

ဌာနပုဂ္ဂိုလ် အေမိအာဇီ



# အခိုင်လုံကိုင်ကျွဲက်မန် ထွေးပျားမာန်ရော



ပွဲကိုစုတ်တဲ့ ၁၀ ၀၂ ၀၈။ နူကိုဂကောံ အာတ်ယူနတ်တိတ် သွသျှိပ်သွတဲကျောန် ဗဒှ်တိုန် သဘင်ပံင်တောဲကမ္ဘောန်မွဲဂကောံကိုမွဲဂကောံကျောံလှဲဂတးလညာတ်သျှင်ပျိုန်ယေန်သွာင်ညးကိုညးမဒှ်ရ ပွဲသဘင်ပွဲ၊ ဂကောံမကလိဂံလဝ်ဩန်ထံက်ပင်နူကုမ္မဏီ နူသေဠိ နူအလိုသီတအ်(၁၉)ဂကောံပံင်ကို ညးမကလိဂံလဝ်ဩန်ထံက်ပင်နူကိုအာတ်ယူနတ်တိတ်မသုန်ဂကောံတဲ ဂကောံညးပြဲမနိပိုလေဝ်တိုန်စိုပ် မွိတ် (၃) တ္တူကိုရ။ ညးတာလျိုင်စွောန်ထွေးပရေင်ကမ္ဘောန် အာတ်ယူနတ်တိတ် မေဿ(၆)ခေလ်ရီ နှိညးတာလျိုင်သျှိပ်အသေဟာန်တဲ၊ အတိုင်လေဝ်အစီဇန်သဘင်သီကျိတဲဏံပွဲ၊ ရန်တံလဝ်ပိသ်ရ။

- (၁) ဂကောံဟံပွဲတိတ်စပရဲ **(non-profit)** ဂမ္ဘိုင် သွက်ဂွံဆက်မိတ် ပံင်တောဲအာပရေင်ကမ္ဘောန်။
- (၂) သွက်ဂွံလှဲဂတးအာလညာတ် သျှင်ပျိုန်ပရေင်ယေန်သွာင် မွဲဂကောံကိုမွဲဂကောံ။
- (၃) နဲဗျဲးဩန်ဂအံဂကောံ၊ ကျောံ ဆက်မိတ်ကိုညးတာလျိုင် (ဂကောံဇော်မောဝ်လဝ်တဲတအ်)မဒှ်ရ။  
 အတိုင်လေဝ်သဘင်ကောံခရီပွဲ၊ ညးတာလျိုင်ဂကောံဂမ္ဘိုင်သောင်ကလးဏါပရောဂကောံညးတံတဲ ညးတာလျိုင် ဂကောံညးပြဲမနိပိုလေဝ် သောင်ကလးဏါအတိုင်ပွဲသွက်ဏံမဒှ်ရဒ်။

Thank you Kerry

Good evening ladies and gentlemen

First, I would like to thank Art United for allowing us to participate in this special event. I am honored to introduce about our organization, Mon Women’s Association of America. Our Organization was founded in 2003 with three objectives

- 1, to preserve Mon cultural heritage and to foster the principle of cultural cooperation among the communities.
- 2, to helps enhance the welfare of Mon women and children to assist them to adopt new way of life in the U.S.

3. to raise awareness of violence against women around the world.

Currently, our organizational activities mainly focus on promoting and preserving our cultural heritage. We teach and train Mon boys and girls for Mon traditional dance and to participate in cultural events around Fort Wayne. Last five years we have participated in many cultural events including Three River Festival, International Art Festival and Face of Fort Wayne. We will continue to promote our cultural diversity in fort Wayne.

With the help of Knight Foundation through the Arts United, we are able to bring different kinds of Mon musical instruments from Monland. This helps us to bring our activities to the next level. Thank You to Knight Foundation and Arts United. By the way, we plan to hold two cultural events in coming 2009. We will inform you all when the schedules are finalizes.

Other import part of our task is assisting Mon women and children in Fort Wayne who need help, especially, English language. When needed our volunteers serve as translator and even provide transportation. We also organize English language classes for Mon women. For children, in order for them to read and write Mon language, we offer Mon language class every summer.

We are also doing the best we can to raise awareness of violence against women around the world. .At the moment, our activities concentrate on the situation in Monland where many women have been raped by Burmese army. We closely work with the Mon Women Organization in Thai-Burma border in order to raise the issues to the international community.

Finally, we look forward to work with you all on any of these issues. If any of you are interested in our activities or like more information , please feel free to contact us.

Thank You.

ပုရိသဒိဋ္ဌိကိရိယာတိဂြဟိတိဂြဟိတိအိတိတု၊ မေဿ(စ်) ဒေလီရီ ထပ်လလောင်ကြး  
ကိုကပေါတ် အာဲတွဲယေန်သွင်မန်စိုပ်ကျင်ချင် ဝှတ်ဝင်ဏံရ၊ ညးတာလျိုင်ဂမ္ဘိုင်တဒ်  
ဗိုကျောင်ရံင်ပွဲ လိက် လလောင်ကြးမန် ဂ်ညိ။ ညးတံစိုတ်လုပ်စကိုကပေါတ် ကွိုင်ကွိုင်မန်ပို  
ပွဲမလောန်တု ဆလဒ် ဂကောံမန်သွောံတိတ် တရ  
ထွေးပျးကွတ်ကွိုင်ကွိုင်မန်ဂတမုတ်ပုရိသဒိတဒ်မာန်ရော၊ ဂလာန် သွာန်ပွဲမဂ္ဂိုင်ဂွေင်ရ။



## Mon history

Among all ethnic groups in Burma, Mon people have been known as the first group to arrive in the present of Burma. Their arrival was estimated around 1500 BC. They settled in today's Lower Burma and established their kingdoms in Thaton and Pegu. They were also the first group who had contacts with the Buddhism in India and introduced the Buddhism to the rest of Southeast Asia. Since their civilization was highly developed, they introduced both writing system and Buddhism into Burma. Their sovereign kingdoms enjoyed peace and prosperity for many centuries.

In 1757, however, the Burmese/Burman ruler U Aungzeya invaded and devastated the last Mon kingdom, Hongsawatoi, killing tens of thousands of Mon, including learned Mon priests, pregnant women, and children. Ever since, Mon people lost their independent sovereignty and became a people without a country.

Unfortunately, the oppression of the Mon people has persisted to the present day. Under the oppressions of successive Burman rulers once highly developed culture, literature and language, ethnic identity of the Mon are endangered and almost extinct. Burmese military regime continues prohibiting practices of Mon culture and learning of literature and language in Burma.

## Mon People in Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne has the largest Mon population in the United States. It is estimated around 400. They came here as political refugees from Monland (Lower Burma) and have been resettled in Fort Wayne since 1993. Most of them fled their homeland from Burmese military persecution. As they immigrated into the United States, so do their culture, literature and religion. After they have settled in Fort Wayne, they not only learn culture and literature of their adopted country, but also preserve their own culture and literature. Since most of them Buddhists, they have established a Mon Buddhist Temple at 5824 Decatur Road where they can hold religious ceremony. The temple also becomes a center for holding meeting, social gathering, and teaching and training Mon literature and traditional dances.





### Culture activities

There are three Mon organizations in Fort Wayne: Monland Restoration Council (MRC), Mon Women Association of America (MWAA), and Mon Youth Organization (MYO) which WMAA and MYO are subsidiary of MRC. One of these organizations' objectives is to promote Mon culture in the United States. To do so, they have been training Mon traditional dance to Mon children and performing cultural show both in Fort Wayne and outside Fort Wayne. Over the past five years, they have participated in many cultural events including Three River Festival and Face of Fort Wayne. They have also been participating in Asia Festival in Columbus, Ohio over the past three years. Asian Festival is one of the largest cultural festivals in the United States. They also hold annual event to celebrate their culture. This occurs every year in February when they celebrate their National Day. With the help of Knight Foundation through Art United, they are able to bring different types of Mon musical instruments from Monland. This not only helps them to preserve their culture but also helps them to educate others more about Mon culture.

ညးစူးဂကောံညးဗြဲမန် (၃)တြုလေဝ် မိပ်မြတ်တစိုတ်ပွဲမလောန် ဝံသောင်ကလးပရောဂကူမန် ပရောယေန်သွာင်မန် ပရောဂကောံမန်မတန်တဒိုင်ချင်ဂှတ်ဝင်ထံ ကို သိုကိုဝံ့ဆိုဝ္ဗညးဇော်တာလျိုင် ဂကောံဇော်မောင်လပ်တဲတဲတအ် သွောံသွာန်သွဟ်ညးတံဂှ် ဝံကသပ်သွက်ဂကောံမန်ပိုပွဲတွေင်င်ရ။