

**Regional Indian American Community Center (RIACC)
Hall of Worship and Amy Community Center**

Non Profit, Tax Exempt Organization 501 c(3) [Tax ID: 62-1497843]
PO Box 411, Kingsport, TN-37662

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Quarterly Newsletter [January-March 2007]

Board of Trustees

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(Secretary-Treasurer)
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Executive Committee

Mrs. Brinda Gala
(President)

Mr. Anil Agrawal
(President Elect)

Mrs. Bharati Solanki
(Treasurer)

Mr. Rajesh Patel
(Assistant Treasurer)

Mrs. Poorvi Tiku
(Secretary)

Mrs. Megha Narang
(Assistant Secretary)

Mr. Sunny Bhat
(Assistant Secretary/Treasurer)

HOW Committee

Mr. Jayant Mehta

Dr. Puneet Goenka

Mrs. Nila Patel

Mr. Ranjan Chakraborty

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Grand 5th Anniversary Celebrations - May 12th and 13th

Its that time of the year again! RIACC Executive and HOW Committee Members cordially invite you to attend the **GRAND 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS** of our Hall of Worship on **MAY 12th & 13th** this year. The program outline of the **ANNIVERSARY EVENT** is as follows:

Saturday May 12th, 2007 - WORSHIP BASICS & ENTERTAINMENT

6:00 p.m. *Welcome*

6:05 p.m. *“Back to the Basics” (Sodasa Upachara Pooja/Solasopachar Pooja) -* conducted by our priest Dr. Surendra Mishra. Send your entries to mehtaj@mail.etsu.edu or how@riacc.us

Back to the Basics is an education program at no cost to you. It will be translated into English by Dr. Jay Mehta simultaneously

7:00 P.M. *Entertainment Program by Kids followed by Jeopardy*

For the entertainment program if you want your kids to participate please contact Nila Patel at niladharmen@yahoo.com /423-620-0399 latest by **April 30th 2007** with entries

8:30 P.M. *Aarti*

9:00 p.m. *Mahaprasad (Dinner)*

Sunday May 13th, 2007 - MOTHER’S DAY CELEBRATION

10:00 a.m. *Nava Chandi Pooja* - conducted by our Priest Shri Surendra Mishraji Sponsors needed (\$101) per couple - Please contact Anil Agrawal at akagrawal@hotmail.com or 423-753-5464

11:00 a.m. *Abhishekam & Bhajans*. If interested in singing Bhajans please contact Ashok Gala at 423-288-8501

11:45 a.m. *Resonance Of Vedic Sounds (Shloka Recital) By Bal Vihar Kids*. Contact Brinda Gala at bgala@yahoo.com or 423-288-8501

12:05 p.m. *Mother’s Day Speech - Our priest Dr. Surendra Mishra*

12:30 p.m. *Aarti*

1:00 p.m. *Mahaprasad (Lunch)*

We wish to make this a memorable event. Please get the word out to your friends and family and plan to attend. We look forward to see you at the program. We welcome your suggestions. For any suggestions or questions please feel free to contact any of the committee members.

Programs April - June 2007

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 4/29/07	11:00am	Vishnu Sahastranam
Wednesday 5/2/07	6:30pm	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha: Pot-luck dinner. Sponsored by Rama Gupta and Manju Kutty
Sunday 5/6/07	11:00am	Bhagvad Gita Discussion - No Lunch Program
Sunday 5/12/07	6:00pm	HOW Anniversary Program (see front page for details)
Sunday 5/13/07	11:00am	HOW Anniversary Program (see front page for details)
Sunday 5/20/07	11:00am	Sunderkand Path: Pot-luck lunch. Organized by Poorvi and Ankur Tiku
Sunday 5/27/07	11:00am	Vishnu Sahastranam - No Lunch Program
Friday 6/1/07	6:00pm	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha. Sponsored and dinner provided by Brinda and Ashok Gala
Sunday 6/3/07	11:00am	Bhagvad Gita Discussion - No Lunch Program
Sunday 6/10/07	11:00am	Guest Lecture or Panditji Discourse
Sunday 6/17/07	11:00am	Father's Day / Sunderkand Path: Pot-luck lunch. Organized by Sapna and Rajesh patel
Sunday 6/24/07	11:00am	Vishnu Sahastranam - No Lunch Program
Sunday 7/1/07	11:00am	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha: Pot-luck lunch. Sponsored by Poorvi and Ankur Tiku
Sunday 7/8/07	11:00am	Bhagvad Gita Discussion - No Lunch Program
Sunday 7/15/07	11:00am	Sunderkand Path: Pot-luck lunch. Organized by Raji and Arun Suresh

Message from the new President - Brinda Gala

Greetings!!

I would like to thank-you for giving me the opportunity to serve as the new president of RIACC. As I embark in my new role, I look forward to a very exciting and productive year.

As most of you are aware because of the support and contribution of many members we now have a full time priest at the Hall of Worship. If you contributed towards the priest fund, please congratulate yourself for this major accomplishment.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the outgoing committee for doing such an excellent job and for such a successful year.

As we start the New Year, the new committee members are working very hard in planning the Annual Anniversary celebrations. For 2007, we have planned several exciting programs such as the Golf tournament, Picnic and Diwali celebrations. I would like to encourage each one of you to support the organization by attending and/or volunteering for some or all of the upcoming events. Don't hesitate to call one of the executive members to donate your time.

I would like to thank all the members who have promptly paid their maintenance dues. As you know, RIACC is a non-profit organization and this organization only exists because of your generous contribution.

Thanks for supporting RIACC and Hall of Worship, your continued support make this organization successful.

IMPORTANT - Revised Hall of Worship Hours

Sun-Fri: 10:30am-12:30pm (Sun open till 2:00pm) * Sun-Thurs: 6:00-8:00pm; Sat closed
Aarti on the days that HOW is open: 12:30pm and 7:30pm

You Can Save The World - G S Kumar

Did you know that that statement is accurate? You too can save this world. How? By buying and installing CFL bulbs in your house. What is CFL? It stands for Compact Fluorescent Light. These are the not so new bulbs that look like ice cream cones.

The bottom line is contained in the following relative statistics of energy consumption:

Conventional filament lamp	CFL lamp
100Watts	23Watts
75 Watts	19 Watts
60 Watts	14 Watts
40 Watts	9 Watts

You might say what is this Watt? Well it is a unit of electricity for which you pay a little over 7 cents in the Tri-City area. As you can see these CFL bulbs consume far less electricity and illuminate just as well as the higher wattage conventional bulbs designed by Edison.

If you switch one bulb from conventional to CFL you would save about \$180 per year based on using it for 3 hours a day. In addition they last longer and have a warranty for 9 years.

The last time (January 2007) I bought a six pack of CFL at Home Depot of the 60 watt variety, it cost me \$12, and prices are dropping. Compare this with a four pack of 60 watt filament bulbs that cost \$4 . Even though a little pricier over the short run, these CFL's pay for themselves considering a recurring saving of over \$180 per year.

You might say well I will definitely switch, but then how do I save the world? Elementary my dear Watson! If everyone in the United States changes one bulb then we will need fewer new power stations as can be seen from the following quotation:

From: Fast Company, September 2006, pp. 74-83 http://www.fastcompany.com/magazine/108/open_lightbulbs.html

"..... if every one of 110 million American households bought just one ice-cream-cone bulb, took it home, and screwed it in place of an ordinary 60-watt bulb, the energy saved would be enough to power a city of 1.5 million people. One bulb swapped out, enough electricity saved to power all the homes in Delaware and Rhode Island. In terms of oil not burned, or greenhouse gases not exhausted into the atmosphere, one bulb is equivalent to taking 1.3 million cars off the roads. That's the law of large numbers--a small action, multiplied by 110 million.

The single greatest source of greenhouse gases in the United States is power plants--half our electricity comes from coal plants. One bulb swapped out: enough electricity saved to turn off two entire power plants--or skip building the next two."

You would do well to watch the dire predictions in Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" that shows the repercussions of a do nothing policy as far as global warming is concerned.

I have done my part by installing over 40 CFL bulbs in our house. Won't you do your part now?

Incidentally I hope you are not throwing away these RIACC Newsletters. If you go back to Volume 7, Number 4, Winter 2001, you will see an excellent article by B.K. Gupta entitled "Electricity Usage 101". It tells you how you can save a bunch of money by prudent use of electricity. And can you beat it, we get this outstanding quarterly for free?

"Thank you!" - As of April 2007 47 families in the community have paid \$100 (or more) towards the

RIACC Membership/Maintenance Fees

SUPERBOWL XLI - G S Kumar

Our community celebrated Super Bowl XLI this year at Rajesh and Sharmi's residence in Kingsport. It was a lively affair with as many as fifteen families having a gala time. The fact that this was a very knowledgeable group was evident because most were cheering the ultimate winners – the Indianapolis Colts. Indianapolis beat the Chicago Bears in a closely fought encounter. At least it wasn't as one sided as some Super Bowls recently have been. Or was the enthusiasm because stakes were involved?

Andy Delwadia was the enterprising official bookie and collected \$5 from everyone who wished to bet for the winner. The betting was made very entertaining because of the enthusiasm of Andy who gave prizes for every quarter of the game. Also the rain and the closeness of the encounter helped keep the interest alive.

This was the first time we attended this gala affair which I am told is an annual affair in Kingsport. It has been usually held at Narayan Kutti's residence. Those who attended the event at Rajesh's house must have been one of the most fortunate ones. They watched the game on a six foot plus high definition TV, with yum yum food available throughout the game. It wasn't the crummy hot dog stuff but authentic Indian delicacies like pulav, raita, cholle, and the like. Also plenty of beer was there to uplift the spirits. We were far more fortunate than the ticket holders in Miami, Florida who watched when it was raining like crazy and it was cold (for Florida) to top it.

The winners who won \$17 for each quarter were: Andy Delwadia for the first quarter (something fishy here), Rama Gupta for the second, Jay and Ashok Mehta for the third and Andy again the winner for the fourth quarter. There was a justifiable clamor to change the bookie next year! Finally there was the winner for predicting the final score most accurately and that was won by Rama Gupta.

It is events like this that bring the community closer. We wish to thank Rajesh and Sharmi Mehta for hosting a very enjoyable evening at their residence.

Significant Events in the Community

(Submit any significant events in your family to how@riacc.us for publication in the next newsletter)

- ♥ *Birth - **Shivali Ratan Agrawal** on March 28th, 2007, daughter of Leena and Anil Agrawal*
- ♥ *Marriage - **Shivani Gupta** (daughter of BK and Kalyani Gupta) with Shri Krishna Mukkamala on April 7, 2007*

Did you know we accept advertisements in the RIACC newsletter? Write to how@riacc.us for details

Directions to the Hall of Worship:

From Johnson City: I-26 towards Kingsport. Take Exit 6 - Rock Springs Rd. Take a left on the RAMP and see below

From Kingsport: Take I-26 towards Johnson City. Take Exit 6 - Rock Springs Rd. Take a Right on the RAMP and see below

Drive about quarter of a mile and make a left turn on to Westfield Road, immediately after the Power building. Drive about half a mile and keep right on the fork onto Westfield place, the third building on the left is Hall of Worship.