

SAMACHAR

March 2006

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

TASTE OF INDIA CELEBRATION ON MARCH 25

This year IAK will celebrate Holi and Ugadi with the TASTE OF INDIA Festival on March 25, 2006 at the Latvian Heritage Center from 6 PM. (See driving directions on the right and map below.)

Booths from several states of India are already being planned. As of now, we have word that booths from Gujarat, Punjab, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andra Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra, Goa, and Nepal are being planned. Food typical of each state will be available for sale at each booth. This will provide visitors to the festival a unique opportunity to taste the diversity in our food preparation style and cuisine.

We plan to advertise the festival at various Kalamazoo locations and expect quite a turn out from the Kalamazoo community.

If you would like to present (or would like to join other people from your state presenting) a booth representing your state, please call Loknath Lenka (323-1150) or Vijay Mehta (327-5456) **ASAP**.

Please call Vijay Mehta at 327-5456 if you plan to attend the festival. This will help us plan it better.

Admission:

IAK Members
and persons under 12 years - Free
Guests: \$ 2.00



Directions to Latvian Heritage Center

Latvian Heritage Center is tucked away between two one way streets. Cherry Hill Street is between Kendall Ave. going one way west and Solon St. going one way east. Howard Street (South side of WMU campus) becomes Kendall Ave when it turns into one way before it reaches West Main.

If you are coming from WMU side, go west towards West Main on Howard and Kendall 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 right to Cherry Hill St.



Dual Citizenship Camp

The twenty some participants in IAK's Dual Citizenship Camp on February 17 were happy that they attended it because they were able to complete the whole dual citizenship application process in less than half an hour.

According to several of those who took part, it would have taken them a week to figure out the online instructions, to prepare necessary documents and get the photographs. Preparing the application correctly is

definitely not rocket science but the camp was indeed a time saver.

IAK thanks **Mr. Chandrakant Patel** who provided free service as the notary



and **Joe and Gracie Kayany** who hosted the camp in their home and helped the participants prepare their application.

If there are enough IAK members interested in receiving help in preparing their dual citizenship application, **we can conduct the camp again.**

If you are interested, please call Gracie Kayany (501-1254) and let her know.

How about a Sports Festival this year?

We are really encouraged by your participation and interest in the sports events organized by IAK last spring and summer. So we are thinking of building on last year's success and organize a **sports festival this Spring and Summer** as well.

But we would **like input** on

what competitions you would like to see offered this year.

Do you want the same items as last year or should we offer other events? Should we focus on individual skill events (tennis, badminton) or try group events (volleyball, basketball)?

Please share your thoughts with **Loknath Lenka (323-1150)**. If there is enough interest in any sports event, we will organize a tournament in that sport.

Thank you.

Your thoughts on a musical program by an outside troupe?

As we had mentioned in the last newsletter, we are seriously thinking of sponsoring a musical program by a professional troupe for the benefit of IAK members and the community.

Do you have any suggestions on who we should invite?

Please share your thoughts with Vijay Mehta (327-5456). Thank you.

Please note

IAK Annual membership dues are for one year starting January 1– December 31. Irrespective of when you sign up for or renew the membership, the dues are for the year and expires as the year ends.

SAMACHAR is the quarterly newsletter of the India Association of Kalamazoo, Michigan. **FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.** Edited and designed by Gracie Kayany, General Secretary, India Association of Kalamazoo. Please direct your comments and suggestions to Gracie Kayany at (269) 501-1254 or gracie@indiakalamazoo.com.

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.

UGADI OR GUDIPADWA NEW YEAR'S DAY OF THE DECCAN REGION

Ugadi is the new year's day for the people of the Deccan region of India. While the people of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka use the term Ugadi for this festival, the people of Maharashtra term the same festival, observed on the same day, Gudi Padwa.

The festival marks the new year day for people who follow the southern Indian lunar calendar, pervasively adhered to in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

A different calendar, the South Indian Solar calendar is followed by the people of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The new year celebrated by adherents of that solar calendar does not fall on the same day as Ugadi.

The Telugu and Kannada people celebrate the festival with great fanfare; gatherings of the extended family and a sumptuous feast are usual. The day, however, begins with ritual showers followed by prayers, and then the eating of "Ugadi Pachhadi" in Telugu and "Bevu-Bella" in Kannada.

In Maharashtra, the festival is called "Gudi Padwa"; it heralds the advent of new year and is one of the most auspicious days for Maharashtra. It is customary to erect 'Gudis' on the first day (Padwa) of the Marathi New Year. 'Gudi' is a bamboo staff with a colored silk cloth and a garlanded goblet atop it, which symbolizes victory or achievement.

Source: Wikipedia

Prayer for my Country

*Where the mind is without
fear and*

the head is held high;

Where knowledge is free;

*Where the world has not
been broken up into
fragments by narrow
domestic walls;*

*Where words come out
from the depth of truth;*

*Where tireless striving
stretches its arms
towards perfection;*

*Where the clear stream of
reason has not lost its way
into the dry dreary desert
sand of dead habit;*

*Into that heaven of
freedom, my Father
let my country awake.*

Rabindranath Tagore



India Association of Kalamazoo



1622 Bellaire Ave
Portage, MI 49024

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 48
Kalamazoo, Michigan



Helping you make
the right move

Cell: 269.501.1254
Email: gkayany@kw.com
Web: www.realtorade.com

GRACIE KAYANY, REALTOR

BUY, SELL OR RELOCATION

**Call me for all your real estate needs
at 269.501.1254**

I work hard to provide quality
service, always going the extra mile
to serve your best interests.



KELLER WILLIAMS

R E A L T Y

IAK MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

RENEWAL YEAR:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

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.