

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

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

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

**Quarterly Newsletter [April-June 2006]**

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Dr. Avtar Dhaliwal  
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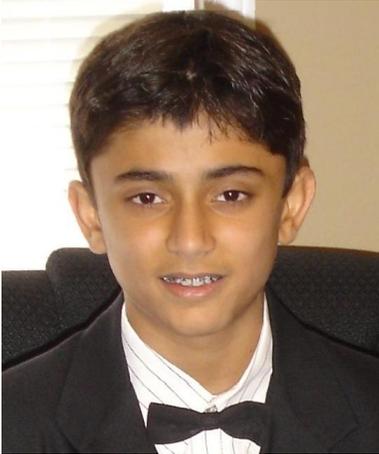
**Programs July-September 2006**

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 07/02/06	11:00am	HOW Open
Sunday 07/09/06	11:00am	Vishnu Sahastranam - No Lunch Program
Sunday 07/16/06	11:00am	Sunderkand Path - Pot-Luck Lunch. Sponsored by Seema and Puneet Goenka.
Sunday 07/23/06	11:00am	Vishnu Sahastranam - No Lunch Program
Sunday 07/30/06	11:00am	Guest Speaker—details will be announced by email
Friday 08/04/06	TBA	Var Laxmi Pooja—details will be announced by email
Sunday 08/06/06	11:00am	Vishnu Sahastranam - No Lunch Program
<b>Saturday 08/12/06</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>RIACC Picnic—Eastman Picnic Shelter #43, Bays Mountain Park, Kingsport (Date changed from 07/15/06)</b>
Sunday 08/13/06	11:00am	Indian Independence Day Celebration
Friday 08/18/06	6:30pm	Shri Krishna Jayanti—Bhajans till midnight. Sponsored by Rama Sharma and family
Sunday 08/20/06	11:00am	Sunderkand Path - Pot-Luck Lunch. Sponsored by Bagrodia and Kutty families
Sunday 08/27/06	11:00am	Ganesh Chaturthi—sponsored by G S and Rekha Kumar
Sunday 09/03/06	11:00am	Vishnu Sahastranam - No Lunch Program
Sunday 09/10/06	11:00am	Guest Speaker—details will be announced by email
Sunday 09/17/06	11:00am	Sunderkand Path - Pot-Luck Lunch. Sponsored by Rama and Mahendra Sharma
Sunday 09/24/06	11:00am	Vishnu Sahastranam - No Lunch Program
Wednesday 09/27/06	6:30pm	Garba Raas—details will be announced by email
Saturday 09/30/06	TBA	Durga Ashthami—details will be announced by email

\*Denotes new appointment

**Regular HOW Hours: Sun 11am-1pm (Aarti 12:30pm)  
Send an email to [how@riacc.us](mailto:how@riacc.us) to be added to the HOW email distribution list**

## Profile: Devansh Patel



Devansh Patel is the son of Dr. Dharmen Patel and Nila Patel and lives in Greeneville, TN for the last 4 years. He is 14 years old completing his freshmen year at Greeneville High School. He is outstanding in Math and Science, and very Methodical and Analytical thinker. He loves the technical aspects of these subjects.

He is the recipient of Principal's Award at Tusculum View Elementary School in 2002. Due to his exceptional skills academically, socially and in leadership, he has moved from sixth to seventh grade in 2004 middle school year. He is also crowned by Duke University for mathematically and verbally talented student by seventh grade Talent Search Program. He participated in the Duke University Talent Identification program's 2004 summer studies; he was selected by his score on the College Board's SAT: 1 reasoning test. He won the first place and best of the show in seventh grade Greeneville Middle School system-wide science fair. He won the first place in school speech contest of Modern Woodmen of America. He has been awarded for Highest Academic Excellence Overall Average in 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Greeneville Middle School.

He is a National Award winner from United States Achievement Academy for science in 2004-2005 year and won a \$500 scholarship. He won the first place in East Tennessee and fourth place in Regional Examination in Algebra-2 contest, sponsored by the 2006 Tennessee Mathematics Teacher's Association (TMTA). Based upon his outstanding academic achievements and leadership potential, he has been invited to 2006 National Student Leadership conference held at Vanderbilt University during this summer.

Other than his academic skills, he is also a USA swimmer for 4 years, GHS Tennis, and Chess player. He is a Life Scout of Boys Scout of America and working on his Eagle Scout leadership service project to help the community and get his Eagle Scout Rank.

All in all, Devansh Patel is an extraordinary individual with talents ranging from academics, leadership and sports. He is not only making his parents proud, but also the community as a whole. We are proud of him and wish him all the success as he continues to grow and surprise us with his great talents. Congratulations to Dr. Dharmen, Nila and Devansh Patel for their accomplishments.

## Profile: Monika Patel



**RE/MAX**  
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**Monika Patel**  
REALTOR®

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Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

My husband Hiren and I have been in Johnson City, TN since the last 6 years. I graduated in Mechanical Engineering and worked with a Multi National Company for 3 years. I attended the Real Estate program here in Johnson City and after completion, passed the Tennessee Real Estate Commission's National and State test, as an Affiliate Broker (Realtor). Currently I work with Remax in Johnson City. Hiren is a Doctor and is currently studying Infection Disease at ETSU. We have a 19 month old baby boy named Om.

I specialize in representing my clients in the purchase and sale of single-family residences and income property within the cities of Johnson City, Jonesborough, Greeneville, Piney Flats, Kingsport, Church hill, Blountville, Gray, and Unicoi. I keep current of all transactions in these areas, and I'm also very knowledgeable about the local schools. As clients representative my GOAL is to assist them in meeting ALL their real estate goals. I look forward to serving your needs.

## ***Fifth Year Off To A Flying Start – By G S Kumar***

As we entered the Hall of Worship to celebrate the beginning of the fifth year, we were greeted with a beautiful program for the two days of the festivity prepared lovingly by our energetic and efficient Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Anil Agrawal.

The evening started with Satyanarayana Katha performed entertainingly by Acharya Satyanarayana Shastri. Shastriji runs an ashram dedicated to Adivasis along the banks of the Narmada river near Bhopal. He narrated the katha interspersed with words of wisdom and witty comments. Shastriji told about a couple who fought and were at loggerheads for most of the day. A friend suggested to the husband that a sure way for matrimonial bliss would be for him to praise her for everything that she did. Accordingly our hero went out of his way to compliment his wife on the next meal that she served him. He commented on the delectable curry that she had prepared and on the delicious stuffed parathas. To his horror she hurled a rolling pin at him and cried, "I have joyously prepared food for you all these years and never got a word of praise. The only occasion that I buy it from a restaurant you have good words for it!" With such stories narrated by Shastriji there was not a dull moment during the two days of service conducted by him.

Devansh Patel recited slokas in impeccable style. He was not only superb at his diction but also gave the meaning of each sloka that he narrated. Jiten Solanki and Aditya Suresh followed this with a biography of Mahatma Gandhi. A short dance performed by Manisha Bakshi, Aysha Patel and Alka Sudershan was so good that most of the audience wished it had lasted longer. The dance was performed under the able direction of Neela Patel who teaches Bharatanatyam at HOW on Sunday mornings.

The best part of the excellent evening program was the Quiz put together in a highly adept and competent manner by Anand Yegnaswami, Vineet Singh, Navin Nair and Ankur and Poorvi Tikku. Patterned after Jeopardy but with a lot of originality in it, it brought in a lot of energy from the audience. The categories in the quiz included history, geography, religion and Bollywood music. The assemblage was divided into three teams: yellow, pink and green. The yellow team won by a huge margin. We were impressed by the way the game was conducted. The organizers changed the strategy to suite the circumstances of the day. A lot of thought and imagination went into selecting the questions that related to the heritage of the Indian subcontinent.

Anil Agrawal then recognized members of the community for their dedication. Manoj Srinath was lauded for his leadership as President for two years. Raj Sakhare was commended for his behind the scenes, quiet performance and Raji Suresh for her dedicated services as Puneet Goenka stated "She comes on Sundays not just one Sunday but all Sundays of the year, teaches our children about their Indian heritage in the Bal Vihar classes." With due modesty Raji said that Bhaskar Arumugam was also part of the Bal Vihar team and thanked the parents for bringing their children on Sunday mornings to HOW.

Amit Kumar, Chairman of the newly created Fund Raising Committee emphasized the important role that finances play in the day to day working of a community organization such as the Hall of Worship. He said a donation jar was being given to each family to gather the change that accumulates in every household. He requested members to bring it back often filled with change and donate it to HOW.

The crisp evening ended with a delicious dinner served by Sahib Restaurant and sponsored by Apna Bazaar.

We were greeted with a surprise on the second day of the festivities - May 14, 2006. Mayur Patel brought back his collection jar less than 24 hours before he got it and full of change. Mayur deserves our appreciation for his prompt feedback of a novel program thought out by Amit Kumar.

The day started with Navachandi puja performed by Acharya Satyanarayana in his amicable style. This was followed by Abhishekham and Bhajans. We came to know that Prema and Guruprasad had for this occasion got two ornamented umbrellas to adorn the HOW all the way from India. They drove all the way to Virginia Beach on the previous day to bring it in time for the Abhishekham. They drove a total distance of close to a thousand miles. As they say a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. We laud their efforts.

Anil Agrawal continued the acknowledgement of the community for their work. He recognized Rama Sharma and Kalyani Gupta for the innumerable hours they put in and especially for adorning the deities on days preceding the purnima or full moon. Poorvi Tikku, Pragna Mehta and Giri Hoskere were also recognized for their work. We liked this idea of recognizing members on two days rather than all at one time.

The two day extravaganza ended with a Mahaprasad lunch prepared and sponsored by the Sitar Restaurant.

The Hall of Worship wishes to thank the many volunteers who worked tirelessly and behind the scenes to put up two days full of excitement and energy. Unfortunately there is not enough space in this esteemed Quarterly to name all those who helped. Rest assured God is watching you.

RIACC Hall of Worship  
P.O. Box 411  
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### ***Wedding Bells – By G S Kumar***

Sunday July 2, 2006 was a red letter day for our community. This auspicious day saw Rajeshree Solanki get married to Nirav Shah while Kruti Joshi tied the knot with Niraj Patel.

Since both weddings as well as the lavish receptions took place on the same day, it was not possible for me to do complete justice by reporting on both events as much as I would have liked to do.

What was common about these milestones? They were both performed by very able priests at the center of four pillars. Dr. Jayant Mehta helped me out by telling me what the significance of the pillars was. He said that in the Hindu custom, the four pillars represented the four parents – two of the bride and two of the groom. It is these couples who deserve all the praise for bringing up such talented and accomplished newly wed couples.

So our hats off to the eight pillars: Chandrakant and Bharti Solanki (Rajeshree), Dilip and Chetna Shah (Nirav), Rohit and Pankaj Joshi (Kruti) and Samir and Kalyani Patel (Niraj).

What else was common about this marvelous day? Sunshine yes. But more than that the community got together as one big family to give a helping hand to the local hosts: Pankaj and Rohit Joshi and Bharti and Chandrakant Solanki. We wish the newly weds marital bliss.

### ***\*\*Sitar Restaurant Promotion\*\****

Sitar has come forward with a promotion for RIACC members, in which it is offering a **10% discount** for guests from 10 to 40 in number at its Kingsport or soon to open Johnson City locations (buffet excluded) and a **15% discount** for parties exceeding 40. In Sitar-JC a **private banquet hall** facility is also available, and a 15% discount is available for any RIACC member booking that facility for gatherings. Also food catered in same numbers would be entitled to same discounts. As per your discretion you are welcome to donate some percent of your discount towards RIACC, and Sitar will have the collection ability to do so. Other businesses are welcome to pursue similar promotions, and follow in Sitar's footsteps.

#### **Directions to the Hall of Worship:**

From Johnson City - Take I-181 (I-26) towards Kingsport. Take Exit 49 (Rock Springs Exit). Take a left on the RAMP and see below

From Kingsport: Take 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.