



**INDIA COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS &  
CULTURAL CENTER, INC. (ICRCC)**  
P.O. BOX 387 DEWITT, NY 13214

<http://www.icrcc.org/>  
Founded 1985

## ***Newsletter-October 2007***

### **President's Message**

**I hope you all enjoyed the glorious summer and are getting ready for the fall and the inevitable cold weather.**

**Independence Day picnic on August 18 and Panchavaktram Dance by the Articulate group went well. Upcoming events are Garba on October 13, Diwali on November 18, and the General Body Meeting on December 8. Details of the programs are given later in the newsletter. Please do come to these programs. In the meantime best wishes to all of you.**

**Suryanarayana**

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## INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC

We had our Independence Day picnic on August 18. There were over 75 persons. The weather was glorious and all the people had a good time with appropriate entertainment and good food. Thanks to Dr. Ashutosh for arranging the picnic. Thanks to the many volunteers who provided the delicious food.

The invitation to the essay (in English) competition on "**The Indian I most admire**" resulted in two entries being recognized, one from Trisha Maini and the other from Rati Saini. Their compositions are reproduced below.

**Tenali Raman by Rati Saini:** Tenali Raman was a jester in King Krishnadeva Raya's court in Vijayanagar. He was very intelligent man. He knew the right answers to the king's questions. The king used to reward him with gold coins for his intelligence. The courtiers were jealous of Tenali Raman. I admire him because he was so witty.

**Gandhi – The Indian that I most admire by Trisha Maini:** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in Porbandar on October 2, 1869. He studied law in England. In 1893 he went to South Africa to practice law. He started a way of resistance called satyagraha. This meant using truth and non-violence to fight injustice. Gandhiji returned to India in 1915. Gandhiji founded the Sabarmathi Ashram at Ahmedabad. He went all over India to get a better understanding of the people and the problems they had. After the Rowlatt act protests were made all over India, Gandhi called for an all India hartal or strike. It was on April 6,

1919 with fasts and prayers. On April 13 the Baishaki day hundreds of people gathered in Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar to attend a peaceful meeting to condemn the British government arresting their leaders. The British General Dyer ordered troops to fire on the innocent people. Gandhiji declared satyagraha against the British government. Thousands of people did not cooperate and did not use British things. Kids left school and people had bonfires. People wore clothes called Khadi. Gandhiji was arrested in 1922, sentenced to 6 years in jail. He was released in 1924 due to poor health. Gandhiji broke the salt law, which was that Indians could not make salt. He walked 320 kilometers from Sabarmathi ashram to the Gujarat seacoast in March-April 1930. Crowds joined him on the way. At Dandi, Gandhi and many others made salt. Soon Gandhi and many other leaders were arrested. Ever wonder why Gandhi is always with a spinning wheel? Well, Gandhiji is important because he got India freedom but he also taught India we do not (hate) the Britishers. We can make our own clothes, our own salt. That is just what they did. He not only did that but he taught India to be self-sufficient.

The two students will also be recognized during our Deepavali function.

# ICRCC

## *Annual General Body Meeting*

When: December 8, 2007, 3 pm – 5 pm

Where: Manlius Library

All members who are members as of December 8, 2007 are urged to attend the meeting. Five board members are to be elected. Kindly send your nominations for the positions to:

N.V. Suryanarayana, President

[nvsuryan@yahoo.com](mailto:nvsuryan@yahoo.com), phone 446 7424

Jagannadha Rao Kandula, Secretary

[raokj@yahoo.com](mailto:raokj@yahoo.com), phone 682 6014

### **Agenda:**

1. President's Report: N.V. Suryanarayana
2. Secretary's Report: Jagannadha Rao Kandula
3. Treasurer's Report: Naresh Patel
4. Membership Report: Pratap Reddy
5. Election to the board: Five directors are to be elected.

# Diwali Celebrations



When: 4:30 pm..., November 18, 2007  
Where: Holiday Inn, Electronics Parkway  
Program:  
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm Social Hour (cash bar)  
6:00 pm – 7:15 pm Entertainment  
7:15 pm - Dinner, Dance and Music  
Cost: Members: \$20  
Non-members \$30  
Kids (below 8 years) Free

**Reservation required before November 10, 2007**

**Please complete the form below and send it with your check to:  
Shashi Dhar, 4355 Poseidon Cir. Liverpool, NY 13090.**

**Phone: 652 1568 email: [dhars@yahoo.com](mailto:dhars@yahoo.com)**

Number of tickets (members as on Nov.18, 2007): \_\_\_\_\_

Non-member tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of kids (under 8 years) \_\_\_\_\_

Names (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate seating preference, if any.**

# Ras Garba



**DATE: Saturday, October 13, 2007**

**TIME: 7:30 PM – 11 PM**

**PLACE: Fayetteville-Manlius High School,**

**ADMISSION: \$ 5.00 per Person**

**Directions to F-M School: From 481 take exit 3E on 92 E (5E). At the fork of 92 and 5 bear right ( Rt. 92) and go all the way until T Junction at Manlius. Turn left on Rt. 173 East at traffic light . and school is about 3/4 mile at left on 173.**

Contact for Prasad : Kirna Shah 682-4820  
Shilpa Patel 256-9628  
Uma Patel 446-3300  
Geeta Patel 453-6330

**Phone System:** We have acquired a phone system to send automated messages. **The use of the phone will be limited to remind people about upcoming events and to announce any new programs.**

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### **Panchavakthram Dance**

Although the dance program by the Articulate group was arranged at short notice it was attended a fairly large number of persons – about 170. A unique feature of the dance was that of the 12 dancers five are blind. Mr. Nagaraj, the troupe leader and the manager of the group gave a very interesting introduction and explanation of the theme of the dance.

### **Outstanding Performance Sudha Raj**

Last weekend The Syracuse community had the wonderful opportunity to witness “PanchaVaktram”. This production delineates on the belief that Shiva from his formlessness manifests as Sadyojata, Vamadva, Aghora, Tatpurusha and Eshana. Together with Adi, Para, Iccha, Kriya and Gnana Shakthi, he creates the Pancha bhootas or the elements- earth, water, fire, air and space. These five manifestations of Shiva were represented in dance forms of Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Yakshagana, Kathak and Perini while, the art of the Bahuroopiyas introduced the Ardhanareeshwara concept.

Personally, I was delighted and in awe to witness this outstanding 90 minute performance by the Articulate India group, an ensemble of 12 dancers of whom five are visually challenged. Articulate is a Bangalore based organization that has taken up the social responsibility of enabling visually challenged and underprivileged children in Karnataka to beat the odds and come up in life.

The most striking elements of this dance presentation included the excellence in synchronized movements and rhythmic perfection displayed by the visually challenged artists, the revival of the 2500 year old ritual of Poorvaranga or entry on the stage, the vibrant introduction and commentary given by Mysore Nagaraj as well as the authentic costumes that were inspired by the iconography of India..

The audience was moved by the flawless performance of the visually challenged performers who showed all of us –“Where there is a will, there is a way”!

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ICRCC is grateful to the many volunteers who helped to make the program a success. Mrs.Harinakshi and Dr. Ravi Dabir took care of the lodging, boarding and local transportation with the assistance of Mrs.Neera and Dr. Ravi Seth, Mr. Ashwin Shah, Mrs. Charu Saini and Dr. Sunitha Kandula. Dr. Sudha Raj was a source of great help from the beginning (identification of the group) to the end. Our thanks to all of them.

ICRCC gratefully acknowledges the following persons for their generosity in sponsoring the dance program.

Sabita & Kumar Ashutosh  
Shobha & Tej Bhatia  
Jagadamba Chandrasekhar  
Shaila & Ramesh Gaonkar  
Ammaji & Bhaskar Rao Davuluri  
Alina Krishnan & Chakrapani Irri  
Sunitha & Jagannadh Kandula  
Sridevi & Dilip Karikhehalli  
Pushpa & Jay Prakash  
Sheela & Vikram Nayak  
Mala & Ajay Pal  
Anita & K.G. Rajan  
Charu & Rajeev Saini  
Usha & Malavalli Seetharam  
Rajni & Praveen Simlote  
Vakula & Sriram Srinivasan  
Manda & Jit Turakhia  
Kashi & Kameshwar Wali  
Lakshmi & Shankar Narayan (N. Oxford, MA)  
Madhuri & P.K. Sharma (Albany, NY)  
South Asia Center of the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse  
University

Rekha and Srinivasan Balaji  
Anita & Dilip Bhole  
Harinakshi & Ravi Dabir  
Vineeta & Shashi Dhar  
Veena & Ved Kayastha  
Smita & Dilip Kittur  
Lakshmi & Vinod Kavety  
Rama & Kishan Mehrotra  
Suman & Brij Mishra  
Shilpa & Naresh Patel  
Sudha & S.P. Raj  
Geeta & Ajoy Roy  
Lalita Seetharam  
Neera & Ravi Seth  
Vishnu & Sailaja Sishtala  
Pramila & N. Suryanarayana  
Anju & Pramod Varshney

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**Upcoming events:**

- 1. Ras Garba – October 13 FM High School.**
- 2. Deepavali** Program is fixed for November 18. This year we have reduced the cost of the tickets to \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. Children under 8 are free. We hope more people will participate in the function.
- 3. General Body Meeting – December 8, at the Manlius Library from 3 pm to 5 pm.**

**Children’s Club of CNY**

The South Asian Children’s Club of CNY now meets twice a month (on Sundays 4:30- 5:30 p.m.) at the Hindu Mandir of CNY.

The club provides a meeting ground for children of South Asian origin. We use Hindu mythology to provide children a window into their rich cultural heritage. The children are grouped by age. Children between the ages of 4 and 12 years are welcome to join.

The club is steered by parent volunteers. For details, please contact:

Neerja and Ajeet Gajra – [neerjajeet@hotmail.com](mailto:neerjajeet@hotmail.com)

Charu and Rajiv Saini- [charusaini@msn.com](mailto:charusaini@msn.com) (638-7395)

Divija and Kaushal Nanavati – [kbnmd@yahoo.com](mailto:kbnmd@yahoo.com) (720-1963)

## **Going Green Can \$AVE You Green**

Part 1 – A brief look at a few sustainability issues

Shalini N. Suryanarayana, Executive Director

Michigan Technological University Educational Opportunity Department  
Chair, MTU Environmental Sustainability Committee ([www.esc.mtu.edu](http://www.esc.mtu.edu))

“There is a sufficiency in the world for man’s need but not for man’s greed.”  
~ Gandhi

The United States has always been a very resource rich country, and we often seem to live as if that will never change. During an interview a while back (1999), the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibet, asked a Harvard professor what the world would be like if everyone drove a car. His question constituted a koan – a paradoxical riddle of Zen Buddhist tradition. A koan has no logical answer (“What is the sound of one hand clapping?”), but the search for an answer may lead to a flash of enlightenment.

The Dalai Lama’s question was a koan because its answer depended on an impossibility. Interestingly, we tend to live that way in North America (we have chosen a lifestyle that cannot be sustained if everyone in the world wanted to live this way; a lifestyle that is impossible to maintain unless others continue to have far less than we do). We are the only country with nearly as many motor vehicles as people of driving age. Many petroleum geologists predict that the world oil production has peaked and will begin a permanent decline over the next 40-50 years (for details, see the movie documentary, “Crude Awakening”). We consume about four times the resources than would be our “fair earth share,” and we produce far more than our share of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The bottom line: we have become very greedy global citizens.

Although there are plenty of moral for us to care about the environment and practice conservation of resources, there are also many economic reasons to do so (not because we are greedy, but because it is smart to use our dollars in a way that will maximize benefit and minimize harm). Not only can we help preserve the environment and all species on the planet for future generations, we can also save quite a bit of money in the process. Listed below are a few quick examples of everyday things we can do, as well as some fun links to help us better understand the size our individual “global footprints.”

Note: Although we may not be able to do these things all of the time, even doing them once in a while will help – every little bit counts!

- Walk or bicycle instead of using a motorized vehicle; next best, utilize public transportation; if you must drive, try to carpool/rideshare as often as possible
- Practice the Three R’s: Reduce, Re-Use, & Recycle
- Use a clothesline instead of a dryer
- Instead of buying that book, try borrowing it from the library (sharing resources)



- Take a cloth bag to the store so you won't need to "consume" another disposable bag. Many stores in the area sell bags for as little as 99 cents each.
- Try to buy local, and, as often as possible, purchase organically grown foods
- Turn off computer monitors when not using the computer and shut off lights if you will be out of the room for more than 10 minutes; use energy efficient light bulbs
- Use both sides of a sheet of paper and try to purchase paper with as much recycled content as possible

For more ideas, this link offers a variety of calculators and tips for improving energy efficiency:

[http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Facts/Facts\\_Environment.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Facts/Facts_Environment.shtml)

To calculate YOUR Global Ecological Footprint:

<http://www.ecologicalfootprint.org/Global%20Footprint%20Calculator/GFPCalc.html>

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Diwali Celebrations will be on November 18, 2007 at the Liverpool Holiday Inn starting at 4:30 pm. The ticket prices are \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. Kids 8 years and below are free. To avail of the reduced member prices, please complete the form below and send it with your membership dues (\$45-family and \$30-single) before November 10, 2007 to :

**Naresh Patel, 4522 Pauli Drive, Manlius, NY 13104.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_





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## Events Calender

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
Garba	October 13	FM High School	7:30 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Deepavali	November 18	Holiday Inn Liverpool	4:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.
General Body Meeting	December 8	Manlius Library	3 pm – 5 pm

