



India Association of Minnesota:
Association Records

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MINNI-INDIA***ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES****
A PUBLIC SERVICE BY THE INDIA CLUB!

1. Tamil Association of Minnesota: The Tamil Association of Minnesota caters to the cultural interests of the South Indian (Tamil-Speaking) Community. Its activities include screening of popular movies from South India, and arranging get-togethers for festivals like Diwali, Pongal, Tamil New Year's Day, and organizing performances of visiting artists. Contact Ganapathy Swami at 379-8174

2. Geeta Ashram: The activities of Geeta Ashram are directed to the development of the fuller man, closer to God, devoted to the service of mankind through selfless work, in accordance with the teachings of "Bhagwad-Geeta". Monthly meetings are scheduled for the first Sunday (11:30 am) of each month at the residence of families. These meetings include Bhajans, Geeta-path, a discourse by a speaker, followed by Arti and Prasad. Weekly Sunday meetings (8:30 am) focus on seeking the application of "Bhagwad-Geeta" in our daily lives.

Children and youth programs are an important part of the monthly meetings. Children narrate stories and Bhajans, and present talks on topics such as religious festivals. The major project now underway at Geeta Ashram is the development of a common facility named INDIA INSTITUTE, open to all for their religious, social, cultural and spiritual needs. The facility is planned to be constructed on an eleven acre plot in Brooklyn Park. Contact S.R. Arora at 633-0076

3. Gujarati Samaj: A non-profit cultural organization, Gujarati Samaj has a current membership of about 120 Gujarati families. The Samaj's activities include organizing Gujarati dramas, Garbas, Ras, movies, variety sports and recreation including cricket, and, of course, Navratri and Diwali Celebrations. Members of the Samaj are active in community affairs and can be found teaching and performing at the Festival of Nations, the Children's Home Society, and the Adoptive Parents of children from India.

4. Hindu Mandir: The Hindu Mandir of the HINDU SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA, through the past few years has become a center of religious activities in the Twin Cities. Weekly discussions on the fundamentals of Hinduism in both theoretical and practical aspects take place every Sunday at 10:00 am to Noon. These discussions, in English, are based on key Vedic scriptures, such as Geeta, Upanishads, Ramayana, and also on many aspects of Jainism and Sikhism. This is followed by Arti, Prasad, and a community luncheon.

Almost all types of religious services from Namkaran to Antyasamskar are available at the Mandir. A small library of books on Indian culture and philosophy is also maintained. Indian dance classes are held every Sunday. Bal-Vihar, a special educational program designed for exposing children to Indian heritage and religion is also conducted on Sundays. The materials are taught through stories, discussions, and audiovisual presentations.

Durga pooja, Dashehra, Diwali, Holi, Ram Navami, Mahavir Jayanti, Krishna Janmashtami and Ganesh Chaturti are celebrated at the Mandir on a regular basis. Guest speakers from the philosophical and religious community in the United States and India have visited the Mandir on several occasions.

As well, the Mandir is open for us by the several linguistic and cultural organizations listed in this publication. Members of the Indian Community use the Mandir for Poojas, birthdays, Vedic weddings, etc. With the objective of serving the religious, cultural, social, and human needs of the Indian community, the Mandir has become a focal point. Contact Kusum Saxena 774-4999

5. India Club: Originally founded as a secular organization in 1973, the India Club works closely with the International Institute of Minnesota. With the objective of promoting the welfare of the India-born population and assisting them in establishing in the community, as well as preserving their cultural values, the India Club has worked with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, The Foreign Students Advisors of the University of Minnesota, Hamline University, and the College of Saint Catherine, the Festival of Nations. The India Club has participated with the Children's Home Society to assist adoptive parents in learning about the culture, values and customs of India. Meeting the third Wednesday of each month, the India Club is open to all with an interest in the Indian Subcontinent. Contact Zeke Zdenek 631-3663.

6. Indian Music Society of Minnesota: The Indian Music Society, formally organized in 1980 as a non-profit organization, promotes Hindustani and Carnatic classical music and dance performances by visiting artists representing the Asian Indian culture. About eight concerts a year are held under its auspices. Free mailing of concert schedules is available on request. Contact Raja Seshadri 379-1653.

7. Indo-American Association. A student organization at the University of Minnesota the IAA is one of the many nationality clubs under the Minnesota International Students Association. Its activities are primarily designed to foster cultural exchange. The association has taken part in programs arranged by the Minnesota International Center such as the Spring Festival, and had co-sponsored several concerts with the Indian Music Society. Commendable indeed are the IAA's effort in welcoming new students, providing them temporary accomodation, and assisting them to settle down in a new environment. For the community at large, the IAA celebrates a Spring Festival, Indian Independence Day and Dewali. The studenta also support the activities of the India Club. Contact Shantanu Kar 331-8334.

8. Kannada Koota: Kannada Koota, an informal association of people from Karnataka State in South India, welcomes all to participate in its activities which include the celebration of festivals like Sankranti, Ugadi, Ganesh Chaturti, and Deepawali. These festivals include Pooja, a short entertainment program, and dinner. Kannada and other South Indian movies are occasionally screened. Contact D. Narayan 636-9915.

9. Minnesota Consortium for South Asian Studies fosters inter-institutional cooperation in scholarly and cultural activities bearing on South Asia. The institutional members of the consortium are the Department of South Asian studies, U of M, Carleton College, Hamline University and the College of Liberal Arts, U of M. It promotes education and research on South Asia. The consortium invites renowned scholars and speakers for lectures and a regular basis. Monthly meetings of the members provide a forum to share and discuss their work and research. A quarterly news letter is published hich also lists forthcoming events of interest. The membership is open to anyone nterested in South Asian Studies. Contact John Zylla 379-8515 or Sharon Kemp 644-8593.

10. Natyakala: A new organization devoted to the dance traditions of South Asia and related cultures, Natyakala has two main purposes: 1) to sponsor and promote presentations of such dances in a wide variety of contexts, both educational and entertaining, and 2) to use these events as a tool to develop appreciation and awareness of the many South Asian cultural traditions in a multidisciplinary way. Contact George Kliger 373-5225 days, 333-0746 eves or Alan Kagan 373-9777 days, 788-3427 eves or Renee Holojen 722-2116.

11. SILC: School of India for Language and Culture is a non profit organization teaching Indian Languages, history, music and dance. The objective is to provide children a place where they can learn about their rich culture. Classes are on Sundays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Commonwealth Community Center in the St. Paul Campus of the U of M. There are excellent volunteers to teach Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, and Orrisi. The children from SILC have participated in such cultural functions a the Festival of Nations and the Indo-American Association Dewali Function. For a small tax-deductible fee, members can send their children for a whole year to SILC and participate in its activities. Contact Godhan Namboodri 894-8945.

12. Twin Cities Telugu Association is a member of the Telugu Association of North America. It's objective is to preserve and perpetuate the heritage of the people of Telugu origin, to promotre literary, cultural, educational, social and community affairs of Telugu speaking people and to support humanitarian causes. Contact Raj Kant 784-5996.

13. United Christian Fellowship of India is a recently established club with national goals and an enthusiastic response throughout the United States. The purpose of the club is to promote constructive and friendly fellowship and to nuture ulture and language. The Twin Cities club, quite a small group has a pleasant blend of languages and people who are Catholics, protestants, Non-Christians, and Non-Indians. The languages represented by various members are English, Gujarati, Hindustani, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil and Urdu. Contact Shirin Fristedt 941-0731 or 922-9077.

14. Sabrang: A Sunday Radio program aired on WMIN (1010 AM) from 8:30 to 9:30 pm, Sabrang provides listeners from or with an interest in India and Pakistan, popular and light classical music, community annoucements, social and cultural interviews. Broadcasts are in Hindi and English. Sabrang is a non-profit venture supported by subscription memberships at \$12.00 per quarter. Contact Sabir Hasan at 715 879-5240 or Sushila Shah at 636-9833.

15. Other Groups: People from West Bengal are active on an informal basis, and celebrate Saraswati Pooja, Durga Pooja, and the Bengali New Year. friends from bangladesh and Orissa also take part in these functions. Contact Aparna Ganguli 636-8006.

The Malayalam speaking community organizes two main functions: Onam and Christmas. Dorothy Arockiaswamy 937-2853, Krishnan 786-0366.

The community of Marathi speaking people consists of about 50 families and is active in informally organized events. The Ganesh Chaturti and Dewali are celebrated with a variety entertainment program. Contact Rujita Pathre 483-9848 or Shaila Shirole 537-4794.

MINNI-INDIA

ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

(1985-1986)

(11)
TAMIL

Bharati Cultural Association

OF MINNESOTA
TAMIL
OF MINNESOTA
The Bharati Cultural Association caters to the cultural interests of the South-Indian community. Its activities include screening of popular movies from South India, and arranging get-togethers for festivals like Diwali, Pongal, Tamil New Year's Day and organizing performances of visiting artists. The association is registered with the Minnesota International Student Association and has participated in the spring festival at the University of Minnesota with dance and music programs.
M. Rajendran 370-0722, V. Senkararaman 339-8476. GANAPATHI SWAMY 379-8174

(1) Geeta-Ashram

The activities of Geeta-Ashram are directed to the development of a fuller man, closer to God, devoted to the service of mankind through selfless work, in accordance with the teachings of 'Bhagwad-Geeta'. Monthly meetings are scheduled for the first Sunday (11:30 AM) of each month at the residence of families. These meetings include Bhajans, Geeta-path, discourse by a speaker followed by Arti and Prasad. Weekly Sunday meetings (8:30 AM) are also held which primarily focus on seeking the application of 'Bhagwad-Geeta' in our day to day living.

Children and youth programs are an important part of the monthly meetings. The children narrate stories and Bhajans, and present talks on topics such as religious festivals. The major project now underway at Geeta-Ashram is the development of a common facility named INDIA-INSTITUTE, to be used by all groups for their religious, social, cultural and spiritual needs. The facility is planned to be constructed on an eleven acre piece of land in Brooklyn Park. S. R. Arora 633-0076.

(2) Gujarati Samaj

A non-profit cultural organization, Gujarati Samaj has a current membership of 116 Gujarati families. The Samaj's activities include organizing Gujarati dramas, Garbas, Ras, movies, variety sports and recreation including Cricket and of course Navratri and Dewali celebrations. Yogen Dalal 935-0948. PARAG DESAI 941-9213

LOCATED @ 18TH STNE AND POLK STNE IN MINNEAPOLIS

(3) Hindu Mandir

Hindu Mandir of the HINDU SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA, through the past few years has become the center of religious activities in the Twin Cities. Weekly discussions on the fundamentals of Hinduism in both theoretical and practical aspects, take place every Sunday from 10 AM to noon. These discussions are based on key vedic scriptures such as Geeta, Upanishads, Ramayana, and also on many aspects of Jainism and Sikhism. This is followed by Arti, Prasad and community luncheon.

Almost all types of religious services from Namkaran to Antyasamskār are available at the Mandir. A small library of books on Indian culture and philosophy is also maintained. Indian dance classes are held every Sunday. Bal-Vihar, a special educational program designed for exposing the children to Indian heritage and religion is also conducted on Sundays. The materials are taught primarily through stories, discussions and audio-visual presentations.

Durga pooja, Dashehra, Diwali, Holi, Ram Navami, Mahāvīr Jayanti, Vishnu Janmāshṭami and Ganesh Chaturtī are celebrated at the Mandir on a regular basis. Guest speakers such as Swami Bhashyananda-Vivekananda Vedanta Society, Swami Chinmayananda-Hrīshikesh, Swami Chinmayananda-Chinmaya Mission, Sant Kesavdas, Prof. Puri-Nirankārī Mission, Dr. Usharbudha Arya and Dr. Palvia have visited the Mandir on several occasions. Music concerts of the Indian Music Society are often held in the Mandir. Several ethnic groups such as the Bengali Samaj, Kannada Koota, Marathi Mandal, Telugu Association, Bharati Cultural Association and Gujarati Samaj celebrate their special events at the Mandir. In addition, members of the Indian community use the Mandir facilities for Poojas, birthdays, vedic weddings etc. With the objective of serving the religious, cultural, social and human needs of the Indian community the Mandir has become the focal point where the entire community could get together. P. C. Mangalick 781-5136, K. S. P. Kumar 488-3736, Shashi Sane 474-1516. KUSUM SAXENA 774-4999

(4) India Club

Founded as a secular association in 1973, India Club works closely with the International Institute of Minnesota. With the objective of promoting the welfare of India-born population, assisting them in establishing in the community and preserving their national and cultural values, India Club has in the past worked with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, The Foreign Student Advisors of University of Minnesota and Hamline University, Minneapolis Aquatennial Association, Festival of Nations and the Indian Embassy in Washington D.C. Among other things the Club provides general education for United States citizenship and works in cooperation with the U.S. Immigration Service and other agencies for immigrant welfare. India Club is presently planning to compile a directory of India-born population in the Twin Cities and will shortly be mailing out an appropriate questionnaire. Jagdish Desai 298-1151. ZEKE ZEDENBUK 631-8863

(13) United ~~Christian~~ Fellowship of India - ~~The United Church F. of India~~
See Separate intemp

(14) Hasan's group?

(5) **Indian Music Society of Minnesota** X The Indian Music Society, formally organized in 1980 as a non-profit organization, ~~its~~ goals are to promote Hindustani and Carnatic classical music and dance performances by visiting artists representing the East Indian culture. Each year about eight concerts are held under its auspices. Free mailing of concert schedules is available upon request.
K. Prasad 545-0265, P. Keshaviah 559-0236. RAJA SHESHADRI 379-1653

(6) **Indo-American Association** A student organization at the University of Minnesota, Indo-American Association is one of the many nationality clubs under Minnesota International Student Association. Its activities are primarily for fostering cultural exchange. The association has actively taken part in programs arranged by the Minnesota International Center such as the Spring Festival, and has had the privilege of co-sponsoring several concerts with the Indian Music Society. Commendable indeed are the association's efforts in welcoming the new students, providing temporary accommodation and assisting them to settle down in the new environment. The main celebrations organized by the association are the Indian Independence Day and Dewali. Hindi movies are screened regularly with the hope of providing an occasion for interaction between the Indian community and the students.
Suresh Vemuri 379-1218, Amitabh Returi 375-9179. 623-0978 Shantanu Khar 331-8324

(7) **Kannada Koota** Kannada Koota is an informal association of people from Karnataka STATE. The Koota welcomes all who would like to participate in its activities which include the celebration of festivals like Sankranti, Ugadi, Ganesh Chaturti and Depawali. These festivals include Pooja, a short entertainment program and dinner. Kannada and other South Indian movies are occasionally screened. Purushotham Rao 452-3296, S. Druvan 920-8546.
D. NARAYAN 636-9915

(8) **Minnesota Consortium for South Asian Studies** fosters inter-institutional cooperation in scholarly and cultural activities bearing on South Asia (the Indian subcontinent and adjacent areas). The institutional members of the consortium are the Department of South Asian Studies, U of M (which now has merged with the faculty of Near and Middle Eastern Studies), Carleton College, Hamline University and the College of Liberal Arts, U of M. It promotes education and research on South Asia. The consortium invites on a regular basis renowned scholars and speakers for lectures. Monthly meetings of the members are organized to share and discuss their work and research. A quarterly newsletter is published which also lists forthcoming events of interest. The membership is open to anyone interested in South Asian Studies. Carla Prakash 455-0825, Joe Schwartzberg 926-7118.
John Zylla 379-8515, Sharon Kemp 644-8593

(9) Malayaka (See Sep Sheet)

(10) **SILC** SCHOOL OF INDIA FOR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE is a non-profit organization teaching Indian languages, history, music and dance. The objective is to provide the children a place where they can learn about their rich heritage. Classes are on Sundays from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Commonwealth Community Center in the St. Paul Campus of U of M. There are excellent volunteers to teach Gujarati, Hindi and Kannada. Plans to expand the activity to other languages are under consideration. Music and dance are taught by Ramki and Rani Ramaswamy respectively. The children from SILC have participated in such cultural functions as the Festival of Nations and Indo-American Association Dewali celebration. For a small tax-deductible membership fee, members can send their children for a whole year to SILC and participate in its activities. J. K. Mahesh 633-8558, Jay Patel 631-0796.
GODHAN NAMBOODRI 894-8945

✓ **South Asia Folk Performers** The association founded by Prof. Ramdayal Munda is active in propagating and teaching folk dance and music especially of the Munda, Nagpuri and Santal tribes of Northeastern India. With a troupe of about twentyfive the group has had several performances in and out of the state. Chandrika Sheshadri 379-1153.

ITS

(12) **Twin Cities Telugu Association** association is a member of Telugu Association of North America and is in the process of drawing up its constitution and by-laws. Activities are being planned with the objective to preserve and perpetuate the heritage of the people of Telugu origin, to promote literary, cultural, educational, social and community affairs of the Telugu speaking people, and to support humanitarian causes. Padmanabhan A. Arimilli 770-1597, Murty S. R. Chamarty 646-9222.
RAJKANT 784-5996

(14) ✓

Other Groups People from West Bengal although do not have an official association are active and in informal gatherings celebrate Saraswati Pooja, Durga Pooja and the Bengali New Year. Friends from Bangladesh also take part in these fuctions. Aparna Ganguli 636-8006. The Malayalam speaking community organizes two main functions: Onam and Christmas. Dorothy Arockiaswamy 937-2853, Krishnan 786-0366. The community of Marathi speaking people which comprises of about fifty families is active in informal meetings. The Ganesh Chaturti and Dewali are celebrated with a variety entertainment program. Rujita Pathre 483-9848, Shaila Shirole 537-4794.

November 1982

⑨ ✓ **NATYAKALA** A new organization devoted to the dance traditions of South Asia and related cultures has recently been organized. NATYAKALA, the Minnesota Society for South Asian Dance, has two main purposes: 1) to sponsor and promote presentations of such dances in a wide variety of contexts, both educational and entertaining and 2) to use these events as a tool to develop appreciation and awareness of the many South Asian cultural traditions in a multi-disciplinary way. George Kliger (373-5225 DAYS, 333-0746 EVES), Alan Kagan (373-9777 day, 788-3427 eves), Renee Holowen (722.-2116).

⑬ United Christian Fellowship of India

UCFI

is a recently established club. Since its origin in April 1985 there has been an enthusiastic and encouraging response from people throughout the United States who are interested in constructive participation. The purpose of the club is to promote constructive and friendly fellowship and to nurture the culture and language. The Twin Cities UCFI club, although, quite a small group, has a pleasant blend of languages and people who are Catholics, Protestants, Non-Christians, and Non-Indians. The languages represented by the various members are, in alphabetical order; English, Gujarati, Hindustani, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil, Urdu. The club membership is open to everyone. For further information please call (941-0731) or 922-9077.

PAVEMENT DIVISION (continued)

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7/11/79
G. H. HANCOCK
for document of 7/11/79