



# Festival of Cultures News

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF FESTIVAL 2010



Colombian

Playing a Japanese game



### Save the Date! May 14, 2011 8th Annual Festival of Cultures

Don't miss out on the only truly diverse event in town! Join us as we:

- Celebrate diversity in our community;
- Increase awareness of that diversity in a respectful environment;
- Provide an opportunity for building a bridge of communication between newcomers and established residents;
- Showcase the contributions of newcomers

Pick up your passports and travel the world in Lee Park for a fun, free family-friendly festival.

It takes many people to make this event happen and we appreciate all participants:

Would you like to **volunteer** your energy and talents?

Would you like to offer cash or in-kind **sponsorship**?

Would you like to **perform, vend, or host a booth**?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions or if you would like to learn more, contact Debra Tuler at 245-2819 or visit our new website at

[www.festivalofcultures.org](http://www.festivalofcultures.org)



Ethiopian vendor



Creating a sand mandala



Tibetan exhibit

## CULTURE SPOTLIGHT: THE PEOPLE OF BURMA (MYANMAR)



### THANK YOU TO FESTIVAL SPONSORS PAST AND PRESENT

A special thank you to all those who have supported the Festival of Cultures since its inception in 2004—with your help we have become a Charlottesville institution!

Alice Nye Fitch, Realtor  
 Asia Institute at UVA  
 Bama Works Fund of the Dave Matthews Band (CACF)  
 Bank of America  
 Charlottesville Veggie Fest/Voices for Animals  
 Church of the Incarnation  
 Crutchfield  
 Cottonwood  
 El Paso Grocery Store  
 Foods of All Nations  
 Huntly Foundation  
 La Guadalupana  
 Piedmont Council of the Arts  
 Rebecca's Natural Foods  
 SHEA Foundation  
 State Farm Insurance  
 Target  
 UNA-USA, Blue Ridge VA Chapter  
 Whole Foods  
 WVPT

Burma borders the countries of Laos, China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh. Each of these countries has contributed to the great diversity of cultures found in Burma. The government recognizes over 100 different ethnic groups. The largest are the Burman, Karen, Karenni and Chin. Each ethnic group has its own language and unique traditions in music, cuisine, and clothing. The majority of Burmans are Buddhists or Christians; a small minority are Muslims.

While the cuisine of Burma varies from group to group, white jasmine rice is the staple and all cuisines include red chilies fermented fish paste, fresh vegetables and meat. *Mohingar*, a famous traditional dish served at parties and celebrations, is a fish and chickpea broth with caramelized shallots and boiled eggs poured over rice vermicelli noodles and garnished with fresh cilantro, more boiled eggs, fish sauce, fried garlic in oil, fresh snap green beans, dried crushed chili peppers and lime.

Burma has been under strict military rule since 1962 and is now well-known for its democracy movement led by the 1991 Nobel Peace Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Suu Kyi won the election in 1988, but the military regime refused to recognize her and she was subsequently put under house arrest. Suu Kyi spent 15 years in detention. She was finally released on November 13. Refugees who come from Burma are usually political activists who fled their homeland after the student uprising in 1988 to protest Suu Kyi's arrest after the elections. Thousands were massacred. Other Burmese refugees are members of ethnic groups whose villages were pillaged and burned by the military junta.

Since 2005, several hundred Burmese, Karen, Karenni, Chin, Kachin and members of other ethnic groups who sought refuge in Thailand, Malaysia, and other countries, have been resettled here and now call Charlottesville "home".

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