

RIACC (Regional Indian American Community Center)

Hall of Worship & Amy Community Center. Non Profit Tax Exempt 501 c(3) {Tax ID: 62-1497843}
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HOW Committee

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 (President)
 Dr. Puneet Goenka
 Mrs. Nila Patel
 Dr. Sunny Bhat

NEWSLETTER Quarter IV 2008

Date	Time	Oct-Dec : Program Details
Sun, Oct 05	11:00 AM	Bhagvad Gita Discussion / Garba
Tue, Oct 07	4:30 PM	Garba
Thu, Oct 09	6:00 PM	Vijaya Dashmi / Dassera
Sun, Oct 12	11:00 AM	General Body Meeting
Tue, Oct 14	6:00 PM	Sunderkand Path
Fri, Oct 17	4:30 PM	Karva Chauth
Sun, Oct 19	11:00 AM	Sharad Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha
Sun Oct 26	11:00 AM	Dhan Teras/Lakshmi Poojan
Sun, Nov 02	11:00 AM	Anakoot
Sun, Nov 09	11:00 AM	Bhajans
Tue, Nov 11	6:00 PM	Sunderkand Path
Sun, Nov 16	11:00 AM	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha, Dev Diwali Gurunanak Jayanti
Sun, Nov 23	11:00 AM	Satyanarayan Katha
Sun, Nov 30	11:00 AM	Vishnu Sahastranam
Sun, Dec 07	11:00 AM	Bhagvad Gita Discussion
Tue, Dec 09	6:00 PM	Sunderkand Path
Sun, Dec 14	11:00 AM	Poornima - Satyanarayan Katha
Sun, Dec 21	11:00 AM	Bhajans
Sun, Dec 28	11:00 AM	Vishnu Sahastranam

**HOW HOURS: Sun-Fri: 10:30am-1:00pm; 6:00-8:00pm;
 On Saturdays Call Before Visiting- Aarti at 12:30pm and 7:30pm.**

RIACC Ground Breaking Ceremony By Anil Agrawal, Expansion Committee

Another successful event conducted by RIACC with your support. **September 13th 2008** is now proclaimed as Regional Indian Community Center Day by the city of Kingsport, a memorable date for us as members of this community.

The Ground Breaking Ceremony kicked off with a rousing welcome speech by the Chairman of Board of trustees, Dr. Puneet Goenka. He acknowledged the invited guests, Dr. Phil Roe and Mrs. Pam Roe, Mr. Nathan Vaughn, Dr. Bill Kirkwood, Mr. Gary Maybry, Mr. Paul Montgomery & most importantly our community friends. Dr. Jay Mehta, started with a moment of silence remembering the 9/11 tragedy as well as victims suffering in Texas due to Ike. He took us back in time, to a Tri-cities 25 years ago, and where this journey began. Dr. Bill Kirkwood, a spiritual leader expressed some key elements that make all of us universal citizen of one religion that believes in God. He wished us all the success and asked that we continue to grow, and use the new fellowship hall to educate ourselves as well as the local community. Mr. Gary Maybry, President of Johnson City Commerce, and a long time supporter of RIACC had his facts straight. He presented the importance of RIACC's existence & the socio-economic impact of our community on Tri-cities. Our contribution as a community is a staggering \$100M-\$150M annual. Dr. Phil Roe Republican congressional candidate & Johnson City Mayor also addressed the gathering with excitement and enthusiasm, along with Tennessee State Representative Nathan Vaughn serving Sullivan County, and its members. Rev. John Martin, Mr. David McCain, Mr. John Lyle, Mr. Jimmy Duncan among others were present at the event.

Dr. Surendra Mishra, our resident priest performed the Bhoomi Poojan ceremony ("ground worship") for the success of the project. The Indian flavor was presented throughout the event with traditional decor & Rangoli by Supria Bhalla, Megha Narang, Nila Patel, Brinda Gala and Mrs. Mina Mehta. The children's Bharatnatyam performance organized by Nila Patel was enjoyed by all. Ashok Gala read the "Proclamation by the City of Kingsport", and asked that each guests sign the Proclamation for historical memorabilia. Anil Agrawal, a board member, & one of the organizers of the event called upon invited guests, Board members, Executive Committee members and other distinguished guests to "break the ground". 15 prominent community members held shovels & wore hard-hats to perform the historic ground breaking ceremony. This memorable moment was one of great pride for our achievements & even greater anticipation for the future. A token of appreciation "shovel" was given to each "ground breakers" as a gift as well as historic memento. A bag of gourmet coffee was also given to attendees as part of celebrating this great event together. Almost, 150 attendees were present at the event. The Indian Dinner was sponsored by Sahib Restaurant of Johnson City.

Phase 1 of the Expansion Project is well underway in getting kicked off. The Construction Project committee is meeting practically every day with sub-contractors, architect, compliance officers to ensure all aspects of construction is being evaluated & assessed for long-term viability. We anticipate the on-site construction to resume by the end of October, 2008. Our fund raising committee will continue to focus on fund raising drive for Phase II. We appreciate every one of you for your great contribution in the making of this Fellowship Hall.

Submit articles, significant events for the next Newsletter to how@riacc.us

The Meaning of Diwali by Megha Narang



Deepawali or Diwali is certainly the biggest of all Hindu festivals. It's the festival of lights (deep = light and avari = a row i.e., a row of lights) that's marked by four days of celebration, which literally illuminates the country with its brilliance and dazzles all with its joy. Each of the four days in the festival of Diwali is separated by a different tradition, but what remains true and constant is the celebration of life, its enjoyment and goodness.

The Origin of Diwali

Historically, the origin of Diwali can be traced back to ancient India, when it was probably an important harvest. However, there are various legends pointing to its origin. Some believe it to be the celebration of the marriage of Goddess Lakshmi with Lord Vishnu. In Bengal the festival is dedicated to the worship of Mother Kali, the goddess of strength. Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed God, the symbol of auspiciousness and wisdom, is also worshipped in most Hindu homes on this day. In Jainism, Deepawali has an added significance to the great event of Lord Mahavira attaining the eternal bliss of nirvana. Diwali also commemorates the return of Lord Rama along with Sita and Lakshman from his fourteen year long exile and vanquishing the demon-king Ravana. In joyous celebration of the return of their king, the people of Ayodhya, the Capital of Rama, illuminated the kingdom with earthen diyas (oil lamps) and burst crackers.

The Significance of Lights & Firecrackers

All the simple rituals of Diwali have a story to tell and are significant. The illumination of homes with lights and the skies with firecrackers is an expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace and prosperity. According to one belief, the sound of fire-crackers is an indication of the joy of the people living on earth, making the gods aware of their plentiful state. Still another possible reason has a more scientific basis: the fumes produced by the crackers kill a lot of insects and mosquitoes, found in plenty after the rains.

From Darkness Unto Light...

In each legend, myth and story of Deepawali, lays the significance of the victory of good over evil; and it is with each Deepawali and the lights that illuminate our homes and hearts, that this simple truth finds new reason and hope. From darkness unto light – the light that empowers us to commit ourselves to good deeds, that which brings us closer to divinity. Outside India, Diwali is more than a Hindu festival, it's a celebration of South-Asian identities. If you are away from the sights and sounds of Diwali, light a diya, sit quietly, shut your eyes, withdraw the senses, concentrate on this supreme light and illuminate the soul.

Rasoi— Diwali Kheer by Suman Sahni

Ingredients:

1/2 Gallon Regular Milk , 1/2 cup Basmati Rice, 1+1/4 cup Sugar, Pinch Of Cardamom powder, 2 Tbsp Chopped Almonds & Pistachios

Method :

In a big vessel put 2 tbsp of water ,then pour milk add rice & sugar at same time. At Medium heat cook it for approx a hour an half. Stir it occasionally. Then add Cardamom powder & chopped nuts and mix.

NOTE : Leave it little thinner in consistency because it gets thickened as it cools down. Take a big vessel so that the milk doesn't spill out when boiled.

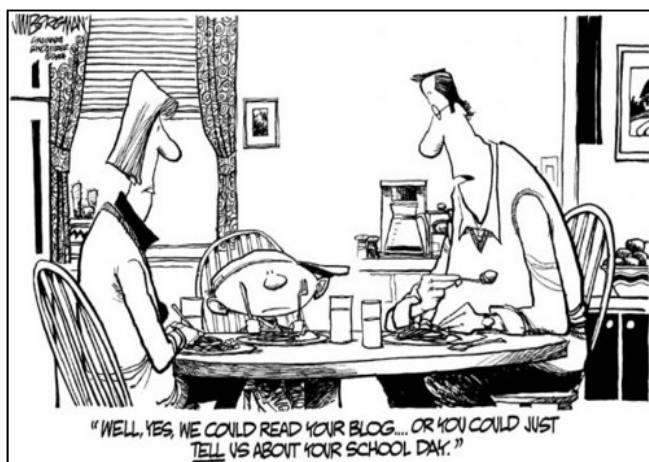
3rd Annual RIACC Golf Day By Dr. Andy Delwadia

Another successful golf tournament for RIACC! On September 6th 26 the Tri-cities golfers & (and aspiring golfers) enjoyed a perfect day on the links. The weather was great, with a little bit of rain adding a lot of excitement. The turnout was impressive with 26 players participating in the 5 hour tournament. Every one had fun...the golfers and their families who ended the day with a celebration Indian dinner at Sahib.



The winning team included Neil Delwadia, David Matthews & Pramod Shah (They scored an impressive 62, under11). Satish Hira held the impressive record of the Longest Drive of the tournament a whopping 290 yards! "Closest to the Pin' Award went to Jashbhai-J. N. Patel

A very big Thank You to all our participants & donors : Ron Matthews from State Farm Ins, Rajni Patel, Pramod Sapra, J.G. Patel, Srinivas Ananthula, Anil Tumkur, Tushar Patel, J. N. Patel, D. N. Patel, Mandip Bakshi and Harish Patel. And last but not the least a big thank you to Ashok Gala and Ashok Mehta for all the behind-the-scenes work. We are already looking forward to next year's tournament & we hope to make it bigger & better with your help. If you have any comments or suggestions please do share !



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.