



BHARATI भारती

A Publication of the India Association of Indianapolis, Inc.

Vol. 30, No. 6

A Magazine with a Mission - to Inform, Communicate and Enlighten

November-December 2006

IAI ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS FOR 2007

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Name	Position
Arvind Thakkar	Director
Kalpana Merchant	Secretary
Kshama Ranade	Treasurer
Chetan Shukla	Joint Secretary
M. S. Anand	Joint Secretary

IAI remains as India Association of Indianapolis

Some members had expressed an interest in changing the name of IAI to India Association of Indiana or Indian-American Association of Indiana or Indianapolis...

The Board considered the proposal and circulated information about the proposals to the membership via direct mail and through Bharati. Here is the update on that matter

“Proposals for name change of India Association of Indianapolis were presented to the membership via mail ballots and were on the agenda for a special general body meeting held at India Community Center on October 18, 2006 at 7:00 PM. The representatives of each proposal were in attendance. The voting was kept open from 7:00 PM till 8:00 PM. Total number of ballots cast including the proxy ballots did not meet the quorum for the general body meeting. Therefore, the current name of India Association of Indianapolis will be retained.”

For Ajai K. Chaudhary
Secretary
IAI Board



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Community Services Page

Sponsored by the **Community Services Group of IAI**

OUR MISSION

1. To provide community service programs and activities to benefit the Indian community
2. To establish a support system and infrastructure to provide assistance to community members in need
3. To actively engage the Indian community with the local community through increased volunteering activities

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Annual Seniors Gala Nite

Please join IAI Community Services Group in celebrating the 2nd Annual Seniors Gala Nite on **Sunday, November 19, 2006** between 3:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the India Community Center. This fun-filled evening is geared toward the young at heart in the 55+ age group.

The event will begin with health and wellness counseling. Physicians from multiple specialties such as Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Rheumatology, Neurology, Gynecology, Psychiatry and Nutrition will be available between 3:30 PM and 4:30 PM to provide FREE one-on-one counseling. This will be followed by social time (light snack and refreshments will be provided), variety entertainment, group activities and conclude with a full course dinner.

Admission is FREE. For more information, please contact Anu Ganith at (317) 872-6785 or Kanchana Ishwar at (317) 848-8943 or email us at iai_cs@yahoo.com.

COME, BE A PART OF US

We would like to hear from you if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions to share. We encourage volunteers of all ages. Please contact any of our team members if you would like to serve your community. You can also reach us by email at iai_cs@yahoo.com.

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Bharati is a bimonthly newsletter of the India Association of Indianapolis, Inc., dedicated to communicate, inform and enlighten the Community and be a forum for fostering Indian arts and culture. It reaches all the Indian American Community

of Central Indiana. *Bharati* invites advertisements, articles and letters to the editor. Articles should be of general interest and not be more than 600 words. Letters to the editor should not exceed 200 words. Letters should be typed double spaced and must include your name. The editor reserves the right to edit any material selected for publication.

The deadline for receiving articles and advertising for the January-February issue is December 15, 2006.

The advertisement rates are as follows. Please make checks payable to India Association of Indianapolis.

	one issue	six issues
Full page	\$300.00	\$1400.00
Half page	\$150.00	\$ 750.00
Quarter page	\$ 80.00	\$ 400.00
Business Card	\$ 50.00	\$ 250.00

Preprinted Full Page Insert - \$220 per issue.

IAI is not responsible for ad formatting and misprint. Please provide pre-formatted ad to our publisher and verify ads prior to print by request. Business Card size advertisements will be provided free to Non-Profit Sister Organizations.

Letter to Editor...

Diwali show!

I attended the Diwali celebration held at the Murat Temple on Saturday, the 4th of November. What a show it was! The IAI officers have to be commended for putting together a fantastic show. I particularly liked the fun –filled entertainment song and dance show hosted by the “Indian Idol” grads.

What a change the globalization of industry, market, service and capital has brought about in the Indian psyche and lifestyle! It is amazing to know what is going on in India now. For generations, in India, seniority, connections, and name sake diplomas and degrees played a great role. With exposure to the foreign countries and MNC holding a sway in India, now, talent, achievement, adaptability, ability to express oneself, initiative, performance and enterprise are given greater importance. For years, a few talented singers held a stranglehold on the music industry. In India, the music industry was (even now it is so) dominated by the movies. In all the other countries talented musicians, composers, and singers could write a song and publish it. And people would buy their songs on CDs or tapes. In India, the only route of exposure for a budding musician is still for the most part through movies. An average movie has about 6 songs. When someone becomes a famous playback musician, the fans would only listen to their songs. They in turn would control and blackmail the movie producers and songwriters not to give opportunity to others. As a result musical talent was withering before it had a chance to bloom. Having seen American idol, the Indian TVs have also started creating India Idol. Just imagine with more than a billion, India should have talented singers all over the country rather than the handful of movie playback singers. Non-famous singers never could get a chance at the big time playback singing opportunities. Now the India Idol and other local languages Idol shows have started to make an impact. Just like competing in the Miss World gave impetus to young women to stay trim and be attractive, the arrival of the India Idol has woken up a lot of dormant talent for pop music. I believe now they have Idol shows in colleges and schools. Watching the Idol grads perform at the

Diwali celebration, gives us inkling as to what might be happening in the Indian music scene at the present time.

Yes, I, like most of those that were in the audience, want artistes to be also performers and not simply serious singers. Having been to some American pop shows I have always admired at the way they put together the pop shows. The show starts on time. The sound system is perfect. The musicians don't waste the time tuning their instruments. The singers don't distract the audience by reading from lyrics sheet. They show their enjoyment in performing for the audience. The India Idol grads Karunya and Monali (both under 21) kept the crowd on their feet and had them yelling for more fun. Where do they find the energy to sing and dance and measure the pulse of the audience! Soujanya, the other local talent from US also did a great job of belting out some classic songs. It was beautiful to watch Tanya Devnani open the show with her beautiful rendition of “peacock dance” to a melodious tune.

Here are some other comments about the celebration. It was nice to note that the officers kept their speeches succinct. It was also a great idea to start the dinner while the election process was going on. As usual they had several tables and lines for the buffet dinner. The wait staff did a great job of serving water and coffee and tea.

I missed the annual Diwali photo session. It is nice to have a picture taken in the best Diwali clothes. I believe the area they normally reserve for photo shoot was taken up by the other show organizers. I also wish they had set up more than one table or line for partaking the appetizers. The wait was too long and people formed two lines in two directions causing a bit of confusion. I also missed not seeing a diya dance. Seeing it always reminds you of Diwali. The sweets distributed by Brightpoint were delicious.

Overall it was a very enjoyable show. Thanks for all the volunteers who were responsible for it. I wish good luck to the new office bearers. Let us all support the organization by becoming members right away and offering our help and participation.

Ram S. Ravindran

IAI, A Sandwich Without 2 Slices of Bread

A sandwich to be whole and healthy needs two slices of bread and the fillings that goes with it. Likewise IAI needs the old timers and members of the upcoming generation of Indian-Americans (born and raised here) to maintain continuity and viability. I try to attend most of the functions organized by the IAI. Lately I have noticed that the old timers that I used to know for years have stopped attending these functions. Their children whom I used to know when they were young (who are now young independent adults) also have stopped attending them... Some of the old timers say "It is all the same every year. It ceases to be fun for us" The young adults who have finished college and started the work life find no commonality with the members. So, the organization seems to be run and supported by only the recent arrivals from India and those who have young children... These parents find it convenient to have this organization to offer their young children a taste of Indian culture and tradition. For some years it gives them an opportunity to participate in it.

The organization can't be a viable one unless the second generation of Indian Americans take an active role and become its office bearers. Only one or two presidents have been second generation Indian-Americans. Even though the population of people from India living in the Central Indiana area has grown, the membership of this organization has not. For generations, the loyalty of Indians has remained only with their families and relatives. Though India has been a single political entity for nearly 60 years many Indians still find comfort in their own small linguistic groups. The Indianapolis Diaspora for several years looked like it had become cosmopolitan in its attitude. However, with the proliferation and formal organization of various subgroups (collecting their own membership fees) its interest in the larger organization seems to be waning. We all need to think about this changing environment very seriously. We need to keep the IAI viable and strong. It is an organization that gives us an identity (like we saw at the India Day celebration) and project an image to the larger American community. Old and young we need

Shruti Sadolikar Katkar's Vocal Recital Enchants Audience

On October 7, the IAI - Fine Arts Committee presented its third and final offering of the year at Butler University's Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall. The artist, Shruti Sadolikar Katkar enchanted the audience with her unusually robust contralto voice in the rendition of rare and enchanting ragas like Kausi Kanada and Gorakh Kalyan in the Jaipur-Atrauli style of classical singing. She also sang popular ragas such as Multani and Maru Bihag and concluded the program with a very traditional Bhairavi. She was ably accompanied by Pandit Samar Saha on the tabla and Shri Sandip Bhattacharjee on the harmonium. All three artists are associated with the Sangeet Research Academy of Kolkata. Smt. Bhakti Vaze of Carmel who at one time studied with Shruti Sadolikar Katkar provided Tanpura accompaniment.

Earlier in the year, the IAI - Fine Arts Committee had brought another vocalist Dr. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande and the sitar maestro Pandit Nayan Ghosh to Indianapolis. Plans for 2007 include Odyssey, Kathak and Bharathnatyam dance recitals, another appearance by the sitarist Pandit Nayan Ghosh and a vocal recital by Shri Hemang Mehta, a disciple of Pandit Jasraj.

The IAI - Fine Arts Committee invites your support of and participation in its activities. Please contact any one of the following.

Arvind Thakkar, Director, athakkar@iquest.net
Kalpana Merchant, Secretary, kmmerchant2003@yahoo.com
Kshama Ranade, Treasurer, kranade@hotmail.com
Chetan Shukla, Joint Secretary, chetanshukla@hotmail.com

to be active participants of this organization during all of our lives. We can be members of the smaller subgroups.. But we need to be active in the umbrella organization as well.

Ram S. Ravindran

A Silent Revolution

By Melkote Ramaswamy

There is a silent revolution taking place in America. Slowly but surely for whatever reason—health of otherwise—Americans are turning partly vegetarian. We have discovered this from our travels over the last several years.

From the outside, the Salem Mall in Dayton, Ohio, is like any other shopping complex. The inside is a different story altogether. The mall has two levels with a large sunroof. The lower level has all the eateries. The food that you can sample here is solid evidence for the quiet revolution. The Steak'n Fries stand dishes out vegetarian submarine sandwiches, and boasts of using peanut oil in their fries (gone are the days of lard!). The Greek place rolls out vegetarian gyros and the Chinese Café features vegetarian egg rolls.

The Mudpie Restaurant and Riverside Café in Minneapolis carry an all-vegetarian menu. These are owned and patronized by Americans. The Saffron Cafe in the food court in Richmond Heights Mall in Cleveland sells samosas, nans and vegetarian curries among other things.

What is happening in Dayton, Minneapolis and Cleveland is being repeated in other parts of the country.

I was born a vegetarian and have remained as one all my life, including over 30 years in the United States. I do not eat meat, seafood or poultry. I can tolerate eggs in indirect form like in cakes and ice cream, although I try to avoid as much as possible.

In the sixties, the drug store fountain with grilled cheese, canned tomato soup and coconut pie used to be my mainstay. If I wanted some vegetables, I had to go looking for a cafeteria. Even there I had to watch out. It was not uncommon to find bits of bacon or ham in boiled vegetables! The other alternatives were pancake houses and restaurants where the chef was willing to fix a fruit plate for a price. Pizza and Mexican outfits were few and far between. I remember taking a taxi to a Pizza Hut in Atlanta—the

fare cost more than the pizza. Indian restaurants serving authentic, spicy vegetarian food existed only in big cities like New York and Washington, DC.

Happily, those days are gone. I no longer have to be ashamed to be a vegetarian. I need not ask questions about ingredients either. Restaurants are switching to vegetable oils because of cholesterol. Vegetable toppings on pizzas have expanded to include jalapeno.

Even McDonald's is serving vegetarian burgers in some markets. Taco Bell, Subway, Panera, Brugers' Bagels routinely offer vegetarian selections. Indian restaurants offering vegetarian and non-vegetarian fare are mushrooming all over the country with some, such as Udupi Restaurant in Indianapolis, offering exclusively vegetarian menu.

Americans are slowly embracing Indian cuisine and love several vegetarian entrees.

We are already finding in a small measure evidence of a liquor-free and smoke-free America. Can a meatless America be far behind?

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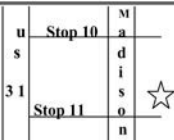
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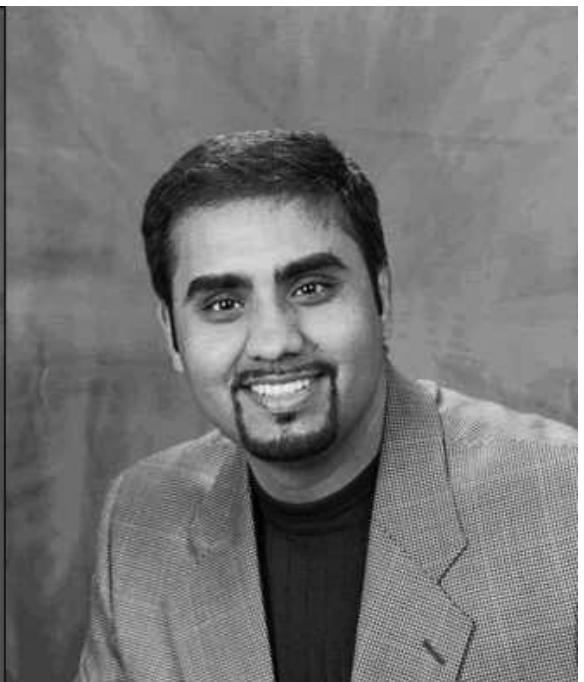
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Administrator:	Prabhaker Kasarabada	317-514-3935
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YOUTH GROUP COMMITTEE

Tarun Gangwani, Ketki Tamhankar, Reshma Kalimi, Gauri Wagle,
Raghava Kamlesh

Tu hee hai dhata

Ek tu hee hai dhata

Tu hee sahara

Chalta nahe sansar teray kahay bin

Dukh aur sukh zindgi may aate jaate
Sukh may saath hamaray tu chalta
Dukh may hamay utha kay kinaray lagata
Kan kan may tu hee samaya huaa
Ek tu hee hai dhata
Tu hee sahara

Kishti jab fasati bhavar may
Tu taran haar banke kinaray lagata
Patta nahee hilta teray kahay bin
Ek tu hee hai dhata
Tu hee sahara

Dukh may to simran har koyee karata
Sukh may bhul jate sabhi
Sukh may agar na bhulo usae tum
Dukh na aaye zindgi may kabhi
Ek tu hee hai dhata
Tu hee sahara

Eshwar hai hum sabh may samaya
Hamaisha sukh aur dukh may saath dheta hamara
Hamee hai jo usae sada bhul jate
Fir bhee hamay maaf karke vo galai say lagata
Ek tu hee hai dhata
Tu hee sahara
Chalta nahe sansar taray kahay bin

By Uma Gupta