

Cambodian Mutival Assistance Association 165 Jadison Trieet Lowell. MM O185E

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Cambodian Community Center


##  Philip Sopheap Muth Representative

## Po.Box 1744

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## NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD



Some people like winter, but some do not. Despite of its dangers due to heavy snow days, icy rains, and big storms, many people have a lot of fun since many celebrations such as Christmas, New Year, Valentine's Day, and so on fall during the winter season.

Most of us are familiar with how New Year is celebrated in the United States, but don't you think it would be enjoyable to familiarize ourselves with other nations' New Year celebrations.

In the following pages, you'll find articles written by our friends inside and outside of the Lowell community sharing their knowledge about their own New Year Celebrations.

Although Buddhism is practiced in most countries in S. E. Asia, such as Cambodia, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Lao, etc. they somehow celebrate their own New Year in different ways and times. For instance, Thai and Hmong celebrate their New Year on January, Chinese and Vietnamese do it on February, and Cambodian and Laotian celebrate theirs on April. When I interviewed

Continued on page 9

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Fellow Cambodians and friends!
Greetings from Lowell, Massachusetts. For the past several months, the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA) has been so busy with a few new and exciting projects. One is the "Massachusetts Self-Sufficiency" Project: employment service and youth service programs. This program is funded for $\$ 290,850$ annually by the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) via the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI) is designed to assist Cambodian refugees and
 immigrants whose benefits will be exhausted due to their time-clock running out with employment services. The program emphasizes on helping people to achieve their self-sufficiency. It consists of community outreach and education, recruitment and intakes; job counseling, coaching, placement, support, and continuous English education.

Another is called the Community Service Employment Program, which provide subsidized employment to about 18 Cambodian refugees and immigrants to work in any public service agencies and non-profit organizations. Grant money will pay for all salary, wages and benefits for up to 12 months. The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement funds this program in the amount of \$623,000.

Yet another program is the Asian Refugee and immigrant economic and educational opportunities, funded in the amount of $\$ 100,000$ annually by the Freeman Foundation based in New Year, New York. This program is designed to assist Cambodian refugees and immigrants to acquire English language skills, advance in their workplaces, and ultimately increase their economic standard.

These three sources of funding make up more than half of last year annual budget, which was only $\$ 850,000$. In additional, we are able to receive a few additional funding from other agencies such as the Theodore Edson Parker Foundation, Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the City of Lowell's Enterprise Community.

CMAA is experiencing a tremendous of growth within the last few years. Not only that the CMAA has been successful in fundraising for its various programs and services, but was also able to fundraise for its building development project as well. Speaking on the building, CMAA was fortunate in receiving a building worth $\$ 1.2$ million from Courier Corporation of North Chelmsford, Massachusetts. The City of Lowell has been very supportive to this building development project. This is the single biggest donation from any donor.

Furthermore, the CMAA had initiated the Southeast Asian Water Festival, which brought thousand of people from near and far to Lowell to celebrate this ancient traditional in the last weekend of August in the last two years. The water festival is the first of its kind ever celebrated outside of Cambodia, Lao, Thailand and South Vietnam. Looking into its third year of success, the Water Festival committee has been working so diligently to prepare this coming August celebration even a bigger one.

We all should be very proud of this phenomenon success. Shall it be new social services and programs for our community members, or cultural initiative for our youth, or economic development for the our community, or even civic education for our elders, the CMAA is committed to serve our Cambodian Americans and other linguistic minority groups more diligently.

I would like to express my utmost thanks to each and every staff, board members, and volunteers, for the all the hard work they had been doing to make our organization the best it can be in order to serve our community residents. Most importantly, my sincere thanks go to all the funders who had entrusted their trust and belief in us to carry out the programs and services. Equally important is my ardent and profound admiration to our elected officials who support us all along during the most bumpy roads and difficult time. Yet, among the many people who helped make my work possible are my greatest confidants-Sina Phou, my wife and my children, Vathana and Kalyannee Khoeun. My parents and siblings have unquestionably supported me along the way regardless of where they are physically.

Thank you so very much for all your help. Our task of serving the underserved Southeast Asian population is not possible without you.

Sincerely yours,
Samkhann C. Khoeun,
Executive Director

## Letter from the Editor

## Dear Readers,



At first, I would like to give my thanks to the Khmer Lowell Magazine Committee for all of their hard work in bringing this magazine back to the community. Secondly, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the Board of Directors at the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, especially the Public Relations Committee, and the Executive Director for providing their support and advice in making this magazine. Last but not least, please allow me to thank friends, Ms. Jacqueline Travers, Bartlett School Principal, Mr. Harry Kouloheras, Butler School Principal, Ms. Carol Sutton, Butler School Parent Liaison, Ms. Elana Killela, Seton Asian Center Director in Lawrence, Ms. Huy Nguyen, Saunder school teacher in Lawrence, and Mr. Ngoun Tea, and others for donating their work in this publication and in supporting the education of our community and our children. The goal of Khmer Lowell Magazine is to provide knowledge relating to religion, human life, and other important happenings inside and outside of the Lowell community, so that they may be used as tools to deal with life and business as needed. Furthermore, we would like to strengthen the collaboration in the Lowell community for the use of humanity in the present time as well as in the future.

It has been nearly two decades since the Cambodian Community settled in Lowell. Due to the cultural barrier, most of them have faced many obstacles. However, they are adjusting well to the opportunities provided to them and are raising their families in the midst of turmoil and uncertainty with no complaints. One part of the Cambodian Community has already reached their dreams and happiness in life, while others are still adjusting and working towards improving their situations, such as learning English, getting their GED, going to college, and finding a job that they like.

The old year has changed to a new one and left us with many wise ideas while the New Year is bringing many new opportunities and great ideas to the community. Therefore, due to the consciousness in loving and caring for our community, justice, freedom, and education of all of you, sir, madams, and miss, the Khmer Lowell Magazine will be worthwhile, lively, and interesting. Furthermore, I deeply hope that this magazine will bring happiness and help to further develop your roots in the New England area.

I would like to say that it is my pleasure to be a part of this magazine. I am looking forward to hearing your positive criticisms, so that together we can make this magazine very beneficial and useful to our community.

At the end of this letter, and especially in the year of Rabbit, may all of you be always blessed with the five blessings: age, wealth, health, strength, and wisdom.

Respectfully,
Margaret Y. Tham
Chief Editor








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Khmer Lowell Magazine is a quarterly publication fully supported by the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc.

Your contribution such as articles, folk tales stories, modern fictions, poems, news, etc. are happily and gratefully welcomed. Please, limit the document to $1-3(11 \times 8)$ pages, and make sure the name, address, telephone, fax, and signature of the author, or the responsible person are correct.

We would like to inform all of you that the entire document be sent to us, whether published or not (depends on the policy and/or other reasons) it becomes the legal property of the Khmer Lowell Magazine.

Besides, we would like to ask for your good heart to help us by subscribing, or advertising, the Magazine just for your own or the community sake.

Subscription rate is $\$ 0.99$ per issue, plus shipping and handling. For your advertising, please, contact Timothy Mouth, Bora Yi, or Pov Ye.

For more information, please, contact
Mrs. Margaret Tham, or write to us at:

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## IMMIGRATION LAW

YOU CAN BE DEPORTED FOR COMMITTING CRIMES!

Last year, the Immigration and Naturalization Service deported 56,011 people because they had been convicted of crimes while in the United States. The number of people deported for that reason has increased each year for the past five years. Many people do not realize that they can be removed from the United States if they are convicted of many types of crimes. This is true even for people who have permanent resident ("green card") status.

What types of criminal convictions can cause a non-citizen to be removed from the United States? A conviction of any violation of the drug laws, except for possession of less than twenty eight grams of marijuana for personal use is grounds for deportation. A conviction for illegal possession, carrying, purchasing, owning, using or sale of firearms makes one deportable. A new ground for deportation added in 1996 is conviction of a crime of domestic violence, which includes abusing family members, stalking, or violating restraining orders, and includes abusing, neglecting or abandoning a child.

If you have been in the United States less than five years, you can be deported if you are convicted of a crime of moral turpitude and receive a sentence of one year in jail or more. A crime of moral turpitude is a crime which shows that the person who committed it is a person of bad character. Crimes involving stealing or lying are almost always crimes of moral turpitude. Violent crimes which involve the use of weapons or an intention to seriously hurt another person are usually classified as crimes of moral turpitude.

Sex offenses are almost always considered crimes of moral turpitude. Traffic offenses are generally not crimes of moral turpitude. Whether you have been in the United States for five years or not, conviction of two or more crimes of moral turpitude can get you
deported, even if you do not receive a jail sentence. There is no time limit on when the two convictions would count for deportation. Two convictions thirty or forty years apart would count the same as two convictions in the same year.

However, if a non-citizen is charged with more than one crime which occurred during the same incident, convictions on all the crimes which occurred during that incident would be treated like one conviction. For example, if someone got into a fight with a group of people and was charged with separate charges for hitting three different people during the same fight, those three charges would be treated as if they were one conviction, because they were part of one incident.


On the other hand, if someone breaks into three houses on one day, the time which he had in between the crimes to think about what he was doing would probably be enough to cause the three crimes to be considered separate incidents.

The most serious crimes which can lead to deportation are the crimes which are called aggravated felonies. Under immigration law, people who are convicted of aggravated felonies are treated differently from those who commit less serious offenses. They are not eligible for most forms of relief from removal. An immigration judge cannot cancel their removal because of hardship, with hold their removal, or grant them political asylum and refuse
to return them to their native country.

There are many crimes which are listed in the immigration law as aggravated felonies. The most common ones are: crimes involving violence or the threat of violence, burglary or housebreaking , stealing or fraud for which one receives a sentence of a year or more, any crime involving the illegal sale or distribution of drugs, offenses involving firearms, tax evasion involving cheating the government out of more than $\$ 10,000.00$ of taxes, failing to appear in court to answer serious charges, lying under oath, or intimidating a witness in a criminal case.

This article is only meant to give you a general view of part of the immigration laws of the United States. If you have questions concerning how these laws might affect you or a family member, you should speak to an attorney.
> "...conviction of two or more crimes of moral turpitude can get you deported, even if you do not receive a jail sentence."



Nguon on 02-15-99 about how Chinese New Year is celebrated, he agrees with whatever Hue said, because Vietnamese celebrate their New Year as Chinese does. For the 1999 New Year in Irish, according to Elana when she tried to get information about it in February, all of the hotels were booked up, and the cost for baby-
sitting was $\$ 79.00$ per hour!!! On the other hand, do you know that some countries do not have New Year? (not because of their religion, but they just do not celebrate New Year. If you want to know about these New Year celebrations, please read the following pages...

By Margaret Tham

## Cambodian New Year

Cambodian New Year is a traditional ceremony that originated in Buddhism in ancient times. The New Year is celebrated to achieve the following 6 goals:

1. To maintain and preserve the existence of our beautiful tradition so it will last forever.
2. To strengthen solidarity and brotherhood, as well as friendship among our fellow Cambodians.
3. To wish our nation and ourselves good luck and happiness.
4. To have fellow Cambodians and ourselves stay awake for every step of life.
5. To gratefully payback the favor of our living or passed away parents.
6. To support our religion (Buddhism) which we believe is the best way to achieve peace, security and happiness for human beings in this world.

The date and time we celebrate the New Year is not a fixed date. It depends on the number of days in the month of February. If February has 28 days, the celebration begins on April $13^{\text {th }}$. If February ends on the $29^{\text {th }}$, the celebration has to start on April $14^{\text {th }}$. The time of such celebration is also varied depending on the availability of each New Year Deva (angel) predicted by an astrologer
in charge of making our New Year calendar. The Deva for the year depends on the day of the week on which the New Year begins. The Deva will automatically come down to earth on New Years day to take care of human beings for the whole year.

The reason that our ancestors chose April 13 or 14, for our New Year celebration is because it is the dry season in Cambodia and the crops have already been harvested by the farmers so they now have free time to join in the celebration.

Generally our fellow farmers finish their harvesting business at the beginning of March. The climate then is mild, clear, and free of fog. Right after their crops have been harvested men and women, young and old, clear and clean the area around their homes and make their own stands suitable to welcome their New Year Deva. At that time, children gather together to play whatever popular games they wish. Buddhist monks are then invited to present the Dharma Citation and to preach to the people to educate them.

Afterwards, people enjoy shows: Lakhon, Ayai, movies, dancing and comedy. Any celebration done after the $13^{\text {th }}$ or $14^{\text {th }}$ of April is not called a New Year celebration.

When April 13 or 14 is coming, people in all areas of Cambodia usually get together and celebrate their New Year in their own pagoda. Traditionally and as rule, the New Year celebration has to be done by Cambodian people following a threestep process:
First: New Year calendar (welcoming New Year Deva) Second: Vanabat minute (making sand hill)
Third: Promotion minute (bathing Buddha's statue)

If the celebration does not contain the three principal processes above, there is no reason for us to consider it as our traditional Cambodian New Year. These processes have been set by our intellectual ancestors and should be maintained by all of us, their descendants. We should not cut short any of the processes. Otherwise we will not be the bamboo shoots that grow from the bamboo. The celebration itself these days has less meaning than it is traditionally supposed to have.
MAY CAMBODIAN NEW YEAR BE HELD ON THE DESIGNATED DATE AND THE CORRECT PROCESSES FOLLOWED FOREVER.

## 

1999 A.D. And 2543 B.C.

## The Rabbit Personality:

The Rabbit craves company and needs to belong to an established crowd. Safely within their social circle, the Rabbits feel protected and secure; outside it, they are reserved and quite possibly withdrawn. However, even within the groups, the Rabbit maintains a certain independence and, though hardly extrovert, can often become the focus of attention by being visibly on the edge of events. Thus, a gregarious and sociable disposition does not prevent the Rabbit from remaining aloof.

The typical Rabbit will be submissive, even humble, in a constant effort to avoid all confrontations. Happiest with friends, if somewhat inclined to gossip, this kind and benevolent lover of conversation, reading and literary pursuits may appear rather too meek but can be remarkably brave when faced with danger.

Traditionally associated with clearsightedness, the Rabbit is an excellent judge of character, with an instinct for recognizing sincerity in others and an almost uncanny ability for sensing falsehood.

In personal relationships, even the most innocent deceptions will be identified almost at the moment they are perpetrated.

Another traditional belief accredits the Rabbit with the recipe for the divine elixir of life; and accordingly Rabbit personalities are often gifted healers, both of emotional and physical maladies.

## What to expect in the Year of Rab-

 bit?Generally, this is a year for diplomacy and persuasion. It is certainly not the right moment for trying to barge ahead, since this will only result in sterile and time-consuming confrontation. On the other hand, it is an ideal time for dealing with more agreeable nature, the exchange of contracts, or the peaceful
transfer or authority.
In the sphere of politics, this is not a year for dramatic change. Rather, it is a period of increased awareness and concern for human rights, the underprivileged and the victims of unjust treatment. Internationally, much will be achieved to help those in need.

As the possessor of the recipe for the elixir of life, the Rabbit is credited with knowledge of herbal remedies and medicine. The Year of the Rabbit is seen as a suitable period for expansion in the field of pharmaceuticals or cosmetics, and dealings to do with herbs, drugs, or preparations of vegetable origin. Interest in alternative medicine continues to expand.

Greater emphasis will be placed on family life. There is good news for those wishing to expand their families this year. But for those whose involvement in illicit liaisons should ponder the Rabbit's procreative prowess.

With regards to health, this should prove to be a recuperative year. But beware of the dangers of becoming dependent on medication.

By Samkhann Khoeun


## The Violence Reflective of Our Society

On the front page of the January 14, 1999 Lowell Sun were two faces of our young Cambodians, held without bail for stabbing and killing a Laotian boy. A few months earlier, there had been other boys killed by guns sprayed from rival Puerto Rican gangs. Our youth are killing each other!

Like other cities throughout America, this mill town, Lowell has its share of the violence, which is reflective of the problems in our larger society. Guns are cheap and accessible to children here. Poverty shows a wide inequity between people in a country where the bounty of its food can feed the world. Yet, people still go hungry everyday. Throughout the urban slums of America, drugs and domestic violence turn the innocent into murderers. In addition, raw footage of Hollywood movies and video games fill the minds of these children with heroes who destroy, bomb and shoot people for revenge.

America's youth are easily convinced or swayed to fill the meaningless void with hate and rage. Without love and positive adult supervision to back and guide them against all these evils, they will pick up a gun, and when angered, shoot.

In a city of 100,000 people like Lowell, when children die of violence, it is very disconcerting to people. The Cambodian community has more than its share of violence. People are plagued with remorse and sadness of multiple losses in addition to the suffering and the poverty they experience. It is here, in this immigrant city of mills and factories, that mothers and fathers gathered to raise their children from the war and poverty of their homeland. They came with only a few things on their backs, fleeing the refugee camps, torn in so many directions.

Continued on page 24

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| New Year Festivities in Sierra Leorne |
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| The New Year celebration in |
| Sierra Leone is meant to bring |
| people together from all walks |
| of life. |

makers ) to host the celebrations in a particular village that could accommodate everyone. Word is sent out to all villages informing the people about the time and place.

On the day of the New Year celebration everyone attending brings food and locally produced wines to share. Each village also produces its dancers, drummers, and singers. Before the celebrations start,

By the early 1800 's the country became a British colony. During this time the English established their social, economic and political order among the people.
In 1961 Sierra Leone received its independence from Britain. Although Britain no longer rules Sierra Leone, its social legacy still remains with Sierra Leoneans. Our traditional val-
religious ceremonies are performed by all designated religious leaders.

During the religious ritual offerings are made to the spirits of all dead ancestors, the gods and the earth spirit. The beings are believed to protect the crops for a good yield of harvest.

After the rituals have been performed the paramount chief makes an announcement by welcoming and urging everyone to have fun and not war.

The event starts with the sounding of trumpets, beating of drums, rattling of trinklets, anklets, and sounding of bells. Various activities such as wrestling, marriage ceremonies, fire dance, harvest display, etc. take place during the New Year celebrations.

By Simeon Zorokong



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## THE CMAA PROGRAMS

## THE PRE-ESL/ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Pre-English as a Second Language/Adult Education Program is an introductory English language course for beginners. The program's focus is to assist participants in transitioning to the working world. Our goal is to help them become self-sufficient and economically independent. The course is designed to help them learn and understand basic English by focusing on conversation, listening, and reading skills.

## Elisibility

Individuals who currently receive public assistance and/or local residents who are interested in learning English are
 eligible to participate in the program. Register for classes at the CMAA, Monday through Friday from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Classes are offered Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 1:00 p.m at the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association at $\mathbf{1 6 5}$ Jackson Street, Lowell, MA 01852.

For further information, please contact Danny Div at (978) 454-4286 Ext. 28 or stop by our offices at any time. This program is funded in whole by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance and administered through the Greater Lowell Regional Employment Board.

## 

 THE CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)The CAP program was originally designed specifically to serve the needs of the target population Southeast Asian people who have limited English proficiency. We have expanded the eligibility of our clients to all that fulfill the INS requirement for citizenship. Under the Fiscal Year 1998 Our client was mainly those effected by the State and Federal Benefit especially the Elderly. At the present time our clients are those who are truly interested in becoming a U.S. citizen. They want to become an active member of society.

## CAP program is still offering comprehensive services:

-Citizenship Application Assistance

- Assist in all aspect of INS Inquiry and Services
-Assist non-naturalized refugees to successfully complete the naturalized process.
-Information and Referral
-Citizenship Preparation Classes
-Transportation to INS interview

Each client is given clear information about the application process. Their questions and concerns are answers before any commitments are made to the program. N-400 Application is filled out with the clients understanding every aspect of the naturalization process. Intake is properly conducted and finally for those clients needing assistance with passing the U.S. History and Government test, they are assigned to Citizenship Classes.

## UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE!

As of January 15, 1999 the INS has raised the Naturalization fee from $\$ 95$ (plus $\$ 25$ for fingerprinting) to $\$ 225$ (plus $\$ 25$ for fingerprinting). There are exempts and fee waiver for those that qualify, if applicants can demonstrate an "inability to pay". In determining "inability to pay", the INS Service Office may consider the following situations and criteria:
-Within the last 180 days, he/she qualified for or received a "federal means tested public benefit," such as Food Stamps, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
-Household Income below the Poverty Guidelines: Family of One - $\$ 8,050$; Family of Two- $\$ 10,850$; Family of Three- $\$ 13,650$
$\bullet \mathrm{He}$ / She is elderly (Age 65 or older at the time the fee waiver request is submitted).
$\bullet \mathrm{He} /$ She is disabled.

- Substantial hardship.

For further information please contact:
Bora C. YI, Citizenship Assistance Program Coordinator or Thy Chey, Elderly Assistance Program Coordinator Vincent B. Un, Program Assistant


## EDUCATION NEWS

##  

## Bartlett Middle School is very proud of our students!!! List of Honor Roll Students

| $\quad$ Grade $\mathbf{8}$ | San Muth <br> Sareth Nuon |
| :--- | :--- |
| Diana Baez | Steven Ostis |
| Jonathan Casserly | Emily Peacock |
| Tony Chadwick | Corey Pinkham |
| Sophath Chea | Soma Pruma |
| Linda Chhay | Chandara Ros |
| Kathy Do | Dara Santana |
| Corey Glaude | Devin Sok |
| John Hann | Kevin Tangerife |
| Harry Holland | Kunthea Sothy |
| Kim Hong Huoth | Sophorn chum |
| Ngoe Huynh | Brian Higgins |
| Phallim Ke | Ana Maria Diaz |
| Phalla Keat | Andhi Kim |
| Khemra Khirv | Jessie Gary |
| Bofa Kim | Nemal Chorn |
| Savoeun Loeuth | Dorian Dos |
| Soscia Long |  |

Grade 6
Sarath Chum
Sarath Sory
Damaris Gomez
Haksea Kang
Kimleang Mom
Steven Prak
Kevin Sann
Jessica Tanguay
Jeff Veiga
John Huynh
Lyda Nou
Daniel Brien
Ryan Gleason
Joanne Ing
Jose Neria
Soinoung Phang
Sophanna Sam
Amy Ercolani
Fred Boeteng
Dora Dos
Bunra Hgeth
Lisa Phok
Boynlom Sonthipanya
Sophal Som
Amanda Roy
Maria Torres
Jasmine Marquez
Kosal Thim
Sandy Cheth

Manivinh Nanthavong
Danica Proum
Bory Run
Stephanie Anstiss
Steven Iem
Punrith Ngeth
Joshua Aponte
Vanny Neov
Phillip Tang
High Honors
Nancy Do
Monirina Meas
Mehdi Rahman

## Grade 5

Nancy Sor
Amanda Vann
Kimsang Tom
Paulina Do
Ryan Houle
Christine Lam
Saibo Ndlovu
Lina Mann
Ryan Murray
Sovannoeuth Phuon
Renee Christian
Chris Coutu
Jennifer Fortier
Tanya Hernandez
Daniel LaCourse
Houng Noeuk
Vorachit Photisane
Stephanie Sengkhamvilay
Swetha Shanbhag
Tang Tang
Jennifer Wallen
Sokoeun Chhum
Paul Huynh
Christina Pilgrim
Chhannara Ros
Seila Chhay
Ratha Lam
Joshua Phrekonekham
Chanthara Ros
Sarun Touch
Phira Chep
Vanna Pen
Savin Thor

Lina Nguyen
Jim Song
Kendra Santana
Marajely Rodriquez
Chanthra Eam
Rany Por

## National Junior Honor Society

Diana Baez
Sophath Chea
Kathy Do
Harry Holland
Kim Hong Huoth
Khemra Khinv
Stephanie Lak
Monivireak Meas
Rithy Ngy
Melanie Ortiz
Megha Patel
Alicia Phok
Chhoeun Proum
Nora Tang
Brian Chadwick
Linda Chhay
Corey Glaude
Shane Hubert
Phallim Ke
Bopha Kim
Soscia Long
Stephen Medina
Sokchanthy Nin
Brandon Oxton
Nelson Perez
Megan Phrakonekham
Lisa Tan
Racksmay Toun


## Butler Middle School

Dear Parents,
As you are aware the MCAS, (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System), test results have been released. These results are from the first MCAS test ever administered to our $4^{\text {th }}$ grade, $8^{\text {th }}$ grade, and $10^{\text {th }}$ grade students last May. The MCAS test is a very difficult, comprehensive test based on our new "Curriculum Frameworks." The state curriculum frameworks were used by our School Department this past year, as a guide in helping us to develop our new citywide curriculum guides. We are implementing our citywide curriculum guides for the first time during this school year. The MCAS test is designed to give each school a clear understanding of our school's curriculum and instructional strengths as well as weaknesses.

The Butler School plans on using the MCAS test results as a tool for helping our teachers improve and strengthen student's education. All test results, pertinent data, and interpretive pamphlets have been distributed to our staff. We are forming teacher committees to identify areas of concern and to develop a comprehensive plan for improvement. In May of 1998 the staff of the B. F. Butler School were honored by the United States Department School for consistently improving our children's test scores over a three year period. I am confident the determined efforts of our teaching staff will address the areas of our curriculum and instruction which the MCAS determined need improving. In time, thereby, improving. In time, thereby, improving our students' MCAS performance. Your continued support is essential to help us achieve the educational goals we have set for your child. If you wish $t$ peruse the MCAS test administered to your child in the $4^{\text {th }}$ or $8^{\text {th }}$ grade you may find a copy in the Butler School Parent Center or on the web at www.doe.mass.edu.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, ,prosperous New Year.
Sincerely,
Harry D. Kouloheras.

## 



## Congratulations Butler Spelling Bee Participants

Grade5 Shannon AllardCarolina, Carolina Escobar, Daniel Normandie, Kai Stenstrum, and Amanda Vesekis

Grade 6 Geoffrey Bourget, Wayne Russell, Ryan Shawde, Rathana Svay, and Socheatta Yem.

Grade 7 Valerie Adams, Lavy Bou, Rysophare Dom, Chantee Ol, and Ross West.

Grade 8 Tony Kisiel, Sophy Kuo, Evan Millett, Roseda Rith, and Rosemarie Segarra.

## The CMAA is very proud of Butler Middle School Honor Roll Students

| $\mathbf{5}^{\text {Th }}$ Grade | Kai Stenstrum | Sarinda San |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Kunthy Douk | Susan Duong | Rancia Phin |
| Sitha Chau | Sophy Duong | Sela Horm |
| Tony Pen | Sophy Heng | Malika Ly |
| Jenny Sech | Songia Khoun | Vidalyn Kem |
| Charvy Kosal | Rathanna Sareth |  |
| Saly Nem | Marvinlee Horm | $\mathbf{7}^{\text {Th }}$ Grade |
| Romony Ren | Kimsarim L | Vannary Pov |
| Ra Pan | Chealynna Sokhom | Vanny Phann |
| Lindany Soeung |  | Phanny |
| Channary Sar | $\mathbf{6}^{\text {Th }}$ Grade | Chhoeun |
| Sophally Som | Socheatta Yem |  |
| Sophea Som | Rebecca Korm | $\mathbf{8}^{\text {Th }}$ Grade |
| Samnang Som | Wade Sok | Aenor Keophila |
| Vichega Tang | Sophak So | Linda Phoeurk |
| Lisa Hong | Saoran Roeuth |  |

## BUTLER SCHOOL: Afterschool Activities

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The Butler Middle School has a variety of after school programs for students.

The Homework Center-teachers are available Monday -Friday from 2:40 PM-4:00 PM to help students with homework.

Tutoring- Teachers are available after school to help students having difficulty in specific subject areas. Sport Floor hockey, basketball, cheerleading and more.

Enrichment Activities - Butler School Newsletter, Outdoor Techniques, Thought Provoking Games, Cribbage, Scrabble and more.


## Parent Center Library Open

The Parent Center Library is now open. Parents are welcome to stop by and check out the library. Parents are able to borrow up to two items at a time. Some of the material available to parents are:
Homework Without Tears: A parents guide for motivating children to do homework and to succeed in school.
School's Out-Resources for your child's time afternoons, weekends, and/or vacations. Parenting Teenagers-Systematic training for effective parenting of teens.
Fatherhood-A touching and humorous book about fatherhood written by Bill Cosby.
Getting Ready for College Early-A handbook for parents of students in middle and junior high.
The Curriculum Frameworks-for History and Social Science, Mathematics, Science and Technology, and English Language Arts-These are the first state wide guidelines for learning, teaching and assessment. The 1998-99

Butler School Unified School Improvement Plan- Developed by the Principal, the staff, and the School Site Council, which is composed of three parents, two teachers and a community representative. The Parent Center Library also has various magazines, a small assortment of videos, and a Free Parent Tip corner.

Parents are always welcome to stop by the Parent Center, M-F 7:50 A.M.-3:30 P.M. and Tuesday nights 7:00-8:00 P.M.


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## Fay McCabe

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

##  <br> Frank McCabe 105 Moore St. Lowell, MA 01852䀂(978) 459-9222











## Vietnamese New Year

New Year, or Tet, celebrates the return of Spring which usually comes in late January or in the middle of February.

Tet is a very important holiday like Thanksgiving or Christmas. Tet is the time for the members of the family get together. If a member of the family has to work far from her (his) family, she (he) should return to home before New Year's Eve. The family usually get together on the New Year's Eve to make glutinous rice cakes and arrange flowers on the altar.

Houses are cleaned and painted. The parents try to save money during the year and now it's time to spend such as buying or making new clothes for the children and for themselves, buying flowers, food, etc...
Food and flowers are very important part of the celebration. People usually put some kind of food and fruit on the altar like glutinous rice cakes, water melons, mangoes, co-
conuts and papayas. Pink cherry blossoms and yellow plum blossoms are beautiful signs of spring.

The dragon is a symbol of luck and wisdom for the Vietnamese people. A dragon dance is performed on New Year. Most of the children like the dragon dance the best.

Tet last three days, but the children have ten days off. On the first day, people usually don't get out of the house. The family get together. They wake up early to pay respect and to wish their grandparents and parents the best wishes in the New Year. The grandparents will give the children the red lucky envelopes with money. On the second day, people visit the relatives and the neighbors. On the third day, the children will visits their old teachers and friends.

Family and children always stay up late on New Year's Eve to set off the fire crackers at midnight. They believe the noise will blast out the
evil and the bad things of the old year and bring the good ones to the house.

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| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | By HUE NGUYEN |  |  |



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## THE CMAA PROGRAMS

## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAM

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) via the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI) recently the CMAA grant monies with the purpose of implementing the Massachusetts SelfSufficiency Project (MSSP). Based on community need, the CMAA has designed a component called the Employment Services Program The purpose of our program is to assist individuals in making the transition to the world of work by increasing employability levels through the development of language and literacy skills and by increasing access to employment opportunities through creative job development. Program features include Intake/Assessment, Employment Counseling, Job Search/Placement, PostEmployment Training and Support/Retention Services.

If you know of individuals who are in need of employment assistance please refer them to us. Our program is a new and innovative one with a creative, driven staff who desire to assist you. Please contact Martha H. Burns, Peter S. Nhim or Pov Ye at 454-4286 or stop by our office any time. We look forward to working with you.


## YOUNG PARENTS PROGRAM

The Young Parents Program is funded through the Department of Transitional Assistance and is for people aged 14 to 21 who are pregnant or have custody of their children and have not yet received a high school diploma or its equivalent. Women and children who receive public assistance may participate in the program and are expected to work towards completing a GED, and afterwards go on to further education, training or to work.
The program runs from Monday to Friday. Classes begin at 9:00 A.M. and end at 1:30 P.M.
What does the program do?
We provide our clients with:

* Free GED classes.
* Free transportation.
* Counseling and support.
* One on one tutoring on any subject.
* Career counseling.
* A place to talk to other young par



## ADVANCED KHMER CLASSES

Every Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:30 pm
INSTRUCTOR: MR. SAK SEANG
At the CMAA, 165 Jackson Street, Lowell, MA 01852
Please contact Lorraine Cordeiro or Sak Seang for more informa-
 tion at (978) 454-4286 x 26


##  DIPLOMATE OF AMERICAN NATIONAL BOARD IN ACUPUNTURE



NEA MEDICAL CENTER Tel. \# (401)729-5606 or (401) 487-4197
515 Armistice Blvd. Pawtucket, RI. 02861


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This Certifies That Long V. $\mathcal{\text { is } a}$ Mai
Doctor of АА А cupuncture
and is hereby outhorized to so act under the authority of the
lows of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.


86 West 183th Street \# 3B, BRONX, NY 10453
Tel: (718) 584-5073

November $28^{\text {th }}, 1997$
Dear patient:
I, Pol Rik, have had diabetes I had tot worse to the point that my blood sugar was very high, about $220-230 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{dl}$. The diabetes I had got worse to the point that my leg was numb with tingling sensation all the time. I had tried several doctors, prescriptions, and methods; however, nothing helped. I was so depressed. One day, I read in the newspaper about Dr. Long Mai, so I called. After taking some Chinese medicine that Dr. Long Mai makes himself, now not only my blood sugar is back to normal ( $82 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{d}$.), but also no more numbness with tingling sensation in my leg. I have a feeling that Dr. Long Mai's medicine has cured my diabetes.
I am very grateful to Dr. Long Mai, and highly recommend his medicine to all of you. Again, thank you Dr. Long Mai for helping me.

> Your cured patient




## NATURAL MEDICINE \& ACUPUNCTURE



DIPLOMATE OF AMERICAN NATIONAL BOARD IN ACUPUNTURE


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Honorable Chairman William V. Irons and Members of the Senate Corporation Committee
Woonsocket, RI. 02895
Room 211, State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
(401) 766-9580

RE: Bill \# 98-s 2778-"An Act Relating to Business and Professions-Oriental Medicine" Bill \# 98-s-2847-" An act Relating to Insurance-Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine"

Dear Chairman Irons and Committee Members:
I am writing to you to express my support for the proposed legislation currently before your committee relating to Acupuncture and oriental Medicine. I, Susan Coulbourn, mother of a ten year old boy who was suffered from chronic asthma and cough for years. I have try a lot of non-prescriptions and prescription drugs for my son. Nothing worked. After discussing to my family doctor and with his support, my son start taking Dr. Long Van Mai's Chinese medicine. Dr. Mai not only cured the asthma but also strengthened my son's immune system. Now my son is hardly getting a cold, even in the winter. I believe that this 5000 year old healing system should be included into the main stream of medicine and that every one should have free access to it through their insurance coverage. Many people consider this as a last resort when allopathic medicine have not been able to provide relief and the majority have improved significantly or was cured. I am sure you would be impressed by the hundreds of testimonials of persons benefited by acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Best wishes.
Very truly yours,
Susan Coulbourn

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# The Lowell Office of Cultural Affairs Celebrates Ten Year Milestone 

The Lowell Office of Cultural Affairs (LOCA) recently celebrated its tenth anniversary and in so doing chose to honor ten individuals and organizations for their contributions to cultural development in and around Lowell. A public reception was held at the Lowell National Park Visitor's Center on February $9^{\text {th }}$. The recipients selected come from different backgrounds but all have one characteristic in common - the desire and drive to make the City of Lowell a better place to work and live.
"The breadth and spectrum of the individuals you see here today represents the enormity of contributions made over a ten year period," said Otto Erbar, LOCA's Executive Director. "Their vision and efforts have had an enduring effect on life in Lowell."

Recipients included: long time arts patron Nancy Donahue, the City of Lowell; Samkhann C. Khoeun, traditional artist and Executive Director of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc. (CMAA); the Lowell National Historical Park; Dr. Kay George Roberts, UMass Lowell music educator and conductor; Rev. John Simson, rector of St. Anne's Episcopal Church; Marie Sweeney, LOCA founder and long time president; Nancye Tuttle, theater critic for The Sun; George Behrakis, businessmanphilanthropist and co-owner of the Lowell Lock Monsters; and the late Sen. Paul Tsongas and his
wife, Nicola.
The awards ceremony was filled with many personal anecdotes that were quite touching. "You knew this would be a LOCA love fest," said Erbar. We, at the CMAA, were particularly proud to learn that our Executive Director, Samkhann C. Khoeun, was among the honorees. Ruth Page, Director of Angkor Dance Troupe, presented his award. She made refer-
> "The CMAA Executive Director, Samkhann C. Khoeun, was among the Honorees."

ence to his recent four year anniversary serving the CMAA and also to the organization's recent move from Perry St. to the Courier Citizen building of Jackson St. "Samkhann's plans for the building are nothing short of visionary and include developing it into a world class center." Samkhann, as founder of the Southeast Asian Water Festival, spoke eloquently of looking at the Merrimack River and finding a bond - "a source of life" - significant to both east and west. He made reference to his love for the water, the Mekong River in Cambodia and the irrigation system which was introduced by the Angkor empire during the $9^{\text {th }}$ through $14^{\text {th }}$ centuries. It is fit-
ting then that a festival with boat races, art and music was then spearheaded by Khoeun.

Khoeun thanked the CMAA's Board of Directors and staff for their tireless efforts expended on a daily basis in helping to move the organization forward. He also profusely thanked the City of Lowell for their efforts in assisting the Cambodian people by helping to make them feel comfortable in a new society completely different from the tropical world from whence they came. "You have treated us as neighbors, friends and colleagues," said Khoeun. "I thank you."

Each recipient was awarded a plaque and a heart-shaped box of chocolates. The significance of the heart relates to the unveiling of LOCA's new logo and design - "Art is the heart of the community." It features the image of Mona Lisa on a Queen of Hearts playing card.

Congratulations from the CMAA to all of you for your wonderful contributions to our community!

By Martha H. Burns



## POETRY CORNER

## 

When I throw the "Chhoung, "it is transformed to flowers. Then, I wish for peacefulness in the whole wide world.

Since my Chhoung is a miracle one, I wish for it to go and tell all men and women, all human beings.


Oh, my Chhoung, please, help to cure the ones whose heart is dying to come alive, and make them have hope in their life.

Then, please, help to go to every corner in the world and give peace to them. Then, help make illness, sadness, and tragedy become healthy, happy, and merry; left only laughing, depressing is gone.

Please, have the human's world has no more separation, make all bad mind gone, leave only the good mind here.

Oh, my Chhoung, please help in changing human's heart from bad to good, from wrong to right, from dark to bright, and, especially, please God, give us peace.

## I Always Beside You

Love can be so cold
And love is lonely,
Keep hope more than words
or broken promises,
I want to show you what love is -
I always be there for you
I always beside you
When the world closes the doors
And you don't want me anymore
I always beside you
~By Yeth Kong~


From left to right: Lorraine Cordeiro, Yeth Kong, Arn Chorn-Pond
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When a young child dies of violence here, it is even more difficult for the parents already mourning their earlier losses because they all had hope that America would provide them with the safe refuge from the violence they had run from.

America, as many later discover, is not the safe haven they had sought. They cannot stand alone to resist violence or the hurt and pain that they experience in their lives. Without proper physical and psychological nurturing, they will run to fight evil on their own terms even when it means hurting themselves. Instinctively, this is how the world works.

Growing up in this country is not easy for most Cambodian children. Their gentle nature is divided and torn between two different cultures and their identity is fractured. They experience racism in our society. Many live in poverty, where they are shoved into a
one-room apartment with two or three other brothers and sisters. At the age of ten, a Cambodian child is expected to care and become responsible for other younger siblings. Parents are struggling to make ends meets by working double shifts, late night shifts, and do-
"Children, when physically or emotionally broken and neglected to their own demise, will seek out gangs as a way of banning together for emotional support and a sense of belonging. ..."
ing what they can to support their children. Some parents self-medicate themselves against the pain by leaning on gambling and alcohol. Like all communities in Massachusetts, some Cambodian families face family violence and abuse in addition to other social
problems.
A healthy child requires good parenting, emotional nurturing and caring as well as ongoing communication. Not every family is capable of becoming whole and healthy, and it is critical that we assist families in reaching their potential. The level of education, culture, and how we are socialized to see and interpret things around us determine who we are and what we become. Our environment is critical in our development. It is not simple to place blame on the victim or the perpetrator. Everything is connected, just as we value the idea behind the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," which implies that all of us have the responsibility toward every child in addition to the children we raise.

The so-called 'bad child' is reflective of all of us. When a youngster commits a murder or an improper act of violence against his fellow beings,

Continued on page 28

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## The Feasibility Study Of the CMAA

The Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association has just undergone a monumental change that effected the entire service of the community. The CMAA completed its Feasibility Study that examined the structural development of its current occupied building. The historic rehabilitation of the Hamilton Countinghouse and Storehouse is part of a comprehensive economic development program with the goal of establishing a Cambodian Business and Cultural Center in Lowell's South Economic Opportunity Area. Development of this largely vacant structure of substantial size is an important step for the refugee community to anchor the Cambodian Business and Cultural Center.

Originally built as the Hamilton Company Countinghouse and Storehouse in the late 1860's, the structure was occupied by the Courier-Citizen Company from 1927 until 1997, when ownership was transferred as a
gift to the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, a non-profit social service organization dedicated to the aid of the significant Southeast Asian population of Lowell.
The plan for this conversion of the Hamilton's warehouse and ancillary office uses into a commercial uses will required a total development cost of $\$ 7.99$ million, including acquisition which the CMAA has already

CMAA is very hopeful that we will meet our criteria and complete the feasibility study.
accomplishment. Financing the Lowell Trade Center (LTC) entails a mix of public and private financing to achieve feasibility. To achieve successfully development and satisfaction of its objectives, the CMAA must look
beyond the rehabilitation to the operation of the project. In order to make the feasibility study become a reality, the organization must raise an estimated $\$ 5.7$ million to completed the Lowell Trade Center.

The Project will help to promote business opportunities, expression of Cambodian cultural, and a stable home for CMAA operations. An important partner in determining the CMAA's ability to develop and operate the project is the city of Lowell. They will need to assembly a capable Development Team, making sure that the Board is equipped to guide a project of this scale and complexity, utilizing management for operating the building, and forming a working partner with the city of Lowell.

Once completed the 93,000 SF building will house a center for commerce, (retail stores) function hall, restaurant and most importantly a family and youth center for our Southeast Asian Population.


















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## THANK YOU TO THE TOWER GROUP STAFF

Dear Tower Group Staff,
On behalf of the CMAA and Monorom's staff, we would like to thank all staff from the Tower Group for organizing the Christmas Party for the Monorom's kids. Your generosity and kindness will be remembered throughout the child's life. The gifts you provided on December 17, 1998, to Cambodian children with developmental disabilities will be imprinted in every child's heart. Our community in Lowell will never forget you.

Traditionally, in Cambodia, children with developmental disabilities are looked down upon and parents may feel that they are being punished for some past sin. If the family is well off, the children will be kept at home, out of the eyes of the public and cared for with little expectation for their future. For less fortunate families, children are left for the street or relegated to state run institutions. These facilities are literally dumping grounds for societies unwanted. Beyond food and shelter, little else is provided.

CMAA's staff has worked diligently to help these children and their families to seek appropriate services as well as to eliminate isolationism. We want to provide positive reinforcement for them, so that they do not feel left out in our community. By doing that, Monorom's staff has created many social/recreational activities after school hours, to integrate these children into the mainstream. We have literacy training, computer training, classical dance, and we meet three days a week to implement these activities.

We have seen many improvements in every child's life through these activities. They have eliminated many barriers such as, shyness, language barriers, loneliness, and limitations due to physical disabilities. Now, they have opportunities to explore the real world through our organization. Their participation in our activities will help them to prepare for selfproficiency and self-independence in the future.

We're looking forward to working with you cooperatively in the future. You are always welcome to tour our facility in Lowell, at 165 Jackson Street at your convenience.

Sincerely,<br>Timothy S . Mouth<br>GBrian GB. Ghen<br>Margaret Y. Tham

## Continued from page 24

we tend to think that it is because he is bad or the parents did not raise him right. That is why he has become so violent. Yet, through our labels and our prejudices we leave children with few options to develop into healthy individuals. We confuse them with mixed messages of our own as to what is right and wrong. Some of them are living in a state of paranoia, in their gang code of ethic and law, they see the world as an unfriendly place, with suspicion, and plans of vengeance against those whom they perceive are against them.

When found guilty, the two boys, both age fifteen, will be jailed for the rest of their lives. Four young lives are
now lost. Without adult guidance and a positive role model, these children are not able to know how to deal with all that they are going through. Images of enemies invade their hearts and souls, thinking that they would be free to commit a murder in revenge of their friend's death.


There is a whole world out there, which most adults do not understand. The adults may not have the skills or the patience to listen. They may be the enemies these children see in the world. Some are abusive, drug addicts, alco-
holics, and misogynists. These people may themselves be the children of the adults who had also abused and neglected them. And yet many of our families develop incredible resiliency in an environment that is infested with drugs, substance abuse, poor housing, and gang-related violence. Many of our parents struggle hard to understand their children and provide for them. But parents cannot do it alone in the presence of strong external influences. As a community it is our obligation to understand our youth, support them, foster their learning and development, and cherish them. For in the end the youth are our future leaders, they are the most valuable resource that we have.

By Chath pierSath

## THE CMAA NEEDS YOUR OPINIONS! 

The CMAA is now making plans for improving itself over the next five years. Our goal is to make the CMAA a better and stronger part of the Lowell Cambodian community. The first part of our plan is to make a list of the problems which affect the Cambodian people living in the Lowell area and to explore the causes of these problems. Once we have a list of the problems of our community members, and the reasons for these problems, we can begin to create programs to help people suffering from these problems.

We are inviting all members of the community to participate in this project. We want to hear from as many people as possible. Do you see a problem in the community? Do you have an opinion about why the community has a problem? We want to hear what you have to say! We have survey forms for anyone interested to fill out.

If you want to fill out a form, please call the CMAA at 454-4286 and ask for Joe Sexton, Development Director, or come to the CMAA office at 165 Jackson Street.












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## VOLUNTEERS




































## Teaching and Volunteering through the Years: In Appreciation of Lester Chisholm

Francis Lester Chisholm (Les), a volunteer at the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA) since 1989, has assisted me as a volunteer in my English as a Second Language class for the last six years. As he approaches eightyeight years old he is still coming to the CMAA two days a weeks from nine o'clock to one o'clock.

He has an excellent way with my students, who are all single mothers, and they love him very much. Les is a quiet, intelligent gentleman and a generous human being. He has been helping the Cambodian people for over ten years. Everyday during our break from class he visits our Komar Day Care to see the children and play with them. He loves these children and loves to play Santa Claus at Christmas time. His generosity to the teachers at the daycare helps them buy mittens, socks, and other things for the children at Christmas.

Recently, I spoke with one of Les' first students. This student came to the United States with his family in 1989. He came to the CMAA to learn English. He was assigned a teacher, Mr. Francis Lester Chisholm. Twice a week, Les would pick the student up at the CMAA and they would go to Les' house in Tyngsboro where they would practice English lessons. After awhile, they became good friends. In fact, as time went on, the student became more like a member of Les' family. They adopted each other as father and son.

His first lesson with Les took place at a restaurant. After they ate, they had food left over and Les told the student to ask for a "doggie bag." "But I don't have a dog," the student said. Les explained to him how people in this country ask for "doggie bags" in this country for their leftover food. His second lesson at Les' house was to learn how to spell the word "rhododendron." However, to this day the student still has trouble spelling that word.

This former student has become part of Les' family and describes them as nice, helpful, warm, caring, and loving. Les also has four daughters, and one of them has helped this student change careers from being a farm worker to being a community organizer. He is very thankful to the Chisholm family. They are his family.

Les, we thank you for all of your dedication and commitment to the Cambodian people-may you be here at the CMAA for many more years to come.
CMAA always welcomes volunteers.
By Rosemary Costello.


## Letter from the President of the Board of Directors


s President of the Board of Directors of the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, I am proud to present this issue of Khmer Lowell magazine. Through this magazine, we hope to share with you some of the rich cultural heritage of Lowell's Cambodian community, and to invite you to learn more about the many interesting aspects of our community.

This year the CMAA will celebrate its $15^{\text {th }}$ anniversary. In later issues of Khmer Lowell, we will talk more about our plans to mark that important milestone. Certainly, in the last 15 years, CMAA has come a long way, just as Lowell's Cambodian community has. As I write this, CMAA has a staff of over 28 dedicated people serving the people of Lowell. Through the generosity of the Courier Corporation, the CMAA has its own building. In coming years, the CMAA building will be developed into a professional and commercial center for the entire Southeast Asian community to be proud of.

However, as much as we enjoy our present success, the Board of Directors and the Staff of the CMAA have our eyes on the future. Over the next several months, the CMAA will be making its plans for the next five years. We will be seeking the opinions of all parts of the community about the problems which our community faces, and about what the CMAA can do to serve all of the community better in the coming years. I am inviting every reader of Khmer Lowell to assist the CMAA in this work. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how the CMAA can be improved, or can change to help the community more effectively, please write to the Board of Directors, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, 165 Jackson Street, Lowell, MA 01852.

## Sincerely

## Chanrithy Uong

President
Board of Directors
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell, Inc.

## CMAA's Special Events 1999

| Date | Events/Activities | Comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jan 1999 |  | Planning for various events |
| Feb 12 \& 13 | Open House for Day Care Center | Promote our day care center program and activities. |
| March 1999 | Strategic Planning " Kick-off", first workshop, staff retreat | Launch a long-range strategic planning based on Tom Hurley Recommendation |
| April 10 | Khmer New Year Celebration | Traditionally, Cambodians celebrate their holidays and festival all year round. The widely celebrated holidays are Chaul Chhnaim (New Year), Phchum Benn (Memorial or Ancestor Day), Bonn Phka (Flower tree ceremony), and Bonn Cheat (National Day) |
| May 28 \& 29 | Benefited Play: "Children of War" | Sell tickets; organize special event by involving celebrities such as Ms. Yolanda King and other Hollywood stars to help promote our causes, to raise fund for Youth \& Family Center project, to make awareness of Cambodian children flights. |
| June | Outdoor Event: Picnic | Clients, staff, board, volunteers and community members gather together to enjoy each other companionship |
| July 30 \& 31 | Lowell Folk Festival | Sell ethnic food, drink. Every year in Lowell, folk festival was celebrated where hundred of people came from all over the New England area to enjoy the diversity of ethnic food, music, arts, and dances, etc. |
| Sat. August 21 <br> Thursday \& Friday <br> 19-20 | Water Festival <br> Cambodian National Convention, Lowell | Sell ethnic food, T-shirts, souvenir items as we celebrate the importance of water through cultural dances, music, boat races, boots of information, and others |
| September |  |  |
| October 2 | Annual Board Election/ $15^{\text {th }}$ Anniversary Celebration | Annual event to elect new board members; also to celebrate our achievement after all the hard work, energy, and spirit that we all have put into our organization throughout the whole year. |
| November |  |  |
| December | X-Mass Party - Dance Party | Christmas is a new version of celebration as we come to adopt as part of our assimilation into American society. It is also fun to celebrate the holiday season and raise some money for our agency. |

Note: CMAA reserves the right to change dates of all or any of these events at any time based upon the approval of the Board of Directors

#  

Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association Magazine
Quarterly Bilingual (English/Cambodian) Magazine

## Reservation Form

For Advertisement

Yes, I want to reserve advertising space (s) in the Khmer Lowell magazine.

## Please, check one or more :

I would like my advertisement to be
$\qquad$ Size Back Cover Inside Back Cover
Inside Front Cover
Full Page
Half Page
Quarter Page
Business Card

## Our Ad is :

## a camera-ready copy

## Price per Ouarter

\$ 150.00
\$ 100.00
\$ 100.00
\$ 80.00
\$ 50.00
\$ 40.00
\$ 25.00 an enclosed typed copy. I understand that a camera-ready copy will be translated and designed for an additional cost of $\$ 75.00$ not ready yet, but will be sent by $\qquad$ .
(date)
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \$ $\qquad$ X quarter (s) $=$ $\qquad$
Deadline for submitting your advertisement:
Feb. 19, May 21, Aug. 20, and Nov. 19 of each year Please, send your advertisement (s), and make the check payable to :

Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
$* * *$ ATTN. Timothy Mouth
165 Jackson St.
Tel. (978) 454-4286
Lowell, MA. 01852 Fax. (978) 454-1806
Business/Organization: $\qquad$
Contact Person :
Address :
City/State/Zip :
Phone:
Fax:


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## The CMAA Board of Directors and Staff

## 

Chanrithy Uong, President
Bophany P. Beiferman, $1^{\text {st }}$ Vice President
Sunny Leang, $2^{\text {nd }}$ Vice President
Thomas Stylianos, Secretary
William Tith, $1^{\text {st }}$ Treasurer
Bopha Mey, $2^{\text {nd }}$ Treasurer
Thysan Sam
Michael Vann
Thel Sar
Pahim Kay

Ken Niceweiz
F. Nelson Burns

Mark E. Goldman

ADVISORY BOARD<br>Venerable Sao Khon<br>Venerable Ly Vorn<br>Michael Ben Ho<br>Tem Chea<br>Saly Pin-ReibePere Pen<br>Narong Hul<br>Susan Beaton

## 

## Administration

Executive Director : Samkhann C.Khoeun
Deputy Director :
Fiscal Manager :
Development Director:
Book Keeper/Adm.Asst:
Receptionist:
Sothea Chiemroum
Thirith Hut
Joseph Sexton
Ronnie Mouth
Hoeun K. Tang
Elderly Outreach Services
Coordinator:
Asst. Coordinator: Sak Seang
Citizenship Assistance Program
Coordinator:
Asst. Coordinator:
Instructors:
Bora Yi
Vincent B. Un
Chuck Sart
Ang Pheng
Chhorvy Chhay
Hong Net
Community Service Employment
Director:
George Clark
Outreach Worker: Paul Yin
Environmental Health Project
Community Liaison: Vincent B. Un
Monorom Family Support Program
Director: Timothy Mouth
Case Worker: Margaret Tham
Case Worker: $\quad$ Brian B. Chen

Young Parent Program<br>Director/Teacher:<br>Caseworker/Recruiter:<br>Alison Gervais<br>Simeon Zorokong

E.S.L. Program<br>Director/Teacher:

Rosemary Z. Costello
Youth Services Program
Director:
Youth Assistant Director:
Case Manager:
Youth Worker:
Youth Worker:
Instructors:
Khmer Language \& Culture: Sak Seang
Traditional Dance: Rany Him
Khmer Kick-boxing: Samath Moung

## Employment Services Program

Director:
Job Developer:
Outreach Specialist:
Martha Burns
Peter Nhim
Pov Ye
Pre. E.S.L. Program
Coordinator/Teacher:
Danny D. Div
Komar Day Care Center

| Director/Teacher: | Montha Um |
| :--- | :--- |
| Counselor: | Bora Yi |
| Teacher : | Anzy Khezami |
| Assistant Teacher: | Neda Nou |
| Computer Instructors: | Denys Meung |
|  | Simeon Zorokong |

## Building Development Manager:

Daniel Bumegin


## THOMAS STYLIANOS ATTORNY AT LAW





TAX CHILD



$\Rightarrow$ การนียยราษยรารโรัรังรตก
$\Rightarrow$ การมียรสภ่"โฐ

$\Rightarrow$ โโตาะสำเสสitay


$\Rightarrow$ การตクตฺแนีย
$\Rightarrow$ การบการ่ยูนสสายร์
BANKRUPTCY
CHILD \$LIPPORT
DIVORCE


WILLS \& ESTATES
SCHOOL LAW
CRIMINAL DEFENSE
 INJURIES*

ALITO ACCIDENT*
SLIP \& FALL AT WORK*
MEDICAL TREATMENT*
DISCRIMINATION LAW*


* NO FEE UNLESS WE COLLECT MONEY FOR YOU!

FREE INITIAL CONSLLTATION WEEKEND \& EVENING HOURS, HOSPITAL VISITS KHMER SPEAKING OFFICE STAFF

## 226 CENTER STREET <br> LOWELL, MA 01852 <br> TEL. 978-459-5000

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## Lowell Community Health Center

The Lowell Community Health Center provides health care for people of all ages in the Greater Lowell area. LCHC offers all the health care services commonly found in a physician's office, as well as laboratory, nutrition, substance abuse and social services. The center's multilingual and multicultural staff is dedicated to serving your health and wellness needs.

Private insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare are accepted. A sliding fee scale is available based on income and family size. No person will be denied medical care because of inability to pay.

For more information please contact us at (978) 937-9700 or come to visit our office at: $\quad 585-597$ Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01854.

We are looking forward

to serving you!!!


[^0]:    * For more information, please contact Timothy Mouth, Bora Yi, or Pov Ye at (978) 454-4286

