

NSNA Retreat 2011



Frequently Asked Questions

Registration / Helpdesk Central Phone Number : 732-703-NSNA (6762)



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General Information

- **You have a nice FAQ but what if I have more questions?**

Approach us at the Hospitality desk at the lobby of the auditorium or feel free to call us at our help desk number 1-732-703-NSNA (6762)

- **What is the overall agenda?**

Please see the agenda that is posted on the www.achi.org/retreat website.

- **Will we have seat numbers assigned to us?**

No.

- **Where is the nearest ATM?**

There is one in the Marriott lobby.

Registration

- **Up until when can I register for the retreat?**

Online registration for the retreat will close on June 29th. After that you will only be able to register onsite at the auditorium at which point you will incur an extra door charge of \$20. Also, only online registrants before June 29th will be able to avail the discounted hotel rate of \$115 per night. After that you will have to book the room directly with Ewing Element where they are currently charging \$135 per night.

- **How long will the registration desk be open and what services will be provided?**

The registration desk will open on Saturday at 11am and we expect to have it manned throughout the retreat. This desk will serve as a contact point for all information, direction, shuttle service, lost and found and basically your one-stop Help Center.

- **Are my payments for this retreat tax deductible?**

Only retreat sponsors (Silver and higher) will get an eligible tax receipt for charitable deduction purposes. Regular registrants DO NOT qualify for tax deductible payment.

- **How do I get a receipt for tax purposes?**

The tax receipts are automatically generated once payment has been received. If you have not received your receipt kindly email us at retreat.registration@achi.org.

- **Can I register for the youth cruise at the retreat?**

No, you cannot. The last date for the youth cruise registration is Wednesday, June 29th. We currently have more than 60 youth already signed up for this exciting Philadelphia cruise.

- **What do I do first when I arrive in Trenton?**

Kindly go to your hotel to check in (if you are staying at one of the two hotels) and then come to the auditorium for registration which will start at 11am. After picking up your registration material, please go to the auditorium dining area to enjoy your boxed lunch.

●**Can I register only for one day of the retreat?**

Yes, you register for one day and pay half of the regular registration and food costs. Once you have registered online, please send an email to retreat.registration@achi.org so that we can adjust your bill accordingly.

●**Can I sign up for the retreat DVD purchase during registration?**

Yes, you can. You will get a complete set of the entire retreat for \$15. It will be delivered to your regional representative who will get it to you at one of the local functions.

Hotels & Accommodations

●**In your earlier email, you had said that you will be informing us of the room numbers, but how come I have not received any information so far?**

Due to the varied timings of check in, the hotels want the flexibility to change the room numbers based on availability. So if we inform you of the room numbers much earlier, it will cause confusion. So room numbers will be assigned only at the time of check in. However please note that the type of room King or Double will be the same as what we had earlier informed you.

●**Do I need a reservation number of anything to check in to the hotel?**

No. Just give your first name and last name.

●**Can I get a room at the Trenton Marriott, which is next to the Trenton War Memorial?**

We are totally sold out of rooms since the end of February at the Trenton Marriott. We are currently only allotting rooms at our secondary hotel (Element, Ewing, NJ) which is 5 miles away and approximately a 12 minute drive to the auditorium. NSNA has arranged a shuttle service also for your convenience.

Trenton Marriott Hotel

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ttnmc-trenton-marriott-downtown/>

Ewing Element Hotel

<http://www.hershahotels.com/new-jersey/ewing-nj0004-home.aspx>

●**Can I switch my room allocation from a King to a Double at Trenton Marriott?**

Most Nagarathar families are made up of 3-4 people and a double room would be perfect for everyone, but we had only limited double rooms at the Trenton Marriott and they have been fully allotted. Kindly understand our predicament. We are happy to accommodate you with a large double room at the Element hotel based on availability.

●**Can I book hotel stay before or after the retreat through NSNA?**

Yes, you can. Kindly email retreat.registration@achi.org with your requirements.

●**How do I get to the auditorium from the Element Hotel?**

We have arranged for shuttle service between Element and the auditorium. For those with a car, [click here for the directions](#). The shuttle service timings will be posted in the lobby of the Ewing Hotel or please ask the front desk at Ewing for the shuttle service timings. At the auditorium, you can check the schedule at the registration desk.

- **Will the hotel ask me for my credit card during check in, even though I have paid in full to NSNA?**

Yes they will. A credit card is required for incidental charges you may incur.

- **Is there a safe / locker in my room for my valuables?**

No.

Travel / Parking:

- **Which are the closest airports?**

There are four airports in the region: Philadelphia, Newark, JFK and La Guardia. The closest airport is Philadelphia and it is 40 minutes from the venue. NSNA is not providing any shuttle or limousine service to the venue from the airports.

- **How do I get to the hotel from the airports?**

"Shuttle / Limo service is not cost effective. Getting a limo for the round trip between the hotel and airport would be close to \$300. We check out car rentals for 3 days with pick up and drop off at the airport and it worked out around \$150, so felt most of our nagarathars would go with the car rental.

- **What are the driving directions for the auditorium?**

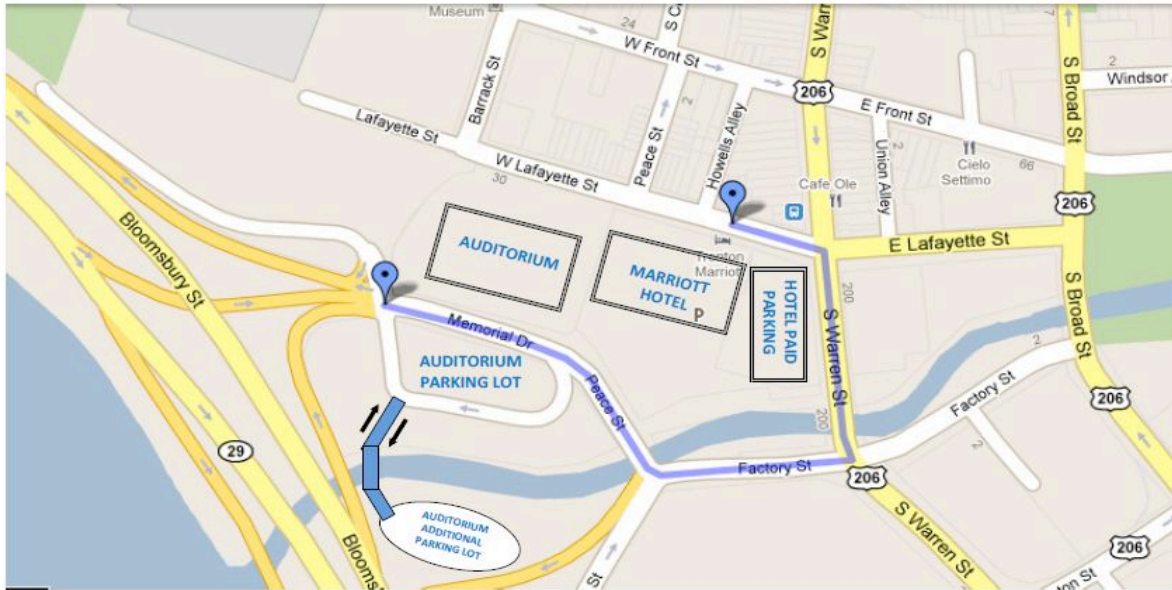
Kindly use ONLY the Trenton Marriott hotel address on your GPS (Trenton War Memorial Auditorium is right next door). **The address for the War memorial doesn't come up properly on many GPS systems.** Refer to the attached map showing the exact location of the auditorium.

Address of Marriott Hotel: 1 West Lafayette Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

- **Where do I park my car?**

There is ample free outdoor parking within a 2-5 min walk from hotel. There is a parking deck attached to the hotel which has an extra charge of \$7/day. Refer to the attached map showing the parking lots around the auditorium.

**NSNA RETREAT 2011- WAR MEMORIAL TRENTON
DIRECTION BETWEEN MARRIOTT HOTEL & AUDITORIUM PARKING LOT**



● **How do I use the shuttle from Element hotel to the auditorium?**

A free shuttle has been arranged which runs from Ewing Element Hotel to the auditorium starting at 12 noon to midnight on Saturday and 9am - midnight on Sunday.

● **Which is the nearest train station?**

Trenton.

Food

● **What are the timings for the food?**

Boxed lunch on Saturday will be provided from 12 noon – 2pm. Dinner on Saturday is from 7:30pm – 9:00pm. Hot Indian breakfast on Sunday is from 7.30am – 9.30am. Lunch on Sunday is from 1:00pm – 2:30pm and dinner on Sunday is from 7:30pm – 9pm. Breakfast on Monday morning will be provided at your respective hotels from 7am – 10am. Coffee/tea is available (coupons will be provided) throughout the program at the coffee/tea/snack stall. Snacks are available for purchase at the snack stall as well.

● **Where is the food available?**

Food will be available in the dining areas of the auditorium. There is an upper and lower dining area as well as a tent outside the auditorium for additional seating.

●Where do I get coffee and tea?

There will be four coffee/tea coupons with your registration material and this can be exchanged for coffee/tea during the entire retreat. Additional cups may be bought at the coffee/tea stall for a nominal cost.

●Are snacks available for purchase?

Yes, you may buy snacks at our snack booth, which is above the lobby.

●Will you be providing me with Friday dinner or Saturday breakfast?

Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast will be provided to all Nagarathars who have booked a hotel room for Friday night. Dinner will be served between 7 and 9 PM and breakfast between 8:00 and 9:30 AM. Both of them will be served at the auditorium dining room.

●Will breakfast be provided on Monday morning?

YES, at your respective hotels from 7 am to 10 am.

●Will lunch be provided on Monday?

No.

Cultural Events

●What are the auditorium rules?

- Strictly no food or beverages allowed in the auditorium.
- Strictly no tripods allowed in the auditorium.
- Kids are not permitted to run in the auditorium. They should be seated at all times in a seat when inside. We would appreciate it if parents of little kids take their kids outside of the auditorium if they need room to run.

●How do I register for a cultural event?

Sorry, registration was closed as of May 1st, 2011.

●What time is my program? Where should I report to?

The primary contact for the cultural program will be getting an email with all the information needed – what time to report to and where to report to. Please follow the directions given in this email.

●When do I report to the Green Room/Waiting Room?

The green room is the waiting room where you wait before being called up to the stage for your performance. You will be notified in the email what time to report to the green room.

●Will there be dressing rooms available at the auditorium?

Yes, however, due to the large number of participants, we encourage for you to get dressed up for your program at the Marriott itself. Of course, you may also use the dressing rooms at the auditorium but please understand that they may be crowded.

● **I had given my name for the Vaanga Pesalam Vanga. What should I do?**

You should have received an email from the Events Committee regarding all the information needed for the Talk Show on Sunday morning.

● **Can I change my audio file?**

No. The files have already given to the technicians and they are not entertaining any more changes.

● **Can I change lighting specifications?**

No. These instruction have already given to the technicians and they are not entertaining any more changes.

● **Can I change the program time for my item?**

No. The schedule has been firmed up after consultation with the technicians and changes will not be accepted.

● **Do I need to bring my audio/presentation files on a cd/dvd to the retreat?**

Yes. There instructions will also be emailed to the primary contact for your program. Please bring a clearly labeled cd/dvd to the retreat as a backup.

Breakout Sessions

● **Where and when are the breakout sessions taking place?**

Please visit <http://achi.org/retreat-breakout-sessions-vendors> for all the details about the breakout sessions or consult the agenda brochure that you can obtain during the retreat.

● **Do I need to bring anything to the breakout sessions?**

No.

● **Who can attend the 'Preparing for College' breakout session?**

This is a session for kids who are older than 13 years and adults. The doors to this session will be closed 15 minutes after it starts and you will not be able to enter the room after the doors close.

Chuttis' Club activities (Age 4-9)

● **What time does the club open?**

The Chuttis' Club is open during the following times:

Saturday - 4:30 to 7:00pm (Magic Show)

Saturday - 8:30 to 10:00pm (Movie Night)

Sunday - 2:30 to 5:30pm (Activity Stations)

●**What information is required to drop off/pick up my child?**

The same person who drops off the child is responsible for picking up the child. Please have a form of identification (ex. retreat name tag) with you when dropping/picking up.

●**Will snacks/drinks be provided for the kids if they are hungry?**

Yes. Please let us know if there are any allergies that we need to be aware of when dropping off.

●**Will parents be allowed inside?**

YES, this is highly encouraged and highly appreciated.

●**What other information do I need to know?**

The kids will be accompanied to the restroom by an adult. However, your child needs to be able to use the restroom INDEPENDENTLY. If your child needs help, please stay with your child during the entire session.

Junior Nagarathar Activities (Age 10-16)

●**Where can I drop off the posters/DVD for the exposition?**

Please drop off all posters (clearly labeled with your child's name) at the registration desk. All DVD presentations of documentaries should be emailed to us at retreat.events@achi.org by June 30th.

●**What is there for the Junior Nagarathars to do at the retreat?**

- Nagarathar youth (17+) are going to share their college experience with the Juniors (13-16) on Saturday at 6:00pm in the Youth Lounge. Please make sure to attend this interactive session. You can learn about life at college, courses available, etc.
- There is the poster/documentary exposition at the retreat. Posters will be displayed in the lower dining hall and documentaries will be aired on stage.
- There is a breakout session (for kids 13+ and their parents) called "Preparing for College" on Sunday morning at 8:30 AM sharp.
- You can also learn a lot about our Nagarathar heritage by partaking in a Nagarathar Scavenger Hunt. The scavenger hunt will start at 10 AM on Sunday, July 3rd at the Registration Desk. Completed scavenger hunt sheets should be returned to the registration table. A nice prize awaits the first 10 kids to complete the scavenger hunt correctly.

●**Will I have a chance to interact with the Youth?**

Yes, at the Youth Lounge during the College Information sharing session.

●**Can Juniors (10-16) join the cruise?**

No. Cruise is reserved exclusively for the Youth (17+). Please note that parents will not be going on the cruise.

Youth Activities & Cruise(Age 17+)

●When do we leave for the cruise and where do we meet?

Bus to the cruise will leave at 10:00AM on Sunday from the Marriott Hotel.

●Will there be chaperons on the cruise?

Yes, a few adults will accompany the youth on the cruise. Other than the chaperons, the cruise is reserved exclusively for the youth.

●What time will we get back from the cruise?

Bus from the cruise is expected to arrive around 3:30PM on Sunday.

●When we arrive at the retreat, how can we find out more details about the youth activities?

There will be a youth registration desk at the reception of the Trenton War Memorial auditorium. All the details that you need will be provided there.

●I have a specific question or suggestion about the youth activities now. Who can I contact?

You can email Arjun (arjun.singaram@gmail.com) or Aruna (deivanai.chida@gmail.com).

●I like to share my college experience with the younger Nagarathar kids. Is there a place for this?

You have a perfect opportunity to do this. We are organizing a college information sharing session at 6PM on Saturday at the Youth Lounge. Please give your college details to the youth organizers at the registration desk.

●How do I connect with the other youth during the retreat?

There is a separate lounge reserved for the Youth where you can meet others. You can also connect with them during the exclusive youth cruise.

Vendor Stalls

Who are the vendors?

Here are the vendors who have confirmed as of now.

- Wells Fargo Mortgage - Financial Services
- AXA - Financial Services
- Nafisha Jewelry - Fashion Jewelry
- Vairam Meenu - Diamond and Gold Jewelry
- Cake Walk - Snacks & Coffee/Tea
- New York Life Insurance – Insurance
- Nakarwalie.com – Clothing
- South Indian Sarees - Clothing

Nearby Attractions / Tourism:

●What are some of the nearby attractions?

- Sesame Place, PA- Theme park for little kids which is only 20 minutes away
- Six Flags / Great Adventure/ Hurricane Harbor - Theme park / Water Park
- Hershey Park, PA – Theme Park at the birthplace of Hershey Chocolates
- Philadelphia - Just 40 minutes and a happening place on July 4th for Independence day
- New York City is just 2 hrs by train or by driving from Trenton
- Washington DC is 3 ½ - 4 hrs from Trenton
- Niagara Falls is 7 hrs from Trenton
- Boston is 5 ½ hrs from Trenton
- Pittsburgh is 6 hrs from Trenton

●How far is Bridgewater Temple?

It is approximately a 55 minute drive.

1075 Us Highway 202/206, Bridgewater, NJ, 08807

<http://www.venkateswara.org/>

●How far is Flushing Temple?

It is approximately a 1 ¾ hr drive.

4557 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355

<http://www.nyganesh temple.org/>

●Where is Little India in NJ? What is available there?

The main stretch of Little India in NJ is on Oak Tree Road in Edison/Iselin. It is about a 45 minute drive from Trenton. There is a WIDE range of stores for your shopping/dining pleasure. We have highlighted a few below:

Saravana Bhavan → 149 North Wood Avenue, Edison, NJ 08820 Ph: (732) 767-0033

Sukhadia's → Excellent sweets and snacks shop
1507 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

Anjappar in NJ → 2 Locations

Main: 200 Lisa Pl, North Brunswick, NJ (732) 297-3663

Oak Tree Rd Area: 849 Green Street, Iselin, NJ 08830

Emergency Health care

●Where is a first aid kit available?

It is available at the registration desk and in the Chuttis' Club room at the Marriott.

●What are closest hospitals from the auditorium?

St. Francis Medical Center

601 Hamilton Avenue

Trenton, NJ 08629
(609) 599-5000

Capital Health System at Mercer

446 Bellevue Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08618
(609) 394-4000

RWJ University Hospital at Hamilton

1 Hamilton Health Place
Hamilton, NJ 08690
(609) 586-7900

Nearby Stores

Rite Aid (Pharmacy)

127 E State St,
Trenton, NJ
Phone: (609) 394-1193

Walgreens (Pharmacy - Open 24 hrs)

1096 Route 33,
Hamilton, NJ 08690
Phone: (609) 689-3060

Walmart

101 Nassau Park Blvd
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: (609) 987-0202

Walmart

700 Marketplace Blvd
Hamilton, NJ 08691
Phone: (609) 585-1463

Wegman's (US Grocery Store)

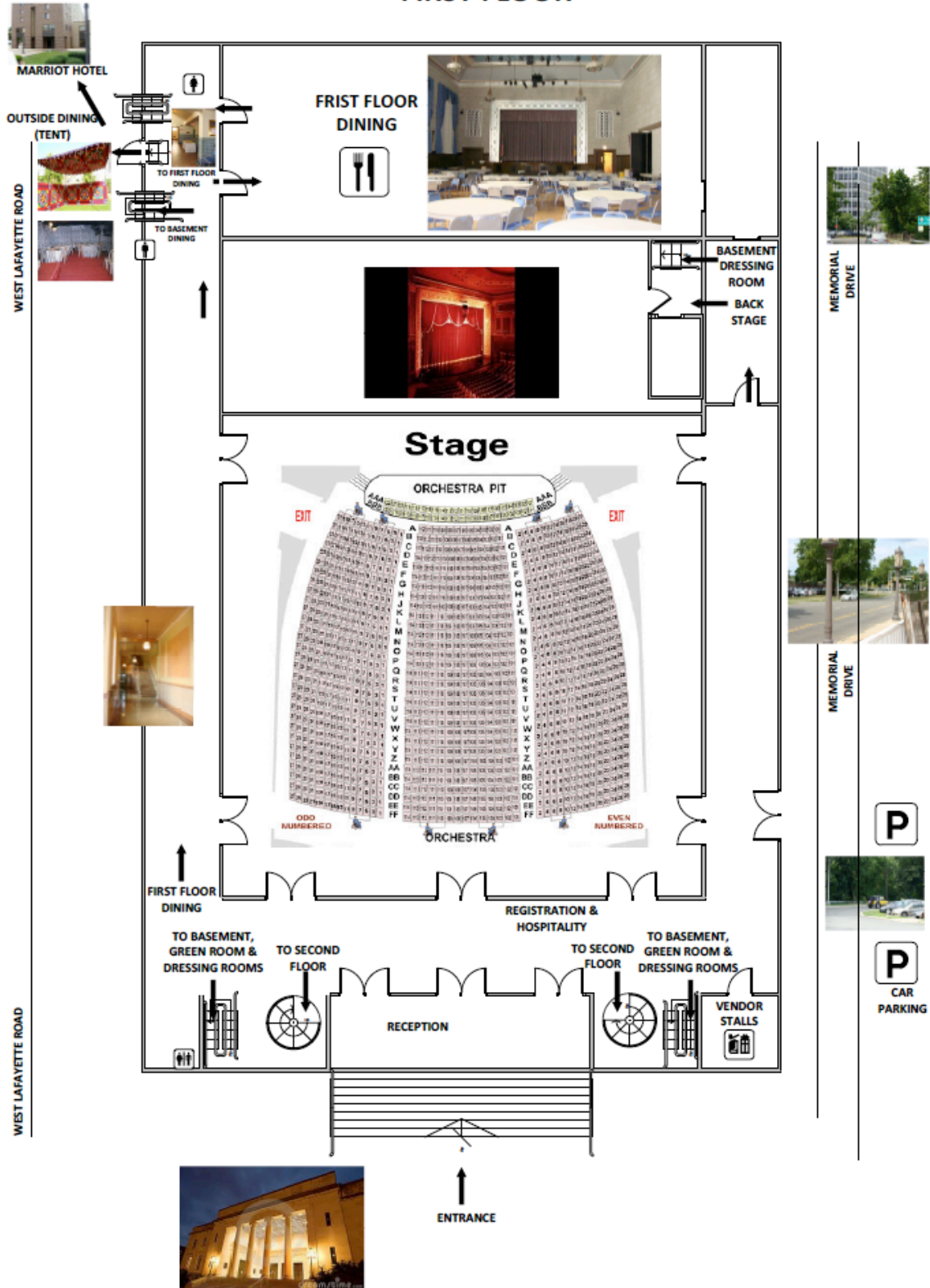
240 Nassau Park Blvd
Princeton NJ 08540
(609) 919-9300

Auditorium Layout

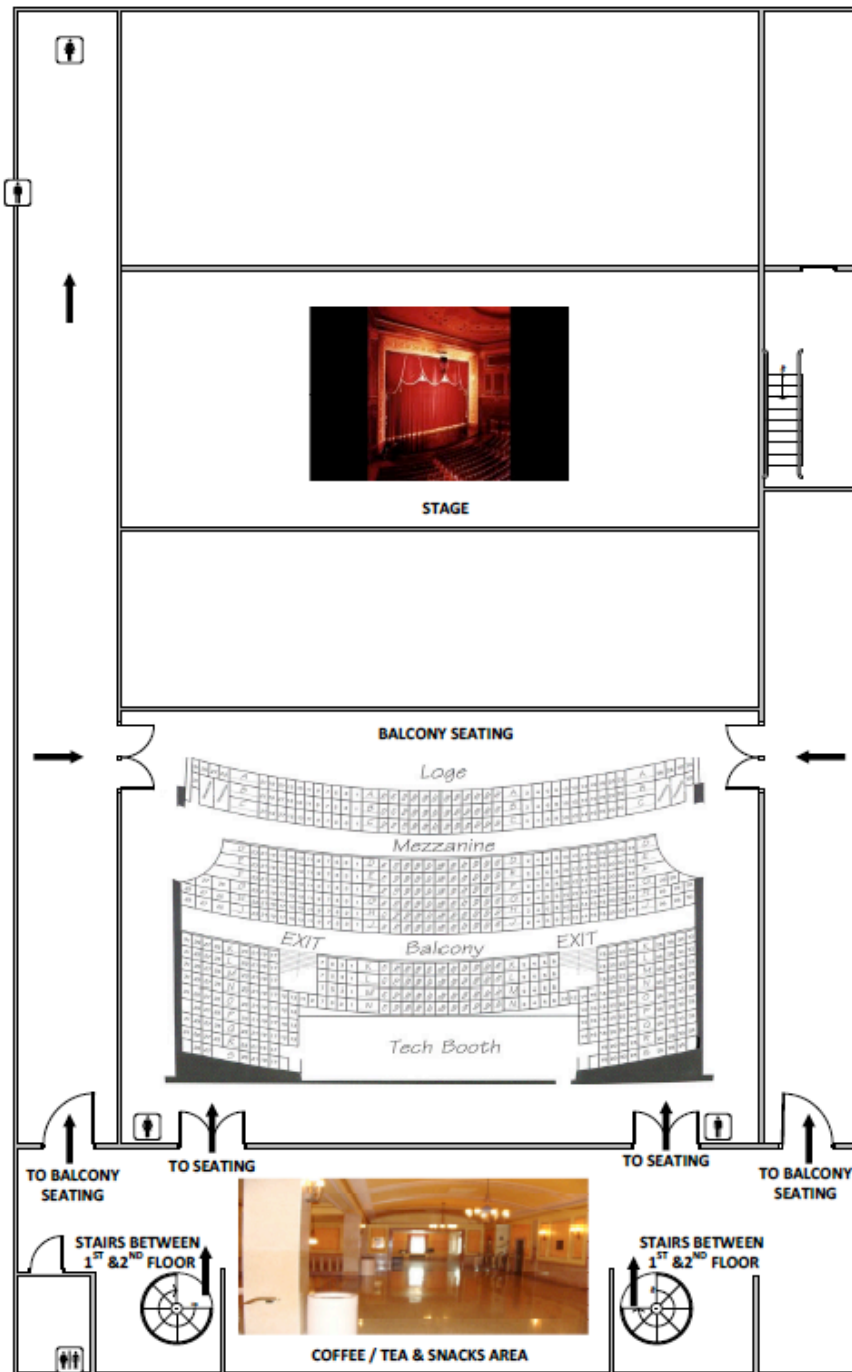
- **Where are the different things happening in the auditorium?**

The following pages show the layout of the different floors of the auditorium.

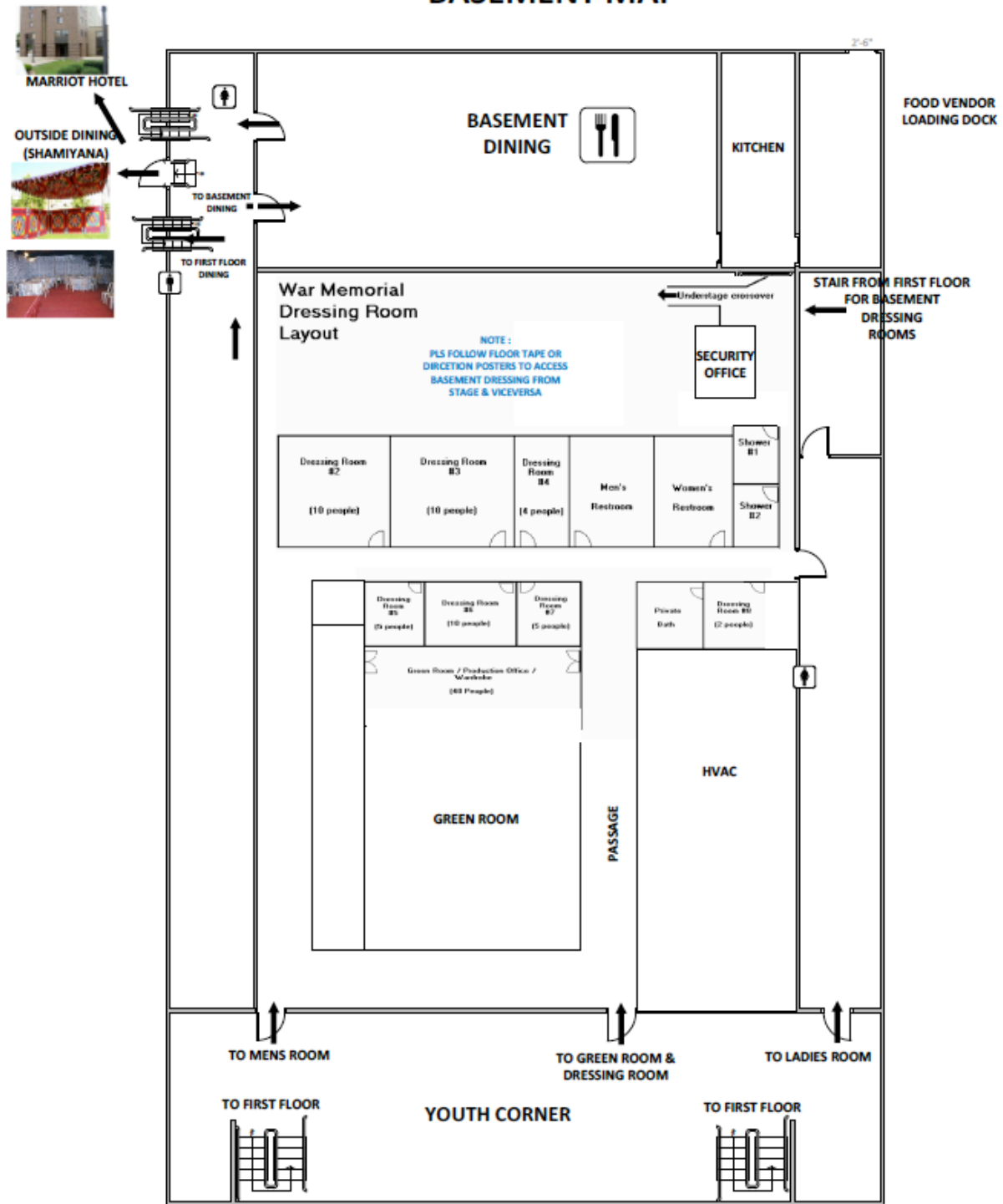
NSNA RETREAT 2011- WAR MEMORIAL TRENTON FIRST FLOOR



NSNA RETREAT 2011- WAR MEMORIAL TRENTON SECOND FLOOR



NSNA RETREAT 2011- WAR MEMORIAL TRENTON BASEMENT MAP



BASEMENT MAP