



INDIA COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL CENTER, INC. (ICRCC)

P.O. BOX 387 DEWITT, NY 13214

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

Founded 1985

Newsletter-November 2007

President's Message

The big event was the Deepavali function on November 18. It was well attended and all the people had a good time. On that occasion the updated directory was released.

Just a reminder that the General Body meeting will be held on December 8 at the Manlius Library from 3 pm to 5 pm. I request all members to attend the meeting and participate in it.

This is the last message from me as the President of ICRCC for the current year. It was an enjoyable and educational experience. My sincere thanks to all the people who helped me during the year.

Suryanarayana

BOARD (2006-2007)

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656 2829, adavikolanu@hotmail.com

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Garba Raas

On October 13th, 2007, ICRC held Garba Raas Function at F-M High School in Manlius, NY. The celebration and festival were successful. There was wonderful entertainment, good dancing, lively music, and an enthusiastic crowd of all ages. The turn out was the largest yet, and attendees enjoyed delicious food and high-spirited ambience.

We are grateful to the following community members for their contribution: Vijay & Kirna Shah, Dilip & Anita Bhole, Pankaj Dalal, Jagannadha Rao & Sunita Kandula, Ramesh & Niruben Modi, Dhiraj Patel, Nilesh & Geeta Patel, Lopa Patel, Naresh & Shilpa Patel, Pooja Patel, Ambu & Uma Patel, Hasmukh & Bhadra Shah, Kalpesh & Bhavini Patel, Himanshu Patel

(Photos by Smita Rane)

Submitted by Naresh Patel



Deepavali

Submitted by Sudha Raj, Lalita Seetharam and N.V. Suryanarayana

I.C.R.C.C. celebrated Diwali at Holiday Inn on 18th Nov. 2007 with about 200 persons. The social hour was a good opportunity for members of the Indian community to meet friends, enjoy conversations and get together to celebrate the spirit of the season. The function started with the lighting of the lamps followed by a short invocation. In the opening speech, Suryanarayana welcomed the guests and read the message sent by the Honorable Eliot Spitzer, Governor of New York. He touched on the release of the updated directory. Kumar Ashutosh facilitated the two essay winners (at the Independence Day Picnic), Trish Maini and Rati Saini with certificates of appreciation and gift certificates. Ravi Seth made a short speech. The celebration was highlighted by a brief cultural show by local talents coordinated by Rekha Balaji.

Anjali Nayar, Kunal Sangani, and Abhiram Sishtla, students of Rekha Balaji rendered a Kirthanai on Vinayaka in Hamsadwani. Minakshi Raj, disciple of Smt. Sowmya sang Vatapi also in Hamsadwani. They were accompanied by graduate students from Syracuse University- Lakshmi on violin, Vijay Ragava on flute and Karthik on Mridangam.

Nidhi Nivarthi and Rachael Thomas, students of Sudha Raj performed a Bharata natyam dance -Mallari. This was followed by Anjali Nayar, student of Rekha Balaji, who danced to a Purandaradasa's kriti.

The performances were well rendered and showcased the children's interest and dedication and the skills of their teachers. It also spoke for the parents' interest to expose the children to their roots and their culture.

The SU group was led by vocalist Nandita Padmanabhan accompanied by Lakshmi Balasubramnya on the violin, Vijay Raghava on the flute, and Karthik Kuber on the mridangam, and Chaitanya Challapalli on the key board, Nandita started with Alubela in ragam Ahirbhairavi, from the movie Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam and ended with Maate Malayadhwaja a composition of Sri Harikesanallur Muthaiya Bhagawadhar in ragam Kamas made popular in the movie Morning Raaga. The artists are of a professional caliber, three of them (Nandita, Lakshmi and Vijaya Raghava) are A.I.R artists. They have been guided by Vidhushis Madhavi R., Nagavali, Sathyamurthy, H.V. Krishnamurthy, S.V. Narayan, H.K. Venkataram, T.R. Sundaresan, and the late T.S. Mani.

The entertainment was followed by a buffet dinner catered by Sahota Palace. From the comments of many persons, the food was very good. After the dinner there was dancing by the guests. The directory was distributed to members. Thanks to Rama and Kishan Mehrotra, and Anita Dewan for their assistance in the distribution of the directory.

Text of Governor Eliot Spitzer's Message

November 18, 2007

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to send greetings to everyone who celebrates Diwali at the India Community Religious & Cultural Center.

The Empire State is fortunate to be home to many outstanding organizations that not only serve the cultural and social interests of their members, but also further enrich our wonderfully diverse population. We are grateful for the presence of the ICRCC here in New York, which fosters pride in the Indian heritage of its members and, at the same time, advances positive understanding of and relations with people of all cultures.

By sharing and promoting the vibrant history and heritage of your homeland, you preserve the cherished traditions and values of Indian and add to the multicultural uniqueness of this great State and Nation. The Society's membership can be proud of their charitable efforts on behalf of Hindus – for those in India as well as the families and individuals that come here to begin a new life.

On this special occasion of Diwali, you gather in celebrating the victory of righteousness and the lifting of spiritual darkness, from the great victory of Lord Rama. the symbolic use of the lights is woven into so many of our cultures and traditions – exemplifying that, while different, New Yorkers share much commonality, and are all solidly united in upholding the ideals and principles of freedom of religion. I commend the India Community Religious and Cultural Center for its worthy endeavors and commitment to both our Nation and the State of New York.

With warmest regards, and best wishes for an enjoyable function and a new year of continued success.

Sincerely,
Signed: Eliot Spitzer

Letters to the Editor: I received the following letter from Anju Varshney. I welcome your views on subjects of common interest to be published as stand-alone items or under letters to the editor.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Professor Suryanarayana for his dedicated effort as the President of ICRCC this year. He worked very hard to reach out to the community in understanding their feelings about ICRCC. I would love to see him continue as the President again next year so that he can continue the wonderful work that he has started. Please put the above in the next issue of the newsletter (signed by Anju Varshney).-

Directory – 2007

N.V. Suryanarayana

The updated directory was released on November 18 at the Deepavali function and distributed to the members. The effort in producing the directory was greater than originally estimated but thanks to the assistance of many people, we were able to complete it for the original target date.

All the people who helped in completing the directory have been recognized in the directory. However, I would like to specially thank Ami Dalal for the excellent cover design, Sunil Gupta for formatting the directory entries, and Jit Turakhia for his efforts in getting a large number of advertisements. Charu Saini, Chair of the Directory Committee and Abraham Thomas, Chair of the Advertisement Committee did a great job in making the project a success.

In spite of our best efforts to eliminate errors, we are aware that there are likely to be some. If you notice any errors, please contact N.V. Suryanarayana so that they can be reported in our next newsletter.

Members who did not receive their copies may pick up a copy (one copy per member and additional copies at \$5 per copy) at Kashmir Groceries. Other persons whose names appear in the directory may purchase a copy at \$5 per copy.

Sathya Sai Baba Center, Syracuse.

Education in Human Values Classes:

“The end of Education is Character”

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Center of Syracuse is offering classes on “Human Values” for children ages 6-15 years. The Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) is a character building program that aims to develop the innate goodness in each child by awakening the innate Human Values like Truth, Love, Peace, Right-action & Non-Violence. These Spiritual Classes are Held every Sunday from 11AM – 12:30PM at 5 Lock Street, Baldwinsville NY 13027.

Seva Projects:

“The Hands that serve are Holier than the Lips that Pray”

Sathya Sai Baba Center of Syracuse is serving the Homeless people in Syracuse from the last 10 years. We make Sandwiches every second Sunday of the month and on the last Tuesday of the month Pizza, and serve them to the Homeless people at Oxford Inn in Syracuse.

For further in please information please contact: Madhu Gupta (458-7680), Mansukh Shah (652-4448), Sathyajit Chadha (652-7149), Ravi Dabir (638-7317)

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

Charu and Rajiv Saini- charusaini@msn.com (638-7395)

Divija and Kaushal Nanavati – kbnmd@yahoo.com (720-1963)

ICRCC Annual General Body Meeting

When: December 8, 2007, 3 pm – 5 pm

Where: Manlius Library

All members 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, phone 446 7424 or

Jagannadha Rao Kandula, Secretary

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.

The terms of Rekha Balaji, Shashi Dhar, Jagannadh Kandula, Kirna Shah, and Simlote expire in 2007. All of them are eligible for nomination for the board this year.

The other members on the board are (year of expiration are in parantheses) Charu Saini (2008), Bandaru Ramarao (2008), Naresh Patel (2008), Ajay Pal (2008), Kishan Mehrotra (2009), Ramana Adavikolanu (2009), Abraham Thomas (2009), Dilip Bhole (2009) and N.V. Suryanarayana (2009).

To renew your membership please complete the form below (block letters) and send it with you check (\$45 for family and \$30 for single) to: N.V. Suryanarayana, 101 Old Lyme Road, Syracuse, NY 13224.

Name: _____ Spouse's name _____

Children's names _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ email address: _____

Why should I become a member of ICRCC? Many people have asked me why they should pay \$45 and become members of ICRCC. There are many reasons but some of them from my perspective are:

1. It provides a forum for all our community activities such as Spring Festival, Independence Day Picnic, Ras Garba, Deepavali and so on.
2. Without such an organization we will not be able to bring cultural programs - Shaheed Parvez' Sitar Concert, Dance performance by the Articulate Group and so on.
3. We are able to raise funds for the victims of Gujarat Earthquake, 9/11, Tsunami, Katrina and so on.
4. Members pay reduced rates for events organized by ICRCC.
5. Its newsletter is a medium that allows the community to know some of the things happening in the community.
6. It provides an umbrella for many functions organized by individuals.
7. By involving in its activities we come to know many people in the community. This aspect is particularly useful to the new comers to the area.
8. Periodically ICRCC provides a directory of the Indian community at no cost.

On a personal note, we (my wife and I) have benefited greatly in getting to know many of the people in the community. The relocation from Houghton, MI to Syracuse was made easy because of this. Without it I doubt if we could have made so many friends here.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 315 446 7424.

Suryanarayana

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