

# India Community Center Newsletter

ICC Scheduling: 244 -1760

United Way Number: 1137

Visit India Community Center Website: [www.iccrochester.org](http://www.iccrochester.org)

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## ICC Board of Trustees Chair's Report

In the March Newsletter, I have indicated that the Trustees are planning to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the India Community Center (ICC) of Rochester during the second week of September. After considerable deliberations and discussions, they have arranged a variety of programs for the Silver Jubilee; they span a two week period, starting on the 8th September and ending on the 18th. An invitation letter with all the details will be going out to ICC members shortly. So that you may mark your calendars and make prior planning, let me give you a brief overview of the programs. Dates are tentative and subject to change.

"Salaam India," a play directed by Lushin Dubey (<http://lushindubey.com/salaamindia/fla.htm>), is the opening event, scheduled for September 8th (Wednesday) and 9th (Thursday). A string quartet headed by Vivek Kamath is scheduled for September 10th. Besides Vivek, who plays for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, there artists from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing. September 11th (Saturday) and 12th (Sunday) are set aside for the India Day. Bollywood Dance Mania is scheduled to present "Decades of Bollywood" on the 12th and 13th (Monday). A Classical Dance Drama is planned for the 15th (Wednesday) and 16th (Thursday). To accommodate all interested individuals to be part of the Silver Jubilee celebration, two Banquets are also planned; they will be on the 17th (Friday) and 18th (Saturday). Both will feature Dan Nainan ([www.danielnainan.com](http://www.danielnainan.com)), a comedian of Indian and Japanese origin, and about whom the New York Times wrote, "A comedian goes green, but won't go off color."

Only Vivek Kamath's string quartet and India Day will be free events. A person buying a \$100 ticket can attend one of the banquets and one showing of each ticketed item. The invitation package will ask you to indicate the days you plan to attend each event. People who wish not to buy the \$100 ticket may attend individual events; admission charge will be \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 18.

The Trustees and I look forward to seeing you at the festivities.

Jose Maliekal

## From the Editorial Board

Chief Editor: Jayanti Venkataraman

## Advertisements

For information / rates please email  
[jnveee@rit.edu](mailto: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.

## Silver Jubilee Celebrations Tentative dates

**Sept 8** Salaam India by Lushin Dubey  
**Sept 10** String Quartet by Vivek Kamath  
**Sept 11&12** India Day and  
**Sept TBA** Bollywood Miania  
**Sept 15&16** Classical Dance Drama  
**Sept 17&18** Banquet featuring Dal Nainan

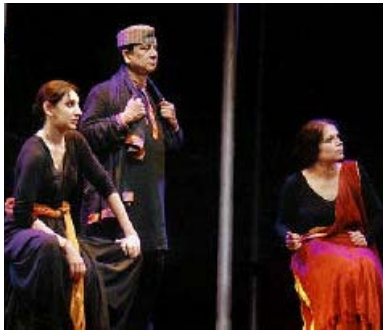
## ICC Website

[www.iccrochester.org](http://www.iccrochester.org)

# ICC's Silver Jubilee Celebrations

By Jose Maliekal

The festivities will begin on September 8. Dates are tentative and subject to change. The first event is "Salaam India," a play directed by Lushin Dubey (<http://lushindubey.com/salaamindia/fla.htm>), which has received much critical acclaim. In the words of the Director, the play is about "Our aspirations and our ambitions, our youthful democracy of merely 61 years, our drive towards making ourselves a major global power in technology, in our spirit of entrepreneurship, and in our pan Indianess." As luck would have it,



Lushin Dubey's team is in the US, and they have graciously accepted our invitation. The play will be staged on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

The String Quartet organized by Vivek

Kamath, who grew up in Rochester and has been playing viola for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra since 1998, is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>. Besides Vivek himself, the event will feature artists from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Kamath earned his bachelor's degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying with Donald Weilerstein. In 1997 he was a prize-winner in the Washington International String Competition and in the Irving Klein International String Competition.



In the past, ICC has organized an event under the name India Day. This event is a great opportunity to showcase regional/national art, culture and customs. The silver Jubilee celebration offers a great opportunity to resurrect India Day which will be held on set aside September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. It is up to the different regional communities to showcase all aspects of their customs, traditions, and even food.

Even before the phenomenal success of the movie, *Slumdog Millionaire*, Bollywood and Bhangra music and dance, have been gaining popularity among teens and college students, both of Indian extraction and native. Bhangra dance has recently been on display

on shows like *America's Got Talent* and *America's Best Dance Crew*. Bollywood Dance Mania will present *Decades of Bollywood* on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. But, there is a possibility that these could be on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> instead. Dan Nainan

It is not an exaggeration to say that classical dance has become synonymous with the Indian culture. Moreover, each year, ICC presents programs by numerous artists trained in classical music and dance. Given this prominence of the classical dance, a classical dance drama is planned for September 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) and 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). Artists from Rochester and Baltimore who have completed the Arangetram will be performing.

Countless number of people worked tirelessly to establish the India Community Center of Rochester. Fortunately, most of the people who were instrumental in conceiving the idea of a community center and making it a reality are still active in the community. The Silver Jubilee is an occasion like no other for all such individuals to come together to reminisce and celebrate. To enable maximum number of people to become part of the celebration, two Banquets are also planned; they will be on September 17<sup>th</sup> (Friday) and 18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday). Both



will feature Dan Nainan ([www.danielnainan.com](http://www.danielnainan.com)), a comedian of Indian and Japanese parents. Dan Nainan is unique among contemporary comedians, because his jokes are "clean." So clean, in fact, that the New York Times wrote the following about him: "A comedian goes green, but won't go off color."

Only Vivek Kamath's string quartet and India Day will be free events. A person buying a ticket for \$100 can attend one of the Banquets and one showing of the other ticketed items. We will be sending out an invitation package to all ICC members shortly. That package will ask each person to indicate the day when he/she wishes to attend the Silver Jubilee Banquet and each of the ticketed events. People Tickets will be available for individual events, too. Admission charge will be \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 18. Not only are the rates modest, they are also identical to the admission rate for dances organized by the Classical Music and Dance Committee.

# ICC's 2010 HS Graduation Celebrations

By Vinayak Venkataraman

On June 11, the Education Committee of ICC hosted its annual celebration to honor the 2010 High School graduates and their parents. It was organized and conducted by Jayanti Venkataraman, Committee Chair, Shalini Rai, Mythreyi Srinivasan, and Lakshmi Rao.



This year's graduates (from left in the photograph) included Divya Seth, attending Harvard University (parents Anoop and Deepak), Nimisha Patil attending Stony Brook University (mother Tina), Sowmya Sanapala attending the University of Pittsburgh (parents Swaroopa and Vittal), Leela Chockalingam attending Carnegie Mellon University (parents Meera and Kumar), Akhila Sunkara attending NRI Medical College (parents Pushpa and Ramprasad), Shalini Rai introduced each graduate and recognized their parents. On behalf of ICC, Mythreyi Srinivasan gave each graduate a gift certificate to Barnes and Nobles.

A major part of the event was a panel discussion. Jayanti Venkataraman presented an overview of the discussion that was intended to offer advice to all in attendance on topics such as high school course work, college application process, college life, and career choices. The panel consisted of Rochester natives who not too long ago were high school graduates themselves. The panel was capably moderated by Natasha Bogani who is a senior at Brighton High School (parents Shobha and Asish). The panelists and their presentations is summarized in the following.

Vinayak Venkataraman (parents Jayantii and Venkat), 2007 graduate of Brighton HS and a senior at Princeton University majoring in Electrical Engineering, presented an in-depth discussion on high school, coursework and extracurricular activities, as well as how to master the complicated college admissions process.

Swapna Kumar (parents Geetha and Kumar), 2007 graduate of Henrietta HS and a senior at the University of Rochester majoring in Biomedical Engineering, talked about her college experience, specifically about her interests in biomedical engineering, the availability and importance of research opportunities and internships, and the benefits of studying abroad.

Nisha Phatak (parents Alka and Pradyumna), 2006 graduate of Pittsford Mendon HS and 2010 graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with a BS in Statistics and a major in professional writing, spoke about college life, specifically how to pursue extracurricular interests, how to arrange room and board, how to select classes/major, and how to go about finding a balance in various aspects of college life. She will pursue a career in investment research at Majestic Research in NYC.



On left: Panel moderator Natasha Boghani  
On right: Panelists: Swaona Kumar, Vinayak Venkataraman, Nisha Phatak and Amit Chowdry

Amit Chowdhry (parents Anu and Rajesh), 2005 graduate of Pittsford Mendon and a 2009 graduate of Cornell University with a BS in biometry and statistics and in biological sciences discussed his path as a pre-medical student as an undergraduate as well as his experiences in medical school. He is currently an MD/Ph.D. candidate at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

The event and dinner (from Thali) was co-sponsored by ICC and 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.,

Overall, it was a very enjoyable and special Friday night event

# Classical Music and Dance Society

By Raja Bala

We have just completed another very successful season of classical music and dance. CMD offered two Karnatic concerts, two Hindustani concerts, a Karnatic-Hindustani jugalbandhi, and a Kuchipudi dance performance. All were of outstanding quality, and it was especially heartwarming to see that every concert was very well attended.

The collection of concerts and choice of artistes serve to underscore CMD's mission of promoting Indian classical music and dance in our region as well as to encourage youngsters learn and appreciate these wonderful art forms. The season kicked off with a fantastic Jugalbandhi concert by Kumaresh Rajagopal (violin) and Purbayan Chatterjee (sitar).



The artistes struck a beautiful balance between adhering to their respective musical traditions and bridging the distinct art-forms of Karnatic and Hindustani music. The Kuchipudi dance was led by senior dance exponent Smt Bala Kondalarao and featured artistes from both India and North America.



The concert was followed by an interactive Q&A session that was enjoyed particularly by the young students of dance. The junior Hindustani concert was a commendable effort by teenagers Rahul Thandla and Rohan Virdee. Their teacher, parents, family and peers all attended to support and encourage them.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season, we enjoyed a melodious Karnatic vocal concert by Prince Rama Varma, and a lively Nadhaswaram concert by Kasim and Babu that brought about a festive wedding-like atmosphere into ICC! The season ended with an outstanding concert by Hindustani vocalist Jayateerth Mevundi.

We are grateful to our patrons and sponsors whose financial contributions allow us to offer our programs to our members at little or no cost



We also had a record number of event sponsors this season. Special thanks go to: Hemant and Lakshmi Rao, Padmanabh and Amrith Kamath, Sreekumar and Mridula Nair, Satha and Raje Nalliannan, and the Hindu Heritage Summer Camp for their generous support. We also thank several families for helping with hosting and transportation for the artistes: Rekha and Shashi Gholkar, Anupama and Satish Raman, Raje and Satha Nalliannan, Suhir Ponnchamy, Sreekumar and Mridula Nair. Finally my heartfelt thanks go to the CMD team and their families for their extraordinary efforts in arranging these programs.

The CMD strives to publicize our programs to a wide community, including our neighboring cities of Buffalo, Syracuse, Ithaca and Corning. In addition to email notifications and printed flyers, we are now advertising the concerts on ICC's Facebook page. Also in future we will share links to audio and video clips by the artistes. Please do your part and spread the word, so that a larger audience can enjoy these events.

We are already putting together an exciting fall season schedule, with the following scheduled so far.

- September 24:** Hindustani Vocal concert by Ram Deshpande (<http://www.drramdeshpande.com/>)
- October 1:** Hindustani Mohan-Veena concert by Grammy Award Winner Pandit Vishwa-Mohan Bhatt (<http://www.vishwamohanbhatt.com/>)
- October 8:** Bharatanatyam Dance Duet by Shijith Nambiar and Parvathi Menon of Kalakshetra, with live music orchestra (<http://www.shijithnambiar.co.in/>)
- November 12:** Karnatic Vocal concert by Malladi Brothers ([visit youtube.com](http://www.visityoutube.com))

We are looking for patrons to provide the financial support to continue this service and volunteers to join the committee and help us with the logistics. Please contact me or one of the committee members. We are in great need of more help!

With best wishes, Raja Bala For CMD Committee  
Raja Bala, Parvatha Chidambaram, Varahan Ganesan, Balwant Karlekar, S. Kumar, Vishnu Mathur, Raj Rajan

"Isn't it Romantic"  
by Wendy Wasserstein

A Kalidas Play - Reviewed by Sita Raghunathan

'Kalidas' the Indo-American theater Group of Rochester, staged one of Wendy Wasserstein's remarkable plays "Isn't it Romantic" on June 4th, 5th and 6th at the India Community Center. Known for her thoughtful and intelligent portrayal of her characters, Ms. Wasserstein first wrote the play as a feminist comedy in 1979. It was first produced in 1981 and later staged in 1984 in New York to much critical acclaim and popular success. To those who witnessed the feminist movement, the play brings back memories; and to those younger, the dilemmas and conflicts still ring true. .



The story is about two young women caught up in the struggle of wanting it all, .meaning career, family

and children. Janie Blumberg, an aspiring writer and her friend Harriet Cornwall, an ambitious business woman choose different paths for achieving independence and maturity. Janie's parents, Tasha and Simon Blumberg, are loving but dominating in different ways; she is fierce in her lifestyle, he is gentle and practical. Harriet's mother Lillian Cornwall, successful in her own right, tries to guide her daughter using her own marital and business insights. Janie is confused about her choices. She first goes along with the sweet Jewish doctor Marty Sterling who calls her 'monkey' and chooses for them a life together in a Brooklyn coop apartment, but then leaves him for a job at Sesame Street! Harriet is successful in her career



and after a meaningless affair with her boss, accepts an impetuous marriage proposal from her agent.

The scenes are alternatively hilarious and touching, witty and thought provoking, while slowly revealing the inner sensibilities of the characters and tied together by a series of messages on answering machines. The lead actors Kanchana and Anushree bring the confusions and passions of Janie and Harriet superbly to the forefront.



Sumedha, Jose and Nirupama display the parental instincts realistically while Amit, Kaulesh and Nilesh make a fine group of men seeking the love and companionship of the two young ladies. Undoubtedly the cast did a phenomenal job with great performances and wonderful diction. The sets and decor must have been a challenge, but the talented team of cast and crew under the able direction of Meera Jain pulled it off effortlessly. And special mention needs to be made about the music score which was very effective in supporting the mood and helping the transition between scenes. All of which contribute to the anticipation for the next production of 'Kalidas' in November.

Vijay Iyer receives  
'Musician of the Year' Award



On June 14th 2010, Pianist-Composer Vijay Iyer received the 'Musician of the Year' award from the Jazz Journalists Association's Jazz Awards 2010, in New York City. The Gala event held at the 'City Winery', was attended by more than 300 luminaries from the music-world, and covered 30 categories of musical excellence and 10 for journalistic accomplishments, plus special recognition to supporters of Jazz. Vijay had been nominated for five of the musical categories. Vijay's latest album "Historicity" has won critical and popular acclaim, voted #1 Album of the year 2009 by The New York Times, National Public Radio USA, Los Angeles Times and by over 100 Jazz critics at the Village Voice. The Vijay Iyer Trio was named "Best Ensemble (international)" in the **ECHO Jazz Awards**, the German equivalent of the Grammys. Additionally he has been ranked among the Top Jazz musicians by several national and international publications. Vijay, a Fairport High School graduate (1988), is the son of long term residents of the area, Sita and Y. Raghunathan ('Raghu').

Hindu Heritage Summer Camp, Inc. presents a residential

## Vedanta Retreat



**Swami Yogatmananda**  
Vedanta Society of Providence, RI.

conducted by  
and



**Swami Kripamayananda**  
Vedanta Society of Toronto, Canada

**Theme of the Retreat: Patanjali's Yoga Aphorisms, Chapter 1.**

**Time and Dates:** From 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug 4 till 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Aug 8.

**Venue:** India Community Center of Rochester,  
2171 Monroe Wayne County Line Road, Macedon, NY 14502.

**Accommodations:** Dormitory style. Beds provided in the cabins at India Community Center.  
For those choosing to stay elsewhere, a list of local hotels provided on the web site.

**Meals:** Freshly made Vegetarian meals will be provided on the premises.

Note: This is a residential Family Retreat. Children 6 and above are welcome. Separate programs will be arranged for children.

**Daily Schedule:** (Tentative; changes may be made as necessary)

6:30 to 7:00 a.m.	- Meditation	Till 3:00 p.m.	- Free Time
7:00 to 8:00 a.m.	- Gentle Yoga	3:00 to 4:00 p.m.	- Yoga Workshops/Lectures
8:00 am.	- Breakfast	4:00 to 4:30 p.m.	- Coffee/Tea
8:45 to 9:15 a.m.	- Bhajans*	4:30 to 6:00 p.m.	- Lecture
9:15 to 10:45 a.m.	- Lecture	6:00 to 7:00 p.m.	- Aarati or Walking Meditation
10:45 to 11:00	- Break	7:00 p.m.	- Dinner
11:00 to 12:30 p.m.	- Lecture	8:00 to 9:00 p.m.	- Satsang (Q & A with Swamiji)
12:30 p.m.	- Lunch	9:00 p.m.	- Snack and Retire

\*Bhajan Leaders need to sign up with Lakshmi Rao the previous day, and will have to be present in the hall on time.

**Fees:**

**Full Retreat (August 5 to 9):** \$ 250 per adult and children 18 and above.\*

**Mini Retreat (6:00 p.m. August 7 to 1:00 p.m. August 9):** \$ 150 per adult/child.\*

\*These are suggested fees and are to cover the cost of the retreat. If you wish to attend and cannot afford to pay the full fees, pay what you can. Your attendance is more important. Do not miss the opportunity of this Satsang. Make the checks payable to HHSC.

**Registration:** Visit website: [www.omhhsc.org](http://www.omhhsc.org) for the registration form.

**For more information, contact**

Tukaram Hatwar (585-377-6566), Padmanabh Kamath (585-381-1541), Lakshmi Rao (585-442-3552)

*ICC Silver Jubilee Celebration*  
**Bharata & NrithyaShala**  
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*Featuring excerpts from scenes of Ramayana to Western Classical Music  
 and many more unique pieces*

ICC's 25th Anniversary Celebration  
 presents

**Decades  
 of  
 Bollywood**

**BDV** बॉलिवुड वॉलंटियर्स

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

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## *ICC Silver Jubilee Celebrations*

At ICC, 2171 County Line Road, Macedon, NY 14502  
*Dates tentative, final program will be announced shortly*

September 8 and 9	Salaam India by Lushin Dubey <a href="http://lushindubey.com">http://lushindubey.com</a> (Ticketed Event)
September 10	Vivek Kamath Quartet (Free Admission)
September 11 and 12	India Day (Free Admission)
Dates TBD	Bollywood Dance Mania (Ticketed event)
September 15 and 16	Classical Dance Drama (Ticketed event)
September 17 and 18	Banquets with performances by Comedian Dan Nainan <a href="http://www.danielnainan.com">http://www.danielnainan.com</a> (Package Price)

### **Admission Tickets:**

**\$100 / person (includes one banquet and admission to all ticketed events)**  
**\$15 adults and \$10 children under 18 - for each of the ticketed events,**

For information, contact Padmanabh Kamath 381-1541