

SAMACHAR

India Association Kalamazoo

February 2004

Executive Committee 2004 takes office

A perfect mixture of new and old

IAK Executive committee for 2004 has take over the reins of the association. The committee is headed by **Vijay Mehta** whose efficient leadership in the past year has reenergized the association. The new vice president is **Virendra Sood** who served the association as a committee member in 2003.

Some erstwhile members of the association leadership have moved away from Kalamazoo as a consequence of the Pfizer relocation. We thank **Nayana Patel** who served as the Vice President and **Uma Pillai** and **Adnan Hasan** who served as General secretaries. We are also grateful to **Sangeeta Singh**, who was social secretary, **Vikas Goel** and **Sai Sangili** who were Committee members in 2003.

A couple of new faces join the committee this year. We welcome **Pratrima Kotekal, Trika Patel, Hiren Patel**,
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India Association Kalamazoo website

<http://www.indiakalamazoo.com>

India Association Kalamazoo has launched a website to help us keep in touch with each other and keep us informed of events as they happen.

Features of the website

The opening page of the website contains the latest news and announcements of upcoming events. There is also a link to a community calendar that lists all important events on a monthly calendar for easy reference.



www.indiakalamazoo.com

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Publish community events

If you are the organizer of any event or have a news item (personal or social) that you would like the community to know, please email the information to the webmaster Gracy Kayany (gkayany@pprmi.com) or to Vijay Mehta (vijaymehta@chartermi.net).

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Ravi Sunkara, and Hema Venugopal to the IAK committee. We wish the new executive committee all the best. May the association grow and prosper under your care.

Below is the full list of this year's committee with their contact numbers.

IAK Committee 2004

President

Vijay Mehta (269) 327-5456

Vice President

Virendra Sood (269) 327-2846

General Secretary

Gracy Kayany (269) 324-6487

Social Secretary

Rebanta Bandyopadhyay (269) 324-1238

Treasurer

Om Jolly (269) 372-3291

Committee Members:

Janice D'Souza (269) 323-3155

Pratrima Kotekal (269) 324-2248

Trika Patel (269) 372-6052

Hiren Patel (269) 372-2211

Prabha Ravi (269) 372-1647

Ravi Sunkara (269) 979-4126

Hema Venugopal (269) 324-.2358



SAMACHAR is the quarterly newsletter of the India Association Kalamazoo, Michigan. FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. Editing and layout by Gracy Kayany. Please direct your comments and suggestions to Gracy Kayany at (269) 501-1254 or gkayany@pprmi.com.

HOLI CELEBRATION 2004

You are cordially invited to participate in our community Holi celebration.

This year's program, organized jointly by the India Association Kalamazoo (IAK) and the India Student Association (ISA) will be on **Saturday, March 13 at 7:30 PM** at the Latvian Heritage Center, 100 Cherry Hill , Kalamazoo.

Directions to Latvian Heritage Center

Cherry Hill Street is between Kendall Ave going one way west and Solon St going one way east. Howard Street becomes Kendall ave when it turns into one way before it reaches West Main.

So if you are coming from WMU side, go west towards West Main on Kendall Ave. and turn left on Santos St. Turn left again to Cherry Hill St.

If you are on West Main, turn west on Solon St. Turn left on Santos St. and then make a right to Cherry Hill St.

Program:

The program will consist mainly of dance and music. There will be food booths to buy your own food.

Tickets

Members and students: \$ 2.00

Guests \$ 5.00

Children under 12 Free

Tickets can be obtained from Executive Committee members of IAK or ISA. You can also mail in the ticket request form found on the last page of this newsletter.

Please buy your tickets by March 10 , 2004.

QUOTE

Gandhi was inevitable. If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore Gandhi at our own risk.

-- Martin Luther King Jr.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE INDIA KALAMAZOO ASSOCIATION

If you are not a member of the association, consider joining it this year. The annual membership dues are as follows:

Single member: \$12.00

Family : \$25.00

Become a member by filling out the membership application form at the back of this newsletter.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HOLI CELEBRATION

PLACE: LATVIAN HERITAGE CENTER, 100 CHERRY HILL

TIME SATURDAY MARCH 13, 7:30 PM

Buy your tickets before March 10.

RECIPE COMPETITION

PLACE: INDO-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER AND TEMPLE

TIME: TO BE DETERMINED

Please send your suggestions on how to best to organize this event..

COMMUNITY BUS TRIP

PLACE: TO BE DETERMINED

TIME: TO BE DETERMINED

Please send your suggestions on how this event may be organized..

DEEVALI CELEBRATION

PLACE: TO BE DETERMINED

TIME: NOVEMBER 6.

Details later.

Other sections of the website

In addition, there are pages that take you to news stories from a variety of news sources and links to many Indian newspapers in English, Hindi and other regional languages. There is also a list of businesses owned by members of our community, Indian restaurants in this area, and shops where Indian groceries and movies are available.

From this stie, you can also access immigration related websites such as U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Indian consulate at Chicago. There are clear instructions on visa and passport applications. You can even download visa and passport applications from here. Finally, there is a page with links to Indian recipes and a 'garage sale' page where you can list things you want to sell.

You are encouraged to contribute to these pages. If you think of any item or link that will be of interest to others, please email the webmaster.

Advertise on the Website

If you are interested in displaying information about your business on a page on the site, please contact the webmaster at gkayany@pprmi.com. The current rate for advertising on a page is \$10.00 per year. That is indeed a very good deal!

LEGENDS BEHIND HOLI

Long ago there was an evil king named King Hiranyakasipu. His son, prince Prahlad however was very holy and often prayed to God and this infuriated his father. One day, the wicked king ordered his sister, the demon Holika, to kill his son. The demon Holika, who was immune to fire, captured prince Prahlad and entered a fire furnace. She had done this to kill the prince, however it was her who was burnt to ashes. Prince Prahlad was safe and was not burnt at all.

The legend goes that before the demon aunt died, she begged for prince Prahlad's forgiveness and the prince forgave her and announced that her name would be remembered once a year. Thus the festival 'Holi' was created.

Another story behind the festival of 'Holi' is based on the everlasting love between Krishna and Radha. It seemed that in the Hindu mythology Lord Krishna was known to court Radha and the light-hearted mischievous courtship of his was linked to Holi. Thus Holi is known to be the celebration of love between the two of them.



HOLI TICKETS ORDER FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

NUMBER OF TICKETS:

MEMBER TICKETS:X \$2.00 =

STUDENT TICKETS:.....X \$2.00 =

GUEST TICKETS:X \$5.00 =

TOTAL

Please cut out the form and mail it with payment to
Mr. Vijay Mehta, 1622 Bellaire, Portage, MI 49024.
Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

NAME:

ADDRESS:

.....

SPOUSE:

CHILDREN:

.....

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY:

.....

.....

ANNUAL DUES ENCLOSED:

(\$12.00 single, \$25.00 family)

Please mail this form with payment to Vijay Mehta, 1622
Bellaire, Portage, MI 49024. Thank you.

India Association of Kalamazoo
1622 Bellaire Ave.
Portage, MI 49024

