

**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

Tel No: (423) 349-6515 • Email: how@riacc.us • Website: http://www.riacc.us

***Quarterly Newsletter [October-December 2007]***

***Board of Trustees***

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423-753-7464

Mr. Ashok Gala  
423-288-8501

Dr. Puneet Goenka  
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***HOW Committee***

Dr. Jayant Mehta

Dr. Puneet Goenka

Mrs. Nila Patel

Dr. Ranjan Chakraborty

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you and your family at your best!

Another wonderful year has passed and we have all been blessed so much. Your community spirit and friendship is a big part of this blessing, so I wanted to write to you a few words of gratitude. It is so easy in our day-to-day lives to forget what is truly important and one of them is to stop, to say "thanks for being you!" You have truly made a unique and positive impact in our community and the world.

Now is the time of year where many celebrate and give thanksgiving. The fact that it is addressed to you means that you are highly regarded by not just a few people, but many. Your desire to serve others...even at times when you may be hurting...means that God is revealing. Any man or woman that gives of his or herself to serve others is a pleasure to know and call a friend. We thank you once again for being YOU. You are a great example of the true meaning of this special season.

We hope your Holiday Season is filled with grace that is multiplied in the New Year. As we move into a new year, we ask for God to continue to bless you and your loved ones. Blessings and favor be upon you in a prosperous and joy-filled 2008.

Happy Holidays and a Happy New year,

With much gratitude,  
Anil Agrawal  
Chairman, Board of Trustees, RIACC

***Significant Events***

- ◆ *RIACC is proud to see one of it's young leaders, Mr. Anil Agrawal receive the "Young Alumnus of the Year" award. "Anil's many contributions to our organization are well known to us. His achievement as a leader is exceptional and we are very proud of him. I hope he continues to contribute his talented services to us and the community at large for many more years." - Jay B Mehta*

- ◆ *Welcome New Members of the Community:  
\*Neel Gautham Hoskere\*, July 30th, 2007  
Son of Monika and Girendra (Giri) Hoskere  
  
\*Anusham Viprav Shah\*, October 6, 2007  
Son of Aruna and Vishant Shah; Grandson of Ila and Pramod Shah*

**\*2008 Annual Membership Form on the last page of this newsletter\***

### 2008 Programs At a Glance

<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Food</b>
Tuesday, January 01, 2008	Ganesh Pooja	6:00 PM	No Meal
Sunday, January 13, 2008	Celebrate Makar Sankranti/Pongal/Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Lunch Provided
Sunday, January 20, 2008	Satyanarayan Katha / Poornima	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, February 10, 2008	Saraswati Pooja, Kids Program	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, February 17, 2008	<b>General Body Elections</b>	11:00 AM	Lunch Provided
Sunday, February 24, 2008	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Thursday, March 06, 2008	Maha Shivratri	6:00 PM	Pot-luck
Sunday, March 09, 2008	Bhajans	11:00 AM	TBD
Sunday, March 16, 2008	Guest Speaker	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Friday, March 21, 2008	Holi - Poornima	6:00 PM	TBD
Sunday, March 23, 2008	Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, April 06, 2008	Bhagvad Gita Discussion /Gudi Padwa/Ugadi	11:00 AM	TBD
Sunday, April 13, 2008	Celebrate Ramnavmi/Sunderkand Path	10:30 AM	Pot-luck
Friday, April 18, 2008	Mahavir Jayanti	6:00 PM	TBD
Sunday, April 20, 2008	Hanuman Jayanti/Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Saturday, May 10, 2008	<i>HOW Anniversary</i>	6:00 PM	Dinner Provided
Sunday, May 11, 2008	<i>HOW Anniversary - Mother's Day</i>	11:00 AM	Lunch Provided
Sunday, May 18, 2008	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, June 08, 2008	Part II of Theology - Speaker - Jay Mehta	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, June 15, 2008	Kids Program / Father's Day	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, June 22, 2008	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, July 13, 2008	Guest Speaker	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Friday, July 18, 2008	Guru Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, July 20, 2008	Bhajans	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Monday, August 04, 2008	Shiv Abhishekham - 4 Mondays [Aug 4th - Aug 25th]	6:00 PM	No Meal
Saturday, August 09, 2008	<i>RIACC Summer Picnic - Warriors' Path State Park</i>	4:00 PM	Picnic food
Sunday, August 10, 2008	Bhajans - special lecture	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Friday, August 15, 2008	Independence Day	TBD	TBD
Sunday, August 17, 2008	Raksha Bandhan / Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, August 24, 2008	Krishna Janmashtami/Kids Program. Night program is optional.	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Wednesday, September 03, 2008	Ganesh Chaturthi	6:00 PM	TBD
Sunday, September 07, 2008	Bhagvad Gita Discussion ( <i>RIACC Golf Tournament Tentative Date #1</i> )	11:00 AM	No Meal
Sunday, September 14, 2008	Poornima / Satyanarayan Katha ( <i>RIACC Golf Tournament - Date #2</i> )	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Tuesday, September 30, 2008	Start of Navratri - Doll Display	-	-
Thursday, October 02, 2008	Garba	6:00 PM	TBD
Sunday, October 05, 2008	Bhagvad Gita Discussion / Garba	11:00 AM	TBD
Thursday, October 09, 2008	Vijaya Dashmi / Dassera	6:00 PM	TBD
Sunday, October 12, 2008	<b>General Body Meeting</b>	11:00 AM	Lunch Provided
Saturday, October 18, 2008	Karva Chauth	6:00 PM	No Meal
Sunday, October 19, 2008	Sharad Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, October 26, 2008	Dhan Teras/Lakshmi Poojan	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, November 02, 2008	Annakoot	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, November 09, 2008	Kids Program	11:00 AM	TBD
Sunday, November 16, 2008	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha, Dev Diwali Gurunanak Jayanti	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, November 23, 2008	Nav chandi Havan	11:00 AM	Pot-luck
Sunday, December 14, 2008	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha	11:00 AM	Pot-luck

*Following are the standing Sunday Programs each month, unless a special program is scheduled:*

**1st Sunday - Bhagvad Gita Discussion**

**2nd & 3rd Sunday - Kids Programs / Bhajans / Guest Speaker**

**4th Sunday - Vishnu Sahastranam**

**Every 3rd Tuesday Sunderkand Path - organized by Rama Gupta**

*All programs are subject to change—updates will be sent via email in case of any change!*

*Not on the email distribution list? Send an email to [how@riacc.us](mailto:how@riacc.us) and we will add you.*

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**RIACC Hall of Worship and Amy Community Center Membership Form - 2008**

<i>Last Name</i>	
<i>First Name</i>	
<i>Spouse's Name</i>	
<i>Address</i>	
<i>Email Address</i>	
<i>Telephone (Home)</i>	
<i>Telephone (Work/Cell)</i>	

- Everyone is requested to pay the annual \$100 Membership/Maintenance Fee
- Additional Pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly/yearly for general fund
- Donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ towards the expansion of the worship hall
- Volunteer Opportunities:

I/We can help RIACC in the following areas (Circle your choices—need immediate help in the underlined items):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Food/Kitchen  | <u>Building Maintenance / Property Care</u> |
| Cultural and Religious Programs                       | Spiritual Education                         |
| Fundraising   | Youth Education and Programs                |
| <u>Communications (newsletter, emails etc)</u>        | <u>Website Management</u>                   |
| Library Development                                   | Alankaar / Dress for Deities                |
| <u>Priest education - Driving, English, Computers</u> | Other—Specify:                              |

- Feedback/Suggestions for Improvement - this will help us serve you better!

Please mail this form with your check to RIACC, PO Box 411, Kingsport, TN-37662

by **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

Thank you, RIACC Executive Committee

### **Agrawal Named LMU's 2007 Young Alumnus of the Year**



Anil K. Agrawal, East Tennessee business executive, was recently named the 2007 R. Martin Peters Young Alumnus of the Year by his alma mater, Lincoln Memorial University (LMU). Agrawal was formally recognized during the school's annual homecoming festivities in October.

Agrawal graduated from LMU in 1996, receiving the Bachelors of Business Administration degree in Computer Information Systems. He continued his education and received the Masters of Business Administration from LMU two years later.

Agrawal may have had a head start in the business field, as he says he was born into a family of entrepreneurs and was exposed to

the principles of business management early in life. Combining that knowledge with good instincts and the information he gathered as a student at LMU, he began work in 1997 with Alpine Industries, now EcoQuest International, in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Agrawal's responsibilities changed and grew, and have changed significantly to senior executive at EcoQuest International. The growth and leadership abilities he found in his professional career have been recognized by many others. In 2003, he was named as one of forty regional leaders to watch under the age of forty by *Business Journal*. He has long been involved in numerous social and community organizations, where he has often served as the organization's president. His leadership skills were also demonstrated as a student leader while at LMU. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the RIACC (Regional Indo-American Community Center), a not-for-profit organization with over three hundred families in the area. Agrawal was honored with the "Leadership Award" for year 2007 by RIACC. The Community Center's mission is to promote religious, educational, social and cultural activities based on the Indian philosophy of peace, love, justice and harmony. He has served as President of the organization three times, and now,

he is spear-heading the expansion project of a new facility for the organization.

"It was an honor to receive this award. The education I received at LMU, the people I met while I was there, and the experiences that I had helped me grow as a person," said Agrawal. "This award really gave me an opportunity to get back in touch with people I met while at LMU who have experienced great success in their own right. It's a great school, and I am proud to be an Alumnus." He resides in Jonesborough, Tennessee with his wife and two daughters.

The R. Martin Peters Young Alumnus of the Year Award is named for Dr. Martin Peters of Cookeville, Tennessee. Dr. Peters is a long-time educator, a 1949 graduate of LMU and a former LMU president. He is considered by many to be the embodiment of the spirit of Lincoln Memorial University.

"Like Dr. Peters, award recipients are chosen because of evidence that they strive to be the best possible representative of LMU, as well as to be the best person he or she can be," said LMU President Nancy B. Moody. "To receive this award named in honor of Dr. Peters is no small compliment. Anil has achieved so much at a relatively early age. It is exciting to see what is yet to come."