

# RIACC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## RIACC Board of Trustees

Dr. Darshan Shah  
*Chairman*

Dr. Puneet Goenka  
*Vice-Chairman*

Dr. Jay Mehta  
*Treasurer*

Dr. Pramod Shah

Dr. Ashok Mehta

Dr. Manoj Srinath

Mr. Anil Agrawal

Mr. Ashok Gala

Dr. Giri Hoskere

## RIACC Exec. Committee

Mrs. Poorvi Tiku  
*President*

Dr. Sunny Bhat  
*Vice-President*

Mr. Suresh Vutukuri  
*Secretary*

Mrs. Pooja Shah  
*Assistant Secretary*

Mr. Chandrakant Solanki  
*Treasurer*

Mr. Ashok Gala  
*Assistant Treasurer*

## HOW Committee

Mr. Ashok Gala

*Chairman & Board Member*

Dr. Giri Hoskere  
*Board Member*

Dr. Rajesh Kadam  
*General Body Member*

Dr. RC Ramaswamy  
*General Body Member*

## Hall of Worship Hours

Sunday 10:30am-1:00pm

Aarti at 12:30pm

## LOVE OF SERVICE

A big Thank-You to the community for trusting me with this important role of President of the RIACC Executive Committee. I look forward to working with the team. The desire to volunteer comes from the desire to serve. Everyone on the RIACC Board, RIACC Executive Committee and HOW Committee has that one common desire. Many founding members not only worked hard on executing a simple idea, but are still working today with complete dedication for this organization. I am also glad to see new members step-up like **Mrs. Pooja Shah** and **Dr. Rajesh Kadam** and be part of the Committee. There are members who are not officially part of any committee, but also equally dedicated. **Mrs. Raji Suresh** is one of them and has been leading the Bal-Vihar class since inception. It will be hard to fill the void when she leaves [See Significant Events section on Page 4].

We welcome **Dr. Darshan Shah** as Chairman and **Dr. Giri Hoskere** as the newest member of the RIACC Board.

The outgoing committee led by Dr. Darshan Shah has done a tremendous job of keeping the organization and the programs at the Hall of Worship going despite of adverse circumstances. This shows that if you are ready to serve others and do good for the community, nothing really can come in your way.

We are starting a new “**Volunteer Reserve**” with the goal of having a group of volunteers who are not committing to any fixed task, but are on stand-by and can be called on during big events and when we need an extra hand. Please sign-up by sending an email with your name and phone number to [how@riacc.us](mailto:how@riacc.us).

Big event this quarter is the **10 year Celebration of the Hall of Worship**. It is a tremendous milestone for this small, but growing community. Save the date and join us for a fun-filled weekend!

As always, we are open to suggestions, feedback, new program ideas, so please come forth and be an active participant in this community!

Sincerely

Poorvi Tiku [[poorvitiku@yahoo.com](mailto:poorvitiku@yahoo.com)]

## PRIEST COMING SOON!

It is my pleasure to announce that **Shri. Bhavesh Joshi** will be joining RIACC Hall of Worship as the resident Priest.

He has received his M.A. (Shastri) degree from *Gopal Krishna Sanskrit Mahavidyalay* in North Gujarat. He brings with him over eight years of experience as a priest and has worked at number of temples in India, USA and Zambia. Currently he is employed as a Head Priest at Livingstone Hindu Association, Zambia. He is very fluent in English, Sanskrit, Hindi, and Gujarati.

Shri. Bhavesh Joshi was competitively selected by the Priest Committee from the pool of several qualified applicants after several rounds of interviews. The committee made the recommendation to the Board of Trustees who approved the nomination.

The RIACC organization has filed the Immigration papers for Shri. Joshi's R-1 Visa. Even though the intended date of hiring is next month (May), lot depends on approval of R-1 visa. I have complete confidence that Shri. Bhavesh Joshi will offer the quality priest services to our community.

Dr. Sunny Bhat

Priest Committee Chair

## PROGRAMS [APR-JUN 2012]

Date	Time	Program
Sun 4/8/12	11:00 AM	Satyanarayan Katha - Sponsored by Poorvi & Ankur Tiku
Sun 4/15/12	11:00 AM	Hinduism Lecture Series - 5
Sun 4/22/12	11:00 AM	Vishnu Sahastranam
Sun 4/29/12	11:00 AM	Hinduism Lecture Series - 6
Sun 5/6/12	11:00 AM	Satyanarayan Katha - Sponsored by Dr. Avinash Reddy & Family
<b>Fri 5/11/12</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>**HOW 10th Anniversary 3-Day Event**</b>
<b>Sat 5/12/12</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>**HOW 10th Anniversary 3-Day Event**</b>
<b>Sun 5/13/12</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>**HOW 10th Anniversary 3-Day Event**</b>
Sun 5/20/12	11:00 AM	Vishnu Sahastranam
Sun 5/27/12	11:00 AM	Hinduism Lecture Series - 7
Sun 6/3/12	11:00 AM	Satyanarayan Katha - SPONSORSHIP OPEN
Sun 6/10/12	11:00 AM	Hinduism Lecture Series - 8
Sun 6/17/12	11:00 AM	Vishnu Sahastranam / Father's Day Celebration
Sun 6/24/12	11:00 AM	Hinduism Lecture Series - 9



March is here and spring has sprung! People everywhere are throwing open their windows and welcoming the season's warm, fresh air and light into their homes. After months of sealed-up windows and indoor play, it is that time for spring cleaning.

As this tradition carries on in your home, here are tips to help you "Clean Green".

- ◆ Use eco-friendly and natural cleaners such as baking soda and vinegar.
- ◆ Shoot for zero-waste as you clean. Opt for reusable microfiber cloths and sponges.
- ◆ Take a closer look at items like old clothing, towels, kids' toys and other random hodge-podges that may no longer appear to have use.

A lot of goods that are commonly thrown away or recycled can be reused.

Gently-worn clothing, toys and household goods can be donated to organizations. Old towels, linens and yoga mats can be donated to your local Humane Society. And if you can't find another use for your old magazines (like giving them to the kids for collage purposes), remember to recycle them too.

Here is list of a few agencies in our area that welcome your reusable items.

**Holston Habitat House Resale Store**— Has a new warehouse opening soon and ready to be filled!

**Interfaith Hospitality Network**— of Greater Kingsport is reaching out to local families in crisis.

Your **Local animal shelter or Humane society** would love to have your old newspapers, linens and more.

**Soles 4 Souls** - Soles4Souls shoe charity donates shoes to adults and children in need. Donate shoes, host a shoe drive, or provide disaster relief to help shoe charity.

**\*\* (Please see websites for item lists & contact information) \*\***

Remember: If it simply cannot be reused, repurposed, or donated, and it is recyclable, make sure that it ends up at a local recycling facility. Local recyclers help by collecting commonly-discarded goods like paper, cans and bottles at several locations. Visit [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com) for questions or to find locations near you.

Open your windows, and let the fresh air and sunlight in! With Earth Day's celebration just around the corner (**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**), now is the time to enhance your household "Green Team" sustainable practices.

**Did you know...you can support local farmers and get healthy, great tasting food by shopping your local farmers' market? Farmers' markets will be opening soon!**

*\*\*This article was published by Eastman Chemical Company's Green Team and has been re-printed with permission\*\**

## GARDENING TIPS BY NATU PATEL

Though it is still March, it feels like May and the gardeners are itching to work the soil. Please be careful. You can plant cold weather crop such as Methi (Fenugreek), Lettuce, Spinach or Onions. If you want to start plants (such as Tomato, Pepper, etc.) from seeds, it is the time to get started. Trim your roses to 15"-18" and keep only strong 4 or 5 branches. Remove all weak and dead branches. Happy Gardening!

**Sponsorship open for 2012 Satyanarayan Katha:**

**Sun Jun 3**  
**Sun Jul 1**  
**Sun Aug 5**  
**Sun Sep 2**  
**Sun Oct 28**  
**Sun Dec 2**  
**Sun Dec 30**

**Email [how@riacc.us](mailto:how@riacc.us) to sign-up**

# Celebrating a **DECADE** of Community Spirit!

The RIACC Board & RIACC/HOW Executive Committee cordially invite you to the  
**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Hall of Worship**

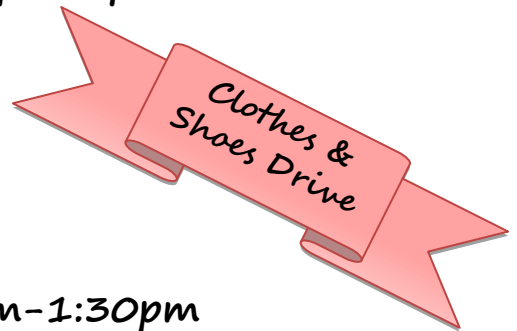
Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 \* 6pm-10pm

Singing Competition  
Garba-Raas



Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 \* 6pm-9pm

Bal-Vihar performances  
Dance performances  
Motivational Speaker  
Fireworks



Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 \* 10am-1:30pm

Bal-Vihar performances  
Mother's Day Celebration  
Havan  
Abhishekham & Bhajans



**\*\*All programs are subject to change\*\***



Questions or Interested in Sponsoring?

- ◆ Poorvi Tiku: 423-239-9530
- ◆ Ashok Gala: 423-967-5383
- ◆ Anil Agrawal: 423-278-4657

Email: [how@riacc.us](mailto:how@riacc.us)

Hall of Worship: 406 Westfield Place, Kingsport, TN-37664

**Regional Indo-American  
Community Center (RIACC)**

**Hall of Worship &**

**Amy Community Center**

**Non Profit Tax Exempt  
501 c(3)**

**Tax ID: 62-1497843**

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 411  
Kingsport, TN-37662

**Street Address:**

406 Westfield Place  
Kingsport, TN-37664

Phone: 423-349-6515

E-mail: how@riacc.us



**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- ◆ Congratulations to **Viral Pandit** on his marriage to **Richa Jha**, on Dec 18, 2011 in Gujarat, India. She will be joining Viral later this year in Kingsport.
- ◆ With a heavy heart we will be bidding farewell to **Mrs. Raji Suresh & Mr. Arun Suresh**. Raji is our beloved Bal-Vihar teacher and has taught the Bal-Vihar class at HOW for the last 10 years with utmost dedication. She has been at HOW every Sunday, barring any personal travel plans or unforeseen circumstances. They will be re-locating to Charlotte, NC in the June time-frame. The Bal-Vihar students will miss her and so will we at RIACC as we will lose the most dedicated volunteer of all. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors.
- ◆ A warm welcome to **Rahul Sakhuja & Palak Shah** who moved from Cambridge, MA late Sep 2011. Rahul is an *Interventional Cardiologist* & Palak is a *Performance Improvement Specialist*, both with Wellmont Health Systems.

**RIACC MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**RIACC requests you to pay your annual membership dues of \$125.** You can cut-out the following form to fill out your information and submit your check to any member of the Executive Committee or place it in the *Hundi* at HOW or mail it to RIACC (address on the left).

**Note: As per amended By-Laws, each family pays annual dues, including Board Members to Board of Trustees & Life Members to Executive Committee. This entitles them to 2 voting rights per family (18 yrs & above).**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Spouse's Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	