

RIACC (Regional Indian American Community Center)

Hall of Worship & Amy Community Center. Non Profit Tax Exempt 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

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NEWSLETTER Quarter I 2009

| Date | Time | JAN-MAR : Program Details |
|-------------|----------|--|
| Thu, Jan 1 | 6:00 PM | Ganesh Pooja |
| Sun, Jan 4 | 11:00 AM | Bhagwad Gita Discussion |
| Sun, Jan 11 | 11:00 AM | SNK |
| Sat, Jan 17 | 6:30 PM | Pongal & Tamil New Year Celebration |
| Sun, Jan 18 | 6:00 PM | Satyanarayan Katha / Poornima |
| Sun, Jan 25 | 11:00 AM | Vishnu Sahastranam |
| Sun, Feb 1 | 11:00 AM | Bhagwad Gita Discussion |
| Sun, Feb 8 | 11:00 AM | SNK |
| Sun, Feb 15 | 11:00 AM | Vishnu Sahastranam |
| Sun, Feb 22 | 11:00 AM | General Body Election |
| Mon, Feb 23 | 6:00 PM | Maha Shivratri |
| Sun, Mar 1 | 11:00 AM | Bhagwad Gita Discussion |
| Sun, Mar 8 | 11:00 AM | Bhajans |
| Fri, Mar 13 | 6:00 PM | Holi |
| Sun, Mar 15 | 11:00 AM | Satyanarayan Katha/Holi |
| Sun, Mar 22 | 11:00 AM | Vishnu Sahastranam |
| Fri, Mar 27 | TBD | Ugadi |
| Sun, Mar 29 | 11:00 AM | Bhajans |

**HOW HOURS: Sun-Fri: 10:30am-1:00pm; 6:00-8:00pm; ~
 On Saturdays Call Before Visiting- Aarti at 12:30pm and 7:30pm.
 Special Note: HOW will not be opened on week days and Saturdays in February 2009.**

The Story of India by G. S . Kumar

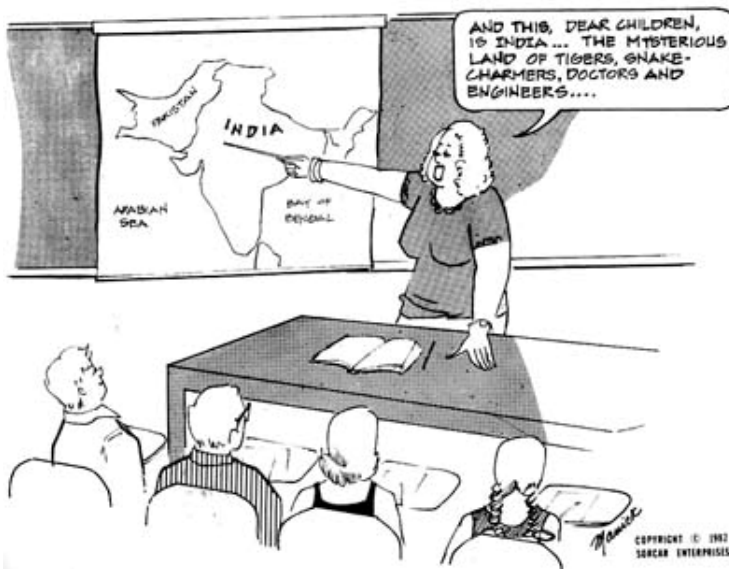
Rajesh Mehta, one of our oldest and most illustrious members, was far-sighted when he suggested we watch an outstanding series on PBS "The Story of India". The first two of this six part extravaganza by Michael Wood was aired on Monday January 5, 2009 at 09:00 PM. You can access this remarkable account at www.pbs.org.

India, as a nation has perhaps one of the longest, spanning over 5,000 years. Almost all of it can be backed with evidence obtained from fossils and other archaeological means. And even more remarkable is the fact that aspects of life today have resemblance to what was observed 5,000 years ago.

The first humans lived in Ethiopia and some of them migrated to Kerala around 70,000 BC. The priests of Kerala to this day recite slokas in a language vastly different from Sanskrit. No one knows its origin & it has been passed orally down the ages. From Kerala there was migration to the rest of the world. So India truly is the mother of all civilizations. Two of the oldest religions – Jainism & Buddhism (600 BC to 500 BC) as well as one of the youngest religions – Sikhism (1400 to 1500 AD) originated in India.

Mahabharat (500 BC to 200 BC), our beloved epic, contains 100,000 verses, is not just mythology; the cities mentioned in it like Brindavan, Hastinapur, Sonapat and Bernava are still there today. Recent discoveries in Hastinapur show that the war between Kauravas and Pandavas did take place. The relics prove this fact, and that the city was wiped out by a massive flood of the Ganges river. Two of the oldest religions – Jainism and Buddhism (600 BC to 500 BC) as well as one of the youngest religions – Sikhism (1400 to 1500 AD) all originated in India.

What surprises me more than anything else is that over all these millennia, life hasn't changed all that much. For e.g. house construction in erstwhile Hastinapur resembles that found today. Even in what once was Mohenjo-Daro & Harappa of the Indus Valley Civilization, archaeologists have found a small terracotta elephant painted red and white colors. Indian mahouts to this day use those colors on elephants. Humped Zebu bulls depicted in some of the seals are still used in farming in that area.



My assignment for youWe follow many rituals that have been passed down the ages without any change. They may have had significance a long, long ago. We no longer know, why they are done. Can we justify why they are done? Dr. Surendra Kumar Mishra, our esteemed priest, can help us out and throw some light.

Thank You to all members who have paid their 2009 Annual RIACC dues \$100. For those who have not yet paid please pay it at the earliest.

News & Events 2009



Boy Wonder...Devansh Patel!

Congratulations to Devansh Patel, a student at Greeneville High School. Devansh, son of Nila & Dharmen Patel, has been named a Commended Student in the prestigious 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. Patel also was a top 10 finalist in the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association (TMTA) High School Mathematics Contest. More than 5,000 of the top mathematics students from across the state participated in the contests. Patel tied for third place in the statistics contest and was recognized at the TMTA Awards Banquet held Sept. 19 at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville.

Wedding bells for Acharya Surendra Kumar Mishra

Mishraji first graced the Hall of Worship on January 21, 2007. Since then then he has endeared himself to one & all by dint of his intellect, down to earth interpretation & most importantly, by his humility and genial and amiable nature. He is headed to India to marry Ayushmati Nidhi Priya on Feb 12 in Badaun, UP. Congratulations Panditji & very warm welcome to the new Panditayan!

"Master Gardner Award to Natu Patel"

Natu Patel was awarded "Master Gardner" certification by the Department of Agricultural Extension of University Of Tennessee. This program consists of community based volunteers who assist with local gardening questions & problems. They also volunteer for community projects such as "butterfly gardens" on the Kingsport Greenbelt. Natu will be happy to assist with any plant/gardening/lawn related issues, and if he does not have the answers, he can help you find them.

Tennis Star...Nitin Narang

Nitin Narang was ranked No. 3 in Tennessee State by USTA (United States Tennis Associations).

Speaker of the Year...Megha Narang

Megha Narang was awarded Speaker of the Year 2008 by Toastmaster International.

Passing away

Condolences to the Joshi family on the sad demise of their beloved mother Taraben Joshi.

Bharatnatyam Classes at RIACC Hall of Worship

Bharatnatayam Classes will resume on Sunday of every month starting Feb 1 2009. Class timings are from 11 AM to 12 AM at the RIACC Hall of Worship. New students from age 4 to 11 years are invited to join the class. All new students are expected to pay \$25 to Hall of Worship. For further details please contact Mrs. Nila Patel at 423 636 1718.

Indian Food now available in Kingsport

Sahib Restaurant in Johnson City will now serve a Food Buffett at Apna Bazar. The food buffet comprising 6-8 hot dishes (veg. & non-veg.) will be available Thursday to Sunday from 11 am to 7 pm.

RIACC Hall of Worship
P.O. Box 411
Kingsport, TN 37662

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Message Board

From the Desk of the President, RIACC Brinda Gala

Wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2009. I will be ending my term as President, RIACC Executive Committee and wanted to take the opportunity to Thank many of you who have helped me serve this organization and also to extend a warm welcome to the incoming Committee. I would also like to recognize the contributions of a few of my team members without whose support none of this would have been possible.

To name only a few : Dr. Jay Mehta who stood by me like a pillar providing strength and guidance. Anil Agrawal for his leadership role during the Anniversary Celebration and the Fund raising events. Megha Narang who made sure that all the members, got their weekly and monthly programs on regular basis via e-mail. Supria Bhalla who made sure our newsletters were sent out in a timely manner. RC Ramaswamy and Rajesh Patel who took care of all the banking needs and made sure the accounting books were in order. Dr. Puneet Goenka, Chairman of the board - was also very supportive throughout my term. Last but not the least I would also like to thank Ranjan Chakraborty, the Board members and Members of the RIACC general body for their support and encouragement during my tenure and the numerous contributions they make to RIACC on an ongoing basis.

RIACC is in the process of developing plans for 2009 and is also looking for volunteers. If you have any ideas or interests please do step-up. RIACC Annual Elections for the Executive Committee will be held on February 22nd. I wish you all the best. Sincerely Brinda Gala

Need Volunteers....by Dr. Jay Mehta

RIACC is generally perceived as a religious organization. The by-laws state that RIACC will promote Religious, Cultural, Educational & Community related activities based on our Indian tradition of peace and harmony. In last few years we have focused on the RIACC Hall of Worship.

While Rituals and religious aspects are important to evolve spiritually, the growth of the community also requires Fun activities, Cultural programs etc.. We hope that the new Hall will give us the space to do that. We need people with variety of expertise and COMMITMENT to support such activities at RIACC. If you have any ideas or interest please contact the HOW Committee.

Directions to the Hall of Worship:

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

From Kingsport: Take I-26 towards Johnson City. Take exit 6 (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.