



India Association of Fort Myers, Inc.

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

Volume 7, Issue 1, October 2010

<http://www.iafortmyers.org/>

Thought of the day - "Keep your heart open to dreams. For as long as there's a dream, there is hope, and as long as there is hope, there is joy in living."

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Executive Committee 2010-11

President:	Sunita Sharma	239-936-2554
President-Elect:	Prasad Kasireddy	503-490-4362
Treasurer:	Vaishali Mehta	734-546-0251
Secretary:	Terry Tahal	239-464-5848
Directors:	Sapna Mathur	239-247-5004
	Ramana Muvva	239-275-0645
	Ravi Devaguptapu	941-628-6295
	Baktha Vardhini	239-433-4303

Youth Committee 2010-11

President:	Ananya Mahajan
President-Elect:	Vaibhav Penukonda
Secretary:	Mumtu Lalla
Directors:	Alisha Puri
	Harsha Raju
	Priyanka Patel
	Rhea Patel

Board Of Trustees

Kumar Nandur:	Founder President - 1987
Kunwar Jain:	Chair Person - President -1997
Atiq Ahson:	President - 1991
Subhash Kshetrapal:	President - 2000
Harshad H. Bhatt:	President - 2002 - 03
Rajiv Varshney:	President - 2004 - 05
Hina Sanghvi:	President - 2005 - 06
Suja George:	Co chair - President 2007 - 08
Rajen Patel:	President - 2008-09
Sudhanshu Desai:	President - 2009-10

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thank you all for giving me an opportunity to be your silver jubilee President. As I had mentioned in my inaugural speech, we are going to have a blast this year, starting with the Diwali Dhoom on November 20th at Hyatt. We have many other surprises for you. Hopefully, with your support we will be able to fructify our mutual vision for the India Association.

We as a community have seen tremendous growth. We should utilize this to further our association and to make it a premier organization. Please feel free to bring out fresh ideas toward this goal. We are very fortunate to have a strong foundation for our association, thanks to all the hard work of the past committees and volunteers. The keys of teamwork and team spirit will take us to unimaginable levels of success. Nothing can break the walls when we are all united as one big family. I look forward to your participation with enthusiasm in all the upcoming events this year.

Once again, I thank the members and my talented committee who have graciously volunteered their precious time to make this an eventful year.

Sunita Sharma

UPCOMING EVENTS 2010-11

- ❖ Diwali, November 20, 2010 (6PM), Hyatt Regency Resort, Coconut Point, Bonita Springs
- ❖ Republic Day/ Sports Day Picnic, January 2011
- ❖ India Fest, February 12, 2011 at the Hammond Stadium
- ❖ Holi, April 2011
- ❖ Independence Day Picnic, August 2011
- ❖ Talent Night, September 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH WING PRESIDENT:

Hello everyone,

The Youth Wing had its first meeting on September 12. We began the year by electing committee members and deciding which projects to focus this year.

We are participating in 3 walks this year: The Alzheimer's Walk, The Heart Walk, and the Walk to Cure Diabetes. If you would like any information, please call one of the committee members. Donations for any of these causes are welcome. The projects that we have decided to engage in include, but are not limited to, working with Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army (and the Soup Kitchen), the Ronald McDonald House, Brightest Horizons, and the Koreshan State Park. In addition, some activities that we are planning include beach clean-ups, the canned food drive, and most importantly, volunteering at the Special Olympics.

In order to motivate the youth of our community to participate in these activities, we have decided to incorporate a special activity at the end of the year for all of the members who put in at least half of the hours that we provide community service. All these members will be awarded a trip to either Busch Gardens or Islands of Adventure. Apart from collecting money for community organizations, we will also be raising money to help fund this trip rewarding our youth volunteers.

We would love to have new members in our Youth Wing. Young adults from the ages of 12-21 are welcome to join. For more information, please call one of the committee members.

We hope that we will be able to become servant leaders within our community, promoting the Indian cultures and values with which we have been raised. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the India Association and our community.

Ananya Mahajan

2010/2011 Youth Wing President

ananya.mahajan1@yahoo.com

(239) 292-9822

DIWALI UPDATES

The entertainment program is the highlight of our Diwali celebration. Like every year, we are depending on our talented children and adults to perform. We urge you to respond quickly and send your entries to:

Sapna Mathur: sapna.12@hotmail.com 239 247 5004 or

Ravi Devaguptavu: ravi@fteinc.net 941 628 6295

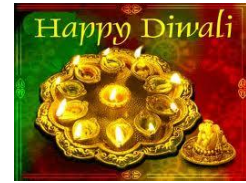
The deadline to submit your entries is November 14, 2010. Only one item per person or two in a group will be accepted. All entries must be received by the deadline. Every entry must include: the title of the item, names of participants and the approximate length of performance. Please make sure to provide a copy of the CDs one week in advance. The copies should be labeled with your name. At the end of the function, please see Sapna Mathur or Ravi Devaguptavu to retrieve your CDs.

For any questions/comments/concerns regarding the entertainment, you may call Sapna or Ravi.

For anyone interested in entering the rangoli contest at Hyatt Hallway on Nov' 20th, 2010, please contact Vaishali Mehta- vmehtam@yahoo.com or Baktha Vardhini - vardhini_us@yahoo.com. Please bring your own colors. We will provide the space.



DIWALI GALA 2010



You are cordially invited to enjoy
a night of enticing entertainment, exotic cuisine, fireworks
and fun for the whole family

on

Saturday, November 20, 2010

from

6pm to 11pm

at The Calusa Ballroom

Hyatt Regency Resort Coconut Point

5001 Coconut Road

Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Underground Self Park Garage - No Charge

Valet Parking - \$5.00

Bring the kids on time to collect their trophies

The function begins at 6:00 pm sharp

Program Synopsis:	6 - 7 pm	Welcome and Awards	
	7 - 9 pm	Entertainment Program	
	9 - 11pm	Dinner (Appetizers 6 - 7 pm only)	
Ticket Charges:		Members	Non-Members
	Adults (over 18)	\$20	\$30
	Children (5 to 18yrs)	\$10	\$15
	Children (below 5yrs free)		

PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTED BY CHECK or CASH ONLY. SORRY, NO CREDIT CARDS PLEASE.

Join the festive gathering for fellowship, friendship and fun! Purchase tickets in advance from area Indian grocery stores or by contacting any of the Executive Committee members.

This program is made possible by a generous contribution from members and sponsors:

- ❖ Adi, Devaki & Ashish
- ❖ Challapalli, Gosia & Rahul
- ❖ Koka, Anuradha & Ramesh
- ❖ Malkani, Lynn & Sunil
- ❖ Muppala, Madhumati & Murali
- ❖ Penukonda, Sarada & Arun
- ❖ Raju, Priya & Srinivas
- ❖ Sharma, Sandy & Neekaytan
- ❖ Sharma, Sunita & Tej
- ❖ Shenoy, Parna & Ganesh
- ❖ Shetty, Shaila & Sumeet
- ❖ Krishnan, Ramiah & Lakshmi

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010-11:

Since some of you were not present at the Election Night, we would like to introduce our Executive Committee (EC) for the year 2010-11. As you will see in the following paragraphs, our EC members have a diverse background and are highly capable in their personal and professional lives.

President - Sunita Sharma



Born & Lived: Born in India. Moved to US in 1996 - CA, NJ & CT. Moved to FL in 2007.
Family: Husband - Tej, Daughters - Naina and Nisha.
Education: MD.
Profession: Adult Infectious Disease specialist at Lee Memorial Health System.

President-Elect - Prasad Kasireddy



Born & Lived: Born in Andhra Pradesh, India, came to US in 1998 as a Software engineer. Living in Cape Coral, FL since Jan 2008.
Family: Wife - Kala, Daughter - Nikhita, and, Son - Jaswanth.
Education: BS in Engineering.
Profession: Founder, owner and president of an Information technology, Medical Billing, E-Commerce and consulting Company.

Treasurer - Vaishali Mehta



Born & Lived: Moved to Fort Myers in 2009
Family: Husband - Dr. Shalin Mehta
Education: BBA, MBA in Finance
Profession: Financial Auditor

Secretary- Terry Tahal



Born & Lived: Born in Guyana, moved to US in 2005.
Family: Wife - Sattie, Sister - Bharti, and, Nephew - Nikhil
Education: B.E (Chem), Australia.
Profession: Process Engineer for a consulting firm in Fort Myers.

Director - Sapna Mathur



Born & Lived: Born in India ; Moved to US in 1997 in Toledo ohio, Worcester MA; Moved to Florida in 2008.

Family: Husband - Naveen, Children - Mohit and Rahul.

Education: BA (hons) , Masters in Software Applications.

Profession: Homemaker.

Director - Ramana Muvva



Born & Lived: Born in India; moved to US in 1998 - CT & CA. Moved to Fort Myers in 2002.

Family: Wife - Aruna, Daughter - Siri, and, Son - Nikhil.

Education: M.Sc.

Profession: Sr Business analyst at Chicos FAS, Inc.

Director - Ravi Devaguptapu



Born & Lived: Born in India; moved to US in 1991 - AZ. Moved to FL in 1994.

Family: Wife- Pallavi, Children- Priyanka, Prisha, and, Pranav.

Education: MS Civil, Arizona State University.

Profession: Traffic Engineer. Owner and President of Florida Transportation Engineering, Inc.

Director - Baktha Vardhini



Born & Lived: Born in India. Moved to US in 1991 - OK, NY. Moved to FL in 2008.

Family: Husband - Vish; son - Prasanna; daughter - Purva.

Education: MD.

Profession: Physician, Internal medicine & Geriatrics, currently with Hope Hospice.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Please note that the new deadline for membership dues is now March 31st. The membership dues for the year 2010-11 are as follows:

Individual	\$30	After January 31 st , 2011 - \$50
Family	\$50	After January 31 st 2011 - \$75
Life Membership Individual	\$450	
Life Membership Family	\$750	

Membership forms (new/renewal/update) can be downloaded from our website <http://www.iafortmyers.org>.

Annual dues are traditionally collected at the Diwali function, but you need not wait until Diwali. By mailing your membership dues check in advance you will reduce your waiting time at the Diwali entrance gate. Please make checks payable to: **India Association of Fort Myers, Inc. P.O.Box 07183, Fort Myers, FL 33919**

Please note: As per the new bylaws, life membership is non-transferable. Membership dues not paid by March 31st will be considered delinquent, resulting in removal from the Mailing List and Membership Directory of the India Association.

CLASSIFIEDS (Back Page)

Are you interested in advertising in this Newsletter??

If so...then send us a scanned copy of your business card or business information.

Rates:

Business Cards inside the Newsletter: \$25 per Issue/\$100 for the whole year
Business Cards outside the Newsletter: \$50 per issue/\$150 for the whole year

Payable to: India Association of Fort Myers
P. O. Box: 07183,
Fort Myers, FL 33919

COMMUNITY NEWS:

On October 9th, members of our India Association and the Youth Wing took part in the "Light the Night" walk (cure for cancer) in support of our former president Atiq Ahson at Estero Park. This was a grand success.



HINDU TEMPLE

The Hindu Temple of SW Florida on Plantation Road, Ft. Myers hosted Swami Dayanand Saraswati of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, PA for a series of lectures on Karma Yoga in October.

The temple also has regularly scheduled activities:

Tuesdays: 7-9pm: Music classes conducted by Lakshmi Krishnan

Thursdays: 7-9pm: Shram Daan Cleaning / Gardening.

Saturdays: 9:30-10:30am: Yoga classes conducted by Nora Morris (Started Sept 12- first class free, followed \$5 per class, with proceeds going toward temple maintenance. Bring a yoga mat)

Saturdays: 7-9pm: Prayer & Meditation, Hanuman Chalisa (7:30pm), Gita Discussion (8pm)

Sundays: 8:30-10am: Morning Prayers
10-11am: MathNicks- Contact Mallika Nandur
11am-12: Baal Vidhya classes for children

Donate your time and effort towards keeping the temple clean.

Individual Poojas are performed at the Temple.

Please contact **Priest Mayuram Bhatta** at (239) 225-7245 for arrangements.

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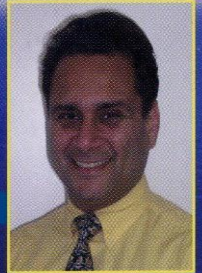
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