

# **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

## **Board of Trustees**

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(Treasurer)  
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(Asst. Treasurer)  
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(Secretary)  
423 276 3286

Mrs. Supria Bhalla  
(Asst. Secretary)  
423-276-0544

## **HOW Committee**

Mrs. Rama Sharma  
Dr. Puneet Goenka  
Dr. Manoj Srinath  
RC Ramaswamy

## **NEWSLETTER QUARTER I 2010**

Time	Day	Date	Agenda
11:00 AM	Sunday	7-Mar	Bhagvat Gita Discusion
11:00 AM	Sunday	14-Mar	Havan
11:00 AM	Sunday	21-Mar	Ram navami
11:00 AM	Saturday	27-Mar	Ugadi
11:00 AM	Sunday	28-Mar	Satyanarayan Katha*/Mahavir Jayanti
11:00 AM	Sunday	4-Apr	Bhagvat Gita Discusion
11:00 AM	Sunday	11-Apr	Havan
11:00 AM	Sunday	18-Apr	Bhajans/Open hours
11:00 AM	Sunday	25-Apr	Satyanarayan Katha*
11:00 AM	Sunday	2-May	Bhagvat Gita Discusion
11:00 AM	Saturday	8-May	Anniversary Celebration
11:00 AM	Sunday	9-May	Anniversary Celebration
11:00 AM	Sunday	16-May	Havan
11:00 AM	Sunday	23-May	Vishnu Sahashranam
11:00 AM	Sunday	30-May	Satyanarayan Katha*
11:00 AM	Sunday	6-Jun	Bhagvat Gita Discusion
11:00 AM	Sunday	13-Jun	Havan
11:00 AM	Sunday	20-Jun	Bhajans
11:00 AM	Sunday	27-Jun	Satyanarayan Katha*

☀ HOW Hours ☀

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

## ***Welcome to the New 2010 Executive Committee:***



**W**e would like to extend a warm welcome to the New RIACC & HOW Executive Committee & bid a fond adieu to the exiting committee. The new HOW Committee was elected at the last RIACC General Body Meeting and we thank you for your participation in the voting process. Your involvement and support is critical to the success of RIACC .

The new Team is very excited and has already begun making plans for a fun and eventful 2010. If you have any suggestions on programs, activities please do let them know. The new website <http://riacc.us> is now fully operational so drop us an email or contact any of the HOW Committee members. I am sure they will welcome your inputs

This year we have some new faces & some old faces. Megha Narang has stepped up as the New President of the HOW Committee. Thank You Megha for taking the responsibility. Your smiling face and fresh energy is sure to be an asset to the new team. Darshan Shah is now President Elect and will continue to do all the good work he did last year. Suresh V has kindly agreed to be the Secretary. Also we welcome back Chandrakant Solanki as Treasurer. We are very honored to have you back on the Committee. Swaminathan continues as Assistant Treasurer and Supria Bhalla continues in the role of Assistant Secretary & Editor of the RIACC Newsletter.

Last but not the least a big thanks to the outgoing committee members—Dr. Ranjan Chakraborty (President'09) & RC Ramaswamy (Tresurer'09). While you may not be in the committee officially we hope we can count on your guidance & support going forward.

## ***Membership Fee Increase in 2010***

**T**he Annual RIACC Membership Fee has been increased from **\$100 to \$125**. The fee increase—the first time in 5 Years—was voted & approved at the Annual General Body Meeting held in February 2010. The decision to increase the fee—by a nominal amount—was done in order to address the growing expenses at the Hall of Worship. With the increased attendance at the Hall of Worship, more programs & activities, and the building expansion expenses the cost of running the facility has gone up considerably and we expect it to increase further.

We sincerely hope that this increase will not discourage our members to pay their dues. As you all know the Annual Fee helps pay for a significant portion of the day-to-day running expenses. Also, while we have over 350 families in the Tri-cities area we only have approx. 80 paid members. For those who have not registered please do so, we are counting on you. This is our community and by being a paid member you will have your fair share of voice to influence the vision of RIACC.

To make it convenient for you to pay your membership, you can either pay via check (made to RIACC & specific Membership dues 2010) or by cash and place in in the hundi.

## ***Save the Day May 8th & 9th : Anniversary Celebrations!!***

**Y**es it's that time of the year again, when we start planning the biggest event at the Hall of Worship. We know you all look forward to this fun-filled extravaganza where we all get together to celebrate the spirit of our great community. This year our theme is HOPE....Hope for our Youth, Hope for our Community, Hope for the Country. Last year was difficult but we look to the New Year with renewed energy and hope. And as we celebrate lets

*So stay-tuned & keep a watch out for....sssh it's a surprise!!!*

## ***New Monthly Program: Monthly 'Yagya' 'Homa'***

**I**n our continued efforts to introduce new activities & further involve the community, starting March 2010 we are introducing a new Program to the Monthly calendar—The Yagya or Havan Puja.

**Homa** is an ancient Hindu ritual performed to invoke Agni, the God of fire, by offering Ghee & other sacrificial offerings. As Havih means Ghee and Havisha means offering, **Yagya** means sacrifice. Havan has 3 purposes - Prayer to Gods, Developing community harmonious company and Charity. Brahma is the creator of the world and Sun God is His son. Fire represents Sun. The fire is lit to invite Agni. Ghee & Havan samagri are offered into the as ahuti or blation into the fire as Mantras are being chanted. The word Swaha is uttered at each offering. Swaha is agni's wife's name.

**Upcoming Yagya Dates: March 14th - Chandi Yagya, April 11 - Vishnu Yagya, May 9th - Laxmi Narayan Yagya.** It is not mandatory for the sponsor to be physically available for the yagya, it can be performed on your behalf by Panditji. Also the family doing the yagya is not obligated to provide a meal, in fact we encourage pot-luck as much as possible. In addition you are welcome to do it as one family or combine two or more families.

Last but not the least, we would like to remind you of our other Monthly Program—the **Satya Narayan Katha**. We are seeking sponsors for the Puja for the rest of the year. If you are interested please contact Panditji or any member of the Executive Team. The following months are still available — **May, June, July, Aug, Oct, Nov, Dec**

## ***NEW !! The Priest's Corner***

**W**e are introducing another feature to the Quarterly Newsletter....**The Priest's Corner**. Pandit Mishraji will share his thoughts, comments & other information with the community. If you have any suggestions on content please share with him. This month's feature is Holi—The Festival of Color.

Holi festival comes in the Phalgun month—the last month of the Hindu calendar. It is celebrated with joy all over India. While we don't know when this festival started it is believed to have its origin during the Vedic times. The reason for this belief is that when times were tough people performed the VaishwaDev Yagna during Phalgun poornima. They offered new harvest crops like wheat, rice, grams to the yagna & the rest was used as prasadam. According to the religious scriptures the waste grams were called holka. Hence if we use holka as a base point surely that tells us this festival dates back to the Vedic Times.....(to be contd.)

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

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### ***Important Announcements***

- **RIACC Youth Club:** The Youth Club is now in full swing. In March the Club organized a movie night at HOW...the kids watched Narnia 2 and munched on popcorn & pizza...suffice to say it was a big success ! Also for those who may have not know we have recently started a Youth Club for ages 10 yrs and older. This program is intended to bring our community teenagers together doing fun activities, community hours, open floor discussions etc. If you have any suggestions or would like to participated please contact Pam Majethia .
- **New improved Website now operational:** Our re-designed website [www.riacc.com](http://www.riacc.com) is now fully operational. Many thanks to Mrs. Leena Agrawal for all her efforts. In case you have any comments or suggestions please send us an email at [HOW@RIACC.US](mailto:HOW@RIACC.US). We look forward to your inputs.
- **Congratulations** to Megha & Nitin Narang on the birth of their adorable baby boy Naman Narang in Oct 2009!
- **Congratulations** to Devansh Patel for yet another great achievement. Devansh has been awarded the prestigious Eagle Scout Honor. Only 2 million Americans have been given this honor. Keep it up Devansh we are very proud of you. You are an inspiration to the youth of Tricities!
- **Condolences** to the Agrawal family on the demise of Mr. Sharaf (Father of Leena Agrawal) in Patna, India. This is a difficult time for their family and our heart-felt thoughts and prayers are with you.
- **Spring is in the air (hopefully soon) . Some handy tips to beat Spring fever:**
  1. Keep bedroom windows closed at all times during pollen season
  2. Use central or window air conditioning and change filters at least once a month
  3. Shower and shampoo hair as soon as you are finished working or playing outdoors
  4. Leave pollen-contaminated clothing out of bedroom
  5. Avoid newly cut grass
  6. Wear a pollen mask when necessary to work in heavily pollinated areas

#### **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.