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Samaj Patra

Summer 2003

Edited by Tej Dhakar

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Warm Greetings!

At the last Spring Festival, a General Body meeting was held to elect the officers and members of the executive committee.

I regret to inform you that our President Mohanram has since resigned since due to relocation to another state. The Executive committee at its meeting on July 19 nominated me as interim President until next elections in 2004. The interim appointment is subject to approval by the General Body next month.

I am pleased to report that the Spring Festival attracted a larger than usual audience. Thanks to the efforts of outgoing Cultural Secretary Kakoli Biswas and the new Cultural Secretary Deepa Mangalat. Cultural programs by IANH members and the young adults were the highlight of the day. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the Spelling Bee contest. I thank Kedar Gupta, Karthi Chandra, Deepa Mangalat, and Tej Dhakar for

their contribution towards trophies.

Our Association continues to be active despite changes in administration. On July 12, a group of volunteers visited the New Horizons, a Manchester soup kitchen. They prepared and served dinner to over 120 guests. Fifteen volunteers helped us with the preparation, service, and cleanup. We plan to organize more of such activities.

I would like to express my thanks to Drs. Sneha and Vijay Dave, Homai and Rod Khanna, John and Anu Radha Mullikin, and their six-year-old daughter Katelyn Radha Mullikin for their contribution. Additionally, I would like to thank Geetha Padmanabhan, Homai Khanna, Geetha's mother, Kala Kumar, Vandana Dhakar, Arninder Singh, Padma Mathur, Barinder Ahluwalia, Pushpa Sodlapur, Rita Batra, Joy Batra, and Shalini Shendye for their help.

I wish you happiness and peace. Looking forward to seeing you at the picnic

Prithvi Kumar
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ Annual Picnic Aug. 9
- ✓ Anand Bazaar Sept. 13
- ✓ Diwali festival Oct. 18

Please look up www.ianh.org for more information on the upcoming activities.

SPRING FESTIVAL – A HUGE SUCCESS

**Deepa Mangalat, Chair,
Cultural Committee**

I am pleased to report that the Spring Festival, which was held at the St. John Neumann Church in Merrimack, attracted a larger-than-usual audience.

Cultural programs by IANH members and the young adults were the highlight of the day. We had students of Preetha Arun perform Bharatnatyam, a Kuchipudi dance drama 'Mohini Bhasmasura' performed by the students of Sudha Kiran, akorathi (gypsy) dance, and some Hindi film dances, to name a few. Students of Sandhya Sridhar performed Carnatic songs. Vasanthi

Sridhar, accompanied by her brother, Ananth on the violin, gave an outstanding rendition of a beautiful javali. A couple of kids performed on the piano.

Prizes were distributed to the winners of the North South Foundation Spelling Bee contest which IANH helped to host. I thank Kedar Gupta, Karthi Chandra, Deepa Mangalat, and Tej Dhakar for their contribution towards trophies.

Thanks to the efforts of outgoing Cultural Secretary Kakoli Biswas, Prithvi Kumar, Karthi Chandra, and Deepa Mangalat, the festival, in a nutshell, was a huge success. Thanks to Dr. Padma Mathur and Vandana Dhakar for the excellent refreshments.

IANH MEMBERS COOK AND SERVE FOOD AT THE HOMELESS SHELTER

Barinder Ahluwalia, Chair, Public Service Committee

On July 12, members of the India Association of New Hampshire (IANH) Public Service group prepared and served dinner at the New Horizon shelter for the homeless at Manchester, New Hampshire.

The bell rang exactly at 4:30 PM and the soup kitchen opened for dinner. The guests began to arrive and were served. There were 120 guests although we had expected over 200 for the day. We were told that the summer attendance is rather unpredictable and in winter as many as 300 would show up. Dinner was served with several second helpings

and the guests appreciated and thanked the members of our team. The clean up began around 5:45 PM. IANH volunteers rinsed and washed the plates of all guests and cleaned up the tables, kitchen and the serving table. The leftover food was given to the shelter for guests who arrive late and for the next day. We undertook this task with love and devotion.

In the beginning of this year, the Public Service committee discussed about cooking and serving a meal to the homeless at the soup kitchen in Manchester. We then made several calls to the administrator of the soup kitchen about our idea. A team from the committee visited the shelter to see the facility. The talk was quickly translated into action plans. Padma Mathur contacted the New Horizon shelter authorities for the date and we were given Saturday July 12 to cook and serve dinner at the soup kitchen.

The planning team then took on the project and prepared an estimate of the materials required for vegetarian lasagna, garlic bread, fruit salad, garden salad, and desserts to serve 200 guests. The shelter provided the bread, garden salad, and the cakes. The group estimated \$250 in expenses for materials. Fund raising activities began in June. We collected over \$570 through generous contributions from our members. The plan was announced at the Spring Festival of the Association. We received a number of calls

from our membership for volunteer help.

Members of the committee organized a vegetable preparation night on July 11. Seven ladies took part in the event at the residence of one of our members. All the veggies were cut and bagged. For the day of the cookout, we organized the volunteers into two groups: the first group was given the responsibility to prepare the lasagna in the morning, and the second group was assigned the responsibility of preparing garlic bread and fruit salad, counter service, and clean up.

On July 12, work began at 10:00 AM. Kala Kumar, Vandana Dhakar, Geetha Padmanabhan and her mother and Homai Khanna arrived at the kitchen and prepared the lasagna sheets, veggies, and set the lasagna pans to bake. The second team took over at 2:30 PM and prepared the rest of the items and got the counter ready for service. Padma Mathur, Barinder Ahluwalia, Arninder Singh, Pushpa Sodlapur, and Mr. Prithvi Kumar participated in the second part.

In addition to cooking and serving food at the Shelter, we collect sandwiches, fruits and nonperishable food items from the members for the homeless shelter in Manchester each month. We collect these from the donors at specific sites and deliver them to the shelter on the second Sunday of each month.

Our goal is to do more of all this in the future, possibly at different shelters. We will appreciate your contribution to our public service activities. Your tax-deductible donations will be used solely for serving food to the needy. Potential donors are requested to make their checks payable to IANH and mail to IANH Public Service fund, c/o Dr. Padma Mathur, 1008 Ray Street, Manchester, NH 03102.

For more information, contact Barinder Ahluwalia barinder@aol.com 603-472-4882 or Padma Mathur spadmarm@aol.com 603-669-8564

NH INVITEES TO THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

North South Foundation will be hosting the National Spelling and Vocabulary Bee at the University of Maryland Campus in College Park MD during the Labor Day weekend. The following are invited from NH region:

Amritha Mangalat
Anjana Mangalat
Meghana Chandra
Saniya Shah
Teja Gandhi
Vaibhav Shrishail

We wish you the best.

IANH MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

We welcome the following new members, who have joined the Association during the year 2003.

- ★ Kamlesh & Monisha Advani
- ★ Girish & Vinaya Allada
- ★ Srinivas & Shanthi Andhavarapu
- ★ Sreedhar & Sunita Annu
- ★ Chithra Balaji
- ★ Vijay & Rita Batra
- ★ Mohananasundaram & Saroja Chinnappan
- ★ Nalini Dayanand
- ★ Sandeep D & Harpreet Dhaliwal
- ★ Seshadri & Usha Dwarak
- ★ Satya & Venkata Gandhi
- ★ Brij & Bala Garg
- ★ R Balaraj & Dharmakala Gazula
- ★ Nagendra & Srilatha Kodali (life members)
- ★ S.M. & Gita Krishnakumar
- ★ Vijai & Sudha Kumar
- ★ Ravishankar & Vajreshwary Mangain
- ★ Balagopalan & Shobha Menon
- ★ Namasivayam Murugan
- ★ Rajesh & Shanthi Nair
- ★ Chandrakant & Ujwala Panse (life members)
- ★ Narayan & Sripriya Parthasarathy
- ★ Balaji & Thilakavathi Radhakrishnan
- ★ P Santhana & Rajeswari Raghavan
- ★ N.G. Ravi & Rajshree (life members)
- ★ Uma Reddy
- ★ Somashekar & Sunitha Reddy
- ★ Gope & Kavita Sadhwani
- ★ Vijay & Sharmila Sashti
- ★ Nand K & Indu Sharma
- ★ Sanjay & Sharmila Shendye
- ★ A.R. & Sandhya Sridhar
- ★ Sunil & Donna Sud
- ★ Srinivasa P & Gayatri Tadi
- ★ A & Krishnavew Vadivel
- ★ Nageshwar & Shanti Vadlamani
- ★ Sananda & Jayshree Velacheri
- ★ Jeyenth Vijayaraghavan

If you are not a member or have not renewed for the year 2003, please fill out the membership / renewal form attached to the Samaj Patra and mail with the membership dues to the address on the membership form.

For more information, visit the Association website

www.ianh.org or contact Vandana Dhakar, Membership Secretary at (603) 668-9028 or dhakar@comcast.net

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July 12 Shelter Cooking Pictures



Lasagna preparation



Salad and Garlic Bread ready



IANH Members at the Service Counter