

# NEWSLETTER



May 2022

ASIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Vol 1 Issue 1



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## EXPLOR/ ASIANS

Written by Alyson Richard

May 18th, 2022, the Asian heritage Society of New Brunswick hosted the Explor/Asian exhibit at the Cultural Center in Fredericton. The Explor/ Asian exhibit consisted of 19 posters on the 20-year journey of the Asian Heritage Society as well as 2 posters on the culture of rice and 6 posters on Head Coverings. The event was attended by over 40 people including our esteemed speakers, Founding Chair of the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick

Madhu Verma, Mayor Kate Rogers, MLA David Coon, Dr. Constantine Passaris, and Executive Director of the Multi Cultural Association of Fredericton Lisa Bamford.

All expressed congratulations for the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick's journey with a special mention for Madhu Verma and her contributions. The speakers also spoke about anti-Asian racism and made suggestions on how to address it.

# May Events



## HENNA PARTY

May 14, 2022, the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick hosted a Henna Party at the Cultural Center in Fredericton.

Snacks and Refreshments were served. Over 20 people, not including the Henna Artists turned out for the event. The event was attended by youths from the Wil-Doo Cycle Club. Along with getting Henna, the participants were encouraged to try it on themselves and each other. Many took advantage of this and created beautiful designs.

Henna artists, Priyanka Panwar, Momo Samia Sharmin, Saritesh Fageria, Neeta Hathi and Kamla Varma created gorgeous designs on over 20 people.

The CBC covered this event and interviewed founding chair of the AHSNB Madhu Verma, and Henna artist Priyanka Panwar.

## SELF PORTRAIT WORKSHOP

May 21, 2022, 23 participants turned out to paint with Indonesian Canadian artist Sofia Cristanti. Cristanti paints self portraits in a pop surreal style. She begins by drawing a human head and the body of a butterfly – a metaphor for transformation. She then fills the wings of the butterfly and surrounding areas on the canvas with things that are special to her. She brought two paintings with her to showcase her work. In the painting she used as a demonstration, she depicted her family, her favorite drink, her past shows, and her favorite food.

This event, like henna, was attended by the Wil-Doo Cycle Club and other community members. Over the course of the 3 hours, attendees painted self portraits on 12" by 16" canvases with the direction of Cristanti. Light refreshments and snacks were served.



For more, visit: <http://www.ahsnb.org/>

# CULTURAL GALA



Sunday, May 29, 2022, from 3-5 PM at the Bernard Poirier Theatre at École Saint Anne, the Asian Heritage Society hosted the 2022 Cultural Gala. The Gala consisted of 9 performances by different Asian cultural groups in Fredericton and almost 300 people came out to watch. Before the performances were speeches from the Honourable Brenda L. Murphy, ONB, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick; Madhu Verma, the founding chair of the Asian Heritage Society; and Claire Roussel Sullivan, Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission. After intermission was the awards ceremony where Cecelia Tai represented by her daughter Helen Tai, Ayub Chishti, and Guna Kulasegaram were awarded plaques for laying the foundation for the Asian Heritage Committee in 2002 which later

became the Asian Heritage Society of New Brunswick. This was followed by a speech by Dr. Dhirendra Shukla, professor at UNB and former president of the Indo Canadian Association.

Following the performances, Chair of the Fredericton Chapter of the AHSNB, Aruna Ghate gave closing remarks. The Emcee for the event was Zyrene Estallo.



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