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## Inviting Volunteers for MEA

The MEA executive committee is encouraging members and their spouses to come forward and take charge of organizing and appointing chairpersons for various clubs to promote harmony among MEA families. Please contact Prafulla Pillai and Jacob George for more details.

- Card Club
- Music Club
- Sports & Outdoor Club
- Ladies Night Out
- Happy Hour
- Community Service

## Upcoming MEA events

- \* MEA talk on "Exploration, Production and Refining of Oil and Gas" by Ahmad Solomon will be conducted on July 13, 2007
- \* MEA is partnering with Houston Knanaya Catholic Society in give a career guidance session to the Malayalee children in Houston area in mid- July 2007
- \* MEA Fall 2007 picnic will be announced shortly
- \* Another MEA talk "The Insights to the Indian Space Exploration" by Sagar Vidyasagar is scheduled for the beginning of Fall 2007
- \* MEA dinner night to fund the scholarship program is expected to be scheduled during October 2007.

### **MEA Committee members for 2007:**

All E-mails to the MEA committee to [meahouston@yahoo.com](mailto:meahouston@yahoo.com)

Swarup John (281) 685-5052	Prafulla Pillai (281) 597-1933	Vinu Kuriakose (832) 488-0103
Pradeep S. kumar (281) 980-8953	Abraham John (832) 288-4937	Jacob George (281) 412-5407
Rajesh K. N (281) 392-4703		

# Please join us for the MEA Lecture/Seminar Series

## “Exploration, Production and Refining of Oil and Gas”

Mr. Ahmad Solomon  
Engineering Consultant, Houston, TX

### Location and Time

**Facility Name:** University of Houston (UH)    **Building Name:** University Center (UC)  
**Room Name:** Atlantic room    **Room Number:** 74 (ground floor)    **Date:** Friday, July 13, 2007  
**Starting Time:** 6:45pm    **Contacts:** [www.meahouston.org](http://www.meahouston.org)

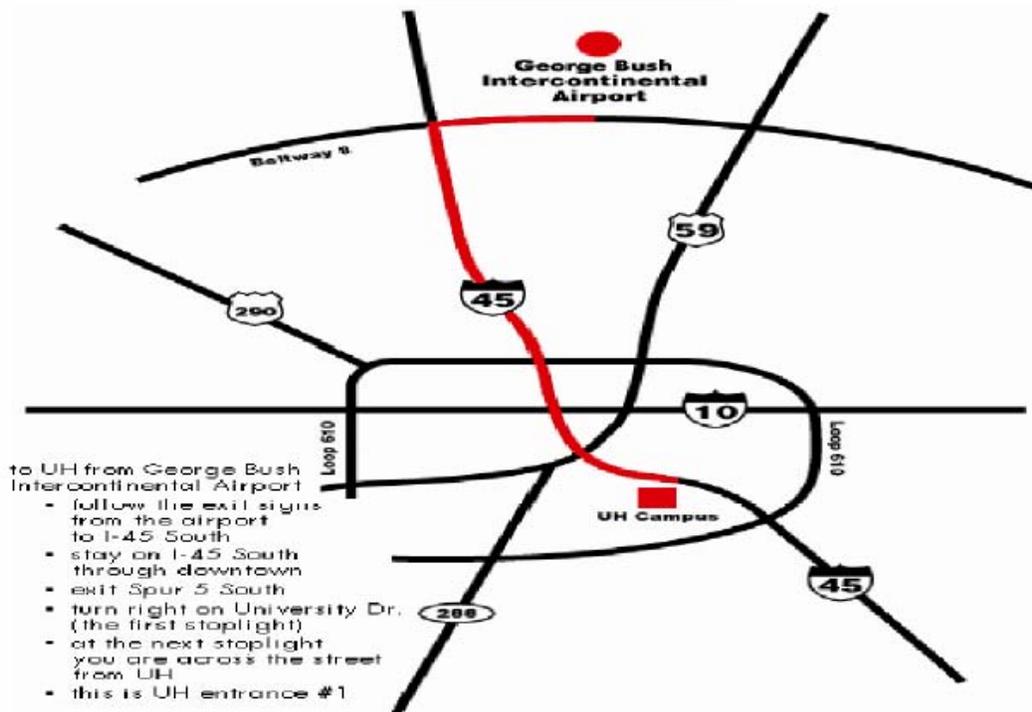
### Tickets

Members & family: FREE - FREE  
Members' guests: \$ 5 each

### Driving Directions

From I-45 South to UH	From I-45 North to UH
Take exit 44A toward Elgin-Lockwood/Cullen 0.4 mi	Take exit 44B to merge onto TX-5-SPUR S 0.7 mi
Turn left at Ernestine St / Lockwood Dr. 0.1 mi	Take the exit toward University Dr 0.3 mi
Turn left at TX-5-SPUR 0.6 mi	Turn right at University Dr 0.2 mi
Turn right at University Dr 0.2 mi	Pass Calhoun Rd signal light
Pass Calhoun Rd signal light	Park at visitor parking lot (right hand side)
Park at visitor parking lot (right hand side)	'University center' is the building next to parking
'University center' is the building next to parking	

### Map to Seminar Venue



# A Thank You Note

The 2007 executive committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of you, who helped us to make the cultural night a pleasant experience. Allow us to mention a few, in particular:

1. Performers and their families, who worked for many days to entertain us with their superb performance.
2. All those who came many hours ahead of time on that day to arrange and get the venue ready for the evening
3. Kiran Nair and Ritu D. Cruz for the excellent job done as the MCs
4. Karun Nair, Kumary and Dennis D. Cruz for helping the MCs to prepare for their job
5. Kanchana for the excellent job done as coordinator for the cultural program
6. Suresh Narayanan, Surya Narayanan, Karun Nair, Nalanan Pillai, and Ramjith Ali came many hours ahead of time on that day to arrange and get the venue ready for the evening
7. Kanchana and Kumary for helping with the coffee/Tea during the social hour
8. Sojan Antony for helping with the membership collection and ticket sales
9. Sibi Kuruvilla, Balji Menon, and Paul Joseph for the excellent job done as the sound system and lighting coordinators during the program
10. Ramjith Ali and Ranjith Nair for helping with managing the stage during the program
11. Marium Thomas for lighting the lamp and Celine Joyce for doing the prayer
12. Sushama for helping with the program layout
13. All those who helped in setting up and serving the food, and in closing out the facility afterwards
14. Durga Bari Society for providing the facility
15. Heritage India restaurant for providing the food

Finally, MEA executive committee wants to express our special gratitude to all those who took the time off from their busy schedule and came to the event, encouraged the MEA talents and supported our activities.

There are many others who helped us in many ways and the entire event would not have been successful without the help of all these people. Many thanks to all who supported the cultural night!

- *Thankam Pillai*

## CALL FOR ARTICLES

Writers in MEA family: Do send in articles (technical, non-technical, humorous), stories, notices about important events, announcements etc. We will publish them in the next issue.

## Volunteering Opportunity within MEA

1. For Fall picnic arrangements
2. To organize the picnic games
3. Hall arrangements for MEA dinner night
4. Registration desk management
5. Hospitality

# MEA Honored Dr. George Sudarshan



India has contributed extensively to fundamental sciences from ancient days to our current times. There has always been a keen interest in and great regard for the acharyas of sciences in our society.

Mathematicians, physicists and astronomers like Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, Bhaskara, Ramanujam and CV Raman are familiar to us as Indians regardless of our career orientations. After Bhaskara, who was from Karnataka, it is notable that mathematicians from the Kerala School, like Madhava and Nilakantha Somayaji (mathematics & astronomy) were far ahead of the rest of their contemporary world- Europe, as it emerged from the dark ages through early renaissance, while this great nation we are now in, was not quite in existence. It is in that lineage that we can proudly count this eminent malayalee physicist here in Texas, Prof. E.C.George Sudarshan.

MEA co-sponsored a dinner to felicitate Padma Vibhushan Prof. Sudarshan at the Madras Pavilion on Friday, April-27, 2007. Consul K.P. Pillai was the chief guest for the evening. The meeting started with a prayer-song by Celine Joyce. Dr. Sudarshan was introduced by his cousin, Joseph Koshy. Felicitations were conveyed by representatives of FOKANA- Jacob Easo and WMC- George Kakkanad. Ratna Kumar and Rev. Philip provided some unique perspectives on Dr. Sudarshan while Sibi Kuruvilla and Dr. Venugopal highlighted his career and philosophical pursuits. There was a lively open forum after Dr. Sudarshan's address, moderated by Nalin Pillai. Joyce John gave the vote of thanks. Dr. Bhamati Sudarshan later delighted the audience with her talent in singing. Swarup John was the MC for the event. Dr. Sudarshan drew deep from vedic philosophy in reflecting on his experiences in scientific quest and clarified the differences in purity and practicality of purpose, when it comes to career-choices. The event was well appreciated by all who attended, a healthy crowd of MEA members and guests.

Prof. Sudarshan started his life as a physicist at TIFR in 1951 under the supervision of Bernard Peters (Oppenheimer's student), and Homi Bhabha (during the last year). In 1955 he joined the U of Rochester as a grad student under the legendary Robert Marshak (who worked on the Manhattan Project with Fermi, Bohr, Feynmann and Hans Bethe). Marshak later became an opponent of the bomb and worked with international scholars like Landau, Yukawa and Abdus Salam, which also made him subject of a McCarthian interrogation at that time. What's considered most significant scientific contribution in Marshak's career is the proposal of the V-A Theory of Weak Interactions (the fourth force in nature). This was the work of his grad student, George Sudarshan, in collaboration with him. Prof. Sudarshan was the first to propose the existence of tachyons, particles that travel faster than light. Tachyons have been artifacts of science fiction. Like some other things in theoretical physics, tachyons may be considered as a mathematical derivation whereby they get afflicted by the square root of a negative value and are thus banished to imaginary realm when below speed of light. If that does makes any sense at all, Weak Interactions and Diagonal Representation cannot be explained away as easily, though.

Both Marshak and Sudarshan were nominated several times for the Nobel, but never received it, despite the groundbreaking V-A Theory and Sudarshan's visionary work in quantum optics called the Sudarshan Representation (or the diagonal representation) of coherent light. In 2005, Roy Glauber of Harvard U was awarded the nobel for what he called the 'Glauber-Sudarshan' representation, which created much controversy among the global physicist community. One could say that when it comes to true colors, the crimson of Harvard is a deeper, darker shade than the UT-orange, in such matters. Prof. Sudarshan gracefully stated 'Give unto Glauber ONLY what is Glauber's'. Technically, the only Indian national to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics was C.V. Raman, in 1930, a year before Prof. Sudarshan was born. Chandrasekhar, his nephew, was awarded the nobel in physics in 1962, but he was a naturalized US citizen at University of Chicago.

There are other cases of non-receipt as well. In the 20's, another Indian physicist, Sathyendra Nath Bose provided the foundation for Bose-Einstein statistics and the theory of the Bose-Einstein condensate. He is honored with his namesake, the boson particle. Although more than one Nobel Prize was awarded for related research, Bose himself was never awarded the Nobel. It is also noteworthy that the Nobel Committee could never get themselves to award a peace prize to Mahatma Gandhi, even while decorating several trans-atlantic politicians during his time.

Prof. Sudarshan has worked at the Harvard University, University of Rochester and the Syracuse University. From 1969 onwards, he has been a Professor of Physics at the UT, Austin. He was the director at The Center for Particle Theory at UT, for a couple of decades. He has also been a Senior Professor at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the Director of The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. He has gathered numerous awards and honors in his stellar career including the Padma Bhushan in 74, Bose medal in 77, half a dozen honorary doctorates and the Padma Vibhushan of this year. He has well over 500 papers & publications to his name.

- *Sibi Kuruvilla*

## Mango Holidays

Summer is just round the corner and that means, it's vacation for the kids. I cannot think of a school vacation in Kerala without mangoes. Mangoes always bring back memories – a very warm net of memories. When we were children, growing up in Kerala, the mango season passed with lots of enthusiasm as the season there was part of the summer holidays. Many of you who grew up in Kerala might have lingering memories of these wonderful mango holidays.

Think of having the ripe juicy ones, the mellow ones or having the raw ones with salt and a dash of chili powder. We had a couple of huge mango trees in our ancestral house in Mavelikara. Those mangoes we called 'Nattumanga' were very small and juicy.

As the sun draws its curtain with night approaching and as the bats and the night owls flutter around the branches and even with the mild western wind lots of ripe ones were knocked down to the ground. As children we were so swift and quick to run with the flash light from one mango tree to the other to amass those mangoes.

When the mangoes were ready they were plucked with lot of care. 'Kesavan Mooper' would climb up the huge trees with a sack, fill it with mangoes and gently lower to the ground where 'Appoopan' was waiting. The mangoes were kept packed in straw to ripen and the whole house was filled with the fragrance of mangoes. We relished on the mangoes for breakfast, lunch, dinner and in between snacks.

Our summer play memories are always woven round the mango tree – the big swings that hung from their branches, the play houses that we made in their shade with coconut leaves and tapioca stems.....those memories always fills me with happiness but I feel sorry for my kids not being able to enjoy those carefree moments of enjoyment.

- *Anisha Rajesh*

# MEA Cultural Night



The MEA cultural night of 2007 concluded on April 28 at Durgabari hall, Houston. The program started at 4.30 pm with a social hour, followed by a short meeting, cultural show and dinner. A dedicated team of MEA members were behind the curtains to make this show a success.

Anchored by Kiran Nair and Ritu D'Cruz, the welcome speech was delivered by Swarup John, followed by lighting of lamp by Mariam Thomas and a prayer song by Mrs. Celine Joyce. The MEA scholarship update was provided by Vijay Kayath.

The cultural night showcased the blooming talents of MEA members and their children. Pooja Vettickal, Jasmine Rajan and Vishnu Sajit were among those who performed classical dances; while Nevita George and Esha Vettical performed the solo cinematic dances. The fusion dance performed by Mrs. Mini Vettical was greatly applauded.

The group dance performers included Aswathi Nair and Ankita Nair together, another group had Albin, Vishnu, Jean, Gopika, Nevitha, Roshan, Vidya and Naveen. The night brought out the talents of a group of budding young singers like Pooja Vettickal, Vidya Giri, Sriram Hariharan to the limelight. An old Hindi duet by Anoop Nair and Rani Menon lit up enthusiasm in the audience. Other singers included Pradeep Kumar, Celestine Vettical, Sushma Kumar, Preetha Thampi, Sachin Mulayath.....Vote of thanks was delivered by Pradeep Kumar. The cultural night ended with a sumptuous dinner.

- Anisha Rajesh



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