



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

P.O. BOX 387 DEWITT, NY 13214

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

Founded 1985

Newsletter-March 2008

President's Message

BOARD (2007-2008)

President: N.V. Suryanarayana
446 7424, nvsuryan@yahoo.com
Vice-President: Kishan Mehrotra
446 9036, kishangmehrotra@yahoo.com
Secretary: Sailaja Sishtla
682 0399, sail81@twcny.rr.com
Treasurer: Ashok Sangani
449 2098, asangani@syr.edu

Directors:

Ramana Adavikolanu
656 2829, adavikolanu@hotmail.com
Rekha Balaji, Cultural Coordinator
682 7260, sribalaji@hotmail.com
Dilip Bhole
682 1855, dilip@twcny.rr.com
Naresh Patel, 256 9628,
nareshmpatel164@earthlink.net
B.V. Ramarao
329 0092, bvrarama@syr.edu
Charu Saini
638 7395, charusaini@msn.com
Vakula Srinivasan
682 1892, vakula02@yahoo.com
Abraham Thomas
468 3887, abethomas101@yahoo.com

Membership Coordinator
Vakula Narayan
vakula02@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor:
N.V. Suryanarayana
nvsuryan@yahoo.com

Website Administrator
Ramana Adavikolanu
adavikolanu@hotmail.com

I am deeply honored to be elected President for a second year. I shall continue to work for the benefit of the organization to the best of my ability. During the last year I had the assistance from many members and I hope to receive the same degree of cooperation.

Our plans for the current year are given later in the newsletter. The board welcomes suggestions for new programs of interest to the community.

There are three vacancies on the board. We would appreciate your assistance in identifying persons to fill the vacancies. Please contact Sailaja Sishtla or me.

Our next program is the Spring Festival scheduled for May 3. Hope to see you all then.

Suryanarayana

Directory – 2007

N.V. Suryanarayana

Corrections to the Directory:

Page 24: The write-up by Mrs. Madhuri Sharma, originally published in the 2000 Directory, was reprinted without any change in the 2007 Directory and hence the last sentence in the write-up is not relevant at this time.

Page 26: Bhabani should read Babani.

Page 27: Add phone number 474 4526 to the entry under Crane, Lakshmi

Page: 30: Add – Kashmir Groceries & Imports, 118 Seeley Rd. Syracuse, NY 13224 Phone: 315 251 2571

Page: 31: Change zip code of Mahajan, Gayatri & Shirish from 13126 to 13104

Page: 37: Change address of Sharma, Madhuri & P.K. to 3, Crailo Court, Loudonville, NY 12211.

The errors are regretted.

If any entry in the directory is to be corrected or modified, please contact Suryanarayana (nvsuryan@yahoo.com).

Directory Distribution: Directories were distributed at the Deepavali Function on November 18, 2007. They were mailed to other members and advertisers later. Members and advertisers who have not received their copies are requested to contact Suryanarayana (nvsuryan@yahoo.com). Additional copies by those listed in the directory can be obtained at \$5/copy.

General Body Meeting

The general body meeting was held on December 8 at the Manlius Library.

The meeting started with President's report. The main points of the report are:

1. The programs during the year – Sitar concert by Ustad Shahid Parvez, Spring Festival, Independence Day, Dance program by the Articulate group, Ras Garba, and Deepavali. All the functions were successful.
2. The 2007 directory was released at the Deepavali function.
3. Acquisition of an automated phone system, which will be used to remind community members of upcoming programs and similar announcements.
4. Request from the members for an alternative site for the Deepavli program with facilities that are considered appropriate.
5. The need for a membership coordinator.

The president thanked all the persons who assisted him during the year.

The President's report was followed by the Secretary's report (Jagannadha Rao). He also touched on the release of the directory and diwali celebrations. He reported that there were five vacancies on the board. He voiced the concern of the board about the poor attendance at the General Body and board meetings and urged greater participation by the members at the meetings.

Naresh Patel, Treasurer presented an interim report on the finances of the organization. A final report will be available later. We have a total of \$156313.32 in various interest earning accounts. Fund raising at the Spring Festival, Parvez's Sitar concert, Ras Garba, and

Directory was significant. Expenses were greater than the revenues at the Articulate dance and Diwali programs but the year ended on a healthy positive financial note.

Elections to the board: Rekha Balaji, Jagannadha Rao Kandula, Vakula Narayan, Ashok Sangani, and Sailaja Sishtla were unanimously elected to the board for a three year term ending 2010.

Vacancies on the Board: Subsequent to the general body meeting, Jagannadha Rao Kandula requested that he be relieved from the position on the board. We now have three vacancies on the board and **members are requested to identify persons to fill the vacancies and inform either Sailaja Sishtla or Suryanarayana the contact information of the persons so identified.**

Upcoming Events

Spring Festival: Spring Festival is scheduled to be held on May 3 at the H.W. Smith School on Salt Spring Road or at the FM High School (The venue will be confirmed later). This will follow the usual format with a cultural program and food court.

Cultural Program: Persons wishing to participate in the cultural program are requested to fill the form below and mail it to Rekha Balaji, 9127 Stratus Circle, Manlius, NY 13104. Please note that there is a **registration fee of \$10 (per family) for those persons who are not members of ICRCC.** For more details please contact Rekha Balaji (srinibalaji@hotmail.com).

Spring Festival 2007 Registration Form	
Names of Participants	
Program description with approximate duration	
Address, Phone #	
Registration amount	

Food Court: The food court will follow the same format with volunteers providing food from different regions. Vanaja Rama Rao (329 0092) has agreed to take the lead role. She will be assisted by Charu Saini (638 7395) and Mala Pal (607 749 2726). **We need volunteers to provide food at the Festival; please contact any one of them.**

Independence Day: August 17, 2008

Kathak/Bharatanatyam: Rajendra and Nirupama – October 19, 2008

Ras Garba: Date and venue to be announced.

Deepavali: November 8, 2008, Holiday Inn Liverpool

ICRCC Deepavali Banner: The board decided to replace the old Diwali banner (it has a spelling error) with a new one. We invite designs from young people for the design. It should have an ICRCC logo and reflect that it is for Dewali. Please send your designs in PDF format to Sailaja Sishtla. The designs will be examined by one or more judges.

Going Green Can \$AVE You Green (Part Two – A Brief Look at a Few Sustainability Issues)

By Shalini Suryanarayana

“What is the good of having a nice house without a decent planet to put it on?”

Henry David Thoreau

In an earlier newsletter, Part One of this series introduced the idea of environmental sustainability. Although there are many definitions, some of the common threads in most of them are expressed in this one:

Environmental sustainability

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Encompasses, e.g. keeping population densities below the carrying capacity of a region, facilitating the renewal of renewable resources, conserving and establishing priorities for the use of non-renewable resources, and keeping environmental impact below the level required to allow affected systems to recover and continue to evolve

There are plenty of moral reasons 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 to improve the energy efficiency of our homes. This will reduce our energy consumption this winter and save us enough money to invest in additional energy saving approaches in the summer ☺

Energy Efficiency Tips

You can save energy dollars by following these simple tips. Many of them are common sense suggestions that require no tools or out of pocket expense. Over time, you will see your energy efficiency increase and your energy savings multiply

Clean or replace filters at least once a month

Dirty filters make your system work harder and run longer than necessary

They also encourage the buildup of mold and mildew, making cleaning more difficult

Shade outside air conditioning units

A/C units shaded by trees or other means work more efficiently and use up to 10% less electricity

Clean your AC's condenser/evaporator coils at the beginning of the season

Clean coils lower your energy costs, extend the unit's life and provide cleaner air to breathe

The fin coils on the outside AC unit can be washed with a hose

Coils on inside units may be difficult to get to and may require a trained technician

Keep debris and high grass away from the condenser

These obstacles block the airflow to the unit

Blockage makes the condenser work harder and run longer

Set your thermostat at 78 in the summer and 68 in the winter

Each degree cooler or warmer will increase your energy use by 6 to 8%. For instance, setting your thermostat at 72 in the summer could increase energy use by up to 40%

One of the best ways to save energy dollars is to use less air conditioning and heating

If you have central air conditioning, do not close vents in unused rooms

This could increase pressure and cause leaks in your ducts

This does not apply to homes or apartments with window units where closing off unused rooms will reduce cooling costs and increase comfort

Consider new high efficiency air conditioners and heat pumps

They use up to 40% less electricity than older models for the same amount of running time

It's Cheaper to Save Energy than to Make Energy:

No Cost and Low Cost Efficiency Tips

No Cost Tips

Turn water heater down to 120F (49C)

Clean refrigerator coils

Switch refrigerator to power miser setting

Set refrigerator temperature to 36-39F (2-3C)

Set freezer to 0-5 F (-18 to-15C)

Keep refrigerator/freezer full (water)

Turn off water while shaving and brushing teeth

Use cold water for wash and wash full loads

Collect rainwater

Use the right size pot/pan on the stove burner

Do not preheat your oven except for baking

Cover pots/pans when cooking

Drain some water from your water heater to remove sediment

Low Cost Tips

Install low flow shower heads and aerators on faucets

Insulate water heater

Insulate electrical outlets and switches

Caulk on the inside of doors and windows

Insulate/caulk all pipe penetrations in walls and ceiling

Install a bleed line on the evaporative cooler and run line to a tree

Replace furnace filter every month in winter

Replace light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs

Insulate the bottom and sides of waterbeds

Use a quilt or comforter on waterbeds

Purchase a water saving toilet or use toilet dams

Make a draft dodger for use on doors or windows

Winter Tips

Turn thermostat down 10 degrees F (5.5 °C) at night

Turn thermostat down 10 degrees F (5.5 °C, about 42°F) when leaving for 4 hours or more

Keep curtains open on the south side of the house during the day

Keep curtains closed on north windows

Dress in layers of clothing

Summer Tips

Close curtains on the sunny sides of home

Turn off furnace pilot light

Open windows on the cool sides of home

Wear loose, light colored clothing

Use fans to circulate air in the house

There is a sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed.

~Mohandas K. Gandhi

About the Author: Shalini N. Suryanarayana is the Executive Director, Michigan Technological University Educational Opportunity Department (www.edopp.mtu.edu). As the Chair of MTU Environmental Sustainability Committee (www.esc.mtu.edu) and Advisor to the MTU Students for Environmental Sustainability she is actively involved in many aspects of sustainability issues at the university. She is a Member Board of Directors, Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter Home for Abused Women.

Invitation to all community members

We would like to make the newsletter more relevant to the community. If you have any items of news (arrivals of new people, births, honors etc.) or if you like to submit an article please get in touch with me at nvsuryan@yahoo.com or call me at 446 7424.

Suryanarayana

Children's Club of CNY

The South Asian Children's Club of CNY now meets twice a month (on Sundays 4 pm - 5 pm) 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)

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)

Invitation: We need more members to sustain our activities. Some of the reasons for becoming members are given later. Please renew your membership. If you do not see the notation 2008 or 2100 at the end of your name on the address label, it means your membership has expired.

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: Vakula Narayan, 4373 Winding Creek Road, Manlius, NY 13104 (vakula02@yahoo.com).

Name: _____ Spouse's name _____

Children's names _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ email address: _____

Why should I become a member of ICRCC? People ask 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 others.
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 in 2002 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

ICRCC
P.O. Box 387
Dewitt, NY 13214

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Syracuse, NY
Permit No. 210

Events Calendar:

Jodha Akbar	March 14, 9 pm and 15, 3:30 pm	Palace Theatre	Tickets \$8 ¹
Desi Hungama	April 12, 6 pm...	Henninger High School	Details ¹
Spring Festival	May 3	Venue to be decided	
Independence Day	August 17	Details to follow	
Dance: Nirupama/Rajendra	October 19	Details to follow	
Deepavali	November 8	Holiday Inn, Liverpool	

¹For more details visit www.kashmirship.com