

Regional Indian American Community Center (RIACC)

Non Profit, Tax Exempt Organization (501(c3))

PO Box 411, Kingsport, TN-37662

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

Quarterly Newsletter [Jan-March 2005]

Board of Trustees

Dr. Ashok Mehta
(Chairman)
423-854-8997

Dr. Puneet Goenka
(Secretary-Treasurer)
423-928-2894

Dr. Jayant Mehta
423-282-3031

Dr. Pramod Shah
423-854-9943

Mr. Ashok Gala
423-288-8501

Dr. Avtar Dhaliwal
423-282-0082

Dr. Piyush Joshi
423-282-6015

Executive Committee

Dr. Manoj Srinath (President)
423-288-5869

Dr. Girish Hoskere
(Vice President)

Mr. Bhushan Sahni &
Mrs. Bharati Solanki
(Treasurer)

Mrs. Poorvi Tiku &
Mrs. Rushmie Bakshi
(Secretary)

Hall of Worship Committee

Mr. Ashok Gala (Chairman)

Dr. Manoj Srinath

Dr. Puneet Goenka

Dr. Rekha Kumar

Mrs. Rama Sharma

Dear Friends,

Please give a hearty welcome to the new members of the Executive Committee and Hall of Worship Committee. These members were nominated and elected at the General Body Meeting on Feb 21, 2005. With the departure of Mr. Manoj Joshi, Mrs. Rushmie Bakshi was nominated and approved to take the position of Assistant Secretary.

This committee will be working very hard to maintain the Hall of Worship, and plan programs for the year among other routine activities. Volunteers are always needed, so please do lend a hand when you can to assist this committee.

Please feel free to contact any of the members for concerns, suggestions or any feed back that you would like to provide.

Email List & Mailing Address List:

Emails are sent out as reminders for upcoming events or other news in the community. If you would like to be on the distribution list, please send your name and email address to: how@riacc.us

If your mailing address has changed, do send us your updated address so you continue to receive the newsletter.

Most of us know how it is to move to a new area and not know anyone. If you are aware of people who have moved to the Tri-Cities area, let us know so we can welcome them to the community and add them to the distribution lists.

Poorvi Tiku, Secretary

Programs [Apr-Jun 2005]

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 04/10/05	11:00am	Ugadi - South Indian New Year
Sunday 04/17/05	11:00am	Ram Navmi - sponsored by Sunderkand group
Sunday 4/24/05	11:00am	Poornima / Hanuman Jayanti
Saturday 05/07/05	6:00pm	HOW Anniversary Celebrations - Havan/Cultural Program
Sunday 05/08/05	10:30am	HOW Anniversary Celebrations - Pooja / Abhishekh / Bhajan / Mother's Day
Sunday 05/22/05	11:00am	Buddha Jayanti
Wednesday 6/22/05	6:30pm	Poornima / Satyanarayan Katha

Regular HOW Hours:

Sun 11am-1pm (Aarti at 12:30pm) ▪ Wed 6:30pm-8pm (Aarti at 7:30pm)

Treasurer's Report

Income and Expense report for Hall of Worship for 2004

Ending Balance (12/21/2004)	\$27,749
Revenue	
Donations and Hundi collection	\$22,424
Monthly dues and membership	\$4,362
Rent	\$100
Advertisement	\$251
Interest income etc	\$760
Designated funds *	\$22,507
Total	\$50,404
* Designated funds include \$10,000 from RIACC Board for land purchase, as well as Priest Fund, Dining Hall Fund, Temple Entrance and Jewelry Fund.	
Expenses	
Insurance	\$477
Repairs, maintenance, lawn	\$1,786
Printing, postage, supplies	\$1,391
Telephone	\$562
Gas & electric	\$1,487
Water	\$117
To RIACC Board	\$2,223
Picnic	\$594
Front entrance	\$9,023
Events & other expenses	\$3,404
Land Purchase	\$11,304
Total	\$32,368

Superb performance by Ranjani Murthy in Baltimore event (G S Kumar)

RIACC members have heard about Ranjani daughter of Ravindra and Bhavani Murthy. She is a Bharata Natyam virtuoso and equally talented singer. We reported earlier in the July - September 2004 Newsletter that Ranjani was the first Runner-up in the Miss Tennessee Jr. Teen America Competition and was placed first in the Talent Category in February 2004. She also won the Cinderella Scholarship Preliminary Pageant in Knoxville in March 2004.

Ranjani has added another feather to her cap. She won the First Prize in Bharata Natyam solo and also in Folk Dance solo in a tough competition held recently at the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus (UMBC). This two day extravaganza held on November 20 and 21, 2004 was sponsored by UMBC Fine Arts Society headed by Masterji Hussain. It fielded 250 budding artists in various categories that included instrumental music (sitar, tabla, harmonium), vocal music (film, Classical - Carnatic and Hindusthani) and dance (Classical, folk and film dances). Bhavani and Ranjani drove all the way to Baltimore for this two day event. Folks there asked "Where is this Kingsport?" Ranjani won the prizes in the Senior Category (age group 13 to 20). She was the youngest in that category for Classical Bharata Natyam.

Senator Paul Sorvane of Maryland and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh were the chief guests for the occasion.

Our kudos to Ranjani and her mentor and mother Bhavani Murthy. We are sure to hear more about them in the years to come. We also hope they like these hills of East Tennessee as welcoming as Michigan from where they have come.

Welcome our new Editor (G S Kumar)

I hope readers of this esteemed quarterly will join me in giving a hearty RIACC welcome to our new Editor Poorvi Tiku and her husband Ankur Tiku.

Poorvi and Ankur came to this Brave New World in the Fall of 1999 to pursue an MBA in Information Systems at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. They both graduated with flying colors in the Summer of 2001. We are lucky that they moved to these gentle hills of east Tennessee and joined Eastman Chemicals. Both of them are working as Advanced Systems Analysts in the Business, Marketing and Supply Chain Solutions Department in the Information Technology Division.

Before coming to the states, Poorvi (who hails from Mumbai) did her Bachelors in Commerce from H & R College in Bombay. Ankur who hails from Kashmir but calls New Delhi his current home did his Bachelor of Engineering from Thapar Institute in Patiala, Punjab.

When not at work Poorvi jogs, hikes, does yoga and reads, while her equally talented husband Ankur, plays cricket, golf, tennis and is also an avid reader.

Aren't we lucky that they have come to this neck of the woods?

As an ex Editor I can give you a little advice as to how you can make Poorvi feel at home in her new role as an Editor. You should submit your views and articles to her by e-mail at poorvitiku@yahoo.com. And keep your item under 400 words. Why under 400 words? Otherwise she will have to condense it to fit into the newsletter. Why by e-mail? If you send it to her by snail mail she will have to type it to include it in the newsletter. And that will make her mad. You will agree we would not like to make a talented person like her mad!

Heart of Hinduism (Jay B. Mehta)

1. *Ekum Samdwipra Bahudha vadanti* - Rig Veda

One God with many manifestations. In king Janak's court, this was the main point.

2. *Akashat patitum toyum*

Water that falls from the sky, flow through many rivers, but finally all the rivers end in one ocean.

One God, many paths. Bhakti yoga, Gyan yoga and Karma yoga are

Three paths. (One highway with three lanes)

3. *Parop karay punyay... Papay parpidna* - Vyasji -Mahabharat

Helping others is Dharma. Hurting others is a-dharma. Kindness is the essence of Dharma.

Story of Udhisthira and Dharma.

4. Theory of karma and reincarnation. You take responsibility for your fate.

5. *Indriyani Mano budhhi* - Lust, anger and greed are your enemies that cloud your soul (jiva). Minds are finer than senses. Intellect controls mind, but use your soul (Divine inner self) to control the mind and kill these enemies with the sword of Gyan.

Mansasu para budhhi, Budhyo para astu Te - Bhagvad Geeta -3/43. Inner self is superior to your mind; let it control your intellect and mind.

6. *Yo sarvatra pashyanti* - Bhagvad Geeta - Chapter 6

One who sees Brahman within and all around himself have found God. God also recognizes such a yogi.

7. *Tatvmasi...* That thou art - Chhandogya Upanishad.

Swetkatu and the seed of a large tree. You are divine. Your inner God and outer God are one. Joining of these two is real yoga.

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TRI-CITY INDIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION Inc. (Bristol, Tennessee)

Proudly Presents

“Folk Dances of India” - A Dinner Theater

Proceeds will be donated to **Safe House of Kingsport**

Location: Robinson Middle School, Kingsport, TN

Date & Time : Saturday, April 23, 2005 at 6:00 PM

Tickets: \$ 25 per person (No Children under 10 yrs. of age)

For Tickets, call:

Kingsport: Raji - 423-288-3476 ▪ Veena - 423-288-5869 ▪ Carol - 423-246-2273

Johnson City: Rushmie - 423-282-8658

Directions to the Hall of Worship:

From Johnson City - Get on I-181 towards Kingsport. Take Exit 49 (Rock Springs Exit). Take a left on the RAMP and see below

From Kingsport: Get on I-181 towards Johnson City. Take exit 49 (Rock Springs Exit). 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.