

February 2014

Dear Friends of Sangam House,

We hope this finds you all thriving in the New Year, with 2014 off to an excellent start. We've just wrapped up our 2013-2014 winter session at Sangam House and we've had a delightful array of writers and translators stay with us. You can see details on our residents by visiting the Season 6 page of our website.

We've enjoyed visits from several Sangam supporters including **Michelle Garnaut** of the **M Foundation** and **Lavanya Sankaran**, who charmed our residents with a festive evening of reading and libations. Two poets, **Meena Alexander** and **Priya Sarukkai Chabria**, each visited for a few days. (We'd also like to draw your attention to a new page on our website -- <http://poetry.sangamhouse.org/> -- edited by Priya Sarukkai Chabria, which showcases the work of contemporary poets from around the world and also features essays and critical writing about poetry.) It's always good to share Sangam with our friends and supporters; if you haven't yet had the occasion to pay us a visit we encourage you to do so.

This past December we released the second volume of the multi-lingual Sangam House Reader, "Other Places," which features work from all residents who were with us during seasons three and four, as well as a special Tranquebar section, featuring the work of the Danish and Indian writers who were a part of our Tranquebar Project in 2011, sponsored by the **Danish Arts Council** and supported by **Nemrana Hotels**. The publication of this volume was made possible, in part, by **InKo Centre, Chennai**. If you have not yet received a copy and would like to, please let us know.

Last month, Sangam House hosted Lekhana 2014, our third annual weekend of literary events, with the theme of "Talking (about) Writing." The program featured readings from Sangam House residents, Bangalore-based writers, and writers from across India. Highlights from the panels included discussions on Tamil literature, Danish literature, theater in Bangalore, and queer writing in India. Of course, Lekhana 2014 would not have been possible without our collaborators: **Bhoomija**, a public trust for performance arts, our primary sponsor; **Sandbox Collective**, an arts management company; **the (Great) Indian Poetry Collective**; **Light Room Book Shop**; **Out of Print Magazine** and **Atta Galata**. We extend our sincere thanks to each of these partners and also express our gratitude to the **Raja family** for hosting

Lekhana in the sixth floor penthouse of JDP Le Jardin in the heart of Bangalore. It was an inviting setting with spectacular and inspiring views.

And our programming for the season is not yet finished: because of increasing demand for residencies—and an increasingly high volume of quality applicants—we've added a second session, which will run for four weeks in the spring from 2 to 30 May, 2014. We look forward to welcoming our spring cohort and will introduce all of them to you on our website in April.

The past several months have also seen several successes for Sangam House alumni. Among the highlights, **Janice Pariat** received the Crossword Bookstore Prize for Fiction and **Karen Jennings** was short-listed for the Etisalat Prize for Literature in South Africa. And of course there has been a host of new publications from alumni, many of which are included on our new Sangam House Library page.

Jeremy Tiang and Karen Jennings were selected as the inaugural residents for the new Arts Initiative at the **Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI)**. CMI is hosting these two alumni for month-long residencies at Studio Arnawaz, located in the Cholamandal Artists Village in Chennai, once again placing our residents in the heart of a creative and artistic community.

Later this year, **Mario Kaiser** will be the inaugural resident at **Jacaranda Home Stay** in Nairobi. This residency will be four weeks long and is supported by the **Jacaranda Press**.

Both of these collaborations are ongoing and details can be found on our website.

Last but not least, we would like to welcome our new supporters. Through the **Aditi Foundation**, **Kalpana Raina** has established the **Dhvani Fellowship**, which supports a four-week residency for a translator working in Indian languages. This year, the inaugural selection was **Lakshmi Holmstrom**, who, as many of you likely know, is greatly esteemed for her translations from Tamil into English. While at Sangam she worked on new translations of Sri Lankan poetry. With support for linguistic diversity at the core of the Sangam House mission, we are thrilled by this new partnership with the Aditi Foundation and look forward to bringing many more translators to Sangam House through the Dhvani Fellowship.

Sreelata Menon also joins us with funding for a young Indian writer whose work has the potential to create social change. Our Menon Fellow, **Supriya Sharma**, who is working on a book on the Maoist insurgency, will join us for the spring session. The **Urja Foundation** made it possible for Sangam House

to host its first collaborative residency project: illustrations by Gond artist **Venkat Singh Shyam** and text by **S. Anand**. We're very much looking forward to seeing the final book. Our new page, Poetry at Sangam, is supported by "**The Artist Within**" from the UAE. Additionally, the **Prakriti Foundation** and **Lavanya Sankaran** increased their support to Sangam House, making it possible for us to select more international writers for a residency slot.

Indeed, we look forward to the rest of 2014 and are already hard at work planning our 2014-2015 season, which will once again include winter (November 8-January 31) and spring (May 1-29) sessions. Our application cycle for the upcoming season will open in March. Please be sure to pass along the word and encourage all worthy applicants to visit www.sangamhouse.org to apply.

Next year we will also be releasing volume three of the Sangam House Reader, featuring work from our season five and six residents—so stay tuned.

Our hands are full with many exciting projects! We thank you all again for your support and welcome all ideas and input as we press ahead.

As always, with much good feeling,
Arshia Sattar, DW Gibson and Rahul Soni