

## 102nd Birth Commemoration of



*Saeen G.M. Syed*

A Sindhi National Leader

Saturday, January 21st 2006

*"Man's material and spiritual development is not possible without creating a spirit of universal peace and tolerance.*

*For this, the land of Sindh has an exemplary message: a truly generous respect for mankind.*

*Our venerable ancestors and great saints regarded it as real worship and, for centuries, our people have been a living proof of the truth and success of this message." - Saeen G.M. Syed*

### *Date & Time*

Saturday, January 21st 2006  
6:00pm - 12:00am

### *Location*

Village Restaurant  
11920 S Highway 6 # 1200,  
Sugar Land (Houston), TX 77478  
Phone: (832) 328-1444

### *Hotel Information*

Palace Inn  
7777 S Highway 6 , Houston, TX 77083  
(3.3. miles from the venue) For reservation call  
(281) 988-9900 and mention "Sindhi Event" to  
receive discounted rates of \$55/\$60 for  
single/double + tax.

Please join us in an annual get together of Sindhi-American community to commemorate the 102nd birthday of Mr. G. M. Syed, a national leader of the Sindh, a Sufi country that is now a province in Pakistan. Mr. Syed waged a nonviolent struggle against Islamic fundamentalism, and championed for the secularism, democracy and freedom for Sindhis.

Mr. Syed's message of non-violence, tolerance, and peace has a universal appeal, and the core principles of non-violence and conflict resolution are applicable to all the struggles for self-determination at individual, communal or national levels.

Three distinguished speakers will be presenting their speeches on the topic of "Non-Violence and Struggle for Self-Determination."

### *Highlights of 2005 Event*

Honorable Rick Perry, Governor State of Texas sent special greetings on this occasion. In his message, the Governor said: "Sindhi-Americans continue to play an important role in promoting peace, democracy, and human rights. By putting thought into action, you have reinforced the importance of being civic-minded, committed citizens, and I wish you continued success."

Bill White, Mayor of Houston, Texas, proclaimed the January 16, 2005 as "G M Syed Day for the City of Houston." City Councilor MJ Khan read this proclamation on behalf of the City of Houston.

# Program

6:00 pm – 7: 00 Registration and Welcome  
7:00 pm – 7:15 pm Cake Cutting and  
National Anthem of Sindh  
7:15 pm – 7:45 Dr Yvette Rosser  
7:45 pm – 8:15 Dr Les Kurtz  
8:15 pm – 8:45 Dr Gul Agha  
8:45 pm – 9:00 Speeches by Syed Zia Shah,  
President G M Syed Memorial  
Committee; Saghir Shaikh, Chairman,  
World Sindhi Congress  
9:00pm – 10:00 Dinner  
(Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian)  
10:00 pm – 12:00 Music – TBD

# Organizers

The G. M. Syed Memorial Committee is a Houston, TX-based educational group organized to promote G. M. Syed's message of non-violence, democracy, secularism and the right to self-determination for Sindhis and other oppressed nations within the international community.

The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) is one of the most prominent human rights advocacy organizations for Sindh and Sindhis. The main objective of WSC is to create a better understanding among the international community about the persecuted status of Sindhis in Pakistan and about the Sindhi people's struggles for their human rights, including the right to self-determination. WSC is a registered company in England and Wales, and California, USA, organized to carry out non-profit activities only.

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# Speakers



Dr. Lester Kurtz is Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin where he teaches peace and conflict studies, comparative sociology of religion, and both western and nonwestern social theory. He was previously director of Religious Studies at Texas and holds a Master's in Religion from Yale Divinity School and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. He is the editor of a 3-volume Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict (Academic Press), co-editor of Nonviolent Social Movements (Blackwell's), and The Web of Violence (U. of Illinois Press) as well as author of books and articles including Gods in the Global Village (Pine Forge/Sage), The Politics of Heresy (U. of California Press), and The Nuclear Cage (Prentice-Hall). He is currently working on a book on Gandhi's legacies and is working on a documentary film, "Peaceful Warriors," with James Otis, narrated by Martin Sheen. He has lectured in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America and is the past chair of the Peace Studies Association as well as the Peace and War Section of the American Sociological Association



Dr. Yvette Rosser has a B.A. and M.A. in South Asian Studies. Her master's thesis investigated the content of non-western cultures in World History textbooks used in US high schools. Her Ph.D. dissertation at The University of Texas at Austin in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, "Curricula as Destiny: Forging National Identities in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh" looked at education, the politicization of historiography, and social studies textbooks in three nations of the Subcontinent. She has experience with K-12 curriculum development, has organized numerous educational seminars concerned with teaching about non-western cultures, and has several publications on that topic. She is the cofounder of the Day Without Violence, a program designed to infuse conflict resolution training in schools and to establish the study of the processes of peace as a central aspect of educational and research agendas. Dr. Rosser currently is a Research Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, where two books have been published, "The Islamization of Pakistani Social Studies Textbooks" and "Indoctrinating Minds: A Case Study of Bangladesh". She is presently editor of forthcoming volumes, "The Voices of Sindh", featuring Sindhi perspectives of history, economics, politics, and the diasporic community and currently coordinating a program about the life and teaching of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the "Frontier Gandhi". Dr. Rosser is personally and professionally dedicated to promoting an accurate and empathetic treatment of the nations on South Asia and hopes that her life's work will bring regional peace and prosperity to the Subcontinent and cultural understanding world-wide. She lives in Austin, Texas with her loving children who are almost grown-up.



Gul A. Agha is a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is active in Sindhi-American organizations and has lectured at numerous Sindhi gatherings around the world. Dr Gul Agha was an invited Speakers at the briefings by World Sindhi Congress in Geneva during the 60th and 61st Sessions of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in 2004 and 2005.