



Association of Indians in America – Madison Chapter
NEWSLETTER – October, 2007
BE A MEMBER AND STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

**2007 Committee
Members**

President:

Anuradha Palaparti
Palaparti@yahoo.com
608-827-5892

President Elect:

Shyam Koppikar
shyam1944@hotmail.com
608-848-4855

Cultural Coordinator:

Aruna Rajagopal
aru_chaks@msn.com
608-320-0567

Secretary:

Badrinath Lankella
hellobadri@yahoo.com
608-467-1598

Treasurer:

Vijayasradhi Setaluri
vjsetaluri@hotmail.com
608-203-5052

Immediate Past president:

Sarita Jha
Sarita_jha@lycos.com
608-836-4044

Newsletter Editor

Krishna Sijapati

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Members,

I hope you had a great summer and fall! AIA celebrated India Day on September 8, 2007 at the University Mall with great enthusiasm! Many of the members participated in helping with setting up the stalls and cultural programs. Thank you all for coming to this events and making it a memorable success.

Kids continued to volunteer and learn about Wisconsin's unique flora and fauna at the UW-Arboretum through out the summer. Under the guidance of Dr. Balachandran, this program will continue next summer. I hope you will have your children participate and reap the benefits from this learning opportunity.

Come and enjoy the Diwali celebrations on November 10, 2007 at Middleton High School. We are planning to a unique cultural program followed by a Music Program by Malhar Orchestra. This will be preceded by the delicious dinner catered from Taj Restaurant!

I hope to see you at the upcoming event.

Thanks,
Anuradha Palaparti
AIA President (2007)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Members: 1 new life time member
9 existing life-time members
71 paid members
Total: 81 paid members as of July 24, 2007
Spring/Mother Day: income \$ 1594.00 and expenses \$1632.72
Net loss/Profit: -\$38.72

Members at Large:

Krishna Sijapati

sijapati@charter.net

608-222-0646

Sakthivel Prabakaran

prabas2002@hotmail.com

608-271-9881

Swaminathan Balachandran

balachas@uwplatt.edu

608-848-6780

Lalitha Balachandran

lalidot@hotmail.com

608-669-6780

Kumud Gupta

realestatemadisonwi@yahoo.com

608-277-0895

Raja Raman

rraman@tds.net

608-833-8832

Sandhya Patel

asitpatel@tds.net

608-848-2724

Amit Manger

amitmangar@yahoo.com

608-833-8832

Milind Ranade

milind_ranade@hotmail.com

608-886-3271

Padmaja Katta

pkatta@amfam.com

608-833-8832

Hasmukh Rajani

RajRajani@hotmail.com

608-268-5812

Randeep Talwar

rst_1108@yahoo.com

Phone: 608-845-3570

Naveen Aditya

naveen_aditya_2000@yahoo.com

608-833-8832

Venu Pittala

venu_pittala@hotmail.com

608-833-9503

Alka Sharma

nsharma@meriter.com

608-833-8832

Neena Shah

nshah@charter.net

608-824-9891

Anupama Khanna

anupama.khanna@epibio.com

608-848-2739

Upcoming event: Diwali Celebrations

Please let us know if you can help with organizing the event

Summer Picnic

AIA organized a summer picnic on July 28, 2007 at the Mendota Park, Middleton. The picnic started at 10 a.m. and ended at 3 p.m. The purpose of the picnic was to enjoy the summer weather, socialize with friends, refresh old memories and acquaint with new members of the community. This Year's picnic was

organized with the open invitation to other organizations in Madison and surrounding communities. Along with AIA, the picnic was attended by Madison Area Telugu Association, Wisconsin Indian Tamil Sangam and American Hindu Association. The organizations pooled resources to order Pizza and organize a potluck lunch with

typical Indian food such as rice, sabji, seasonal corn on the cob and sweet desserts. There were about 250 people from four organizations participating and all enjoyed the program designed to entertain people of all age groups. AIA organized Bingo to involve as many people as possible and had excellent participation. In addition to all the entertainment, The Combat Blindness Foundation (CBF) - a non-profit health organization dedicated to eradicating preventable blindness in the developing world had a table to educate the community about its charitable work. CBF was founded by Dr. Suresh Chandra, Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in 1984. A bone marrow drive was also organized to help 28 year old South Asian doctor Vinay Chakravarthy who was in urgent need of a bone marrow transplant by Radhika Muralidharan and Ayesha Iftikhar.

VOLUNTERISM:
A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

Volunteers are the priceless assets of this nation. Every year millions of volunteers extend their expertise and valuable services to make this nation a beautiful place to live. No matter where we go, we find volunteers working to benefit



individuals, community and the nation.

Association of Indians in America (AIA) has adopted a number of projects to offer voluntary services to the community. One the projects are the highway cleaning. This project was initiated in 2000 under the leadership of Swaminathan Balachandran. This project covers the highway 14 W from Oregon, Wisconsin to Madison, a total length of 1.5 miles.

In 2007, three different groups of volunteers gathered litter on the



designated side of highway starting in March through October. On the day of the pick-up, volunteers were given breakfast and brief orientation at the Balachandran's house. The volunteers then proceeded towards the worksite by 9:45 AM. The work was completed at



about 11:30 AM. Within an hour of work, the number of trash bags collected was unbelievable.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation began the Adopt-A-Highway program to allow groups to volunteer and support the state's anti-litter program in a more direct way. Under this program each qualified group takes responsibility for litter control on a segment of state highway. The group picks up litter on this segment at least three times per year between April 1 and November 1. Each group must provide one adult supervisor for every five or six workers. All workers must be at least 11 years of age or in the 6th grade. There are about 1900 organizations and groups that participate in this program each year and assist in keeping Wisconsin highways beautiful by collecting several tons of garbage for proper disposal.

INDIA DAY CELEBRATED IN MADISON

The Association of Indians America (AIA) celebrated India Day on



September 8, 2007 at the Library Mall with great fun, fair, festival, cultural programs and delicious Indian food. It is the tradition of AIA to celebrate this festival every year to refresh the memory of the rich Indian cultural heritage, delicious food to the Madisonians. Beautiful programs were organized representing Indian cultural heritage from different geographical regions with in India. Several groups from Madison

The last cleanup was done on Saturday, September 29, 2007. People participating in the cleanup work were; S. Balachandran, Lalitha Balachandran, Dorothy Brar, Gurdip Brar, John Pinto, Nitin Saini, Periyannan Senapathy, Biswajit Pati, Rathinam Vembu, Sreenath, Geetha, Manu, and Abhik Battacharya.

This is a very rewarding experience and you feel self-worth living in the community and this nation. If you are interested to volunteer for 2008 cleaning program please send an email to Swaminathan Balachandran.

and surrounding communities



participated in this program. The celebration of the independence of the world's largest democracy is a grand event for family and friends

The program was designed to celebrate the independence day of India and demonstrate the united culture of India from the north to south and east to west. The program was held at the Library Mall in UW Madison.

India formally gained independence on August 15, 1947 after centuries of British rule - and years of turmoil - and

today continues to mark the day with somber speeches, colorful parades and



celebrations in far-flung communities beginning in New Delhi, India to Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Learning more about the events leading up to the historic moment, the heroes of the Independence movement in India and inspirational quotes are key for this



celebration. The events allowed one to explore the traditional and modern customs that surround the holiday in India and in areas throughout the world where India's emigrants have made their



homes. A number of display booths, popular mehendi stalls and vendors were present

at the event. AIA organized the food



stall with elegant Indian food. Over 350 people were served during the program.

The program began with the song Vande Mataram by Sadhana and Alisha Students of Ramya Kapadia. The president of AIA, Anuradha Palaparti welcomed all the guests to enjoy the



cultural program and ethnic food from India. Professor Keynor, from the South Asian Department of Culture and Language highlighted the importance of cultural diversity and role of South Asian Department. He emphasized that his department sponsors and endorses various cultural and ethnic festivals in the campus area.

The cultural program began with the Pushpanjali & Kauthvam from the students of Kalanjali School of Dance; Meagan Dierich, Lauren Sanders

Fleming, Shivani & Sanjana Kumar, Lydia Russell and Renee Kar Johnson. The performance was Thyagaraja Krithi



Ksheerasagara Vihaara by Kaamya, a student of Vanitha Suresh. A beautiful dance was performed by a group of three young students of Kaalanjali School of Dance; Renee Kar Johnson, Rasika Ramanathan & Antra Sinha. Besides the beautiful dance performance there were individual playing the musical instrument. Naveen Aditya played the harmonica. Also, Prathyusha sang the beautiful melody of Thyagaraja Krithi Maminchuvaa Revaruaa.

The next performance was from Poridipta Mukharjee. Her dance was from the bollywood movie Chandni and the performance was excellent.



Natalia presented a solo dance Gazal and Sargam in Kathak style. The music was composed and written by Padmavibhusan Birju



Maharaj. Her dance was very attention drawing for the audience.

At the end of the cultural program Thillana was presented by Niveditha

Prabhakaran, Keerthana Pittala and Teja Vemuganti. They were representing Spandhan School of Dance.



At the end, cultural coordinator Aruna Rajagopal thanked all the dance companies for presenting such delightful performances.

AIA president Anuradha Palaparti thanked all AIA committee members, display booth organizers, UW Madison, church, UW library, participants and other helpers. She appreciated everyone that without his or her cooperation this program would not be successful.

Maharaja Restaurant



Maharaja Odana (West)

6713 Odana Road
Madison, WI 53719
Phone: (608) 833-1824
Fax: (608) 833-2657

Maharaja Thiereer (East)

1707 Thiereer Road, East
Point Plaza
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Phone: (608) 246-8525
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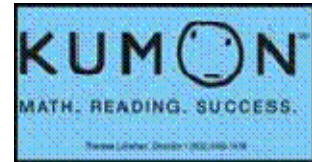
KATHY BURNETTE
Instructor
K_burnette@charter.net
www.kumon.com

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DURRANI LAW FIRM

Sardar N. Durrani
Attorney-at-Law

2880 Crinkle Root Dr,
Fitchburg, WI 53711
Phone: 608.276.5700
Fax: 608.276.5800



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WWW.DURRANI.COM



Randee Talwar, MBA, BS

Proprietor
Best Western
West Towne Suites

650 Grand Canyon Drive
Madison, WI 53719
(608) 833-4200 Fax (608) 833-5614

Email: randee@bwmadison.com
www.bestwestern.com/westtownesuites

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ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA (AIA)

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or

Send us an email at :- AIAMadison-owner@googlegroups.com

From:

Anuradha Palaparti
9714 Trappers Trail
Middleton, WI 53562