

India Community Center Newsletter

ICC Scheduling: 244 -1760

United Way Number: 1137

Visit India Community Center Website: www.iccrochester.org

Board of Trustees

Jose Maliekal
Chair and Scheduling
585-244-1769
jmaliekal@brockport.edu

Padmanabh Kamath
Director of operations
585-381-1541
Ckamath1@rochester.rr.com

Mythreyi Srinivasan
Secretary
585-264-8992
mythre_srinii6073@yahoo.com

Ramnik Vora
Treasurer
585-264-9834
ramvora@yahoo.com

Jayanti Venkataraman
Newsletter Editor and Education
Committee
585 461 1817
jveee@rit.edu

Raja Bala
Classical Music and Dance
585 671-5298
rajabala65@gmail.com

Srinivas Garapati
Membership
585-244-3166
Srini@Garapati.com

Raj Rajan
Youth Coordinator
585-869-7716
rajan_rv@hotmail.com

Girish Dahake
Membership
585-387-9305
sgdahake@frontiernet.net

Shalini Rai
Cultural Programs
585-585-421-9618
Shalinirai03@yahoo.com

Anushree Shah
Cultural Programs
585-248-5982
bollywooddancemania@gmail.com

Rujuta Dholakia
Cultural Programs
585-319-5797
trujuta@gmail.com

ICC Board of Trustees Chair's Report

About three-quarters of the calendar year is behind us, yet it feels that I assumed the chairmanship of the Board of Trustees of ICC only a couple of months ago. And what a year it has been! Thanks to the efforts of the Trustee Raj Rajan, not only did ICC manage to secure a \$224,000 grant from New York State Energy Research and Development Corporation (NYSERDA), but it also completed the installation of a 50 kilo Watt (kW) Photo Voltaic (PV) unit on the roof of our building. This unit became operational towards the end of July, and by the time you read this Newsletter, it would have produced over 10,000 kW-hour (kWh) of electricity. The power consumed by a typical family in a day is about 20 kWh, which means that ICC's PV unit has already produced enough electricity to meet an average family's electricity need for more than a year. What has been achieved so far is a matter of great pride to all of us. Regrettably, though, we are still behind in raising money to meet ICC's out of pocket expenses. Given the community's enthusiasm for protecting the environment, I am optimistic that more members would come forward and help out with their contributions.

Recently, I came across the following quote attributed to Rabindranath Tagore. "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." Without the services of dedicated individuals, an organization like ICC cannot survive. Name any ICC-sponsored event, you will see a committed core of "usual suspects" doing whatever it takes to make the event successful. They enjoy what they do. Their smiles testify to that effect. Absent active participation by more members of the community, sustaining these activities will be difficult. Keeping this in mind, the Board of Trustees would like to develop symbiotic relationships with various regional groups. I am happy to come and talk to any regional group about ways in which the two organizations can work together and help each other. Please get in touch with me or one of the Trustees.

Jose Maliekal

From the Editorial Board

Chief Editor: Jayanti Venkataraman

Advertisements

For information / rates please email
jnveee@rit.edu

ICC's United Way Number 1137

The ICC uses United Way funds that it receives, for charitable activities.

Please consider directing your United Way donations to ICC.

Upcoming ICC Events

Sept 18 – Hindustani vocal
Sept. 19 - Gilda's Club Fund-raiser
Oct 2 - Hindustani sitar
Oct 10 - ICC Diwali
Oct 16 – Hindustani vocal
Oct 23 – Odissi / Kathak dance
Oct 30 - Karnatic vocal
Nov 21 - Junior artistes Bharatanatyam Dance
Dec 4, 5, 6 Kalidas Play
Dec 31 – New Year's Eve Party

ICC Website

www.iccrochester.org

ICC Celebrates the Graduation of the High School Class of 2009

By Vinayak Venkataraman

On June 6, the Education Committee of ICC hosted its annual celebration to honor the 2009 High School graduates and their supportive parents. It was conducted by Jayanti Venkataraman, Committee Chair. Each of the graduates spoke briefly introducing themselves and recognizing their parents. On behalf of the ICC, Jayanti Venkataraman presented each graduate with a gift, a book titled "The Argumentative Indian" by Amartya Sen.

A major part of the event was a discussion by a panel of Rochester natives who not too long ago were high school graduates themselves. The panel consisted of Dr. Varun Chowdhry, Priyanka Boghani, Anand Rajeswaran, and Chandni Sud, with Amit Chowdhry serving as the moderator. They offered thoughtful and relevant advice to all in attendance on topics such as high school course work, college application process, college life, and career choices.



From Left

Jay Amin, Rush Henrietta, University at Buffalo, **Sujay Tyle**, Pittsford Mendon, Harvard University, **Savan Mestha**, Fairport, University of Maryland, **Shruti Prasad**, Fairport, Northwestern University, **Chirag Rao**, Pittsford Sutherland, Cornell University, **Priya Gupta**, Pittsford Sutherland, Cornell University, **Gautam Aanand**, Rush Henrietta, University at Buffalo, and **Srivatsava Lakshmpuram**, Brighton, Monroe Community College,

Chandni Sud, 2006 graduate of Mendon HS and a senior at the University at Buffalo majoring in Biological Sciences and Business Management, presented an in-depth discussion on high school, coursework and extracurricular activities, as well as how to master the complicated college admissions process.

Anand Rajeswaran, 2005 graduate of Fairport HS and 2009 graduate from Columbia University

majoring in Computer Engineering, talked about his college experience, including how to prepare for life away from family, succeed academically, decide on a major, and balance extracurricular activities. He also discussed how he approached the job application process. Anand is now at Microsoft working as a Software Development Engineer



From left

Anand Rajeswaran, Varun Chowdhry, Chandni Sud, Amit Chowdhry and Priyanka Boghani

Priyanka Boghani, 2004 graduate of Brighton HS and graduate of Tufts University majoring in Psychology with a Minor in English, spoke about her unconventional path into journalism. After Tufts, she worked for a year in Journalism before making the decision to go back to receive her Master's degree in Journalism. She spoke primarily of her decision to pursue a career in journalism, the current challenges of the industry, and how future journalists should diversify their talents in different kinds of media to make themselves more marketable.

Dr. Varun Chowdry, 2001 graduate of Pittsford Sutherland completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Rochester and MD at SUNY Upstate Medical University. He summarized the conversation from high school academics to college life and went further to talk about how to structure the college curriculum. He discussed his path as a pre-medical student as an undergraduate as well as his experiences in medical school. He is currently completing his residency in Radiation-Oncology at SUNY Upstate and discussed his decision to go into his specialization.

The panel was capably moderated by Amit Chowdhry, a Pittsford Mendon Class of 2005, Cornell graduate class of 2009, and currently a MD/Ph.D. student at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He offered his own insights as the discussion unfolded as well as specifically about his decision between MD and MD/Ph.D.

The event was generously sponsored by Rohit Rao, 2000 graduate of Brighton High School, Rohit graduated from MIT with BS (2004) in Electrical Engineering and BS and MS (2005) in Mathematics. He currently works for Google in New York City.,

The evening concluded with a dinner hosted by the Thali of India. The ICC thanks Makan Singh for his continued support and generosity. Overall, it was very enjoyable and special event

"Black and White"

A review by Rujuta Dholakia

On August 1st ICC presented a wonderful show named 'Black And White'. It was very well received. Black and White presented a golden era of Hindi Cinema that included songs of K.L Saigal, Bimal Roy, V. Shantaram, and Guru Dutt. En route, we met the stylish Dev Anand, tragedy king Dilip Kumar, showman Raj Kapoor, the beautiful Madhubala, the classy Meena Kumari, and "Yahoo" Shammi Kapoor, to name a few.

"Black and White" was an excellent mix of performance on screen and stage. Aided by mega screen audio-visuals, the performers blended with the celluloid, making music come alive on the stage. The presentation format was reminiscent of a stage musical where the singers "act" the characters. It was nostalgic for the audience to see singers act as their favorite stars and at the same time listen to their enchanting voices.

All the artists of the show are very well accomplished artists from India. They started with songs like 'Vo Bhooli Dastan' and 'Aaja re' than sang some the big hits of time like "pyar hua ikraar hua" 'Haal Kaisa Hai' 'Hum ko Man ki Shakti' Babuji Dhire Chalna' and ended the program with first color song 'jab Pyar kiya to darna kya'. The audience enjoyed the journey thoroughly. It was truly one the best shows presented by ICC.

ICC Classical Music and Dance Society

by Raja Bala

We look forward to another exciting music and dance series this Fall. We have planned 3 Hindustani concerts, 2 Karnatic concerts, and a dual dance concert featuring Odissi and Kathak styles. In addition to the usual array of topnotch professional artistes, this season we are introducing a unique concert featuring some exceptional junior talent. These children have grown up entirely in the US, and have pursued our Indian classical artform to an outstanding level of proficiency.

The Fall series is given below. Our heartfelt thanks go to the generous patrons and sponsors who continue to make these delightful programs a reality!

Sept 18 Prasad Khaparde & party -Hindustani vocal
Oct 2 Irshad Khan & party -Hindustani sitar
Oct 9 R K Sriramkumar & party -Karnatic violin
Oct 16 Rahul Deshpande & party - Hindustani vocal
Oct 23 Yogini Gandhi & party - Odissi/Kathak dance
Oct 30 Suryaprakash & party -Karnatic vocal
Nov 21 (Sat) Bharatanatyam dance and karnatic music concerts by junior artistes

All concerts are at ICC at the usual time of 8pm on Friday evening, with the exception of the junior concert on Nov 21, which has been planned for a Saturday.

Music concerts are free for ICC members, sponsors and patrons; \$15 for non-members; and \$7 for non-member seniors and students. The dance program will be ticketed at \$10 for ICC members, \$20 for non-members, and \$7 for non-member seniors and students. All programs are free for children 5 and under.

We hope to see all of you at all the concerts!

CMD Committee: Raja Bala, Parvatha Chidambaram, Rujuta Dholakia, Lakshmiarahan Ganesan, Balwant Karlekar, S. Kumar, Vishnu Mathur, Raj Rajan

ICC's Photovoltaic (PV) Project Commissioned

Report by Raj V. Rajan, Trustee



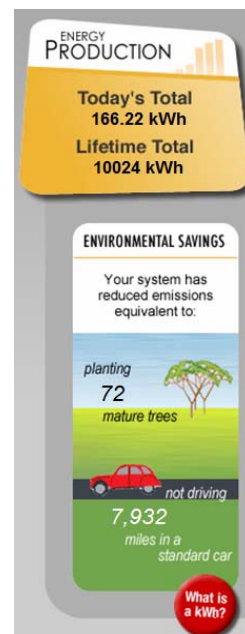
On July 29th 2009, following inspection and approval of distributed generation by RG&E, ICC energized the new roof-mounted, grid-tied solar electric system that was installed in May. The 50 kilowatt photovoltaic system consists of two hundred and sixteen solar panels and six inverters, manufactured by SunPower Corporation (San Jose, CA) and installed by Rochester Solar Technologies, a division of O'Connell Electric (Victor). This system is equipped with a state-of-the-art panel-level array monitoring and diagnostics system by Solar Sentry Corp. (Pittsford).

As we reported earlier, the system was funded with a \$223,720 incentive through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Solar Electric Incentive program and additional contributions from ICC members. As of September, we are still below 50% of our community fundraising target and are waiting for your tax-deductible contributions.

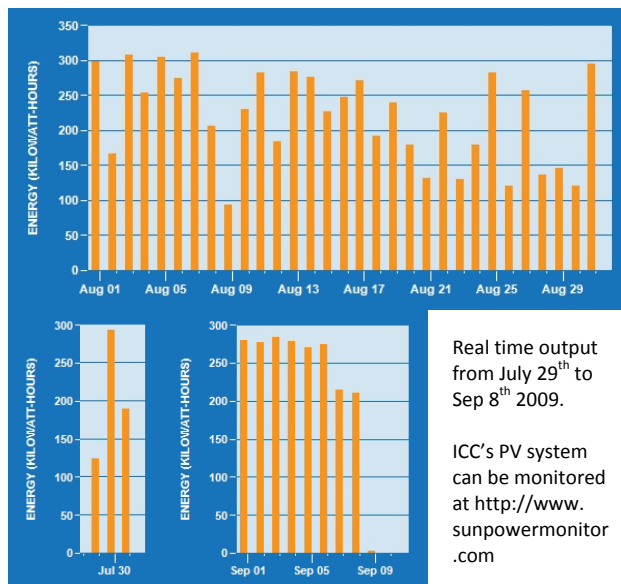
Francis J. Murray Jr. (President and CEO of NYSERDA) issued this statement to the press: "I applaud the India Community Center for its vision in partnering with NYSERDA and investing in a renewable energy system that will help control the Center's energy costs and protect our environment. This investment is in line with Governor David A. Paterson's clean energy agenda to increase energy efficiency and the use of clean technologies to meet our energy demands."

This installation will also serve as a beta test site for Solar Sentry's cutting edge diagnostics system, which will collect information on panel and string level performance, and module warranty performance. Solar Sentry's development and testing efforts at this facility were funded through a separate \$200,000. incentive under NYSERDA's Clean Energy Business Growth & Development Program.

The project started yielding beneficial results right away. By Sept. 8th, we had produced over 10,000 kilowatt hours of electricity (offset \$1,800 in RGE bills). That's over 15% of ICC's annual use and is equivalent to an average home's electricity use over 500 days! Here is a snapshot of the system's environmental benefits, which can be monitored online. The system's output to-date has exceeded our projections based on similar systems in our area. This is due to the roof pitch and orientation, which favors summer output. On an annualized basis, we still expect to produce about 55,000 kilowatt hours of electricity.



As can be seen from the daily output graphs below, we had less than ten sunny days in August and have had a wonderful September so far! If anything, future years have more in store for us.



For further info, contact Solar@ICCRochester.org.

THE CEMETERY CLUB by Ivan Menchell

– A Kalidas Play reviewed by Marilu Raman

Once again Kalidas, the Indo-American Community Theater Group of Rochester, staged a delightful play on May 29, 30 and 31, 2009..This poignant play with a touch of dark humor is about three Jewish friends who enjoyed life together, have lost their husbands within a period of four years. What binds them now is their shared sorrow and their agreement to have tea followed by a visit to their husbands' gravesites once a month. However, each reacts to the loss in very different ways:

Ida (Janani Parthasarathi) is the even-tempered, sensitive one, who keeps the trio anchored. She is ready to move on with her life and proposes that they relax their rigid cemetery routine, which is welcomed



by Lucille but scorned by Doris. Of course, there is a romance budding here, with the butcher on the corner!

Lucille (Kathryn Jude) is feisty, noisy, interested in expensive clothes at bargain prices, and flirtatious with any man who comes her way. We discover that she was not really happily married and that in spite of all the man-chasing she brags about she has been unsuccessful in landing a real date and consequently has been a rather lonely woman these years.

Doris (Shahida Rehmani) is traditional, even priggish and judgmental. She is not ready to let go of the regular cemetery visits, in fact, she vehemently opposes any such thought. When she and Lucille discover that Sam, the butcher, (Rahul Laroia) is becoming interested in Ida, and offers to take her to the wedding of a common friend, the two friends scheme to talk Sam out of his plans. They are well-meaning, but selfish and insensitive to Ida's needs.

Poor Sam is caught in the net of the meddling women, and wisely decides to take a fourth woman, Mildred, (Kanchana Mendes) to the wedding. Ida is shocked and hurt. After the party, when the friends are staying the night at Ida's, she discovers that her two "friends" were instrumental in scaring Sam away.

She is livid and leaves Lucille and Doris to fend for themselves. Doris is repentant of her actions but does



not get a chance to tell Ida because she dies in her sleep of a heart-attack. Luckily Sam gathers his courage to ask Ida out again. On that

score at least there is a happy ending.

Janani Parthasarathi, Shahida Rehmani and Kathryn Jude played off each other wonderfully well. Janani showed a range of emotions that had the audience often listening in pin-drop silence. She got us wrapped up in the pathos of the story. Kathryn Jude was hilarious in her outrageous fur-coat, fur hat and golden purse. She exhibited a range of facial expressions that had some of us just watching her! And no one would have guessed that Shahida Rehmani did not have any prior stage acting experience. She seemed so natural, and she projected great self-assurance. Kanchana Mendes was a dashing, confident date for Sam, with obvious prior acting experience, and clear diction that was a pleasure to listen to. I hope we'll see more of her on the Kalidas stage in the future.

Rahul Laroia portrayed his character in a gentlemanly quiet way. We saw him more as a kindly professor than a neighborhood butcher in a Jewish quarter, but we appreciate his willingness to accept such an out-of-character role!



Heartfelt thanks to Sanjay Maggirwar, director of the play, for another wonderful evening of entertainment. We know the many hours that are required from all participants to create such a production. Our community is grateful to

have dedicated people like him, the Kamaths, and the cast, willing to put in the effort in order to entertain us

twice a year. Kudos to the set designers, set construction crew and stage managers: that was a great stage set, very cleverly designed with the cemetery behind the large window curtains of Ida's home. It all seemed to work! At the performance that we attended, the voices were clear throughout, which attests to the skill of the technical assistants.

The Cemetery Club

A review by

Libby Cardy, Medical Assistant. Penfield OBGYN

The Ladies of Penfield, OBGYN would like to thank Kalidas, the Indo-American Community Theater Group of Rochester for a wonderful evening of lively entertainment. A production of "The Cemetery Club", written by Ivan Menchell and directed by Sanjay Maggirwar.

We entered the auditorium to a lovely ambiance of low lighting, the smell of wonderful food, and lots of smiling faces and handshakes. And much to our delight we were seated at the best seats in the house right in front of center stage. It was just lovely.

The production of "The Cemetery Club" was very well done. The story is about three Jewish widows who meet once a month for tea before going to visit their late husbands' graves. Ida, (played by Janani Parthasarathi) is sweet and ready to move on with her life, Lucille, (played by our very own Kathy Juda) is feisty and just wants to have lots of fun, and Doris, (played by Shahida Rehmani) is judgmental and not as willing to accept change.

There is a "love interest" that all the ladies try to win his affection, Sam the Butcher (played by our very own Dr. Rahul Laroia), who seemed a bit confused at times about who exactly he would date. All players did a wonderful job. The comedic styling of Kathy Juda, (Lucille) kept us laughing throughout the evening. Janani Parthasarathi (Ida) kept our hearts warm with her sweetness and sincerity. Shahida Rehmani (Doris) kept us guessing if should would finally accept change, that was so badly wanted by her two friends. Dr. Rahul Laroia (Sam the Butcher) made us fall in love with him with his smile and charming manner.

This play is very heartwarming and thought provoking. The production was extremely well done and expertly directed by Sanjay Maggirwar. It would be a pleasure to see the players and director all together in another production in the future. They all had very good chemistry together and were a very "nice fit".

Thank you again for the very pleasurable evening at the Kalidas, Indo-American Community Theater Group of Rochester.

HSC Summer Camp at ICC

Janani Parthasarathi

Once again ICC was buzzing with laughter and activity all of July with the Hindu Heritage Summer Camp. This year saw the largest enrolment with 185 kids plus



an additional 60 for counselors and Staff, for both sessions. Campers came from California to Boston and from Canada to Louisiana.

Those of us involved with this year after year find it enormously satisfying more than words can describe. The joy of watching a kid come into camp on the first day, very reluctant, hesitant and unsure and by the third day or so, entertaining the entire camp with his or her antics is unparalleled. The camaraderie and the sense of identity this camp provides lasts a life time.

The first session Camp Director was Praveer Melwani of Toronto, a nine year veteran of camp and the second session was Camp Director was Anjali Parthasarathi of Fairport, a eleven year attendee of camp. We have had the privilege of watching these children attend every single summer, grow into responsible positions at camp and finally take the lead. Both directors were 19 years old and had to manage and execute the activities on a daily basis for 2 full weeks. The camp provides unmatched leadership opportunities for kids from the ages of 13 to 19 in roles like Karma Yoga, Counselor, Cabin Head, Assistant Director and Director.

While the basic structure remains the same, some new activities are introduced every year. An extra highlight this year was a visit by the rock band called Bamboo Shoots, which entertained the campers with a 2 hour rock concert. The band's drummer is a camp Alumni from many years ago.

We also had a documentary film maker from NYU who plans on creating a half hour film for PBS.



We hope that this product will be done in the next 6-8 months.

Stay tuned.

Yoga Classes at the ICC

Iyengar Yoga Classes at the ICC Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. till 10:30 a. started on Saturday, September 5. One can join at any time. Margaret Newland, a student of Rick Lynch and Francois Raolt is teaching. She has been teaching at the HHSC Camp for the past 3 years. The kids love her teaching style. She also conducted yoga classes at the recent Vedanta Retreat.

The fee is \$ 100 for 10 classes or fee \$ 12 per class. The package expires 15 weeks from the date of purchase. That means, one can miss up to 5 classes in a 15 week period, and can still take advantage of the 10 class package. The package can be purchased in class. Margaret can be reached at tnewland1@rochester.rr.com or at 315-719-7009.

Gilda's Club Fund-raiser Banquet at ICC

Ambika Sharma (218-9258) and Rohan Virdee (489-0664), both High School Seniors will organize a fundraiser for the benefit of the Gilda's Club (A support organization for cancer victims) at the ICC on Saturday, September 19, 2009. There will be good food (banquet style) and good entertainment. If interested please contact Ambika or Rohan.

Actors/Actresses and Crew Needed for the next Kalidas Play

Kalidas is planning another hilarious play on December 3rd, 4th and 5th. We are looking for actors and actresses ages ranging from 20 years to as old as it can get, stage management, sound management etc. The planned play has 7 males and 5 females. If interested in trying out, please contact the Director of the next play, Baal Bhagat at 820-2214.

Bollywood Dance Classes at the ICC

Bollywood Dance Mania will start conducting Bollywood dance classes at the ICC soon. If interested, contact Anushree Shah at 248-8982 or Bollywooddancemania@gmail.com.

BHARATA - School of arts introduces classes @ ICC for all ages

- BHARATANATYAM combined with YOGA Classes
- BHARATANATYAM combined with CARNATIC MUSIC Classes
- BHARATANATYAM combined with HINDUSTANI MUSIC Classes.
- And many more

For further details Call - Parvatha @ 264-9499 or Email parvatha@bharataschoolofarts.com

Vedanta Retreat 2009



The first Vedanta Retreat held at the ICC was a great success. 27 people attended the full retreat from August 5 to 9, and an additional 11 attended the Mini Retreat from August 7 to 9. 24 attendees were from out town (Toronto, Montreal and New England). The retreat was conducted by Swami Yogatmananda of the Vedanta Society of Providence, RI and Swami



Kripamayyananda of the Vedanta Society of Toronto. Both Swamiji's are of the Sri Ramakrishna Order. The theme of the Retreat was Kenopanishad. Both Swamiji's explained the Upanishad in spellbinding and humorous discourses.

Each day started with Meditation and Yoga. Almost all the attendees participated in the Yoga taught by Margaret Newland. After breakfast, we had a short bhajan session followed by the discourses. In the afternoons, there were an hour long music concerts by local musicians, followed by discourses from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This was followed by Walking Meditation/Aarati and Dinner. The days ended with Satsang with Swamiji's (Q & A) and Meditative Chants led by Lakshmi Rao.

Almost the entire out of town participants stayed in the Cabins at the ICC. They found the stay quite comfortable. Delicious meals were prepared on premises by the chefs from Toronto (Ujwal and Ashok Panda). Overall, the participants loved the whole experience, and most plan to return next year with their friends. We hope to make this Retreat an annual event.

India Community Center of Rochester
2171 County Line Road
Macedon, NY 14502

INDIA COMMUNITY CENTER OF ROCHESTER
Painting Competition

ICC invites community kids to participate in a painting competition.

Deadline for submission is **October 5, 2009**

Winners will be announced on October **10, 2009** at the ICC Diwali Celebrations

Category

Group A – Primary and Elementary school students (grades K-5)

Group B – Middle and High school students (Grades 6-12)

Prizes

Group A – First Prize \$50, Second Prize \$30 and Third Prize \$20

Group B – First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50 and Third Prize \$30

Subject of painting (Choose one) Limit one Entry per student

1. Diwali-festival of lights
2. Go Green

Requirements

Size of painting should be at least 11" x 12"

Group B can only use acrylic or oil paints.

Group A can use any form of colors (example – color pencils, crayons, etc)

For information contact Rujuta Dholakia at 319-5797 or trujuta@gmail.com

Please send your painting to: Rujuta Dholakia, 77 Chartwell Ct., Rochester, NY, 14618