLowell Magazine．

## KhmerLowell Magazine

c／o CMAA－ 125 Perry Street，Lowell，MA 01852
Tel：（508）454－4286；Fax：（508）454－1806















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<br>125 Perry Street，Lowell，MA 01852<br>Tel：（508）454－4286；Fax（508）454－1806

## FAX: (508) 459-0044 ○ TEL: (508) 459-2575

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##  JAMES C. DRAGON



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$\Rightarrow$ AUTO ACCIDENT
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##  P. O. Box 478 <br> Lowell, Massachusetts 01853

132 Warren Street

# Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association <br> of Greater Lowell, Inc. 

125 Perry Street, Lowell, Massachusetts 01852
Tel: (508) 454-4286 Fax: (508) 454-1806

January 9, 1997

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Would you like to subscribe to our monthly magazine, "Khmer Lowell?" Would you like to put out an ads to more than 45,000 of our readers? Enclosed is our first January issue.

We offer low subscription and ads rate. Call now, subscribe or send your ads on time for the February issue. All ads should be received by January 20, 1997.
"Khmer Lowell" is a monthly, bi-lingual magazine published by the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of the Greater Lowell. The magazine will be widely distributed to Cambodians and non-Cambodians throughout the New England area and the United States.

Our yearly subscription is only $\$ 25.00$. Our ads price list is enclosed. If you need further information, please call us at 508-454-4286.


Executive Director of CMAA

#  

## A monthly Bilingual Magazine

## Advertisement Reservation Form

Yes! We want to reserve advertising space in the Khmer Lowell Magazine
The size of our ad is: (Price per issue, please check one)
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Half-Page Ad. ..... \$100
1/4 Page Ad. .....  $\$ 80$
1/8 Page Ad. .....  $\$ 50$
Business Card Ad. ..... \$25

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