



**NetSAP DC Weekly News**  
**April 11, 2006**

<http://www.netsap.org/newsletter.htm>

Here is your NetSAP DC Newsletter for this week.

**In The News...**

ATTENTION NetSAP DC MEMBERS:

Your NetSAP dues payment will save you \$35 in discounts on events in April alone and have saved you a total of \$60 in event costs since the beginning of the year!

Our April events will include a Concert by Indian Ocean, a new NetSAP DC Dinner Circle and a joint event with TiE DC. Details on each event are included below.

To learn more about the benefits of membership, please visit [www.netsap.org](http://www.netsap.org). In addition to our special programs and many discounts, membership provides you access to a diverse range of programming by our outstanding Committees, appealing to a wide array of interests.

*SCROLL DOWN FOR DETAILS ON NETSAP EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS:*

**NETSAP EVENTS**

**BOOK CLUB:** "If You Are Afraid of Heights" by Raj Kamal Jha, Thursday, April 13, 2006, 6:30pm

**INDIAN OCEAN CONCERT:** Receive discounted tickets through NetSAP, Monday, April 17, 2006, 7:30pm

**NETWORKING COMMITTEE:** Third Thursday Networking Event, Thursday, April 20, 2006

**NetSAP DC DINNER CIRCLE:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 8:00pm

**TIE-DC, NVTC & NETSAP-DC:** Getting Past the First Mile: Learning from Experience, Thursday, April 27, 2006, 6:30 pm

**COMMUNITY SERVICE/MENTORSHIP & SPORTS COMMITTEES:** March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2006, Sunday, April 30, 2006, 9:00am

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALENDAR:** Check out the NetSAP Calendar, which will provide you with the latest details on upcoming events! [Follow this link to go to the Calendar.](#)

**CHARITY BALL PLANNING COMMITTEE: Volunteers Needed!!!**

**MEMBERSHIP:** [Become a NetSAP-DC Member Today!](#)

**SALTAF '06 COMMITTEE:** Planning Meeting – Wednesday, April 12, 2006, 7:00pm

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**(1) Arlington SBDC & Active Media:** "Web Marketing and Search Technology: "Your virtual sales force.... You can't afford not to be found on the web", Thursday, April 13, 2006, 7:30 am

**(2) South Asia Studies:** The Creative Active Female Principle: Women from South Asia in the Arts, Friday, April 14, 2006, 1:30 pm

**(3) South Asia Studies:** En/Countering Colonialism in India, Monday, April 17, 2006, 5:00 pm

**(4) ASHA for Education:** 2006 Annual Marathon Program, Kick Off Event, April 23, 2006, 2:00pm

**(5) South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA):** Book Reading, April 25, 2006, 7:00pm

**(6) DESILIT Magazine:** SUBMIT ARTICLES AND GET PAID, Deadline, April 30, 2006

**(7) DHOONYA DANCE SCHOOL: CALL FOR INDIAN DANCE INSTRUCTORS**

**(8) WANTED LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS**

## NETSAP EVENTS Details

**BOOK CLUB:** "If You Are Afraid of Heights" by Raj Kamal Jha, Thursday, April

**13, 2006 at 6:30pm**

**BOOK&AUTHOR:** If you are afraid of heights by Raj Kamal Jha

**DATE:** Thursday, April 13, 2006

**TIME:** 7:00 pm

**LOCATION/HOST:** Gaurang Hirpara, 2791 Centerboro Dr. #276, Vienna, VA 22181. Phone: 717-682-0319

**DIRECTIONS:** 495 (Beltway) to 66 W. Take Nutley St. (RT. 243) North exit. Left at 1st TL onto Virginia Center Blvd. Centerboro Dr. will be on the right in ~1/4 mile.

**PARKING:** Street and very top level of condo garage. (Condo name is Marquis at Vienna Station, directly across the street from the north parking lot of the Vienna metro station)

**METRO:** Orange Line (Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Station)

**RSVP:** Please email [ghirpara@yahoo.com](mailto:ghirpara@yahoo.com) at least 3 days prior to the meeting to help plan meal/seating. If you do confirm your attendance, as a common courtesy to our host, please call/email our host if your plans change.

**INDIAN OCEAN CONCERT: The Magical Music of Indian Ocean, Monday, April 17, 2006, 7:30pm**

Indian Ocean is a contemporary fusion music band from Northern India. Some music critics describe the Indian Ocean music as "Indo-rock fusion with jazz-spiced rhythms that integrates Sufism, shlokas, environmentalism, mythology and revolution". Indian Ocean has performed over 250 concerts all over the world including several performances in London, Tokyo, Germany, Singapore, Dubai, Indonesia and cities around the U.S. In addition, the band has played at the New Zealand Arts Festival, at the Melbourne Arts Festival, the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival. Check out their music at: <http://www.indianoceanmusic.com>. When Indian Ocean Sings, the Soul Speaks...

**DATE:** Monday, April 17, 2006

**TIME:** 7:30pm

**COST:** (Member / Non-Member): NetSAP has received a limited number of tickets for \$25. Regular ticket prices are: \$35, \$50, \$100 & \$25 for students. Follow this link to receive the NetSAP discount: <http://netsap.kintera.org/indianocean>

**LOCATION:** Amphitheater, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20004

**METRO:** Federal Triangle (Blue, Orange)

**PARKING:** Garage & Street

**RSVP:** If you have questions, please e-mail [vp@netsap.org](mailto:vp@netsap.org).

**NETWORKING COMMITTEE: Third Thursday Networking Event, Thursday,**

**April 20, 2006**

NetSAP-DC is proud to bring you this month's Third Thursday Networking Night at: Ascot Lounge located conveniently at 1701 L Street, NW.

Join us this month for an event that has grown to become a NetSAP-DC tradition by popular demand!!! You will have a chance network with other professionals in the DC area, meet up with old friends, and just unwind after a long day of work.

Questions – please email: [networking@netsap.org](mailto:networking@netsap.org)

**DATE:** Thursday, April 20, 2006

**TIME:** 6:30 – 9:30pm

**COST:** FREE for Members; \$5 for Non-Members

**LOCATION:** Ascot Lounge, 1701 L Street, NW

**METRO:** Farragut West (Blue, Orange); Farragut North (Red)

**PARKING:** Garage & Street

**NetSAP DC DINNER CIRCLE: Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 8:00pm**

Have you been searching for the opportunity to meet and get to know other South Asian professionals in the Washington DC area? Are you the type that prefers small dinners with friends over raucous nights out at the clubs? Well, then come participate in our monthly NetSAP Dinner Circle event! These small group dinners are designed to provide comfortable, intimate settings where young professionals with similar interests can have meaningful conversations and expand their social and professional relationships. The dinners are primarily targeted at those with at least a few years of work experience, but all are welcome to attend.

**Here's how it works:** The first NetSAP Dinner Circle event will take place on April 26 at 8:00pm at different restaurants in the Dupont Circle area. Please click on the link below if you'd like to attend and answer a few questions that will help us understand your professional and personal interests. Once we have the list of all interested participants, we'll divide you up into groups of 6-8 and email each group the specific restaurant at which they should meet. Then, just show up ready to be social and enjoy a meal! There is no fee for the event, though you will have to pay for your share of the dinner.

**Our commitment:** We'll do our best to maximize the potential of the evening by thoughtfully matching participants with others of similar age, interests, and career stage. We'll also try to pick easily accessible, moderately priced restaurants that make the evening more enjoyable (your recommendations are appreciated).

**Your commitment:** First, we ask that you show up to your assigned restaurant

promptly at 8:00pm (that's Eastern Standard Time, **not** Indian Standard Time!). Second, because these groups are intended to be small, one or two people canceling at the last minute can really disrupt the dynamic. Thus, we ask that you **only** sign up for the event if you're **99% sure** that you'll be able to attend. If you cannot make it this month, there will be another NETSAP Dinner Circle event next month. Each month's event is stand-alone, so you have no obligation beyond the event that you've signed up for.

Here's the link: <http://www.netsap.kintera.org/dinner>. We're proud to offer you this opportunity to expand your social and professional relationships. Please fill out the information in the form by **Friday April 21st** to help us organize the event. Because these groups are designed to be small, cancellations can really disrupt the dynamics, so please only sign up if you are **99% sure** that you will be able to attend and arrive on time. If you have any questions, please e-mail [membership@netsap.org](mailto:membership@netsap.org).

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006

**TIME:** 8:00pm

**LOCATION:** Restaurants in the Dupont Circle Area – stay tuned for details

**METRO:** Dupont Circle (Red) and Farragut West (Blue, Orange)

**PARKING:** Garage & Street

**RSVP:** Please e-mail [membership@netsap.org](mailto:membership@netsap.org)

**TiE-DC, NVTC & NETSAP-DC: Getting Past the First Mile: Learning from Experience, Thursday, April 27, 2006, 6:30 pm**

Are you in the early stages of business building, or thinking about starting a business from the ground up?

Learn from the experience of TiE-DC Charter Members and successful CEOs as they speak about what pitfalls to avoid and what it takes to create a successful enterprise.

TiE-DC, along with the Network of South Asian Professionals - Washington DC (NetSAP DC) and with the support of the Entrepreneur Center @NVTC, is proud to announce a Panel Discussion on Getting Past the First Mile of starting a business, featuring a panel of TiE-DC Charter Members, to take place April 27th (6:30-9:30 pm) at the Ritz-Carlton in Pentagon City. The panel of speakers will include

- Prashanth Viswanath Boccasam, President & CEO of Approva Corporation
- Ram Mattapalli, President and Co-Founder of Zolon Tech
- Anand Das, Chief Technical Officer of Commerce Events, Inc.

- Ram Mukunda, Founder and CEO of Startec Global

This special event will focus on business strategies for emerging entrepreneurs, as illustrated by the personal experiences of these successful businessmen. We truly hope that you can join us for this special panel and learn from the experiences and stories of entrepreneurs who have made it through the First Mile to find success.

**DATE:** Thursday, April 27, 2006

**TIME:** 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

**COST:** Registration is available online. \$55 for Non-members, \$35 for TiE-DC, NetSAP, NVTC members.

**LOCATION:** Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City, 1250 South Hayes Street, Arlington, VA

**RSVP:** Please email Jennifer at [jennifer@tie-dc.org](mailto:jennifer@tie-dc.org) for more information or visit our website at <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=9c3b90b4-10d4-4663-b361-bdf8227fcf81%20>

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE / MENTORSHIP & SPORTS COMMITTEES: March of Dimes WalkAmerica, Sunday, April 30, 2006**

March of Dimes is an organization whose mission it is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. Every year, March of Dimes holds its largest fundraiser, WalkAmerica. Proceeds from WalkAmerica support the March of Dimes mission through research, education, community services, and advocacy. We would like to register a NetSAP team to walk for this cause (there is no minimum threshold fundraising requirement). Teams can range from 5 people to as large as 75 people. Also, the team should expect to raise some money for the walk.

**DATE:** Sunday, April 30

**TIME:** 9:00am

**COST (Member / Non-Member):** None, except team should expect to fundraise for the walk.

**LOCATION:** Sylvan Theatre, The National Mall, 15<sup>th</sup> Street & Independence Avenue, Washington, DC

**METRO:** Smithsonian

**RSVP:** Interested participants should contact either Community Service & Mentorship Committee or Sports Committee ([community@netsap.org](mailto:community@netsap.org) or [sports@netsap.org](mailto:sports@netsap.org)) in order to get team of walkers together.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS Details**

**CHARITY BALL PLANNING COMMITTEE: Volunteers Needed!!!**

This year's charity ball planning is already underway, but we need your help! We are holding this year's charity ball will be totally different from years past with a totally different venue and atmosphere.

We are looking for people to help in all aspects of planning including:

- Entertainment (Date Auction, Casino, Special Guests, etc.)
- Site logistics (Venue communications, decorations, contracts)
- Catering (Food and drink logistics)
- Marketing (ticket sales, flyers, communications)

**If you are interested please email [pr@netsap.org](mailto:pr@netsap.org) or [liaison@netsap.org](mailto:liaison@netsap.org) and specify if there is anything in particular you would like to help out with. We will hold a meeting next week to discuss what we need to do.**

**SALTAF'06 COMMITTEE: Planning Meeting – Wednesday, April 12, 2006 at 7:00pm**

The SALTAF Committee is responsible for planning and coordinating all details involved with the phenomenally successful South Asian Literary and Theater Arts Festival. This is an annual event hosted at the Smithsonian and it features prominent South Asian writers, filmmakers and artists and draws hundreds of South Asians from across the East Coast to DC each fall. SALTAF provides authors, filmmakers, literary and theatre professionals the opportunity to interact with their audience. Bibliophiles, cinema fans and young professionals can explore the creative process with professional artists and discover outlets for their own creative aspirations. SALTAF celebrates the achievements of South Asians in the literature and arts and it has become one of NetSAP DC's most recognized and renowned flagship events.

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 12, 2006

**TIME:** 7:00pm

**LOCATION:** Caribou Coffee, 1800 M St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20036. (Corner of 18th and M.)

**METRO:** Farragut North or Dupont Circle (Red Line) or Farragut West (Blue/Orange Lines)

**PARKING:** Street Parking or Parking Garages in the area.

**RSVP/Questions:** AN RSVP IS REQUIRED FOR THIS MEETING. Please email Dina Khemlani at [saltaf@netsap.org](mailto:saltaf@netsap.org) if you plan to attend. Contact Dina Khemlani or [saltaf@netsap.org](mailto:saltaf@netsap.org) or 202~215~2586 if you have any questions.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Details

*Please note that the events below are listed as a service to our members. The views expressed in the following activities and by the groups listed below are not shared or endorsed by NetSAP DC.*

**(1) Arlington SBDC & Active Media: "Web Marketing and Search Technology: "Your virtual sales force.... You can't afford not to be found on the web", Thursday, April 13, 2006, 7:30 am**

**This seminar will discuss:**

- How to market your business on the web
- Techniques to increase your **Revenues**.
- Potential customers search for your product or services on Internet
- Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
- Search Engine Marketing (SEM, PPC, CPC, sponsored links, search engine advertising)
- The "Secret Sauce" you need to win
- Increasing your business Visibility and Online Brand Recognition
- Reducing **Customer Acquisition Costs**
- Enhancing the return on other marketing efforts (up to 30%).

**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2006

**Time:** 7.30am – 10am

**Venue:** Arlington SBDC, Arlington Campus, George Mason University, Suite 245, 3401 N Fairfax Dr, Arlington, VA 22201

**Parking:** Paid parking available on the adjacent street

**Admission:** \$35.00

**Breakfast:** will be provided

**RSVP:** Please contact Pratibha Shenoy at 703 993 8128 or email pshenoy@gmu.edu for registration form and/or flyer or if you have any questions or suggestions.

**(2) South Asia Studies: The Creative Active Female Principle: Women from South Asia in the Arts, Friday, April 14, 2006, 1:30 pm**

Women of South Asia are making extraordinary contributions to the fine art and traditions of the subcontinent. Many are practicing and transforming these living traditions though they live abroad. At this program, vibrant creative artists, impresarios, scholars, and dealers of South Asian origin will describe how they work

on the international scene from India and Pakistan to the United States, Europe, Asia and even Africa.

Keynote Speaker: Hameed Haroon, Owner of Dawn Newspaper in Pakistan; patron of the arts, collector, critic, producer-actor. Panelists will include: Siona Benjamin, Mansoor Hassan, Navina Jafa, Smita Tewari-Jassal, and Anu Ghosh-Mazumdar.

Some of the themes covered in the panel discussions will be: (1) Political activism by Muslim women artists born in Pakistan; (2) questions of identity asked of themselves by women artists born in India or Pakistan but living abroad; (3) women impresarios, art dealers and scholars who evaluate other women in the arts; and (4) Valuing women in art.

**DATE:** Friday, April 14, 2006

**TIME:** 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Rome Auditorium, The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington D.C. 20036

**RSVP:** Please email your contact details and affiliation to Jenika Kaul at [southasia@jhu.edu](mailto:southasia@jhu.edu).

**(3) South Asia Studies: En/Countering Colonialism in India, Monday, April 17, 2006, 5:00 pm**

Profs. Christopher Bayly and David Washbrook will address aspects of the intricate, political and cultural relationship between Britain and India in the nineteenth century – a relationship whose implications stretch forward to current times.

Christopher A. Bayly is the Vere Harmsworth Professor of Imperial and Naval History at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge. One of the leading historians of modern India, his recent publications include *The Birth of the Modern World 1780-1914: Global connections and Comparisons* and *Forgotten Armies: Britain's Asia Empire and the War with Japan 1941-1945*.

David Washbrook is the Reader in Modern South Asian History at Oxford University and a Professorial Fellow of St. Antony's College. He studied at Cambridge University and has taught there, at the University of Warwick and at Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania. His principal interests lie in the history of southern India from 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and he is the author of a number of seminal works in the field.

**DATE:** Monday, April 17, 2006

**TIME:** 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

**LOCATION:** Rome 806. The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington D.C. 20036

**RSVP:** Please email your contact details and affiliation to Jenika Kaul at [southasia@jhu.edu](mailto:southasia@jhu.edu).

#### **(4) ASHA for Education: 2006 Annual Marathon Program, Kick Off Event**

Asha invites aspiring marathoners and half-marathoners in the DC area to run the prestigious Marine Corps Marathon or Under Armour Baltimore Marathon. First-timers welcome!

Asha for Education is an action group for basic education in India. Its volunteers believe that education is the most vital ingredient for bringing hope to the underprivileged children of India, and is invaluable for the country's socioeconomic development. The group is a certified as a 501(c) 3 charity. Asha has an extremely low overhead and sends nearly 98 percent of the funds it raises to its project sites.

Here's how you can help:

It's simple: Train. Run. Educate.

Train with Asha coaches from May to October. Raise funds to support the education project of your choice. Run the Marine Corps Marathon or a half-marathon in Baltimore.

For more information please visit the TeamAsha website at [ashanet.org/dc/marathon](http://ashanet.org/dc/marathon) and come to the Kick Off Event!

**DATE:** Sunday, April 23, 2006

**TIME:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm

**COST:** FREE

**LOCATION:** International Student House, 1825 R St., NW, Washington, DC

**CONTACT:** For more information please visit [ashanet.org/dc](http://ashanet.org/dc) or contact [kirkcruachan@yahoo.com](mailto:kirkcruachan@yahoo.com) or [amajjiga@hotmail.com](mailto:amajjiga@hotmail.com).

#### **(5) South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA): Book Reading, April 25, 2006, 7:00pm**

Join the South Asian Journalists Association - DC Chapter (SAJA-DC) for a riveting and first-ever book reading and tour by Indian best-selling author Upamanyu Chatterjee as he commemorates the first US release of his groundbreaking book, "English, August".

Note: Published in India in 1988, "English, August" was an immediate and enormous bestseller there. It gave voice to the Indian Generation X: an urban generation that strived to find balance between Indian traditions and western influences. Agastya (nickname August) is a child of the Indian elite. After college graduation, he joins the IAS and is sent to Madna, a provincial town reputed to be the hottest place in India. The story traces Agastya's new life in the Indian back-country, from his amusing and often eccentric co-bureaucrats, to his sexual fantasies and capacity for drinking. Agastya's effort to figure out a place in the world is fraught with comic missteps and yet he is as frustrated with his own restlessness as he is with anything else. "English, August" is a spiritual quest and comic revue rarely seen.

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 25, 2006

**TIME:** 7:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Olsson's Books, Lansburgh at Penn Quarter, 418 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC. Ph: 202-638-7610.

**PARKING:**

**METRO:** Gallery Place (Green / Red / Yellow) or Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter (Green / Yellow)

### **(6) DESILIT MAGAZINE: SUBMIT ARTICLES AND GET PAID, Deadline, April 30, 2006**

DesiLit Magazine is seeking submissions for its premier issue. We are a paying magazine committed to creating a forum for exceptional contemporary writing and art focused on South Asia and the Diaspora. Contributors do not have to be of South Asian origin to submit.

We are currently looking for essays, fiction, humor, poetry, reviews, and art. Full guidelines can be found at: <http://desilit.com/magazine.html>

Deadline for the summer inaugural issue: April 30, 2006.

### **(7) DHOONYA DANCE SCHOOL: CALL FOR INDIAN DANCE INSTRUCTORS**

Dhoonya Dance, DC's premiere Indian Dance School ([www.dhoonyadance.com](http://www.dhoonyadance.com)) is looking for talented and dedicated Indian dancers with a passion for teaching classes!

Looking for MALE and FEMALE instructors trained in various forms of Indian dance. Positions available in Downtown DC, Gaithersburg, Maryland, and Mclean,

VA. Both children and adult class positions available. Current Dhoonya classes focus mostly on Bhangra and Bollywood styles of dance.

For more information on the **Dhoonya Instructor Audition Process** or to sign up for an audition slot please contact us at [dhoonya@gmail.com](mailto:dhoonya@gmail.com) or call Kajal Mehta at 225-802-9669. Auditions are held every Wednesday evening! Please include any preference in teaching adults or kids, and your primary style of dance.

Below is a list of criteria we are looking for in our instructors.

1. **Energy** - ability to motivate students and keep the energy level up
2. **Technique**-mastery of Indian dance style
3. **Communication skills** - clearly describe steps while teaching, answer questions
4. **Rhythm and Timing** - ability to maintain rhythm and count out beats for students
4. **Approachability** - ability to encourage rather than intimidate students with new steps
5. **Expression** - having fun, smiling
6. **Creativity** - Choosing steps and music that work well for teaching

#### **(8) WANTED: LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS**

Samantha Franco, a recruiter for a language interpretation company in Portland, Oregon, is currently looking for Gujarati, Punjabi or Hindi speakers who would be able to interpret for medical and business exchanges by phone. Some prior experience in the medical field is required. Telephone interpretation is a great way for someone to supplement their income and it can be done from their home or office. Also, we will only call during the dates and times that the interpreter requests us to contact him/ her. We offer competitive rates and the opportunity for Gujarati, Punjabi or Hindi - English speakers to assist non-English speaking members of their community. If you know anyone who may be interested in this position please contact Ms. Franco or visit their website at [www.pacificinterpreters.com](http://www.pacificinterpreters.com).

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Do you have ideas, suggestions or questions? E-mail: [info@netsap.org](mailto:info@netsap.org)