

India Community Center Newsletter

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Visit India Community Center Website: www.icor.org

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ICC Board of Trustees Chair's Report

It is my privilege and honor to serve as the 2008 Chair for the ICC Board of Trustees. The past year has been very productive under the leadership of Dr. Padmanabh Kamath. I would like to sincerely thank him for his vision, guidance and the incredible amount of time that he spends on ICC. I am pleased that he will continue on the 2008 BOT as Director of Operations.

I would like to thank the outgoing Trustees for their dedicated service to ICC – Manju Rajeswaran (Youth coordinator), Amit Thakker (Treasurer), Suman Shenoy (Treasurer and Diwali Committee Co-Chair), and Shubha Kamat (Cultural Events and Diwali Committee Co-Chair). I look forward to their continued involvement with ICC.

This year, we have 14 Trustees of which 10 are new to the Board. It is a very diverse group representing 7 different states of India. I am confident that we will have a very successful year. I also urge the members to get involved and volunteer for ad-hoc Committees that are set up during the year to plan cultural events. It is a lot of fun and a great way of making new friends.

I have established a Long Range Planning Committee with Padmanabh Kamath as the lead, to address fundraising, building additions, upgrade and new rentals.

We now have a new and attractive website created by Satha Nalliannan. I thank him for the several hours of work that he has donated to ICC for completing this task. He will continue to manage and host the site.

The planning for the annual events is underway. The ICC Annual Banquet is on March 29, We have a very special entertainment planned, which is play written by Professor Raman. The Music season that will start on March 28 once again has an excellent series with renowned artists. Mother's Day Celebration has been scheduled for Saturday, May 10. As in 2007, many of the programs will be member-only events. Please come and enjoy the quality programs that we are planning for you.

Thank you,

Jayanti Venkataraman

From the Editorial Board

Chief Editor: Jayanti Venkataraman

Please submit news items for the following sections.

- Community news
- Youth Newsmakers
- College Youth Newsmakers
- Cultural news
- Health column
- Children's' column
- Birth Announcements
- Marriage announcements

Please submit your articles to:

Jayanti Venkataraman,
jnveee@rit.edu

Advertisements

For information / rates please email

jnveee@rit.edu

Upcoming ICC Events

- ICC Annual Banquet March 29
- Carnatic Vocal March 28
- Carnatic Vocal April 11
- Hindustani Vocal April 18
- Carnatic Veena April 25
- Dance Drama May 3
- Hindustani Vocal May 9
- Mother's Day May 10

ICC Website

www.iccrochester.org

Jigar Shah
Chief Strategy Officer, SunEdison
Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker
ICC Annual Banquet March 29, 2008



Jigar Shah is chief strategy officer, and founder of SunEdison. Jigar was born in Gujarat India and came with his parents to the US in late 1975. His father is a family practice physician in Sterling, Illinois. Shah earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and his MBA from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland. Sun Edison LLC is North America's leading solar energy services provider. SunEdison provides solar-generated energy to a broad and diverse client base of commercial, municipal and utility customers. The company headquarters is located in Beltsville, Md. Mr. Shah has been featured in publications such as Fortune and Distributed Energy Magazine..

Shah has extensive experience in both the PV solar and wind industries. Before founding SunEdison in 2003, Shah worked in mergers & acquisitions, corporate strategy, and sales - specializing in national commercial accounts - for industry giant, BP Solar. Along with working for the Department of Energy on alternative vehicle and fuel cell programs, Shah has worked in an engineering capacity for both AstroPower, the largest publicly traded pure-play PV solar company, and Atlantic Orient Corporation, a leader in the medium sized wind turbine market.

He recalls writing a business plan for an entrepreneurship class for his MBA degree. At a time

when everyone was interested in IT related companies, energy was not on the radar screen. Shah recalls, "Our main problem was that we were a small company with big dreams. We received help from Goldman Sachs for our first project. SunEdison's main differentiation is their ability to sell solar as a service. Customers don't want to own and operate their own solar power plants, they just want the predictable pricing that solar can provide. The pricing came naturally once the business model was set."

Responding to the debate that nuclear energy is the more efficient, Shah states, "Nuclear Energy is a wonderful technology but it creates a burden on the transmission and distribution infrastructure. Most applications are much better suited for a distributed technology approach. In India, where power cuts can be a regular occurrence, individuals and business can switch to solar energy – not nuclear power.

Asked if he is exploring opportunities in India, he says, "India has a tremendous potential for solar energy, with financial resources to support solar development. There are over 75,000 villages still without power that can easily be converted to solar power by 2012. The next area to focus on is water pumping. Today, there are over 16 million water pumping units in India with an additional 5 million needed. Grid power is a poor source of power for water pumps. Also, India has extreme grid congestion. Solar PV plants can easily be placed in strategic places along the electricity grid to increase the reliability and power quality while reducing the overall price of electricity to the people. India has been a world leader in solar power for over 20 years and can utilize this expertise to provide convenient power to its people."

His advice to new entrepreneurs is that the key to success is (1) find something that is uniquely yours and you are passionate about. (2) Do something. Whether the business succeeds or fails, you should have the courage to try. The number one strategy is to hire people that are smarter than you. The second one is to do things' in the right way, don't take shortcuts – they always end up costing you more in the future. His keynote address is titled

"Solar as a Climate Change Solution".

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Indian Classical Music and Dance Society of ICC Presents Spring Season 2008



Friday, March 28, 2008

**Carnatic Vocal concert by
Sikkil Gurucharan.**



Friday, April 11, 2008

**Carnatic Vocal concert by
Aruna Sairam.**



Friday, April 18, 2008

**Hindustani Vocal concert by
Umakant and Ramakant
Gundecha.**



Friday, April 25, 2008

**Carnatic Veena concert
by Jayanthi Kumaresh.**



**Saturday, May 3, 2008 (Venue
for this program is yet to be
finalized)**

**“THE LIGHT OF ASIA” –
Dance drama by local artistes.**



Friday, May 9, 2008

**Hindustani Vocal
concert by Hemang
Mehta**

Venue for all programs:

India Community Center,
2171 Monroe Wayne County Line Road, Macedon, NY 14502.
8:00 p.m.

Time:

Admission:

Music Programs:

Free for ICC members, sponsors and patrons.

\$15 for non-members, \$7 for non-member seniors and students.

Dance Program

Free for ICC members, sponsors and patrons;

(May 3, 2008):

Non-members: \$20 (Adults); High-school students & younger: \$7

For information, please contact Varahan Ganesan (425-3891) or visit www.iccrochester.org

2008 ICC Board of Trustees

Jayanti Venkataraman, Chair Newsletter and Education Committee



Dr. Jayanti Venkataraman joined the Board of Trustees in 2003 and has served as the ICC Newsletter Editor since that time. In 2007 she established the Education Committee and will continue to serve as Chair. She is a professor in electrical engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Her husband,

Dr. P. Venkataraman is professor in mechanical engineering at RIT, her daughter is a graduate student at MIT and her son is a Freshman at Princeton University. Her hobby is Community Service that includes outreach K-12 educational activities, Professional Society activities and service to the Indian Community.

Jose Maleikal, Vice Chair and Scheduling



Born and raised in Kerala, Dr. Jose Maleikal moved to Rochester in 1990 to take up a teaching job with SUNY College at Brockport, where he is currently the Associate Dean of the School of Letters and Sciences. He lives in Brighton with his wife, Dr. Mary D'Souza, and son, Prashanth (11). Jose has been an ICC Board Member since 2004, and has served

as the Board Secretary in 2005. Besides politics, he enjoys music and sports.

Ramnik Vora Treasurer

(Photograph and bio-sketch not available at the time of publication)

Vithal Sanapala, Secretary

(Photograph and bio-sketch not available at the time of publication)

Padmanabh Kamath Director of Operations

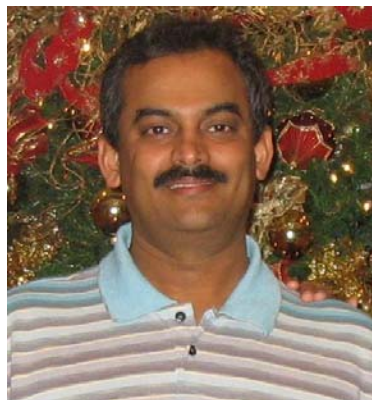


Dr. Padmanabh Kamath joined the ICC BOT for the first time in 1992. He was the Chairperson from 1993 -1995. During his Chairmanship and subsequently, he was actively involved in arranging the Music and Dance Programs of the ICC. In 2002, he took the initiative to do the ICC Cabin Project. He rejoined

the BOT in 2007 and assumed the Chairmanship again. Padmanabh is a past recipient of the ICC Service Excellence Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Varahan Ganesan, Chair Classical Music Societ

Varahan Ganesan joined the ICC Board in 2006 when he took over as the Chair for the Indian Classical



Music and Dance Society of ICC. He has been active member of the Committee since 2002. The

committee arranges concerts by renowned Carnatic and Hindustani artistes from India and is self-funded thanks to the active support by our

community. Varahan lives in Fairport with his wife Hema and daughters Sandya and Aruna.

Srini Garapathy, Membership

(Photograph and bio-sketch not available at the time of publication)

2008 ICC Board of Trustees

Mythreyi Srinivasan, Youth Programs



Mythreyi Srinivasan is one of our new Trustees. She has a Masters in Geography. She lives in Pittsford with her family. In the past she has volunteered at ICC and HHSC. She strongly believes that, "today's youths are tomorrow's trustees". She intends

contributing towards bring together Indian Youth group and their participation at ICC. She would like to welcome our community youths to do volunteer service as well as organize event that would benefit them at the community center.

Anushree Shah, Programs



Anu Shah has lived in Rochester for the past 8 years, where she currently runs a Bollywood Dance Studio. Dancing is her passion and she enjoys educating Indians and Non-Indians about her own culture through bollywood dance. Anu has completed her MBA with Marketing as her major. She worked at

EDS @ XEROX for five years as a Business Analyst. Her husband Amit Shah works at Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield. She has two daughters, Aanchal (8 years) and Aashna (2 years). Apart from dancing she also enjoys cooking.

Girish Dahake, Communications

(Photograph and bio-sketch not available at the time of publication)

Rujuta Dholakia, Programs

(Photograph and bio-sketch not available at the time of publication)

Shalini Rai, Programs



Shalin Rai graduated with a Masters degree from Miranda House, Delhi University. She pursued graduate coursework in communications and PR in Boston and interned at the Massachusetts State House. She moved to Rochester with her husband. Since then she has stayed home to raise a family. She is an avid

reader and has a keen interest in the visual arts and crafts. She lives in Fairport with her husband Dr. Sudhendu Rai and daughters Aanchal and Sonal.

Bharat Shah, Programs

Bharat Shah works for Kodak and joined ICC Board in



2005 to serve the community and is presently involved with Programs Bharat, his wife Kusum and their daughter, Divya live in Brighton. Bharat enjoys traveling, outdoor activities and reading.

Raj Rajan, Youth Programs

(Photograph not available at the time of publication)

Dr. Raj Rajan is an environmental engineer, leading the process engineering group at a Rochester area renewable energy startup that was recently acquired by a St. Paul based multinational. Raj and his wife Kavitha Sitaram have been ICC members since they relocated to the area in 2004. They built a PV solar powered home and live in Victor with their children Shiraz (14) and Nikhil (12). Joining the ICC Board in 2008 to assist with youth participation and educational outreach, Raj is an avid gardener, cook, home improvement enthusiast, extensive traveler, and lifelong philatelist.

Saathi of Rochester Annual Banquet 2008

Saathi held the Annual Banquet on January 26. Two hundred guests attended the event (Afshan Qureshi - MC). The program included a workshop to showcase how the attitudes of the family members and society add to the burden of the domestic violence victim, and how the proper understanding of the situation by the same members can lead to relief and empowerment of the victim. Kate Cerulli, (U of R, Interpersonal Violence Research Program) gave the keynote address on "Hidden Effects of Domestic Violence".



From Left: Afshan Qureshi, Anu Sharma and Shashi

It was emphasized at the event that in 2007, Saathi received calls from 84 clients, and was actively involved in helping some of them. Saathi's ongoing expenses include costs of accommodation (we are currently maintaining 2 apartments for the benefit of Saathi clients) and legal assistance for the clients. In 2008, Saathi anticipates total expenses of about \$40,000. At the banquet (and subsequently), 107 people donated a total of \$15,635 to Saathi. Donors can send the contributions (payable to Saathi) to Dr. Shashi Sharma, 29 Trowbridge Tr., Pittsford, NY 14534.

Kalidas Play on May 30, 31 and June 1

Kalidas will present the next play, "Too Soon For Daisies" on May 30, 31 and June 1. Janani Parthasarathi will direct the play. We will have 2 days of Dinner Theater (May 30 and 31), and the regular show on June 1. More details will soon follow. We are currently looking for actors and actresses for the play. If anybody is interested, please contact Padmanabh Kamath at 381-1541 or by e-mail, ckamath1@rochester.rr.com.

The loving teachings of KRIYA YOGA

Kriya Yoga Group of Rochester invites you to the following program:

Friday, May 9, 2008, 7:00 PM: Public Lecture, Kriya Yoga, the Ancient Science of Meditation by Brahmachari Vidyananda and Yogacharya David Strassner, Hindu Temple of Rochester

Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11, 2008: Kriya Initiations and Guided Meditations for initiates.

Location to be announced on Friday during the Public Lecture.

If you have any questions, please call Jagdish & Sucheta at 585-223-3167 or Phil at 585-343-5443
Send e-mail to: omjag@hotmail.com or phil@oneworldprojects.com

To learn more about Kriya Yoga, please visit www.kriya.org
Read the spiritual classic book "Autobiography of a Yogi" by Paramahansa Yogananda

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Guest performance by your very own... Neelam Singh Chaudhri

Friday, April 11, 2008

8pm sharp (seating at 7:30pm)

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1981 Clover St., Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Tickets: \$35, \$25, \$15 (additional \$5 per ticket at the door)

Available: Amita Viyas: 585-442-5535 India Market: 585-427-8667

For Details Contact: Neelam: 858-414-1152 Mona: 585-223-6124

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23rd ICC Annual Banquet

March 29 2008, at ICC

Chief Guest & Keynote Speaker
Jigar Shah

Founder and Chief Strategy Officer, SunEdison

Program

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|-----------|---|
| 6:00 p.m. | Social Hour |
| 7:00 p.m. | Invocation & Welcome |
| 7:30 p.m. | Keynote Speech |
| 8:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 9:00 p.m. | ICC Service Excellence Award Presentation |
| 9:15 p.m. | Short Play "India Unity Day" written by Dr. V. V. Raman |

For information please contact:

**Jayanti Venkataraman (461 1817), Jose Maliekal (244-1760),
 Padmanabh Kamath (381-1541)**