

SAMACHAR PATRICA

October 2013

BHARAT KENDRA - INDIA CENTER, INC 800 Green Road, P.O. Box 8985, South Charleston, WV 25303

THANKS...

"I am grateful to have a great board/great team. Our board members have spent their valuable time and efforts to make all the events a success. Furthermore, all this is impossible without extra help from the community members. Thanks to all the volunteers."

- Tushar Shah.

This India Center newsletter includes updates from the previous newsletter and the information on the remaining events for the year (Diwali, Life Members Dinner and the General Board Meeting).

UPDATES...

We are back on the web with a new address. If you have not visited www.indiacenterwv.com, please check it out. In addition, you will find the rental/event calendar at the site. Vinayaga Prasad did a great job in getting the India Center's new website on line.

Early this year, the By-law revision committee reviewed the revision to the By-laws before it was distrusted for the voting. This was just an effort to finish the already completed revision and put forth for the voting. The committee members included: Madan Bhasin, Ashok Sanghavi, Bhajan Saluja, Raj Shah, Paul Saluja, Bhupinder Gill and Tushar Shah. Few community members had concerns regarding the revision. The voting was not finalized during the special general body meeting on March 31. The committee is to review the revision one more time before sending it out for the re-voting. Harish Gorli and Shobha sampath were added to the By-law revision committee during a special general body meeting.

On March 18, the cleanup was carried out led by Uma Reddy with the help of the volunteers (Lakshmi Gogineni, Jayasree Challa, Sreedevi Joganpally, Malathai Patnayak, Vanitha Harish, Sashi Sivaprakasham, Patricia & Joseph Noronha, Anand Bhasin, Shobha Sampath, Prema Jagannath, and Jayashree Mukkamala). They did a great job.

Another cleanup effort was carried out on October 26 under the lead of Vinayaga Prasad and Hemant Shah. Several volunteers spent their valuable time on Saturday supporting the cleanup effort. Thanks to Dhruva Gupta, Arka Gupta, Jay Sheth, Sach Prasad, Kush Modi, Ilavezhil Iniyavana, Shobha Sampath, Prabha & Dr. Krishna Murthy, Mani & Ramkumar, Vanita shah, Jyoti Desai, Iniyavan, Thangasamy, Abhijit Banerjee, Dr. Shashi Sheshani, Bhupinder Gill, Vinayaga Prasad, Hemant Shah and Kiran Sanghavi.

2013

REMAINING EVENTS

November 2nd, Saturday
Diwali
5:30 p.m.

November 17th, Sunday
Life Member's Dinner
6 p.m.

December 1st, Sunday
Annual General Body
Meeting
2:30 p.m

2013 – PAST EVENTS

March 18th, Monday
India Center Cleanup day

March 23rd, Saturday
Fellowship Dinner

March 31st, Sunday
Special General Body
Meeting

May 18th, Saturday
Heritage Fair
August 10-11,
Fundraising/Music Function

September 14th, Saturday
Annual Picnic

September 21st, Saturday
Mana Meal Fundraising

October 13th, Sunday
Gandhi Day

This year Fellowship Dinner was a great success. Thanks for Meenu Patel and Nilima Bhirud for organizing the entertainment program. It was amazing to see hidden talents from our community. Thanks to Hemant Shah for leading effort and thanks to all the community male cooks/volunteers for the great food.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tushar Shah
(Chairperson)

Bhupinder Gill
(Treasurer)

Vinayaga Prasad
(Secretary)

Directors

Dr. Nilima Bhirud
Prabha Krishnamurthy
Beena Modi
Meenu Patel
Hemant Shah
Subhash Yadwadkar

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT & RESERVATIONS

Kiran Sanghavi
(Chairperson) 304-345-7517

After two years of hibernation, the *Heritage Fair* celebration was back this year on May 18th. Once again, thanks to Meenu Patel for pulling the excellent entertainment program together. Furthermore, thanks to our past chairperson Dr. Ashish Sheth for successfully leading the Heritage Fair organizing committee. Other committee members included: Madan Bhasin, Kiran Sanghavi, Meenu Patel and Tushar Shah. Mark your calendar and spread the word; the **next year's Heritage Fair will be on Saturday, April 12, 2014.**

This year new Youth Council was formed with an idea from Yashan Thakkar. This council is planning to volunteer/represent as a group at various events such as mana meal, walk for breast cancer and Alzheimer's. The council is led by Yashan Thakkar, and the Nilima Bhirud is a counselor to the council. At this time, the council member includes Yashan Thakkar, Sneha Patnaik, Shawn Saluja, Jay Sheth, Dhruva Gupta, and Arka Gupta. If your youngster is interested in actively involve with the "Youth Council," please contact Yashan Thakkar at yashan.thakkar@hotmail.com.

Sumi & Bipin Mandan have provided their service/guidance as a CPAs to the India Center since the founding of the India Center, Inc. We thank for their valuable assistance. This year, Joetta Khun has assisted in filling our tax return with the help of Surinder Verma. Off course, thanks to Bhupinder Gill our treasurer to keep us on track and file a tax return before the extension deadline.

We would like to thank all the sponsors and all the attendees for supporting this year's special fundraising & musical event. We raised over 15K. Special thanks to Hemant Shah for the successfully completing his 1st fundraising for the India Center. (Job well done!!). Thanks to Hemant Shah, Nilima Bhirud, core volunteers and youth forum for making the program a success. The core volunteers included Falguni & Ashish Sheth, Kiran & Rupa Devraj, Nimisha & Yogesh Patel, Saigeetha & Janardan Dhage, Meenu & Vijay Patel, Dipti Patel, Vanita & Jayesh Shah, Bela Thakkar, Varsha Vaghela, Madhu Chaturvedi and Jyoti Desai. I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone who helped in cooking lunch for the Saturday event: Shobha Sampath, Geeta Jayram, Moumita Banerjee, Nilima Bhirud, Prema Murthy, and Prabha Krishnamurthy.

Vinayaga Prasad coordinated our annual picnic on September 14, Saturday at Shawnee's park. Thanks to all the volunteers. Special thanks to Sumitra Prasad, Momita & Abhijit Banerjee. Kids and adults all had a lot of fun playing various games (tug-of-war, kho-kho, lemon & spoon race, sag race, cricket etc.).

The "Second Annual India Center Helps to Fight Hunger Gala" the Mana Meal fundraising event was again a success. Thanks to Pat & Joe Narohona for the lead.

This year's Gandhi day keynote speaker Carrie Trybulec delivered an inspirational speech on "Mahatma Gandhi's experiments with Truth". She is the Director of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Foundation, Bethesda,

MD. As always; Dr. Krishna Murthy successfully led this event. Participants for this year's children's essay included: Nikita Patel, Khetan Deveraj, Jhanvi Sheth and Jayant Thage. Participants for this year's poster participants included: Gia Patel, Shweta Patel, Sneha Dhage, Samit Nagarajan and Shrihan Malkaram. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped in making this event a success.

Update on the India Center building maintenance: the side door yawning is replaced; one of the heat pump unit is replaced, and the inside painting is in progress. As always, Kiran Sanghavi is continuing to spend her valuable time in looking after the operation and the maintenance of the center. Kiran also updated the directory and got it printed/distributed during the Fellowship dinner in March. Email any changes to your contact information to kiran_sanghavi@yahoo.com.

Update on the India Center's Investment Group. Present volunteers are managing 100K. At the end of each year, any money made from the investment is given to the India Center. Any money lost is made up by individual's personal money. At this time, volunteers include Hasan Habib, Ujjal Sandhu, Harish Gorli, Madan Bhasin, Surender Verma. Nanda Konnanur is joining the group. Also, welcome to Kamala & Nanda Konnanur as new life members to the India Center.

Youth Forum/Home Coming – this is a new event planned for the next year. It will be the day-after 2014th Thanks Giving. The purpose of the forum is to give our youth perspectives on various paths of success. Youth participants will learn through understanding the career journey of successful presenters. In a way, this will be a homecoming for the presenter, who were born or raised in this community. Presenter would talk about their journey to success and significant milestone in their personal and professional life. We are in the process of forming a planning committee. If you are interested to be a part on the committee, please contact Tushar Shah at tusharshah@suddenlink.net We will be sending out "Save the dates" to all the presenters after this year's Thanks Giving weekend. This will give them a year to plan their visit.

REST OF THE YEAR...

Diwali is a major celebration for all Indians.

Diwali celebration on November 2, Saturday.

Diwali puja by Bala Vihar kids

5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Appetizers

6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Performances by our community kids

6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Dinner

8:30 p.m.

Ticket Prices

Adult Members: \$20

Adult non-members: \$25

Students: \$10

Children (6 to 12): \$5

Children (under 6): free

Prabha Krishnamurthy is coordinating the main event. Beena Modi is coordinating the kid's entertainment. The guidelines for participation were sent out earlier in an email to the community. All the entries are in for the program before the deadline of October 19th.

Traditionally, we provide gift cards and trophies to encourage our future generations to keep up with our culture. This year is no different; we are providing gift cards and trophies to the children who are performing,

On November 17, Sunday at 6:14 p.m. our annual **Life Member's Dinner** will be coordinated by Subhash Yadwadkar. All the life members and permanent members; please r.s.v.p. to syadwadkar@yahoo.com by November 8, 2013.

Our **Annual General Body Meeting** is scheduled for December 1, Sunday @ 2:30 p.m.

The India Center Annual Membership Dues

\$101.00 for the calendar year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31) are due at the beginning of the year. It would be greatly appreciated if the payment of the annual membership is made **as soon as possible**. Send checks to "India Center", P. O. Box 8985, South Charleston, WV 25303. If you are interested in becoming a life member or a permanent member, please contact Bhupinder Gill, Kiran Sanghavi (304-345-7517) or Tushar Shah.

