

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

Dear Members of the ICC:

Several activities are taking place at the ICC. In my recent mailings to you, I have mentioned the various renovation projects that are under way. When these renovations are completed the main building will be structurally and aesthetically better.

In the month of March, we held a strategic planning meeting. A lot of new ideas were presented at this meeting, and are being analyzed by the subcommittees and the Strategic Planning Committee. We will share the final conclusions with the membership in the next newsletter.

ICC banquet this year was a big success. The keynote speech by B.V. Jagadeesh was outstanding. Anushree Shah's group and Nevaeh Step Dancing group provided excellent entertainment.

The Spring Season of Classical Music and Dance programs was superb. On May 12, we celebrated the Mother's Day with a brunch. It was a 'sold out' event. Again, the dances by Anushree Shah's group, keyboard music by Divya Seth, vocal singing by Anand Sharda and a play, Tickle, directed by Sanjay Maggirwar were superb. Divya and Swapna Kumar did an excellent job as MC's. Amrith Kamath organized this very successful event.

The ICC Board of Trustees approved a grant of \$10,000 to Nevaeh, Inc. to start an after-school tutorial center at 164-168 Genesee Street in the City of Rochester. Hopefully, this will be the first of many such centers sponsored by the ICC.

On June 2, ICC presented the first program of the educational lecture series. Dr. Praveen Tyle from Bausch and Lomb gave an excellent speech. At the same event, the college bound High School Seniors were recognized.

The Board of Trustees of the ICC has passed a resolution to make Diwali and New Year's Eve parties member-only events. The non-members in the community have been informed of this, and have been invited to become members. It is very important to note that everybody is welcome to become the member of the ICC. The ICC is a membership-based organization, and the Board of Trustees organizes programs for the benefit of the membership. The ICC currently has 206 Annual members and 71 Life members.

The ICC now has a new web-master, Amit Revankar of Nabros.Com. Up-to-date information about the ICC can be obtained on our web-site: www.icor.org.

C. Padmanabh Kamath

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 visit www.icor.org or email Jayanti Venkataraman jnveee@rit.edu

Upcoming Events

- India Day, Red Wings game – August 11
- Family Picnicat ICC Cabin area – September 8
- Fall Music Concert Series (Sept - Nov)
- Diwali – November 3
- New Year Celebrations – December 31

ICC Website and email

www.icor.org
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ICC Annual Banquet March 31, 2007

The annual banquet was held on March 31. Approximately 200 guests attended the event. The Chief Guest was B. V. Jagadeesh, Group Vice President and General Manager of Citrix Systems' Application Networking Group. In his keynote speech, Mr. Jagadeesh explained why India will be a leading economic player on the world scene in the future. He shared statistics and charts to prove his points.



B. V. Jagadeesh, Keynote Speaker

The audience loved his presentation. The Outstanding Service Excellence Awardee this year was Lalit K. Mestha. LK is a past Chairman of the ICC and a leading scientist at Xerox Corporation.



Dr. L.K. Mestha

Dr. Amarendra Sengupta Memorial Awards were presented to Vincent Duron (Outstanding surgical student of U of R in 2007), Micki Green (Outstanding Operating Room Nurse in the Finger Lakes Region) and Stacey Shaw (Outstanding PA student at RIT School of Physician Assistants for the year 2007). Winners of the Kusum Mathur Memorial Award had not been chosen at the time of the banquet.



Anushree Shah and the Bollywood Dance Mania Troupe

Anu Shah's "Bollywood Dance Mania" and the Nevaeh Step Team provided the superb entertainment for the evening. Jose Maliekal, the Associate Dean of School of Letters and Sciences at the SUNY College at Brockport, was the Master of Ceremonies for the event.



Nevaeh Dancers



B.V. Jagadeesh and Padmanabh Kamath



Madhu Ayyagari



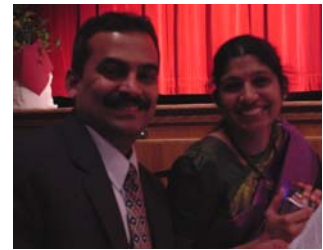
Amrith Kamath and Jayanti Venkataraman



Banquet Hall with decorations by Amrith Kamath



B.V. Jagadeesh with Penfield town official



Varahan and Hema Ganesan



From Left: Raghuvveer Rao, Veena Mestha, Geeta and L.G. Seetharam, B.V.Jagadeesh, Vasantha and N. Ravindra and L.K Mestha



Jose Maliekal



B.V. Jagadeesh and Viittal Sanaopala



From Left: Aanand Parthasarathi, Jayanti. Venkataraman B.V. Jagadeesh, L.K. Mestha, Veena Mestha and Tim Gurunath

2007 ICC Service Excellence Award

Dr. Lalit K. Mestha

Dr. Lalit K. Mestha ("LK"), was born in the town of Shiruru in Karnataka State, India. He did his undergraduate studies in electrical engineering from The University of Mysore, India, during 1976 to 1981. He secured a scholarship from the The University of

Bath, Bath, England, to pursue the Doctoral studies. He was awarded the Ph.D degree in Electrical Engineering in 1985. After

completing the work for the doctorate, LK pursued the



Post-Doctoral Fellowship at The University of Bath until 1987. He became interested in particle accelerators, and joined the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxford, England, to pursue a career in control of charged particles in large scale systems. Early in his career, he worked on a 50 meter diameter ISIS Proton accelerator system which is used to produce intense pulsed neutron beams for fundamental scientific research in Physics, Chemistry, Earth Science, Materials Science, Engineering and Biology. His novel control approaches lead to a high performance particle accelerator, which is still being used today at Oxford. In 1989-1994 he led a team of engineers and scientists at the Department of Energy's Super Conducting Super Collider Laboratory in Dallas, Texas (USA). At the accelerator lab, he conceived, designed, and implemented new type of digital control system for beam position and beam phase-control for synchronizing proton beams. Even after the termination of the construction of the SSC Lab accelerators, his control system was further developed to suit Fermilab operational specifications. The system is currently being used regularly at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab), Batavia, Illinois to produce Top Quarks. After the termination of the SSC Lab, in 1994 he was hired at the Wilson Center for Research and Technology, of Xerox Corporation. He joined Xerox in 1994, where LK's focus has been in photometric sensing, control of charged toner particles

and color for digital printing and imaging systems. Complex control systems are typically used in printers to automatically control how charged toner particles are placed to ensure consistent, accurate image quality. His control concepts, novel ideas and methods

are key elements of the Xerox DocuColor iGen3 digital production press. Over 1500 iGen3 production printers are currently operating in many countries and have generated over \$1B in revenue for Xerox. He is very active in initiating and working on collaborative projects with Universities. He holds 45 U.S. patents, has 55 U.S. patents pending, and has published more than 30

conference and journal papers. In 2006, he received the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' 2006 Control Systems Technology Award for his "outstanding contributions to control systems technology in design, implementation and project management." Also in 2006, the team of Xerox researchers led by Mestha was recognized with R&D Magazine's Top 100 award for its work on a color spectrophotometer as "one of the most technologically significant new products of the year 2006."

While LK's contributions to professional and external contributions are significant, he was actively involved in the India community development as a Secretary (in 2000), Vice-Chair (in 2001), and Chairman (in 2002) and the Past-Chairman (in 2003) of the India Community Center for which he is being honored today. When LK took charge of the ICC administration, ICC was at the brink of bankruptcy [see ICC News letter, Oct-Dec2002]. The talented Indian Community needed a leader at that time. He set a clear mission to accomplish three objectives: (1) increase visibility of ICC, (2) increase membership and (3) increase revenues for the community center. He accomplished all these three goals by constructing new cabin facility and held community-wide events (54 events in a year). Offered wide range of new services and strengthened the connections to the members. The cabin project was authorized for construction during LK's tenure as a Vice Chair and was finally completed at record pace in 2002. His involvement with ICC was always supported by his wife, Veena, son Savan and daughter Suhan.

LK is an officer of IEEE societal activities as conference organizer, student awards chair, awards committee member, Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology and regularly teaches at the UT Arlington and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

69 Mothers Honored at the ICC Mother's Day Brunch

The ICC celebrated the Mother's Day 2007 with a brunch on Saturday, May 12. This was the first time such an event was held at the ICC. It was a sold-out event. The audience was made up of 69 mothers and their families. All the mothers were the Guests of Honor in this event. Each was presented with a floral 'center piece' and complimentary chocolate from Academic Achievement Center. Divya and Swapna Kumar were superb as MC's for the festivities.



Amrith Kamath

Between events they kept the audience engaged with quizzes and jokes related to mothers.

The event was conceived, organized and executed by Amrith Kamath, with the help of Shubha Kamath and Bharat Shah. The success of the event was due to Amrith's meticulous planning, which is no surprise to anyone who knows her.

The program started with variety entertainment. Anushree Shah's Bollywood Dance Mania Troupe presented 3 excellent dances.

Chori Chori performed by Nono, Ketan and Anish Bassi, Aanchal Shah, Sanjana Sankaran, Khushboo Patel, and Anisha Singh

Wedding Dance performed by Aanchal Shah, Serena Sanon, Aditi Mehta, Priya Taneja, Anuja Deore, Sanjana Sankaran, Ishita Srivatsav, Neha Pawar, Nikita Dahake, Simran Marwah, Parth Patel

Barso Re Solo performed by Sanjana Sankaran

Divya Seth thrilled the audience by her keyboard rendition of 2 classic Hindi film songs. Anand Sharda's vocal presentation of 2 recent Hindi film songs was equally entertaining.

This was followed by a sumptuous brunch. The menu included Chana-Bhatura, Idli-Sambar, Croissants with Jelly and butter, baklava, banana bread, brownies, cut fruits, coffee and tea. During brunch, several members from the audience shared jokes with the audience. This was followed by the children's play, "Tickle" directed by Sanjay Maggirwar with the assistance of Vithal and Swaroopa Sanapala, Samir Bhagwat, Sunetra Deore, Meetha Moorthi, Asawari Maggirwar and Shiva Ramaswamy.

David Woods "Tickle"- A Children's play by Surendar Jeyadev

The hilarious children's play David Wood's "Tickle". chronicles the adventures in one day of the life of Tickle (played by Chandrika Sanapala), a well



meaning character who sets wrongs right and helps the weak against the strong. The first setting of play is in a

café where Tickle makes her first appearance. Here she meets, the waitresses (Vidhya Jeyadev and Sandhya Ganesan), a worker from a traveling fair (Samir Bhagwat), advertising crew (Prashant Maliekal, Karen Moorthi, Neel Bhagwat and Nidhi Dontula), the proprietor (Anuja Deore). The copious serving of pepper results in the worker delivering three café-shattering sneezes that bring the furniture, and all the people to the ground. The final sneeze brings forth Tickle who sings her signature tune.

Next Tickle meets The Germs --Big G (Ryan Moorthi), Mumps (Nishad Maggirwar) and Larry (for Laryngitis, Vishal Mande) – who con her into helping them infect people including a hilarious opera singer (Sandya Ganesan) and her serious conductor(Karen Moorthi).



Sandya Ganesan

Tickle goes to a laundromat to clean up where she meets a customer (Anuja Deore) and the attendant (Sowmya Sanapala). The washing machine is superbly played by Vithal Sanapala, Samir Bhagwat, Prashant Maliekal and Neel Bhagwat.

The next scene is at the Fair where there is a barker (Nikita Garapati) and a tiny wrestler, Little Lionel (Vidhya Jeyadev), squaring off against the gigantic Basher Bert (Vithal Sanapala). Tickle comes across a very unhappy Laughing Hyena (Neel Bhagwat) whose owner (Nidhi Dontula) is very cross with him. The play ends with the entire cast coming out and shouting "Happy Mother's Day".

Inauguration of ICC Education Committee

By Jayanti Venkataraman, Committee Chair

On June 2, 2007 the newly established ICC Education Committee launched its Lecture Series. The speaker was Dr. Praveen Tyle and the title of his topic was "Career Choices in Global Economy". About 75 people, including some high school teens attended the event. The presentation was about an hour and was followed by a very lively Open Forum discussion. The event was very well received with a request for more such education activities from ICC.

Dr. Praveen Tyle joined Bausch & Lomb as senior vice president - Research and Development and Chief Scientific Officer in July 2004 and is responsible for the Company's research, new product development, preclinical development, project management, clinical, medical and regulatory affairs, and product quality. Prior to that he was at Biovail as group vice president -



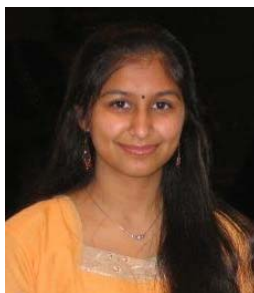
pharmaceutical sciences and manufacturing, Vice president and global head - pharmaceutical sciences at Pharmacia Corporation. He began his professional career as a formulations research chemist in drug delivery research with American Cynamid Company (now Wyeth), moving on to executive leadership and scientific positions with Sandoz Pharmaceuticals (now Novartis), Agouron Pharmaceuticals (now Pfizer) and Aronex Pharmaceuticals (now Antigenics). In 1999, Dr. Tyle was named vice president - pharmaceutical sciences, U.S., Pharmacia & Upjohn (now Pfizer). He is editor of seven books about drug development, holds several patents and is the author of more than 125 technical and scientific papers and presentations.

The success of this event was due to the excellent teamwork in the planning and execution by community volunteers and youth volunteers led by Jayanti Venkataraman and comprising of Kavitha Sitaram, Madhu Ayyagari, Raj Rajan, Jose Maliekal, Varahan Ganesan, Surendar Jeyadev, Vinayak Venkataraman, Sowmya Sanapala and Divya Seth.

The Committee and ICC sincerely thank Dr. Praveen Tyle for a very successful launching of the Education Lecture Series

Recognition of High School Seniors

The event also included the recognition of college bound high school seniors, those present in the audience. The following students attended the event Each of them talked about their college plans and careers that they wished to pursue.



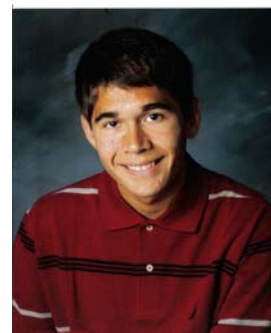
Sumeet Alagappan
Parents: Annam and V. Allagappan
College: U of Rochester



Utsav Bansal
Parents: Nina and Inder
College: U of Pittsburg
Major: Nueroscience



Swapna Kumar
Parents: Geeta and Kumar
College: U of Rochester
Major: Biomedical Engineering



Kieran Sahasrabudhe
Parents: Jane and Deepak
College: Cornell University
Major: Biological Sciences



Vinayak Venkataraman
Parents: Jayanti and Venkat
College: Princeton University
Major: Electrical Engineering



Aishwarya Vyas
Parents: Amita and Arvind
College: Mahatma Gandhi School
Of Medicine
Maior: Medicine

The Naming Game: V.V. Raman's Comedy:

"What's in a Name?"

William Hopkins, Professor of German Language and Literature
Nazareth College: Rochester, NY

Words are nothing, if they don't have feeling. This is just one message in V.V. Raman's recent play "**what's in a name?**", that premiered on May 18th in dinner-theatre fashion at the India Community Center in Penfield New York. Accompanied by laughter and learning, the production was repeated the next two nights. The play appeared under the auspices of *Kalidas*, the Indo-American Community Theater Group of Rochester and was directed by Baal Bhagat, an accomplished director and actor in his own right. Bhagat's theatre career began at the University of Bombay and has flowered at several venues in the U.S. For this multi-culti play Bhagat – and Raman – took pains to find actors fit for the parts, ethnically and linguistically.

As all his friends know, Dr. V. V. Raman, Emeritus Professor of Physics and Humanities at the Rochester Institute of Technology, has long watched his P's and Q's., that is, his Quarks and Puns. In this comedy, wordplay – his stock in trade – serves the advancement of the human. At every turn in the play there is a misunderstood word here, an interpolated concept there. Kalamazoo becomes "kamala zoo." Would that be a patch of lotus flowers or a gaggle of women? Throughout the full length drama Raman keeps us hopping to make quick sense of misunderstood words, appropriate and mis/appropriated cultural and sometimes religious sensibilities

Raman's plot references three national-cultural spheres: Kalamazoo (USA), Italy; India. The chance for missteps is already given. Add much that makes us different (personalities, diverging religious inclinations, culinary dogmas, body languages, accents, ancient or not-so-ancient *shibboleths*, three worlds), and two family groups could be ready to implode. It will happen when two sets of parents arrive on the doorstep of their respective married son and daughter to name the first child. The name must be Catholic Italian; the name must be Hindu Indian, all that within a surrogate culture: Secular American. (Would you be eagerly awaiting your parents and in-laws to settle the matter in the Kalamazoo apartment complex where your neighbors could hear everything?)

The plot commences: Srini (Milind Phadke), a Tamilian, and Angela (Christine Wade), an Italian, themselves young immigrants, are expecting their firstborn. It's already a good sign both can take a joke,

as each uses words to say what is not true; it's only April Fools Day. But more seriously, they must choose a name for their expected daughter. Here is the axis of the play upon which all the rest turns. Their humorous but patently uncomedic behavior will get them through. They are calm, unflappable young people who can apply reason to their dilemma, be it about child naming or where to set house plants. Here Raman's dramatic creation hints at the Brechtian "*Lehrstück*," or teaching piece, that intends for theatre-goers to do more than laugh; they must think.

Enter the widowed gynecologist Dr. Dev (Samir Kumar) and Latika Bose (Shrabani Bhowmick), his woman friend recently divorced. Dev is kind and straightforward; Bose is kind and caught up with her karma, also conversant with house plants. (We already sense that these two will get along, despite their intra-cultural differences.)

Theatrically, as a variation on the immigrant experience, they balance Srini and Angela. The *Sitz im Leben* of both couples hints early at the gradual transformation of root ethnic practices, and therewith the proper relationship of culturally laden names and rituals to the deep, essential human values they are made to serve.

The setting then shifts to the home of Srini's



parents in Chennai.

They are the Ayyangars of this drama.

Nalini Ayyangar (Janani Parthasarathi), remains, for a good part of the evening,

true to her dualistic upbringing: no, nary the twain shall meet for her. Nalini is everyone's mother. She is so lovingly sure of herself, that we must immediately say yes, however she pontificates. Venkatakrishna Ayyangar (Shiva Ramaswami), or Prabhu, her husband, believes it all as well. He loves his newspapers, likes to believe what's in black and white, but may not take things as seriously in future.

The other architectonic balance in the play to the American family friends (Dev and Bose), is the couple Devdas Savarkar (Rajesh Mehta) and Anandi

Savarkar (Lakshmi Rao), whose daughter had married a Muslim. (We don't know if he is a Sunni or Shiite. Anyway, I have it on good testimony that these factions in Chennai get along socially but still rarely intermarry.) Devdas and Anandi try to convince Nalini that her Ayyangar son is not lost to a (Catholic) Christian. Would she have been as displeased if Srinu had married an Ayyar – in Chennai? One wonders. Srinu's baby girl must have a good Hindu name, nothing concatenated with Christian sounds. The Savarkars cannot convince Nalini. Prabhu is flummoxed.

The baby – the *bambina* – is soon to be born. The Italians are next. Mother (in-law) Susanna Previtali (Lori Nolasco) arrives from abroad along with her husband Roberto Previtali (Antonio Toscano), her agreeable husband, as it should be. Her Catholic Italian world binds her as strongly to the name she chooses for her grandchild, *Eugenia* ("well born"), as to the name-giving ritual of *christening*. No less is true for Nalini, who then arrives with Prabhu, shored up to stand diplomatically by her side, as best he can. She must have her Hindu ritual *namakarana* and the name of *Sujata*, the name of Srinu's grandmother. Srinu had already paved the way by suggesting the name. And after all,



the family to feel equally involved?

At this point the plot, with its convolutions on words, names and life-affirming rites begs for a *deus ex machina*, who graciously appears in the person of Professor (who else?) Vachaspati Sharma (Tarun Kothari) to set things aright. He patiently and soothingly explains the sameness of putative human difference by translating the names Sujata and Eugenia into English.

See, things are not so different or "other" after



all. Is it right, then that we should demand and have what we've always possessed ritually and have only known, to the exclusion of others?

Given time and opportunity, Angela and Srinu could (would?) themselves have righted all things within the extended and multi-cultural family, even without an intellectual boost. Hooray for cool, young heads. Are our children really direct extensions of ourselves? Raman's comedy nudges us close to Khalil Gibran on children, when he asserts in a poem: "And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you. You may give them your love but not your thoughts. For they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls. For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams."

An Interview with the playwright, Dr. Raman

by Indu Maitra

1. What inspired you to write the play?

Dr. Padmanabh Kamath expressed the wish to see a play relating to Indians in America, and challenged writers in the community to come up with such a play.

2. Did you find someone who provided some constructive criticism that helped?

Shyamal Mitra provided many valuable suggestions. Then there is my close friend and companion of 45 years Marilu

3. Do you believe that literature is the reflection of life?

Of course. I was conscious that I was portraying people and mind-sets of different periods, but I felt that some of the fundamental traits of the human condition are always the same: prejudice, imagining one's own culture/religion to be superior to others, yet beginning to respect and like others when there are personal encounters, and discovering that there is goodness everywhere, etc.

4. Did you use your life experience to create some situations and characters?

In 1980 I accompanied my father to a close Ayyangar friend of ours in Chennai. My father had been invited to, bring some good sense, to a 22-year old in the family who wanted to marry an Ayyar girl he had met in college. I witnessed that conversation. It made a great impact on me.

5. What is the genre of your play?

It is a comedy with a message, something that makes people laugh and also reflect.

6. After knowing the fact that you have created a very successful play, please explain your present feelings.

I feel very fulfilled, and am very grateful to Padmanabh Kamath, Baal Bhagat, and to all the very fine and enthusiastic players who gave so much of their time and energy to transform my lines on paper into such a lively and enjoyable performance.



*Professor V.V. Raman
receives title "Acharya Vidyasagar"*

On May 18, 2007, Navya Shastra of Troy, Michigan, the international Hindu reform organization, honored Professor V.V. Raman by conferring on him the title "Acharya Vidyasagar" in recognition of his many contributions to Hinduism. Dr. Jaishree Gopal, Chairman of Navya Shastra, said "In ancient India, an acharya was a teacher of profound truths, a guide on the spiritual path, and someone an entire community looked up to. Professor Raman has guided our endeavors as an advisor and friend. His sagacious interpretations of Hindu culture are profoundly attuned to a timeless spiritual sensibility. At the same time, he unapologetically rejects outmoded practices that have no place in the modern world."



Sengupta Memorial Awards

Vincent Duron, *Outstanding Surgical Student, U of R*
Vincent joined the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 2003. He founded the Gowa Health Promotion Project in Gowa, Malawi which focuses on improvement in antenatal care in the village of Gowa. He is also the founder and President of Global AIDS Involvement Network (GAIN). He interned in AIDS Infoshare in Moscow, Russia and volunteered for Doctors without Borders. He has participated in a couple of research projects in the field of HIV/AIDS.

Micki Green *Outstanding OR Nurse in Fingerlakes Region* - Micki's Operating Room career began at the Genesee Hospital, as an LPN, in 1969. In 1975 she went to Rochester General Hospital. She became a primary scrub nurse preceptor for the Cardio-Thoracic Service. In the late 1980's she attained her AAS in nursing. To date, she is one of the nurse Educators in the OR at RGH.

Stacey Shaw *Outstanding Physician Assistant Student fPA Program, RIT*

Stacey graduated from the PA Program at the RIT with a cumulative grade point average of 3.99/4.0. At RIT, she was President of the PA Student Association in 2004-05. She was the recipient of the Howard Harrison Mentor of the Year Award. Stacey has held positions of NE Regional Representative (2004-05), the NE Regional Chair (2005-06), and the Director of Internal Affairs (2006-07) of the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAPA).

*Indian Classical Music and Dance
Society - Spring 2007 Season*

By Varahan Ganesan

Rochester music and dance lovers were treated to another season of high caliber Indian Classical music during the Spring 2007 season. As always, we had a good mix of Hindustani and Carnatic vocal and instrumental music along with a dance program.

The first program of the season was a Hindustani vocal concert by Uday Bhawalkar, who is one of India's most talented Dhrupad singers. Uday's renditions displayed the enormous versatility of the Dhrupad style, an older classical music tradition practiced by only a few in India today, and his voice was charged with fervor. The second program of the season was also a Hindustani vocal. Sanjeev



Abhyankar, the maestro from the Mewati Gharana, enthralled a packed auditorium with his enchanting voice.

The first Carnatic concert of the season followed the two Hindustani

concerts. Gayathri Girish, with her melodious voice and meticulous attention to diction, presented a high quality performance. Our only dance program of the season followed Gayathri's concert. Mythili Prakash's Bharatanatyam, with live orchestra and special lighting effects, was definitely the highlight of the season. The Violin duo Ganesh & Kumaresh performed Carnatic Violin duet the following week, catering to the tastes of different groups within the audience. There was something for everyone—a few popular short pieces as well as a display of their technical proficiency reflecting the more



puristic form of Carnatic music. The season ended with a Jugalsangeet concert featuring Carnatica Brothers and Indrajit Banerjee. It was a unique program that included Carnatic vocal, Chitraveena, Sitar, Violin, Mridangam and Tabla. All artistes performed well in their own areas and presented a nice blend of both forms of Classical music. It was another successful music season and it is encouraging to see the increase in attendance. I am thankful to the active support provided by the Classical Music committee members, Sponsors, Patrons, host families and other volunteers. We look forward to your continued support in the coming seasons.

Progress on ICC Construction

Aanand Parthasarathi
Chair of Construction Committee

Tremendous progress has been made in the last couple of months. We have upgraded all the remaining windows with single pane picture windows. With this all the original ICC windows have been replaced with newer energy efficient windows. We have installed posts at regular 7-8 feet intervals along part of the driveway leading to the upper parking lot. This was done to improve safety in case of icy conditions.



As for the roofing and siding, we solicited six estimates and finally awarded one contractor both the roofing and siding jobs. This work has begun, and should be complete in the next four weeks as long as the weather cooperates. We are removing all the old shingles and replacing it with architectural shingles. We are also installing new low profile vents to increase ventilation in the crawl space. We are going to install three-quarter inch insulating board below the vinyl siding to improve insulation in the building. We are also looking to improve and upgrade the lighting around the building and are currently getting estimates.



Additionally, a handicap accessible ramp with railings will be installed in the upper parking lot entrance into the building. The focus so far has been on all external improvements. We will now focus on improvements inside the building. As mentioned in the last news letter, the cost of these activities is slated to be about \$100,000. We have received roughly \$25,000 and pledges of an additional \$21,000 from 35 donors. We are still far from our goal. I encourage all of you to consider contributing to this activity.

The committee has received significant support and advise from the community. I would especially like to recognize Vinod Luthra for all his support in helping us with the siding and roofing area and his concerted efforts in fund raising.



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India Day at Red Wings Game

Complimentary tickets are available to ICC members for the Red Wings Game to be held on August 11, 2007 at Frontier Field. To obtain these tickets, please, contact or send a stamped self-addressed envelop to:

Varahan Ganesan, 80 Princeton Lane, Fairport, NY 14450
Tel: 425 3891 email: hemavar@rochester.rr.com

Bharat Shah, 301 Susquehanna Road, Roch, NY 14618
Tel: 244 2561 email: bmshah@yahoo.com

Fairport Library Resources

The Fairport Public Library has an extensive collection of foreign language **DVDs** including latest blockbuster releases and documentaries. These can be borrowed on the Monroe county library card for one week.

The Fairport Public Library regularly schedules **AARP Driver Safety** programs for \$10. Participants receive a 3-year certificate for 10% discount on liability and collision portions of insurance premiums and up to four points removed from driving records.

Free hands-on **computer and internet basics classes** are held for patrons with little or no computer experience at the Fairport Public Library in very small groups. For info: visit www.fairportlibrary.org or call 223-9091

India Community Center 3rd Annual Golf Tournament



In aid of



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Saturday August 18, 2007
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1:00 pm Shotgun Start



For further information, please contact:

Shirish Patel 442-2505
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