



NetSAP DC Weekly News
April 18, 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 new NetSAP DC Dinner Circle, a joint event with TiE DC and our Third Thursday, our monthly networking event. Details on each event are included below.

To learn more about the benefits of membership, please visit 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.

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NETSAP EVENTS

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SPORTS COMMITTEE: Sunday morning walk/run/bike, April 23, 2006, 8:00am

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Chai Chat: The Immigration Bill, Monday, April 24, 2006, 6:30pm

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, 6:30pm

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

SPORTS COMMITTEE: Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America DC Guts and Glory Walk, Sunday, June 11, 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: Meeting - Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 6:30pm

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

SALTAF '06 COMMITTEE: Planning Meeting – Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 7:00pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

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

(4) Asia Society: The Rising Influence of South Asians in American Political Life, Friday, April 28, 2006, 12:00pm

(5) Johns Hopkins University: Summer of Urdu Courses

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

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(8) WANTED LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

NETSAP EVENTS Details

NETWORKING COMMITTEE: Third Thursday Networking Night, Thursday,

April 20, 2006, 6:30 pm

NetSAP-DC is proud to bring you this month's Third Thursday Networking Night at: I – The Indian Experience. Having just recently renovated, come enjoy I – The Indian Experience's new expanded lounge area that offers a classy and hip atmosphere mixed with a South Asian flare in the heart of downtown DC.

Join us this month for the networking event that has grown to become a NetSAP-DC tradition!

DATE: Thursday, April 20, 2006

TIME: 6:30 – 9:30pm

COST: FREE for Members; \$5 for Non-Members (A full dinner menu will also be available.)

LOCATION: I – The Indian Experience (Formerly Ascot Restaurant & Lounge), 1701 L Street, NW

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

PARKING: Garage & Street

CONTACT: Please email networking@netsap.org for questions or additional information.

SPORTS COMMITTEE: Sunday morning walk/run/bike, April 23, 2006, 8:00 am

If you're in need of a running or biking buddy – or just love spending some time getting fit outdoors, then come join us on Sunday at Haines Point near the "Awakening" statue, located south of the Jefferson Memorial. Please come on time, as the trail will get crowded quickly as the morning goes on!

DATE: Sunday, April 23, 2006

TIME: 8:00 AM

LOCATION: East Potomac Park (Haines Point), Washington DC - visit [Haines Point](#)

PARKING: There are plenty of parking places all along the road plus various parking lots.

RSVP: Email netsapdcsports@yahoo.com by **Saturday, April 23 at noon**, in order to wait for everyone planning to attend. But feel free to bring along friends with you! Please direct all inquiries to Sonya Mazumdar at netsapdcsports@yahoo.com for further info.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE: Chai Chat: The Immigration Bill, Monday, April 24, 2006, 6:30 pm

There has been so much talk about immigration in the Washington, DC area, but where is the South Asian voice? What do first generation/second generation South Asians Americans think about the federal immigration bill? Come to this month's Chai Chat ready to discuss the pros and cons of the federal bill and how it affects the South Asian community.

DATE: Monday, April 24, 2006

TIME: 6:30pm - 8:00 pm

COST: (Member / Non-Member): Free

LOCATION: Cusi, 1919 M Street NW, Washington DC. Ph: 202-466-9677.

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

PARKING: Garage & Street

RSVP: Please email Chai Shenoy at political@netsap.org. **RSVPs are needed for reserving a table.**

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.

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

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 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, 15th Street & Independence Avenue, Washington, DC

METRO: Smithsonian (Blue, Orange)

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

SPORTS COMMITTEE: Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America DC Guts and Glory Walk, Sunday, June 11, 2006, 9:00 am

Join the NetSAP team and help raise money for research to eradicate IBD at the 16th Annual Guts & Glory Walk to be held at the Tidal Basin Trail, Washington, DC.

The walk starts at 9:00am following the trail around the Tidal Basin, past the Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Thomas Jefferson Monuments and paddleboats ending back at the Sylvan Theater.

DATE: Sunday, June 11, 2006

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: Tidal Basin trail, Washington DC - [CCFA walk website](#)

PARKING: There is plenty of street parking in East Potomac Park plus various parking lots.

METRO: Smithsonian or L'Enfant Plaza stops

RSVP: Email netsapdcsports@yahoo.com for more information. **Do not register yet!** Further information will be given after RSVP. Please direct all inquiries to Sonya Mazumdar at netsapdcsports@yahoo.com for further info.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Details

CHARITY BALL PLANNING COMMITTEE: Volunteers Needed!!! Meeting, Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 6:30 pm

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 or liaison@netsap.org and specify if there is anything in particular you would like to help out with or come to our meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

DATE: Wednesday, April 19, 2006

TIME: 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Cosi, Dupont Circle South. 1350 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC

METRO: Dupont Circle (Red)

PARKING: Garage & Street

RSVP: Email pr@netsap.org or liaison@netsap.org to RSVP, for questions or for

additional information.

SALTAF'06 COMMITTEE: Planning Meeting – Wednesday, April 26, 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 26, 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 if you plan to attend. Contact Dina Khemlani at 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) Bone Marrow Drive: Saturday, April 22, 2006, 1:00 pm

HELP SAVE A LIFE: TEST FOR BONE MARROW

Ages 18-60. It's easy, quick, and Painless!

Your **5 minutes could** mean the difference between **LIFE** and **DEATH**.

On Feb 23, 2006, Parag K. Patel was diagnosed with **Acute Monocytic Leukemia** and has undergone his first round of chemotherapy treatment. On March 23, 2006,

Parag K. Patel and his family were told the **only way to save** him is a BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT. Please join us in the effort to save his **LIFE** and many others like him. **YOU CAN make a DIFFERENCE and SAVE a LIFE!** www.hope4parag.com

Date: Saturday, April 22, 2006

Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Place: Sri Siva Vishnu Temple, 6905 Cipriano Road, Lanham, MD 20706

Contact: Padma Tipirneni 240-604-5981

Email: padmatipirneni@yahoo.com or Ramesh at y2kprema@gmail.com

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

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 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 or contact kirkcruachan@yahoo.com or amajjiga@hotmail.com.

(3) 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 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC. Ph: 202-638-7610.

PARKING:

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

(4) Asia Society: The Rising Influence of South Asians in American Political Life, Friday, April 28, 2006, 12:00 pm

Kumar P. Barve, the Majority Leader in Maryland's state legislature, is the first person of Indian origin to be elected as a state legislator in United States history. First elected in 1990, and re-elected three times-in 1994, 1998, and 2002, Majority Leader Barve, age 43, is the longest serving elected official of Indian origin. He represents a district with a population of 110,000 in Montgomery County, the largest jurisdiction in the State of Maryland and is Chairman of the Montgomery County delegation. He won his last election by 62%. A graduate of Georgetown University, Barve is the CFO of two companies: QueBITS, a software development company, and Environmental Management Services, a company that cleans up toxic waste sites.

Sponsored by Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Co-hosted with South Asian Journalists Association, DC Chapter (SAJA).

DATE: Friday, April 28, noon-2:00 pm

The St. Regis hotel, 923 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC

TIME: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

COST: Asia Society & SAJA members, no charge; non-members, \$15. Lunch will be served. Please note that non-member rates apply to guests.

LOCATION: St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC

METRO: Farragut North (Red line) and McPherson Square (Blue, Orange Lines)

PARKING: Valet Parking at own expense. Street parking and other garages also available.

RSVP: For reservations, please telephone 202.833.ASIA. Please note that reservations are taken in the order received until the event is full. Reservations and payment required by noon, Tuesday, April 25. Payments not accepted at the door. Members of the press are required to register in advance. Reservations made at member rates may not be transferred to non-members without a price adjustment. Submission of a reservation obligates you to pay for an event, unless notice of cancellation is received by the reservation deadline. We regret that we are unable to issue refunds in the case of inclement weather. Reserved seats are held for 20 minutes after starting time.

(5) Johns Hopkins University: Summer of Urdu Courses

Johns Hopkins University is proud to host another summer of Urdu courses in Washington DC. Urdu is one of the major languages of South Asia and the national language of Pakistan. Urdu is the dominant language of Muslim culture in South Asia and incorporates Persian and Arabic influences as well as sharing many characteristics with Hindi. JHU's Nitze School of Advanced International Studies through the South Asia Studies program is excited to offer this opportunity to professionals and graduate students to study Urdu at their Dupont Circle campus.

Instruction is multi-functional, allowing students to read and write in Urdu exclusively through the Nastaliq Perso-Arabic script. Students are also asked to build their speaking and listening proficiency through exposure to modern Urdu media and group activities. Instructional materials foster a communicative approach to language learning and reflect real-life circumstances. The courses are taught at the university level and are comparable to one semester's equivalent of Urdu.

Urdu Class timings for Summer 2006: June 3rd to August 5th

Elementary Urdu	Saturday 9:30 am -12:00 pm, Tuesday 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Intermediate Urdu	Saturday 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm, Wednesday 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Seating is limited and closes June 3rd. To register please refer to the following link:

http://www.sais-jhu.edu/programs/asia/southasia/sa_language/urdu/urduregistration

If you have any questions please email the instructor Rubab Qureshi: rubab@sas.upenn.edu

We will hold two registration/workshops prior to the summer classes commencing on April 29th at 9:30 am and May 6th at 3:00 pm. These workshops will introduce the language and answer questions regarding registration, class structure, materials, and some script lessons. Workshops will be held at the SAIS campus off Dupont Circle in the Rome Building Room 200. To RSVP, please email the instructor at rubab@sas.upenn.edu.

(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) 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 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.

Do you have ideas, suggestions or questions? E-mail: info@netsap.org