

IMMIGRANTS SEEK WAYS TO END CONFLICTS IN NATIVE COUNTRIES

San Jose Mercury News (California)

April 13, 2004 Tuesday MORNING FINAL EDITION

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Section: LOCAL; Pg. 3B

Length: 276 words

Byline: Mercury News

Dateline: BAY AREA

Body

A diverse group of South Asian ***immigrants*** will meet Sunday at Ohlone College in Fremont to formally discuss how to bring peace to their home ***countries*** of Afghanistan, India, China and Pakistan.

Topics will include how to rid that region of poverty, illiteracy and inadequate health care, said Sanjana Chopra, one of the organizers.

Chopra said the symposium is in Fremont because the fourth-largest city in the Bay area is a "microcosm of South Asia."

Chopra also said she hopes the diverse communities can give solid advice, in the form of a report, to those in South Asia "to show the people there how we can all live together, and that we have more commonalities than differences."

The symposium will be hosted by the International Association for Human Values, a non-governmental organization founded in 1997 by world leaders including the Dalai Lama. Another founder, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, will be Sunday's keynote speaker.

Shankar is known around the world as His Holy Happiness, an international humanitarian and a spiritual master who offers self-empowerment messages mixed with breathing and yoga techniques.

Local panelists include Raka Ray, chair of the University of California-Berkeley's Center for South Asia Studies, Rona Popal, president of the Afghan Women's Association International, Syed R. Mahmood, president of the American Institute of International Studies, and Tony Lin, adviser to the North American Chinese Educational Foundation.

For information on tickets, which are \$5 and \$10, click on www.iahv.org.

The symposium will be 2 to 4 p.m. at Ohlone College's Smith Center, 43600 Mission Boulevard.

Notes

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Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (90%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (90%); IMMIGRATION (78%); YOGA (77%); RESEARCH INSTITUTES (75%); WOMEN (73%); NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (73%); LITERACY & ILLITERACY (72%); POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS (72%); FOUNDATIONS (64%)

Company: BAY AREA INSURANCE SERVICES (57%); INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION SERVICES AS (56%); AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN STUDY (54%)

Organization: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (55%); UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (55%)

Person: DALAI LAMA (57%)

Geographic: SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CA, USA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (79%); ASIA (93%); SOUTHERN ASIA (91%); PAKISTAN (79%); INDIA (79%); CHINA (79%); UNITED STATES (79%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); AFGHANISTAN (73%)

Load-Date: August 24, 2005