

India Community Center Newsletter

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United Way Number: 1137

Visit India Community Center Website: www.icor.org

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ICC Board of Trustees Chair's Report

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have served as the Chair of the India Community Center for the past year. 2007 has been a very productive year for the ICC on many fronts.

Facilities: The facilities have seen significant improvements in the year. With new siding, new roof, new carpets, landscape lighting etc., the main building looks quite elegant.

Programs: During the year, many new programs were added: Educational Lecture Series, the Chess Tournament, the Mother's Day Celebration, 2 days of Diwali, the start of the ICC Movie Series, starting of the ICC sponsored after school tutoring program etc. In addition, the Classical Music and Dance Committee continued the tradition of bringing numerous excellent concerts to the community. Our sister organization, Kalidas presented 2 excellent plays during the year. The Newsletter was produced regularly. Between the newsletter and numerous additional mailings, the membership was kept well informed of the ICC activities.

Membership: The Annual Membership of the ICC increased by 25% during the year (239 members). The Life Membership increased by 2 to 71.

Finances: During the year, the ICC generated \$53,000 in Facilities income, and approximately \$60,000 in Operating expenses. When we add the Membership revenue to the Facilities income, the ICC had an Operating surplus during the year.

As the year ends, I am glad to report that a new slate of enthusiastic trustees and new leadership are in place for the coming year. 12 new trustees from 7 different States of India have joined the ICC BOT for 2008. The new BOT will be led by Jayanti Venkataraman, the next Chair of the BOT. I am confident that the affairs of the ICC are in good hands, and the great programs will continue into the future.

Thank you all,
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

2008 Events

- New Year's Eve Party – December 31
- Saathi Annual Banquet January 26
- ICC Service Excellence Nominations Deadline – February 18
- ICC Annual Banquet – March 29
- Spring Music Concert Series – starts in March
- Mother's Day – May 10
- Education Committee Lecture Series – June 7

ICC Website and email

www.icor.org
bot@icor.org

ICC Diwali 2007

The ICC set a new landmark by celebrating Diwali for two days on November 3 and 4, The response was overwhelming with 370 RSVP's that were received within a week of sending out the Diwali invitations. The Diwali Committee quickly decided to extend the Celebrations to a second day. Suman Shenoy was the Committee Chair with members Jayalaxmi Chakravarthy, Parvatha Chidambaram, Padmanabh Kamath, Anushree Shah, and Nagin Shah.



The festivities on the first day began at 4pm and were attended by almost 400 people. It was a members-only event. The main attraction was the entertainment program primarily coordinated by Anushree Shah. There were 25 different items in which about 116 children (mostly) and adults participated. The entertainment included diverse genre – classical dances, folk dances, Bollywood dances, laser light dance, Indian classical music, patriotic music, film music, vocal music, instrumental music etc. The programs were of very high quality – which showed the diligence and hard work of respective choreographers. The programs flowed smoothly without much delay between different items. Dinner was served at 8pm and was followed by DJ and dancing. The event concluded at 11pm.



The festivities on the second day had a different character. The room was set up in a banquet style. 130 people attended the event. ICC Donors were invited to this event as guests of ICC. The entertainment included select items from day one followed by half an hour of comedy show by Dan Liberto from the Rochester Comedy Club. This type of comedy show was probably presented at the ICC for the first time. The audience loved the whole program. Teja Chakravarthy and Pratibha Rama did a superb job as MC's for both days. Their frequent jokes were well received by the audience.



Youth Participants receiving trophies of appreciation from Padmanabh Kamath



Anushree Shah's Dance Troupe

First Annual ICC Chess Tournament



The first Annual ICC Championship Chess Tournament was held on October 20, 2007. The tournament was conducted by the Rochester Chess Center, with tournament directors Ron Lohrman, Ken McBride and Shelby Lohrman.

The tournament began at 9am and concluded at 12 noon. There were three divisions K-2, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8 with a total of 40 children from 8 Schools in Monroe County competing. Some were veteran players while for others it was their first chess tournament. There were four one-hour rounds of play for each division. The ICC auditorium was transformed into a chess arena, with children sitting at the chess boards playing with deep concentration. It was certainly a delightful and a very unique ICC event. It is the intention to make this an annual event. The next chess tournament has been scheduled for October 4, 2008 (Saturday).

Trophies were awarded in each section. The following are the winners.

Kindergarten-Grade 2:

Overall Winner: Peter Zappia
 Top Kindergartener: Rishi Ayyagari
 Top 1st Grader: Ben Coffey
 Top 2nd Grader: Baakesan Sathiaseelan
 Top School Team: Dudley Primary with team members Neel Ayyagari and Rishi Ayyagari



Grades 3-5:

Overall Winner: Daniel Johnston
 Top 3rd Grader: Webster Kehoe
 Top 4th Grader: Ryan McIntosh
 Top 5th Grader: Nathan Xu
 Top School Team: French Road Elementary with team members Dan Johnston, Brandon Zhao, Ryan Gao, Josh Marrald

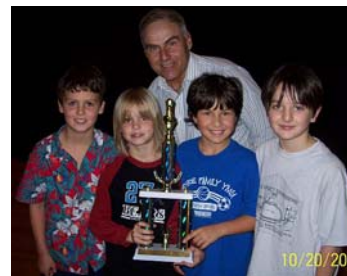


Grades 6-8:

Overall Winner: Nikhil Kasarla
 Top 6th Grader: Siddhartha Nutulapati
 Top 7th Grader: Meghesh Pansai
 Top 8th Grader: Tara Lamberti
 Top School Team: Twelve Corners Middle with team members Siddhartha Nutulapati, Meghesh Pansai, Devin Lynch, Ranak Martha



Top Overall Team: Genesee Community Charter School with team members Webster Kehoe, Connor Wagner, Sam Cherin, Jesse Dodd.



The event was organized by Jayanti Venkataraman, Chair, Education Committee. Special thanks to volunteers Srini Garapathi, Vithal Sanpala, Geetha Srinivas and Madhu Ayyagari and Padmanabh Kamath who made this event possible.

"Run for your Wife" by Ray Cooney

Presented by Kalidas
on December 1, 7 & 8 2007 at ICC
 Director Baal Bhagat
 Assistant director Janani Parthasarathi



Kalidas - Cast and Production Crew

Standing (from left): Nilesh Patel, TM Rao, Aanand Parthasarathi, Srinu Venkatesh, Akhil Hiranya, Baal Bhagat, Nagavasantha, Janani Parthasarathi, Padmanabh Kamath, Dave Anderson, Sanjay Maggirwar, Samir Bhagawat

Sitting (from left) Shantha Rao, Nagappa Ravindra, Vasantha Ravindra

A Good Two-some Play

Kalidas, the amateur drama group of the Indian community in Rochester, presented an entertaining play this December for the third consecutive time. Run For Your Wife is a clever comedy around a most ordinary, if improbable situation, but with great potential for laughter-generating mix-ups. It was first performed in England in 1982, the author Ray Cooney playing the principal role



There are a number of two's in this play: Two friends, one of whom is a cab driver with two wives in two different districts in London. One

night the man is mugged and lands in a hospital. He doesn't come to either of his two apartments, causing concern in both the wives who frantically dial two different people at two different police stations. The rest



is all about how the cabby, with the reluctant complicity of his unemployed friend who lives upstairs in one of his apartments, dodges questions from the cops in the two apartments where he arrives at different times. His tales grow more and more suspicious. To add to the chuckles, there comes a character with two personalities: man and woman. [This very funny gay intervention was not politically incorrect in the 1980's when the play was written and first performed, but may not be taken in good humor by some in our own times.] In the end, the bigamist hero can no longer keep up manufacturing unbelievable lies, and he confesses to the detectives about his marital entanglement with two women, whereupon the officers declare him to be a damn liar.



Run For Your Wife, which could as well have been called Run From Your Wives, is essentially a farce around the themes of mistaken identities, doomed impersonations, and one lie leading to a bigger one until it all explodes. Its goal is simply to take the audience on a tour of hilarious situations, with no profound message or insight, except perhaps to remind us of the story of the man who cried wolf once too often, so that when he spoke the truth, no one would believe him.

This two-dominating comedy was appropriately directed by two people, Baal Bhagat and Janani Parthasarathi who succeeded very creditably in bringing out the best in the characters. Without mentioning anyone in particular I will simply say that they all acted their respective parts with an amazing display of histrionic talents. The Indian community in Rochester in general and Dr. Padmanabh Kamath in particular, who initiated Kalidas, have every reason to feel fulfilled and proud by this additional feather in their cap. I have little doubt that we will be seeing many more plays of this quality in Rochester in the years to come. And I wish them the very best in this.

by Professor V.V. Raman

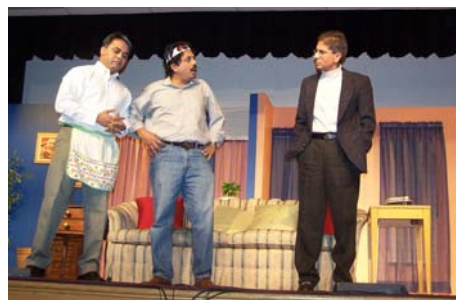
"Thanks a... looooooooooooooooooooooot... for the fantastic evening. Enjoyed thoroughly every scene and dialogue, so did my all guests. Keep it up!!!

By Vinod Luthra

"You and all the other people responsible for last night's triumph can be very proud indeed of the India Community Center's Kalidas. The entire event, the social hour preceding dinner, the delicious meal, the illuminating brief lecture about Indian theater, and the play itself proceeded flawlessly and (as promised) on time. Everyone at my table seemed to be enjoying the evening as much as I did, and the chosen play, "Run For Your Wife" was most amusing. I'd like particularly to compliment the cast for their increasing dramatic skill. Aanand Parthasarathi, just as one example, has developed the fine comedic sense necessary for a "straight man" role; but everyone else also performed wonderfully as well. The preliminary collage was enticing, the set ingenious, the sound and lighting effective. All in all, the entire production was a great success, and you and everyone connected with it deserve to be most heartily congratulated. I expect it was a huge amount of work, but it certainly paid off and it earned community-wide respect."

By Katherine Alling

While the euphoria lasts and you are all celebrating the immense success of the three-day run of Run for Your Wife, I want to direct this mail to Janani and salute everyone involved in the production. The play was an obvious flourish in



the Kalidas mold. Last night I and my wife shared in the belly-laughter of all around us at the ICC. While I may have missed some of the linguistic nuances and idiosyncrasies of the British, the actors captured clearly the colloquialisms of the English language, namely, 'bloke,' 'pansy' etc.

By Shiva Ramaswamy

Dr Ashok Shah awarded A prestigious Mastership by the American College of Gastroenterology



Ashok N. Shah Professor of Medicine in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Unit at the University of Rochester Medical Center, has been awarded a prestigious Mastership by the American College of Gastroenterology. Mastership is rare honor conferred upon physicians who have demonstrated distinguished service to the College and to the field of clinical gastroenterology, patient care and education. Shah was one of four to be honored this year and is the only recipient from Western New York. The College has awarded only 103 Masterships in its 75-year history.

Dr. Shah has trained more than 75 fellows in Gastroenterology since 1973. He was Co-Director for the Annual GI Postgraduate Seminars from 1980-2001, which were conducted in order to educate internists, family physicians and physicians on recent advances in gastroenterology and hepatology. From 1978 to 1992 Dr. Shah was Director of Endoscopy at the Isaac Gordon Center of Gastroenterology at the Genesee Hospital affiliated with the University of Rochester. He moved to the University of Rochester Medical Center in 1992 and was appointed as Director of Endoscopy from 1994-2002.

Dr. Shah was a Founding Member of the Rochester Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) in 1978. He was honored by the local CCFA in 1995 for his voluntary services over many years. In 1987, he founded the Celiac Society of Rochester and has been their consultant since then. Dr. Shah is local resource for comparative Religions, Vedantic and Gandhian philosophy.

PANKHURIAN:***Dr Ravi Sharma's Book Release***

On Oct. 20, 2007, Dr. Ravi Sharma launched his poetry book 'Pankhurian', at India Community Center.



A renowned retired physician, he spends most of his time painting, writing, golfing and social work. He is on the Nominating Committee of Saathi of Rochester, Inc. an Organization devoted to Empowering Women from South Asia

experiencing Domestic and Sexual Abuse. The entire funds raised for his book release was donated to Saathi.

Of all the arts, poetry is the breath, the spirit and the impassioned expression of knowledge. His book is a spontaneous overflow of the most common feelings of 'what oft was thought but never so well expressed'. This is the essence of universality--expression of feelings and thoughts spread over the whole earth and over all times. Everyone's soul bursts out singing at the sight of beauties of nature like sunset, sunrise, birds, flowers, clouds floating in the sky, butterflies fluttering and hovering over flowers but nobody can express the fine feelings, the vibrations one gets the way a poet does. This is exactly what Dr. Ravi Sharma has done in his book Pankhurian written in Hindi and then translated in English, a collection of his beautiful petals and of the lightest and finest of thoughts, as expressed in his own words. The book is beautifully published with Ravi's paintings and the poems printed over them.

Ravi's poetry is not only a beautiful description of objects of Nature, it is also a spontaneous overflow of powerful expression on 'human relationship', the main target of Saathi of Rochester as an organization. His poetry binds together the whole empire of human relationship. In the most touching way he writes how he felt when the most dreaded day of his father's death arrived, his thoughts on his mother's death that the one who had given birth to him was herself lying on the pyre. He has dedicated the book to Shashi, his wife, and has eulogized her in the best possible way. In the most poignant way he describes his daughters and the tender feelings at the time of birth of his grand daughters. He has not left cultural side and describes Karvachauth Fast too by depicting beautiful picture of married ladies all dressed up in their best attire. Current problems like that of beggars, rape, terrorists

and terrorism are also included in his wide range. On the whole, the book makes a delightful reading. Ravi Sharma has lived away from his mother country for more than forty years and yet his use of such refined and literary flawless Hindi is admirable. It goes without saying that his command of English language is equally commendable.

Saathi of Rochester, Inc is lucky to have such a dynamic couple, Ravi and Shashi at its helm. No wonder the organization is making progress and helping women and children lead a life free from oppression and tyranny. The organization is based in Rochester and meets once every month.

Indu Maitra

Saathi Annual Banquet

The annual banquet of the Saathi of Rochester will be held at the ICC on Saturday, January 26, 2008. The program will be from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and will include social hour, entertainment, Chair's address, Dinner and survivor's address. All are welcome to the banquet. The Admission will be \$40 person. If interested in attending, please send the check (payable to Saathi) to Dr. Shashi Sharma, 29 Trowbridge Tr., Pittsford, NY 14534.

Saathi Wish List

To help set up temporary housing for Saathi clients, following items are currently needed: Car(s), bed(s), side tables, coffee tables, dining table (for 4), chairs, table lamps, kitchen items etc. If you wish to donate, please call 385-1418. Thank you.

Actors and Actresses Needed

The ICC will present a musical "Light of Asia – the Story of Buddha" on April 26 and 27. The play will include music, dance and dialogue. We need actors and actresses for the play (Actors and actresses do not have to be dancers or musicians). Kalidas needs actors and actresses for the next Kalidas play to be presented on May 30, May 31 and June 1. If interested in participating in either of these plays, please call Sanjay Maggirwar at 473-3842. Thank you.

ICC Winter Break Day Camp

The ICC will conduct a day camp for children KG and up from Feb. 18 – 22. For more information, please visit the web site: www.icor.org.

Dr. Kris Krishnamurthy
2nd Speaker for
The Education Lecture Series

The second lecture of the newly established ICC Education Committee Lecture Series was held on October 13, 2007. The speaker was Dr. Kris Krishnamurthy Director, R&D Materials Display Business, Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester. The title of his topic was **"India: A Powerful Global Hub for Science and Technology Innovation"**.



About 50 people 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

Dr. Krishnamurthy discussed how India is emerging as a major research hub as science and technology innovation trends are being redefined. Modern communication tools, coupled with superb technical talent, cost, and intellectual property protection encourage multinational companies to create centers of excellence. Besides the above main theme, his talk focused on the excellence of Material Science in India (a hidden Gem!), a critical core competency for other sectors to flourish.

ICC Annual General Meeting on
November 19, 2007

The ICC AGM was attended by about 40 members this year. The terms of the following trustees ended at the AGM: Srinivas Garapati, Padmanabh Kamath, Shubha Kamath, Vithal Sanapala, Bharat Shah, Suman Shenoy and Amit Thakkar. (All except Bharat Shah and Amit Thakkar were recruited by the BOT during the year.) Following new trustees were elected to the 2008 BOT: Girish Dahake, Rujuta Dholakia, Srinivas Garapati, Padmanabh Kamath, Jose Maliekal, Shalini Rai, Raj Rajan, Vithal Sanapala, Anushree Shah, Bharat Shah, Mythreyi Srinivasan and Ramnik Vora.

A major resolution to change the fiscal year of the ICC to end on Sept. 30 was approved. This will facilitate the auditor to present the end of year finance report (instead of interim report) to the AGM in future.

Rochester Gujarati Community
Diwali Celebration 2007

By Nagin Shah

On Friday November 9th, 2007 at 6:00 pm ICC was filled by old, not to old, young, not to young Gurus. Rujuta & Trushit Dholakia, a newcomer to Rochester area, Ila & Ramnik Vora, Mitesh Parikh, Nilesh Patel and others spend previous, Thursday, evening decorating auditorium with big and small pictures of "DIYAs", Gujarati and English banners, colorful lights and other artifacts. Social hour started at 6:00pm in conference where typical Gujarati appetizers: Chiwada, Mathias Gugras (sweet), and other munchies. By 7:30 there were over 280 people ready to enjoy entertainment program in the auditorium.

Entertainment program was managed by Master of Ceremony Rujuta Dholakia and choreograph by Anushree Shah, Parul patel, Rujuta Dholakia and others. Gujarati and non-Gujarati Children, young and not so young, performances of Diya Dance, Fancy Dress, Say Na, Kangna Re, Kahe Chhed, Decades of Bollywood, Radha Kaise Na Jale, and Bhangra-Saadi Gali to filmy music was excellent.



Aman Solanki & Divya Shah

Grown-up participants s performed Fashion Show, Dance Barso Re, Gujarati Chorus Song all were outstanding. Little comedians Parth, Sheil Patel made every one laugh. Mitesh Parikh sang nice song. It is clear that Bollywood is catching on here after watching



Sanam Solanki

U of R Indian and American students performance and other American participations. Trophies, sponsored by Jyoti & Mahendra Nanavati, were given to artists.

Now it was a time for the food. Pizzas were ordered for the Children. Food items were selected and ordered by Sumant Patel from Toronto and transported to ICC by Navnit Desai and Bhupendra Gadhia. Laddos, Kachories, Dhoklas, Undhia, Vegetables and other items were tasty and enough to feed over booked attendees with careful planning and volunteers. Party ended at 11:00 pm. Gujarati Diwali Party committee members would like to thank all the volunteers, ICC and not the least attendees for the successful program. Happy New Year!

Invitation to join the Eastern Indian "Do Good" Group

By Nagin Shah

"Everything we have in life is given to us to share." There are three gifts that we have that can be shared: "Time, Talent and Treasure". If you have the time or skills to be of service to others, we need you. If you do not have the time or skills, but can provide financial support, we can use your help. If you have all three gifts, so much the better. Remember, some deeds and thoughtful acts seem to warrant repayment in mysterious ways.

These are the thoughts that have inspired me to create a volunteer group that will be involved in serving the greater community. It will not be what we do as individuals; it is about everyone working together to make the world a better place to live, one community at a time. It is about working together as a group to make our individual efforts a success.

The group mission:

Provide an opportunity to people to work as a group in investing Time, Talent and Treasure for the good of others who are in need.

How it works:

1. Find those organizations in need of volunteers to support their activities. Organizations such as Open Door mission, Red Cross, Volunteer of America, Rochester Care, Inc, Sunshine Camp, Food closets, Nursing Homes etc.
2. We may, as a group organize a day for the needy such as Eye Camp, Blood Drive, Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets project etc.

Group member requirements:

Be willing to spend 4 to 6 hours per day per month, at least three times per year helping to support the organization in need.

I am hoping that retirees or those of you who stay at home will come forward to join this group. If you have any questions please call me at 585 421-9172 or contact me by e-mail: naginsah1@frontiernet.net.

Arrange Your Banquets at the ICC and Save!

It costs \$50 to 100 per guest to arrange banquets at local hotels. For upto 220 guests, elegant banquets can be arranged at the ICC at half the cost. If interested in getting more information about this, contact Padmanabh Kamath at 381-1541

Policies and Procedures ICC Service Excellence Award

1. The ICC will give out awards to recognize outstanding service to the center on an annual basis, at the time of its anniversary celebration. It is emphasized that this is an "In-house Recognition" designed to foster consistency and dedication in volunteerism, specifically to benefit ICC
2. The name of the Award shall be "SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD". This shall be an honorary award and shall carry no monetary value.
3. The number of awards be limited to a maximum of two annually. An additional award may be considered in unusual circumstances during any give year.
4. The criteria for the award shall be based on specific, consistent, honorable and outstanding service to ICC. The recipient may be an individual, a group of individuals, an institution or an organization. The immediate past chairperson who has served the ICC honorably may be considered for one award.
5. The selection process shall be by means of a Nominations Committee of a minimum of five members appointed by the Board of Trustees, one shall be a member of the BOT, who shall chair, the second shall be a past chair of the ICC, and the remaining shall be members of ICC. The Nominations Committee shall be in place no later than 60 days prior to the annual ICC Banquet.
6. Solicitation for nominations shall be well advertised by means of the ICC Newsletter, ICC webpage and ICC bulletin board. Additional methods can be pursued by the Nominations Committee.
7. The "Nominations Form" must be submitted to the Committee by the prescribed deadline. Verbal nominations will not be entertained.
8. Recommendation of candidates by the Nominations Committee shall be made at the regularly scheduled monthly BOT meeting prior to the Banquet.
9. The BOT shall have the right to confirm or deny by a majority vote, the recommendation of the nominations Committee. The BOT shall obtain the candidates' acceptance after confirmation and before finalizing the awards. If the BOT or the candidate does not accept the nomination(s), the nominating committee shall have an additional week to present alternate candidate(s). The BOT may vote not to give out any award in any given year.
10. The Award shall be in the form of a plaque bearing the insignia of ICC.

Nomination Form**2008 ICC Service Excellence Award****Deadline for submissions: February 18, 2008**

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please provide relevant details, with dates, to support your nomination:

Send completed form to

L.K. Mestha, Committee Chair

585-223-8476

Lalit.Mestha@xerox.com*Nomination Form is available on the ICC website: www.icor.org*

India Community Center of Rochester
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Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID Permit
No. 470
Rochester NY

ICC Annual Banquet

March 29 2008, 6pm to 10pm

Details to Follow

Nominations for 2008 ICC Service Excellence Award

Each year ICC recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding service to the Community Center. We invite you to nominate outstanding individuals within the community who have promoted Indian Culture and above all, have supported the cause of India Community Center for numerous years. The Policies and Procedures for the award is on page 8 of this Newsletter.

Nominations can be submitted to Committee Chair, L.K Mestha Lalit.Mestha@xerox.com by completing the Nomination Form The form is included in this Newsletter and is also available on the ICC website. All nominations are held confidential until final selection. Awardees will be recognized by the Keynote Speaker at the ICC Annual Banquet.

Deadline for nominations is February 18, 2008.