

India Community Center Newsletter

United Way Number: 1137

Visit India Community Center Website: www.icor.org

Office Bearers

Deepak Maniar (Chair)
932 Pondbrook Point
Webster, NY 14580
585-872-1471
Deepak.Maniar@sdms.usa.xerox.com

Shriram Revankar (Past Chair)
551 Plank Road,
Webster, NY 14580
585-787-9546
SRevankar@crt.xerox.com

Surendar Jeyadev (Facilities)
105 Heatherstone Lane
Rochester, NY 14618
585-422-6847
sjeyadev@crt.xerox.com

Srinivasarao Meka (Secretary)
102, Linden Tree Lane
Rochester, NY 14580
(585) 872-2776
Srinivasarao.Meka@usa.xerox.com

Amit Thakkar (Treasurer)
9 Golden Fleece Drive
Rochester, NY 14623
585-334-2432
ahcto1@hotmail.com

Bhushan Mehendale (Publicity)
165, Old Well Rd
Rochester, NY 14626
585-720-9033
Bhushan_is@hotmail.com

Swadesh Popli (Fundraising)
725 Stone Rd
Pittsford, NY 14534
585-586-9730
spopli@popligroup.com

Jayanti Venkataraman (Newsletter)
171 Brandywine Lane
Rochester, NY 14618
585-461-1817
jnveee@rit.edu

Trustees

Shruti Date
27 Langston Place
Pittsford, NY 14534
585-586-0136
Shruti.Date@usa.xerox.com

Mahendra Turakhia
6 Southvillage Trail
Fairport, NY 14450
585-388-0431
Mit.Turakhia@sdms.usa.xerox.com

Naveen Sharma
4 Colonial Dr
Fairport, NY 14450
585-223-1094
nsharma@crt.xerox.com

Nivedita Prabhu
57 Falling Brook Road
Fairport, NY 14450
585-223-2727
nivedita_p_prabhu@yahoo.com

Shubha Kamat
12 Cathedral Oaks
Fairport, NY 14450
(585) 218-0585
skamat@rochester.rr.com

Suman Shenoy
26 Misty Pine Rd.
Fairport, NY 14450
585-223-0776
vsh92640@hotmail.com

Jose Maliekal
30 Currewood Circle
Rochester, NY 14618
585-244-1760
jmalieka@brockport.edu

ICC Board of Trustees Chair's Report

by Deepak Maniar

Dear Fellow Members:

On behalf of Board of Trustees and myself, we hope you had a wonderful Diwali. On the same note, we wish you a very merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year! Hopefully, our path will cross before the New Year.

I had gone to India in November and I found India as fascinating, energetic and full of new surprises.

I went to a bookstore in Bombay with an eye-catching name of 'Crossword'. It was set up with modern furniture, Coffee/snack shop and with all the latest books from various parts of the world. It was crowded with people every time I went by. One can go browse; sit and read just like the bookstores here.

I went to see 'Gateway of India'. What a monument it is! It looked as majestic as it was 30 to 40 years ago. The front area was taken over by the vendors but then I thought that was being done to earn an honest living!

During my absence, my able team members and friends successfully completed many activities. I highly appreciate the work of the following people.

1. Varahan Ganeshan & his team for the Diwali program: I was told about 200 people had to be turned down as the program was over sold and well represented by various Desi groups.
2. Jayanti Venkataraman, & Amit Thakkar, for actively starting & pursuing the 2005 membership drive.
3. Dilip Mehta, Kusumben Zaveri, Shubha Kamath, Nivedita Prabhu, Padmanabh Kamath, Suresh Bhatt, Nagin Shah, Prafulbhai and Chanda Mehta, Kam Shenoy for the 'Sangeet Sandhya" Program.
4. Swadesh Popli for raising a substantial amount of funds for the furnace replacement.
5. Surendar Jeyadev for overall managing the affairs of ICC as the acting Chair Person on my behalf.

There were many others who participated in and supported the above activities and my thanks to all of them.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: The 2005 Annual ICC Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2005 at ICC. We will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the event. So, please set aside the date as it will be a GALA event and you should surely not miss it.

From the Editorial Board

Chief Editor: Dr. 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

If you are aware of such events let us know and we can work from there. Please submit your articles to: Jayanti Venkataraman, jnveee@rit.edu

Annual Events

- ICC Annual Banquet 20th Year Celebration (March 26, 2005)
- Spring Music Concert Series (March - May)
- Sleepless in ICC (March)
- India Fair (June)
- Fall Music Concert Series (Sept - Nov)
- Diwali (November)
- Christmas
- New Year Celebration

Annual General Meeting December 12, 2004

by Deepak Maniar

Annual General Meeting was held on December 12, 2004 at ICC. About thirty members attended the meeting. Following is a summary of the meeting.

1. General Body approved of the minutes of the 2003 AGM meeting.
2. No amendments needed to be passed as none were submitted.
3. The reports presented by Chair (Deepak Maniar), Treasurer (Amit Thakkar, who also presented Sangeeta's financial report along with a proposal on the change in the use of endowment fund), Director of operations (Surendar Jeyadev), Newsletter and Membership Drive (Jayanti Venkataraman) and ICC web site management (Bhushan Mehendale) were accepted by the members present.
4. Madhu Ayyagari presented the selection of the chairperson for 2005 and formation of vice chair post, which could help in selection of the next year's chair. The proposal was well received and the vice chair post will be implemented in the next board meeting.
5. Dr. Kamath suggested that selection of the chairperson should be made after the new Board of Trustees has been elected. The new Board will evaluate his suggestion and come up with an appropriate procedure.
6. The general body approved on continuation on the number of trustees on the BOT as 15 members. Shubha Kamath, Swadesh Popli, Nivedita Prabhu, Suman Shenoy and Shriram Revankar will not be continuing as trustees. The Board and especially the Chair highly appreciate their contribution and active participation during 2004. These vacancies will be filled with the following new trustees. Madhu Ayyagari, Thampi Mathai & Bharat Shah have been accepted. Manju Rajeswaran and Amit Trivedi will be voted as trustees during the January BOT meeting. We welcome the new trustees and hope they will be able to bring new ideas to further the mission of ICC.
7. The following are some of the noteworthy achievements in the year 2004.
 - (a) Development of a better handle on the yearly expenses involved with ICC
 - (b) Implementation of an effective membership drive for 2005 – It has already resulted in 105 membership renewals for 2005
 - (c) Change in the Endowment fund usage
 - (d) Increase in number of rentals of the cabins
 - (e) Introduction of additional types of cultural & educational programs.

(1)

Deepthi Sid Making a Difference



The India Fair, held in June for the past three years, has become one of the major highlights and most successful ICC event. The success is primarily due to Deepthi Sid, a soft spoken and friendly person with an ever ready smile that hides an iron will and determination. For the past three years, Deepthi has led her able and willing team of volunteers, working tirelessly with countless hours of planning and management to make this event a huge success.

Deepthi has provided leadership and friendship without any personal expectations. She works meticulously attending to every detail ranging from children's events and entertainment to booths and food stalls. She has been an excellent role model to us all, showing us how to work together in order to make a difference to the community.

Deepthi's passion is serving the Indian community. Recently she joined the 'Saathi' Board of Directors. The mission of this newly formed group, under the leadership of Dr. Shashi Sharma, is to provide support for victims of domestic violence. Deepthi's role in Saathi has been "Publicity and Web Page management". Visit www.saathiofrochester.org to see her contributions.

Deepthi came, from Bangalore, to the Rochester Institute of Technology in August 1994 where she earned a Masters in Printing Systems and a Masters in Color Science. Her husband, Vinay Rao also came to RIT 10 years ago. He has an MBA and works for Xerox. They have a daughter, Neeta Rao who is 6 years old and is in first grade. At the end of this month, Deepthi and her family are moving to Portland, Oregon, where she will be working for Xerox Corporation.

The ICC-BOT will miss you, Deepthi. You have been a good friend and a great role model. Keep in touch.

We wish you all the best for your future.

Kids' Theatre at ICC - October 9, 2004

On October 8, 2004, under the direction of Lushin Dubey and Bubbles Sabharwal (from Kids World, India), the ICC presented "Jungle Book Se Aage" – a musical starring 30 children ages 3-15 from our community in Rochester. It was a very innovative program. The kids were trained over a period of 10 days after which they presented the musical on the ICC stage. It was an excellent production. Following are the comments from the children's parents:

"It was great working with you. It was a very memorable experience and one of a kind! You have a magical touch to make everyone a "STAR". Many kids cherish this moment forever. More than anything it was very nice knowing you personally. You guys are wonderful. Please come back to Rochester and make this place your "next to home". We are ready to host you with open arms. Keep in touch."

Veena Mestha

"It was testing time for us - as IT WAS no doubt for you. But the pay off was very well worth all of it. It was absolutely delightful to see the children. We have not had such an opportunity in Rochester. Also, it gave us a vision of a side of Vidhya which WE would not have HAD otherwise. Thank you both for that. And all the best in your ventures. So come back!"

Surender Jeyadev

"The workshop was a wonderful experience for the kids & hopefully will be a watershed in their lives and a beginning of real meaningful theatre by ways of participating or appreciating. Both my daughters Aanchal & Sonal enjoyed themselves tremendously. Hoping to see you soon. May be next year"

Shalini Rai

"Both Bubbles & Lushin were perfect instructors. They were also very inspiring. Before Teju did not know a lot about acting. Now, she knows more than me! She says that Lushin & Bubbles taught her perfection, expression & feeling her role. They also are very good actors. Teju also said when they are acting, they are so believable! Lushin & Bubbles are the best teachers ever!"

S. Chakravarthy and Jay Chakravarthy

"The culmination of a 2 weeks effort by the kids and Lushin Dubey and Bubbles Sabharwal was amazing. The musical was very well orchestrated and was cohesive. My utmost appreciation to Lushin and Bubbles for having the patience to take boisterous jumping and sleepy kids and turn them into performers."

Deepthi Rao

"Kids theatre was a great exposure to children. They enjoyed it a great deal. Next time, if it can be held in summer instead of school time, it will be great."

Lekhana Revankar

"Kids have benefited immensely from kids theatre here in Rochester. It has been a wonderful experience for them that will remain with them for a very long time, It was a pleasure to watch these "budding artists" wonderful carrying their dialogues. Many thanks to Lushin Dubey and Bubbles Sabharwal, who transformed our kids into such wonderful artists."

Anjali Sharma

"Dear Lushin and Bubbles

Thank you so much for visiting Rochester & involving the community kids here. It was a pleasure having you here. I felt you were excellent with the children. This was the first time that Nidhi was in a theatre & she really really enjoyed it. Hope we have you every year.

Jyothima (Nidhi's Mom)

"Dear Lushin Dubey,

I really appreciate your dedication in teaching the kids. My daughter Priyanka who is 10 years old really enjoyed this workshop. She expressed that Lushin is a good teacher and she can act any kind of role. My daughter acted in some of the dramas (shows) before. But her expression and feelings were poor. Now I can tell 100% that her expression her feelings improved more than I expected. Bubbles you way of teaching impressed me and made it well worth, to bring the children to the classes. I wish you people can come and take some more classes."

Lakshmi Meka

"Dear Lushin & Bubbles

You folks are indeed amazing. There is something in your coordination that has always made you folks the winners. We all know that teaching kids something and coordinating with so many kids, is like herding cats- they tend to go all over and won't listen to any rhyme or reason. In spite of all the challenges, it was obvious from watching the show, that you folks have talent that is indeed very hard to find. Your techniques did work out as per your plan. The result was that the show was indeed marvelous. Hats off to you folks. You know how to turn skeptics into big fans. Thank you from over hearts."

Anu, Sanjay, Ankit, Shaan Ahuja

ICC Classical Music and Dance Society - Fall 2004 report

By Dr. Raja Bala

Music and dance have been an integral part of Indian culture and history. Indeed Indian classical music (*Sangeeth* or *Sangeetham*) is thought to have been in existence for over 2500 years, and is arguably one of the most sophisticated systems of music in the world. The classical music and dance society of ICC is committed to preserving this important facet of Indian culture within the Rochester community. We accomplish this both by inviting



Kiranavali & Party

acclaimed Indian classical musicians and dancers to perform at ICC, and by providing a venue for our local upcoming artistes to showcase their talent.

The Fall season was inaugurated with a Bharathanatyam dance entitled *Ahimsa*, performed by a Chicago dance troupe led by Hema Rajagopalan. The meaning of the title and the underlying theme was non-violence. It was thus apt and fortuitous that the program took place on September 11th of this year. Other programs included a sarod performance by Partho Sarathy, a karnatak vocal concert by Kiranavali, a percussion duo led by Pandit Suresh Talwalkar, and a karnatak vocal concert by the famous Hyderabad Brothers.



Hyderabad Brothers & Party

A unique music and dance program was brought to us by *Samarthanam*, a group of blind and deaf artistes from Bangalore. The quality and enthusiasm exhibited by the performers was truly stirring.

To add variety to our series, we invited Lushin Dubey to perform a provoking mono-act entitled *Bitter Chocolate*, depicting the lives of abused children in India. On a lighter note, Lushin also took this opportunity to train a group of children to act in a delightful musical comedy, *Jungle Book Se Aage*. For our youth this was a wonderful glimpse into professional drama and theater.

Just as we wrap up our Fall series, we have been busily planning the Spring 2005 series with the following tentative line-up:

- March 18: Shashank and Ravikiran (Karnatak flute- lute jugalbandhi)
- March 25: Kala Ramnath (Hindustani violin)
- April 15: Malladi Bros. (Karnatak vocal)
- April 22: Padma Talwalkar (Hindustani vocal)
- April 29: Artistes Among Us - Dance and Music programs
- May 6: Budhaditya Mukherjee (Hindustani sitar)
- May 13: Lalgudi Krishnan and Viji (Karnatak violin duet)
- May 20: Kathakali Dance Program

We expect to finalize the programs shortly. Stay tuned for more details in the upcoming weeks.

2005 HHSC Summer Camps at ICC for Six Weeks

In 2005, Hindu Heritage Summer Camp will conduct two sessions of camps (July 3-16 and July 17-30). This will be immediately followed by another 2 weeks of camp by Sadhu Vaswani Center of New Jersey from July 31, 2005 to August 13, 2005. The purpose of the Sadhu Vaswani Summer Camp (SVSC) is to provide an opportunity for youth to explore and understand the diverse traditions and philosophies of Hinduism in an intellectual, nurturing, and fun-filled environment. SVSC is dedicated to helping youth discover what it means to be a Hindu and to be proud of it.

For registration information, please visit the ICC website and/or call Dr. Padmanabh Kamat (381-1541)

Independence Day Celebrations at Frontier Field

India Fund managed by Rochester Area Community Foundation provided the total financial support for the Independence day Celebration at the Frontier Field. Seema Ali- an attorney with Gallo and Iacovagelo,LLP welcomed the fans on behalf of the Indian community. Long time Rochester resident I.C.Shah facilitated the funding as well as the arrangements with the Rochester red Wings for the event.

Diwali Night – November 6, 2004

By Varahan Ganesan

Rochester Indian community celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights, at the ICC on Saturday, November 6th. The Diwali celebration is one of the most attractive and the largest of all annual events organized by the ICC. This year was no exception with a capacity crowd of over 400 attendees. It was a fun evening filled with a variety of entertainment programs. The Diwali 2004 committee comprising *Varahan Ganesan, L.K. Mestha, Mahendra Turakia, Shruti Date, Radhika Ramesh, Swadesh Popli, Srinu Meka and Bhushan Mehendale* put together an exceptional program. The committee members actively and enthusiastically contributed to various tasks like ticket sales, food arrangement, entertainment programs and an excellent decoration of the facility. Entertainment programs ranging from traditional Indian song and dances to children and teenage fashion shows were enjoyed by everyone. Masters of Ceremonies, Vicki Turakia and Anshu Date, were exceptional in controlling the orderly fashion of the programs till the end. All in all, it was again a memorable event. The Diwali committee would like to sincerely thank all the volunteers who helped us with decorations, serving food and various activities related to entertainment programs. We would also like to thank all the participants of the entertainment programs and their parents and volunteers for their efforts in putting together a great show.

Saathi of Rochester- An Update

Saathi of Rochester is now incorporated in the State of New York as a not-for-profit corporation. The corporation now has 15 members on the Board of Directors under the chairmanship of Dr. Shashi Sharma. In addition, there are 'Friends' of Saathi who are strong supporters and participate in the meetings. The Directors and Friends of Saathi are (originally) from India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Saathi of Rochester is dedicated to empowering women from South Asia, who are victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Our compassionate, confidential and free services enable women to choose from appropriate options. Goals of Saathi are victim intervention, linking victims with service providers, building collaborations with local programs and increasing community education and awareness in matters of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Saathi counselors can be reached at 234-1050 and email: saathi_rochester@yahoo.com

ICC Service Excellence Award

Each year ICC recognizes the individuals who provide outstanding services to the Indian Community and to the Community Center. Please nominate outstanding individuals within the community who have promoted Indian Culture, Philosophy, Arts, Languages and Literature and above all, have supported the cause of India Community Center for numerous years.

Nominations can be made directly via ICC Website (www.icor.org) or to Deepak Maniar, ICC BOT Chair Deepak.Maniar@sdms.usa.xerox.com

To nominate, please write few statements reflecting the continuous high standard of service. **Deadline for nominations is February 29, 2005.** All nominations are held confidential until final selection. Awardees will be recognized by the Keynote Speaker at the ICC Annual Banquet to be held on March 26, 2005.

Announcement for 2005 High School Senior Achievement Awards

*Mrs. Shruti Date and Dr. Jayanti Venkataraman
- Committee Co-Chairs*

At the Annual ICC Banquet on March 26, 2005, the ICC will be honoring 2005 graduating seniors with awards in the following categories.

- **ICC Presidents' Award**
- **Academic Excellence**
- **Extracurricular Activities**
- **Sports**
- **Community Service**

The ICC urges every high-school senior (class of 2004) of Asian Indian origin in Monroe County to apply for the awards. This is a very special recognition of talented students, by the Community.

Students must apply using the application forms available at the ICC website (www.icor.org) to be considered for the awards.

Deadline for applications - March 1, 2005

You are Invited!!
ICC New Year's Eve Celebrations

7.30 pm to 12.30 pm at the ICC Main Building
Dinner, Music, Dance and more

Advance Reservation: \$12 / adult and \$6 / child above 5
At the Door admission: (without reservation) \$25 / adult and \$10 / child

Contacts

Deepak Maniar (872-1471)
Bhushan Mehendale (298-1933)
Jayanti Venkataraman (461-1817)
Ramnik & Ila Vora (264-9834)
Dilip Mehta (227-6983)

Sriram & Lekhana Revankar (787-9546)
Mit Turakhia (388-0431)
Shruti Date (586- 0136)
Suresh Bhatt (377-7400)
Madhu Negandhi (377-2402)

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

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 470
Rochester
NY