

SAMACHAR

JANUARY 2009

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

IAK Spring Festival on 21 March 09

After battling the cruel winter in Michigan for three-four months, we all feel the need for a break. That is why, we had a celebratory event in March in the last two years so that we could leave behind the gloom of this long winter and feel cheerful again among good friends and sumptuous food. In 2007 we called it the Food Festival. Last year we named it Holi and Pongal celebration. This year we have a more appropriate name—especially because we have already dug ourselves out of a 100 inches of snow this year. This year we call it the Spring Festival.

Don't fret; only the name has changed. The event is still the same—a time for us to come together and celebrate the rich cuisine from India. We will pamper our palettes with delicacies from different parts of India. As usual, the food festival will be followed by a cultural program. The event is scheduled for **March 21st 6 pm at the Latvian Heritage Center** (directions on the right).

If anyone would like to reserve a stall to present/sell food unique to a state of India, please register with Anjum Chaudhary (323-7116) or Priya Lokram (269) 544-1994 before 1st March. There is no charge for IAK members to reserve a stall. For non-members there is a \$10 charge per table. Plan on arriving at the Latvian Heritage Center a half hour before the event (that is, be there by 5:30 pm) on March 21st to set up the stalls and be ready for the

hungry crowds.

Entrance to the event is free for members. Guests and students pay \$3 entrance fee. Children under 12 do not pay entrance fee.

Cultural programs are welcome. The programs should not longer than 5 minutes. If you want to present a program please call **Anjum Chaudhary (323-7116)** or **Priya Lokram (269) 544-1994**.

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.



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Lost and Found

If you have been wondering what happened to some of the items that you lost during the various IAK functions in the past, worry no more! Many of the lost and found items from the Latvian Center and Kasdorf Auditorium, Loy Norrix High School eventually end up with Vijay Mehta. And Mr. Mehta expected that people who lost something would eventually call him to inquire about it. Unfortunately not many people have contacted him about lost items and Mr. Mehta now has a collection of 'lost and found' items from past IAK functions.

If there is a possibility that one of your items may be part of this collection, please give Mr. Mehta a call at 327.5456 and he will direct you to the loot. Thanks.



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From the Editor's Desk

When I took over the post of the General Secretary of the association in 2005, Vijay Mehta handed me the responsibility of editing SAMACHAR—the IAK newsletter. For the past 4 years, SAMACHAR has come off my desk and I must say it has been a pleasure. Starting with the November 08 issue, I started this editorial column with my picture on the top. It was my husband's idea; he said someone will be so mad at me for using the newsletter to promote myself that he/she will volunteer to take over the editorship. But the strategy didn't work; no one volunteered to be the General Secretary this year too. So here I am again editing the newsletter for another year.

SAMACHAR advertising protocol

In every newsletter you see a few advertisements; however, advertising policies for the newsletter has not been published. The current policy is as follows: if you want to advertise in SAMACHAR, please forward your ad to Vijay Mehta with the payment. The rates are as follows: Full page—\$50; Half page—\$30; Quarter page—\$15.

An Invitation

I hope many of you have heard of the communal violence in August 08 in Kandhamal district of Orissa. The target of the attacks were Christians: churches and homes were burned down and thousands of people were rendered homeless. The Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Rev. Msgr. Rapahel Cheenath is visiting New York, Washington DC, and Chicago to discuss the tragedy at various meetings in these cities. He is a personal friend of my husband and so he is also coming to Kalamazoo. He will address a public meeting in St. Catherine of Siena Church, Centre St., on February 5th at 7 pm. I would like to personally invite you to this event. If you want to meet with the Archbishop personally, please come to my home at 6795 Brickleton Ct., Portage on Friday Feb 6th between 9 am and 2 pm. If you want more information about Archbishop's visit, feel free to call me at 269.501.1254.

IAK Executive Committee 2009

Vijay Mehta—President
Om Jolly—Vice President
Gracie Kayany—General Secretary
Anjum Chaudhary—Social Secretary
Virendra Sood—Treasurer
Jasleen Bhatia—member
Nita Mehta—member
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Dhiraj Tiwari—member
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Please Pay your membership dues before the Spring Festival

Please use the form on the other side to pay your membership dues for the year 2009.

Invitation to a Special Event

Archbishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Rt. Rev. Msgr. Raphael Cheenath SVD will give a talk on February 5th, 09 at 7 pm about the recent communal violence in Kandhamal district, Orissa. Venue: St. Catherine of Siena Church, Centre Ave, Portage. (The church is on Centre Ave. between Shaver Rd. and Oakland Ave.) For more information, please call Gracie Kayany at 269.501.1254.

You are cordially invited to the event.

India Association of Kalamazoo



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FORM**

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ANNUAL DUES ENCLOSED:

(\$12.00 single, \$25.00 family)

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