



India Association of Fort Myers, Inc.

Serving Southwest Florida since 1987
P.O.Box 07183, Fort Myers, FL: 33919

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Newsletter: Feedback/Suggestions/Comments
Email: anjana_bhatt2006@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Overall responsibility: Anjana H. Bhatt
Contents: All Members
Editor: Payal Mathur Rasquinha

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

This newsletter is devoted to India Fest, the picnic in April and membership issues. Preparations for India Fest are in full swing. By the time you receive this newsletter, the India Fest souvenir would have been submitted to the printer. We are working diligently to complete all the tasks related to India Fest. Like every year, we are very confident that with your help and support we would be able to make India Fest a memorable event for the local community.

I invite you to read through this newsletter and note the information concerning the Holi picnic, India Fest volunteer meeting, deadlines for submitting entertainment items for India Fest, date for the stage practice at the Alliance of the Arts grounds, and the deadline for sending your membership dues.

Currently, we are planning to print the IAFM membership directory in April and our goal is to be able to include all member families in this directory. To achieve this goal, we must receive membership dues before March 31. **We need your help.** Please send your membership check at your earliest convenience to ensure your family appears in the directory and receives a copy of the directory.

Further, I humbly invite you to attend the India Fest Volunteer Meeting in large numbers and support IAFM. With your help we want to march ahead and conduct the most successful India Festival to date.

SEE YOU AT THE VOLUNTEER MEETING AND INDIA FEST. Thank You. --Anjana.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2006-07

- ❖ India Fest, Saturday, March 24, Alliance of the Arts, Fort Myers.
- ❖ Holi/Baisakhi/Tamil New Year Picnic, Saturday, April 14, Lakes Regional Park, Fort Myers.
- ❖ Musical Night, Sep. 22, Temple Beth El.

Date & Location to be announced:

- ❖ Youth Forum Night, 2007
- ❖ Diwali, November, 2007

HOLI/BAISAKHI/TAMIL NEW YEAR PICNIC.....



Holi is a festival of colors and friendship and IAFM hosts its annual Holi picnic to remind member families about how life should be: colorful, vibrant, joyful and fun. The picnic is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Although, we prefer to schedule family picnics on Sunday, this year, we are forced to schedule this much awaited event on a Sunday due to scheduling conflicts at the venue. We urge you to overlook this fact and make plans to attend the picnic in large numbers.

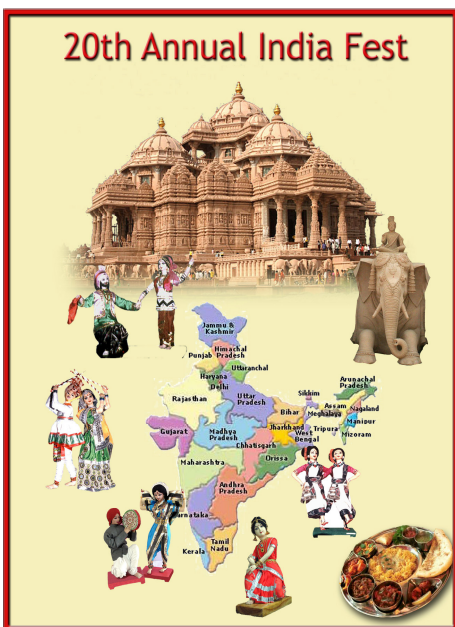
This year, our Punjabi and the Tamilian member families will celebrate the New Year on April 14. Therefore, we elected to host a combined picnic, enabling us to play with colors, have fun and food with our families and welcome the New Year in full glory. We are mindful of your personal preferences and never use force to apply colors on members who wish to refrain from playing Holi. **Please be assured that no one will force you to play with colors and water against your wishes.** We invite you all to attend the picnic and make it a grand success. Additionally, please be prepared for some lively Bhangra music and other dancing activities. Let us have some great outdoor fun!

Please note: This event is free for member families. The cost for non members is \$5 per person. Here is some information about our Holi menu that is sure to whet your appetite:

- ◆ Pav Bhaji
- ◆ Samosa and Chutney
- ◆ Dahi Vada and Chutney
- ◆ Zalebi
- ◆ Ice Cream for all (children and adults), and
- ◆ Hot Gulab Jamoon (Courtesy of India Palace, Fort Myers).

Picnic Location & Date: Lakes Regional Park: 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers, FL. Ph: 239-432-2000, Shelter B-1. Saturday, April 14th from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

INDIA FEST 2007. SATURDAY, MARCH 24. SAVE THE DATE...



India Fest is around the corner and our preparations are in full swing. Surely, you have marked your calendars to join us on Saturday, March 24, 2007 at the Alliance of the Arts grounds in Fort Myers. The festival will begin at 11 a.m. and will continue through the afternoon until 4 p.m. The theme for India Fest 2007 is "Regions of India."

India Fest fliers have been displayed and are available at most of the Indian Stores. We also request our members to pick up these fliers and pass them along to friends, display them at work, and generally, spread the word about India Fest 2007.

Admission tickets are available at Little India (936-9299), Indian Grocery Store (936-2123), India Bazaar (939-0797) and India Palace (939-2323) for \$4 each.

We invite you to purchase admission tickets in advance and avoid the rush at the entrance gate.

Upon arrival at the entrance gate for India Fest, please be on the look out for the unique India and US friendship flags pins. These patriotic pins will be sold for \$2 a piece and on a first-come-first served basis. **There are only 250 pins for sale: so come early and purchase one or more pins so you can proudly wear them during the festival and afterwards.**

The Entertainment program is the highlight of India Fest. Like each year, we are depending on our talented children and adults to perform at this event. Currently, we are planning for a four hour entertainment program beginning at 11 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m., with a short break for the address by our chief guest and an additional half an hour break at lunch time for the yoga demonstration. To ensure that every child/adults who wishes to perform has an opportunity to do so, we will give preference to group entries. However, an individual can perform in 2 entries; one single and one group item.

Since the theme for India Fest 2007 is "Regions of India", we encourage you to plan your entertainment items based on this theme, but this is not mandatory!

Please Note: Entertainment entries are accepted on first-come-first-served basis and only by e-mail. The deadline to submit your entries is March 14, and only those entries that are received by the deadline will be included in the final program. We urge you to respond quickly and send your entries to: Jyoti Parkhi: jparkhi@gmail.com or Parna Shenoy: parna2020@hotmail.com. **Every entry must include the title of the item, names of participants and approximate length of the performance.**

Please make sure to provide a copy of the CD during the 'ON STAGE PRACTICE' scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, at 5 p.m. For all the entertainment program related questions, please call either Jyothi or Parna directly. Their phone numbers appear on the cover page.

India Fest Volunteers Meeting: The India Fest Volunteer Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. at India Palace. The primary purpose of this meeting is to finalize the volunteering assignments and familiarize the volunteers with their assigned responsibilities. Light refreshments will be provided. We invite you to attend the meeting and volunteer for activities such as set up/clean up, ticket sales, traffic control, food sales and backstage help. **For questions related to volunteering, please Call Jyoti Parkhi at 239-561-6395.**

2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Annual membership dues for 2007 are now due. To ensure your name is not dropped from the membership directory, please send your membership dues check before March 31 to **India Association of Fort Myers, Inc. P.O.Box 07183, Fort Myers, FL: 33919.** The membership directory is scheduled to be printed and mailed in early May. **NOTE: In the coming weeks, members of the IAFM Executive Committee will be making personal phone calls to remind you about payment of the membership dues.**

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Outside the Newsletter

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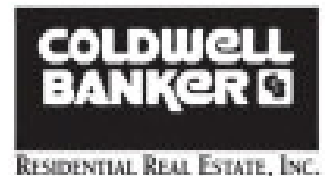
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