

Special points of  
interest:

- Youth Fashion Show
- Community Involvement
- Upcoming Event
- Women's Education for Advancement & Empowerment (WEAVE)

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# KOSD News & Notes

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 1, 2012

## A Grand Celebration

September 28, 2012

What a night! From 4—6pm on a beautiful fall Friday, individuals and families from all over the city came to celebrate the Karen Organization of San Diego's Grand Opening.

After a warm welcome, sharing of stories of refugee life in Burma, and an overview of KOSD's programs and services, guests enjoyed food from a local restaurant while witnessing the adorable Karen kids' dance performance and the youth fashion show. "The fashion show was my favorite part," one of the attendees said, "I like the traditional clothes."

In addition to the formally scheduled program, guests were invited to tour KOSD's cozy office, listen to a

live musical performance, and watch a Karen woman weave a traditional satchel.

Many people enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the refu-



A fashion show exhibiting traditional Karen clothing was one of many highlights of the Grand Opening celebration.

gee community of Burma living in San Diego through this event. The room was so packed, we ran out of seats!

Thank you to everyone who helped plan, coordinate, and facilitate this outreach effort. The administration and staff of KOSD look forward to hosting more community-based events in the future.

In fact, check out the second page of this newsletter for details about the upcoming Karen New Year! If you liked the Grand Opening Celebration, you are sure to appreciate the larger cultural showcase the Karen New Year has to offer. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

### Learn Karen

ကျေးဇူးတင်

(Tablu): thank you

## Spotlight On: PowerMentor

By Say Moo

When I started attending the PowerMentor Leadership Academy this fall, the group was very small, about 8 people. Now, the academy keeps growing because we tell parents, community members, and other youth about it. Kevin LaChapelle, a teacher for the academy, helps the Karen community by showing youth how to contribute positively to society.

In the academy's three-month program, I learned how to be a leader through training and skill-building

activities. For example, we gave speeches in front of people and talked about our dreams and future goals. My future goal is to go back to my own country to help Karen people.

Attendees also go on trips with PowerMentor. On our trip to Tijuana, Mexico, we learned a lot about being aware of our surroundings as leaders, choosing carefully who and who not to trust while traveling.

PowerMentor has built up my responsibility, too. I'm Vice President!

Have a story to tell? KOSD welcomes guest writers! Please contact [info@karensandiego.org](mailto:info@karensandiego.org) for more information.



PowerMentor Class of 2012 (Fall)

To learn more about PowerMentor, you can visit: [http://www.powermentor.org/about\\_us.html](http://www.powermentor.org/about_us.html)

***KOSD Wish List***

- Computers
- Storage cabinet(s)
- Office calendars (2013)
- Tickets/ Gift Cards for Clients
- Blank notebooks & Binders for Clients

About donation, contact:  
[nao@karensandiego.org](mailto:nao@karensandiego.org)

## Karen New Year 2013

*Date: Saturday, January 12, 2013  
Time: 9am—1pm (Lunch: 12—1pm)  
Location: Crawford High School Auditorium  
Address: 4191 Colts Way, San Diego, CA 92115*

What better way to ring in the new year than with a cultural celebration full of color, creativity, and community? Join the Karen Organization of San Diego as we celebrate the rich heritage of each ethnic community from Burma. From dance performances and traditional food to musical showcases and engaging storytelling, this year's event is sure to be one worth attending.

If you would like to see photos from the 2012 Karen New Year event, you can check out the archive on the KOSD website at <http://www.karensandiego.org>

for an array of inspirational images.

[Interested in being a sponsor?](#)  
Contact: [nao@karensandiego.org](mailto:nao@karensandiego.org)



"Pipi," the Karen word for grandmother, is used as a term of endearment for the woman pictured here. Her work was featured at the Grand Opening Celebration this past September.

## WEAVE

### Women's Education for Advancement & Empowerment

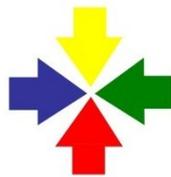
The Women's Education for Advancement and Empowerment (WEAVE) organization, founded in 1990, works with women from the Thai-Burma border to provide individuals and families with educational and economic opportunities. Specifically, WEAVE's Economic Empowerment and Development programs provide women

with the financial and management skills to pursue entrepreneurship endeavors through traditional weaving and sewing projects. For more information about this specific initiative, you can visit <http://www.weave-women.org/economic-empowerment-and-development/>.

Wouldn't it be great for KOSD to do something similar in the U.S.?

If you think so, let us know!

Contact: [info@karensandiego.org](mailto:info@karensandiego.org) to tell us your opinion.



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The Karen Organization of San Diego was established in 2009 to meet the needs of Karen and other ethnic minority groups from Burma who reside in San Diego. Karen Organization of San Diego is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our primary purpose is to provide social services and opportunities for culture preservation for the Karen and other ethnic minority groups from Burma who reside in San Diego to improve their quality of life.

If you would like to know more about KOSD, or are interested in partnering with us, feel free to give us a call, or e-mail us at [info@karensandiego.org](mailto:info@karensandiego.org).