



India Association of Minnesota:  
Association Records

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# 2006 Annual Award Nomination Instructions

- \* Call the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans with questions at 651.296.0538 or e-mail [jovita.bjoraker@state.mn.us](mailto:jovita.bjoraker@state.mn.us)
- \* Nominator or Co-Nominators Are Asked to **Compile and Submit 11 Copies** of All Materials Below in the Order Listed

## I. NOMINATION LETTER:

- > **1 - 2 page, type written** letter from the nominator(s)
  - > Give a detailed description explaining why the nominee is an excellent candidate for an award
  - > Specific examples should be used
  - > Please include any personal or emotionally compelling reasons which capture your heartfelt belief in the nominee as a deserving candidate
  - > Include nomination category(s) from the list on page one
- ⇒ At the end of the letter—on a third page if necessary—please document the following for:

### **BOTH the NOMINEE & the NOMINATOR**

1. Full, Correct Spelling of Name
2. Complete Mailing Address (including city, state, and zip)
3. Home Phone Number (including area code)
4. Work Phone Number (including area code)
5. Cell Phone Number (including area code)
6. Fax Number (including area code)
7. E-mail Address
8. *If nominating an organization, list information above for two contacts*

## II. LETTERS OF SUPPORT: (Please read the disclaimer at the bottom of page one).

- > **1 page, type written letter** from **two** additional people supporting the nomination.
- > It is most helpful if each writer can offer unique perspectives on the nominee
- > It is highly preferable that each know the nominee in distinct capacities
- > Letters should paint a well-informed, thorough testament of the nominee's qualifications; make a case for strong consideration by the committee; and communicate confidence in his or her endorsement of the nominee

## III. **A RESUME** and a **2 - 4 PARAGRAPH BIOGRAPHY** of candidate (nominee may prepare documents)

## IV. **OPTIONAL:** Copies of press coverage, sample work, brief stories, history, etc. (Encouraged if Available)

## V. **PHOTOGRAPH:** Submit **One** 3" x 5" or 4" x 6" color photo. Black & white acceptable.

### **IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS**

1. Co-Nominators are allowed. **It is the nominator(s) responsibility to compile all the nomination materials** and submit them in the manner outlined above & on Page one under *Nomination Submission Guidelines*. **Nominees may not turn in the materials to the Council**—either by mail or hand delivery.
2. A nominee may be chosen for an award in a category other than the one listed by the nominator(s).

## Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Requesting

### 2006 ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATION SUBMISSIONS

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans is currently seeking a diverse collection of nomination submissions for its *2006 Annual Leadership Awards*. This is the time for community members to nominate and recognize one of their own. Please help us to honor an outstanding business owner, leader, organization, volunteer, or youth who has given themselves, their talents and resources to serve and better the Asian-Pacific community.

A committee of six Council board members and three community members will determine this year's recipients. Depending upon the number of nominations received, four or five awards will be granted. The date, time, and location of the Award Ceremony will be announced soon. Awardees in the past have been KFAI Fresh Air Inc., Rick Shiomi, The School of India for Languages and Culture, and Yvonne Cheung Ho.

#### THE COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS HONORS INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE:

- ◆ Achieved excellence in his or her field
- ◆ Contributed to the well-being of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community
- ◆ Displayed leadership to advance social, economic, or educational spheres for people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent living in Minnesota

#### CANDIDATES ARE TO BE NOMINATED UNDER ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- ◆ Overcoming Personal Adversity
- ◆ Dedicated Service to the Community
- ◆ Excellence or Innovation in the Arts
- ◆ Special Contribution in Leadership or Mentoring

#### NOMINATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- ◆ Submit **1 Original** and **10 Stapled Copies** of the nomination materials for a total of **11 COPIES**.
  - > Documents submitted will not be returned (Items of Personal Value Should Not Be Submitted)
  - > We suggest the nominator make a copy of the materials for his or her record
- ◆ We must **RECEIVE** nomination materials no later than **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2006 AT 4:00 P.M.**
  - > Materials may be **Mailed** or **Hand Delivered**
  - > Please enclose all materials in a large **10" x 13"** envelope—or equivalent—and address it as follows:

**2006 Heritage Month Award Nominations**  
**Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans**  
**658 Cedar Street, Suite 160**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155**

**DISCLAIMER:** Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans board members, staff, or their immediate family members **MAY NOT** submit nominations or write letters of support for any nominee. These same individuals may not be nominated for an award, though it is acceptable to have an affiliation with a nominated organization. Nominations for those who have previously won a Council Leadership Award, out of fairness, will not be accepted.

February 24, 2006

**Nomination for 2006 Leadership Award**

**Organization: India Association of Minnesota**

**Category: Dedicated Service to the Community**

Dear Sirs/Madams,

As a member of the Asian Indian community in the Twin cities for the past 25 years, I would like to nominate the India Association of Minnesota (IAM) for the ***2006 Asian Pacific Leadership Award***.

The India Association of Minnesota, in existence since 1973, represents people with an interest in the culture and heritage of India. Its mission has been: to **build** a sense of cohesiveness within the Asian Indian community; to **represent** the community to the population at large; and to **serve** as the focal point for advancing the educational, cultural, and charitable interests of the community.

India is a rich civilization with an enormous diversity of cultures, religions, languages, and customs. The Indian community in Minnesota is a representative microcosm of the same great land and is a harmonious collection of the cultures, traditions, customs and languages that make up India. Although most of the ethnic, religious and language groups in the Indian community here have their own associations and clubs, there is no representative, over-arching body for the community as a whole. With the help and support of the various ethnic groups within the larger community, IAM seeks to take up the responsibility to represent the Indian community as a whole to the society at large; IAM also serves as the link between these groups for purposes of meeting broader goals.

Since its inception IAM has been true to its vision and has introduced new and imaginative activities throughout the years to bring the Indian community even closer together. Its annual events include:

1. India Day, an event for showcasing Indian community organizations, food and wares along with an all-day cultural event. IAM also provides a great community service by inviting representatives from the Indian Consulate General office in Chicago for purposes of providing consular services such as issuing Indian passports and visas on the premises.
2. An Annual Dinner to celebrate its accomplishments for the past year and to establish the importance of the Indian Community in a broader political/social context by inviting community leaders and engaging in a dialogue with them.
3. An Annual Picnic coinciding with India's Independence Day in mid-August, with more focus to the children to expose them to India's National Anthem, Flag, games and food.



Also, in 1997 the Association celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's independence with a wonderful cultural program and a publication that serves as a teaching instrument to young children.

IAM offers on-going support to the activities of its numerous sister organization, such as SILC (School for Indian Languages and Culture), AIWA (Asian Indian Women's Association), SEWA (an organization to serve the social needs of the elderly, and assist victims of domestic violence and similar social issues within the Indian community), and the 55Plus group that addresses the special needs of the older members of the community.

In 1998 IAM published a community directory that filled a desperately needed community desire. The fact that the population still heavily uses it is testimony to its impact and importance for the community. The Directory project was, to my knowledge, the first such effort in an immigrant minority community in the Twin Cities. Unfortunately, due to lack of volunteer time and funding it has not been updated.

IAM also works with the Asian Policy Roundtable to represent the local Indian community within the broader Asian minority population. It has also sought to represent the local community in official, government matters related to the work of the Indian consulate general in Chicago.

Beyond servicing its own core constituents, it reaches out to the community at large by:

- Participating in the annual Festival of Nations, sponsored by the International Institute of Minnesota. The IAM organizes cultural activity to represent the diversity of India at the Festival.
- Participating in community service projects in providing volunteer services to the broader community, such as, serving food at the Soup Kitchen, participating in fundraising activities for Public Television, raising money for the Asian Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina victims.
- Participating in the Dragon Festival to strengthen relationships with other Asia-Pacific organizations.

The Indian community has grown steadily over the past several decades. According to 2000 census the community is 20,000-strong. The community is diverse in many dimensions and would not be identified as a cohesive group were it not for the efforts of the India Association. Over the years IAM has been the mouthpiece of the Indian community to the outside world to represent our community in Minnesota.

To acknowledge the importance of this community organization and its much faceted contribution, the Minnesota History Center has involved IAM in its Oral History Project. The intent of the project is to record the histories of groups of people and organizations of the Indian community. This massive project of recording histories has been undertaken and completed in phases. The first phase focused on the history of the earliest immigrants; the second phase covered the history of the second generation; and phase 3 addressing Indian Professionals is underway.

As a member of the Indian community and as a benefactor of the activities that IAM provides throughout the year, I am proud to put forward this nomination for the India Association of Minnesota, for its dedicated service to the community. IAM through its leadership over the years contributed enormously to maintain the heritage of our nation and broaden the understanding of India among the broader community. It is a community organization that deserves to be recognized and honored.

Nomination respectfully submitted by:

*Monika Sukhatme*

Monika Sukhatme

NOMINATOR contact details:

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India Association of Minnesota

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Resume/Biography:

**India Association of Minnesota**

Founded as India Club in 1973

Current composition:

- 21 Board Members from different ethnic, language and religious backgrounds.
- A Trustee Advisory Council consisting of 6 members oversees the long- range plan and other long-term issues to steer the organization.

Highlights of activities from recent years:

1997: Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence.

1998: Publication of a community directory of the Indian population and businesses in Minnesota.

1995 – 2005: Several fundraising activities to help the victims of natural disasters in India that including devastating earthquakes in Maharashtra and Gujarat, cyclone in Orissa, Tsunami in Southern India.

2001: Active participation in a community-wide Prayer Meeting in honor of the victims of the 9/11 attack on New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

2004: Arranging for a dialogue on "What Kind of World Do We Want to Live In?" at the Annual Dinner by prominent political and cultural personalities. The speakers were Congresswoman Betty McCollum, State Senator Satveer Chaudhary, Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan of Pangea Theater.

2005: Active participation in 2005 series of Minnesota Meeting Programs on Immigration Issues in Minnesota, part of a public service forum convened by the Minneapolis Foundation since 1982

# Proclamation

## The Twin Cities of Minneapolis & St. Paul

WHEREAS, Mohandas K. Gandhi, who was born in Northern India 113 years ago today, contributed so much to all cultures through his personal courage, dedication to civil rights, peaceful resistance to injustice and progressive social reforms; and

WHEREAS, Gandhi's principles of holding fast to the truth while pursuing equality of opportunity for all people are shared by the American people in their dedication to the principles of the U.S. Declaration of Independence; and


WHEREAS, the 2,000 families in Minnesota of East Indian origin reflect Gandhi's high ethical standards by contributing public service through The India Club of Minnesota;


NOW, THEREFORE, the Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul commemorate the 113th birthday of Mahandas Gandhi and honor the service of East Indian families in Minnesota by proclaiming October 2nd, 1983, as

GANDHI DAY

AND FURTHER, proclaim the commitment of the Mayors of these Twin Cities to the principles of social reform and justice enunciated by Mahandas Gandhi.



  
George Latimer  
Mayor of St. Paul

  
Donald M. Fraser  
Mayor of Minneapolis



*Letters of Support*





Asian Pacific  
Cultural Center

Satoru Asato  
Chairman  
R. Mark Frey  
Vice Chairman  
Linda Hashimoto  
Treasurer  
Ami I. Nafzger  
Secretary

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Tapan Bhattacharya  
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Bao Vang (Co-Chair)  
Sandy Agustin  
Satoru Asato  
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R. Mark Frey  
Cheng Fu Hang  
Lao Hang  
Ed Heil  
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Holden Hsiao  
Adeel Lari  
Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee  
Gouping Mao  
Senator Mee Moua  
Ami Nafzger  
David Pilgrim  
Delin Qu, Esq.  
A. William Sands  
Rick Shiomi  
John Sugimura  
Ramon Tan

P.O. Box 4097  
Saint Paul, MN 55105  
[www.apccmn.org](http://www.apccmn.org)

February 23, 2006

Council of Asian-Pacific Minnesotans  
658, Cedar Street Suite 160  
St Paul MN 55155

**Re: 2006 Leadership Awards**

**Subject: Letter of Support for India Association of Minnesota (IAM)**

Dear All:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of IAM as an organization for this award on behalf of the Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC).

IAM which was formed in 1973 is one of the oldest organizations representing the Asia Pacific people in the state of Minnesota.

Since its inception 33 years ago, it has been an organization which has been in the forefront in representing the Indian American community and act as a pioneer organization for other Asia Pacific organizations.

India as a country consists of over one billion people, who speak 14 different languages and over 200 dialects. The people are of all religious beliefs.

From the beginning, IAM's goal has been to represent India and Indian Americans as one people and uphold and project the values, cultures and heritage of India within the greater community in Minnesota.

The population of Indian Americans in the state has grown from less than 100 in the early days to over 20,000 today. The Indian American people in Minnesota are the third largest group within the total Asia Pacific population.

The mission IAM had set for itself however has remained steadfast despite the growth of the population; to represent the community as one without stifling the diversity of its people.

The participation of IAM at the Festival of Nations and also hold the annual India Day celebrations providing a window for all Minnesotans to the culture, diversity and heritage of India is noteworthy.

IAM has always come forward during times of National crisis and International disasters in representing the Indian American community in the state and helping to raise contributions from them.

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The Asian Pacific Cultural Center is a non-profit organization engaged in educating and providing opportunities to further understand Asian Pacific communities and their cultures. APCC also provides space for Asian Pacific community organizations and serves those communities through art, music, dance, language studies, and administration. APCC creates, as well as bridges, intergenerational and inter-ethnic understanding within the Asian Pacific communities in Minnesota.

I am proud to support the nomination of the India Association of Minnesota for this year's Leadership Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "San" or "Satoru", written in a cursive style.

Satoru Asato  
Chairman,  
Board of Directors

cc: M. Sukhatme

I write this letter of support for the India Association of Minnesota's nomination for a leadership award from the Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans. There are many ways that the IAM has contributed to the fabric of Minnesota.

The India Association has done pioneering work in promoting the culture and heritage of the South Asian continent in Minnesota through participating in the annual Festival of Nations and hosting the annual Festival of India at the Landmark Center. Through these efforts the IAM also reaches out to the adopted children of Indian descent living in Minnesota. During the Festival of India, the IAM helps the larger community by bringing the Council General of India from Chicago to issue visas to people wanting to visit India.

The IAM has also done some pioneering work the oral history project in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society. A substantial body of materials are now available at the History Center thanks to the IAM.

The IAM was also a founding member and active leader of The Policy Roundtable. Without the support of the IAM a number of major initiatives of the Roundtable would not have been possible such as the First Asian Minnesotan Business Summit with Governor Ventura and the monthly forums that were shown on area cable. The IAM always made sure that members were represented at the Roundtable activities and actively supported policy initiatives such as the appointment of Asian American judges. Through such efforts two very visible appointments were made during the Ventura Administration – the appointment of Judge Reggie Chu and the appointment of Lee Pao Xiong to the Met Council.

The IAM also worked to share their success with organizing of cultural events by participating in forum on mainstreaming ethnic festivals that was also shown on cable.

The IAM also worked hard in the early days of the formation of the Asian Pacific Endowment of the Saint Paul Foundation to provide input and spread the word on the importance of mainstream philanthropy. It continues to do so today and recently brought around 20 possible donors to a recent APECD fundraiser.

Through the work of the Roundtable and the IAM a former IAM President, Bhupat Desai was recruited to work closely with the Secretary of State, Mary Kiffmeyer. He even served as a chief election judge during an election.

The IAM has always worked with the Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans to support the work of the Council in many ways. IAM members have participated in numerous Council activities.

The IAM also put its support behind the Dragon Festival. Former IAM President Dillip Mallick and others played an active role in the organization of the festival – and with great success. IAM also has been working to promote the new Asian Cultural Center.

The IAM on many occasion have used their membership dues to support global initiatives such as relief efforts during time of natural calamities. They have raised and contributed money to these and other causes.

The IAM's greatest achievement was to move beyond a focus on the Asian Indian community to the needs of the larger Asian community, Minnesota and the world. In doing so it gave a very strong message that a small community of immigrants are once again living the American dream. Many of their members are also active in such organizations as the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

I strongly recommend the IAM for this leadership award.

Sincerely,

Bruce P. Corrie, PhD  
Chair, The Policy Roundtable  
Professor of Economics Concordia University.

February 23, 2006

Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans  
58 Cedar Street, Suite 160  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Nomination of India Association of Minnesota (IAM) for the 2006 Annual Award

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to support the nomination of IAM for the Asia Pacific Council's 2006 Annual Award. IAM has been a leader in creating and maintaining strong links within the diverse East Indian community and in developing bridges to other communities in Minnesota.

Indians are a diverse people with many languages and varied cultural heritage. IAM provides many venues where all Indians can come together to celebrate their heritage and to learn about each other, the Festival of India being the largest of these events, where hundreds of people come to experience a flavor of India in the heart of St. Paul. IAM is unique in its nature. Most Indian organizations around the world are centered around specific regions or religions, with little interaction between the different groups. Having lived for over twenty years in England, I had little knowledge of Indians other than those from my state in India or from my faith. Through my involvement in IAM since 1989 I have learned much about India and formed friendships with people from right across India.

IAM is also very supportive of other Indian organizations whose goal is to promote Indian heritage or the welfare of the Indian community. For over twenty years it has supported the work of the School of India for Languages and Culture (SILC), both financially and through creating an awareness of the program. As the number of Indians in Minnesota has increased over the last decade and other new Indian organizations have arisen to meet the growing needs of the community, IAM has taken it upon itself to bring these groups together to create a forum where all can develop relationships with each other. IAM also often serves as the point of contact with the Indian Embassy and its consular staff in Chicago, and has hosted Indian ambassadors and other dignitaries visiting from India.

Through its involvement in the Festival of Nations each year, IAM has provided an opportunity for everyone in Minnesota to enjoy India's heritage. IAM also provides links into the rest of the Asian Pacific community in Minnesota, by identifying individuals to serve on different committees such as the Dragon Boat Festival and the Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans. Many Minnesota policy makers have been invited to address the Indian community at events organized by IAM. It is the first point of contact for anyone wanting to communicate with the Indian community in Minnesota.

IAM performs a very important role on behalf of the Indian community - giving it a voice and providing opportunities for interaction. Indians in Minnesota would be without an identity if it were not for IAM's presence, which is often taken for granted.

Sincerely,



Rabinder Bains  
President of SILC for 2005-2006

## ***Press Coverage***



## REAL ESTATE

Redeveloping Midway properties - residential and commercial • P4



## EDUCATION

Animal Grossology at the Science Museum of Minnesota • P10



## MUSIC

Nirmala Rajasekar's Carnatic exploration • P12



# Asian American Press

Volume XXIV: N°21

"BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY"

WEEK OF MAY 27 • 2005



AAP Photos by Emmett Timmons

Yvonne Cheung Ho, president and CEO of the Metropolitan Economic Development Association (right), moderated the April 15 meeting with (moving left) U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona), Stanley S. Hubbard, president and CEO of Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc. and Jesse Bethke Gomez, president of Chicanos Latinos Unidos En Servicio (CLUES).

## Immigration dialogue

MINNEAPOLIS (May 11, 2005) – The Minneapolis Foundation recently completed its 2005 series of Minnesota Meeting programs on immigration issues in Minnesota. The three meetings were held at the Downtown Minneapolis Marriott City Center from March through May 2005, and featured local and national level experts and policymakers on immigration and immigrants.

The three-part series began on March 21 with a dialogue on "Shaping Minnesota's Agenda on Immigration: A Community Conversation." More than 600 people attended the conversation, which included interactive polling and audience

participation in order to begin formulating a statewide agenda on immigration.

Fred de Sam Lazaro, correspondent for public television's *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, moderated a panel of state economic, education and health leaders.

The summary report written by Frank Clancy described a tone that diversity is the state's number one asset. Immigration has had a positive impact on the state economy, however, there was caution that a rapid influx of people with a variety of needs

IMMIGRATION — Continued on page 7



Photo courtesy of Rep. McCollom's staff.

Congresswoman Betty McCollom is greeted by Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Commerce, Laos PDR, and Dr. Yang Dao (center).

## Rebuilding relations with Lao PDR



AAP Photo by Emmett Timmons

Dr. Vacharee Peterson of Peterson & Peterson, D.D.S., in East St. Paul received the national Asian Business Leadership award last week in

## Sakura Matsuri





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## BUSINESS

Trade Mission to Vietnam leads to environmental contracts • P4



## EVERYDAY LIVING

Second API Health Data Summit in St. Paul • P7



## LITERATURE

Evelina Chao's book "Yeh Yeh's House" is nominated for Minnesota Book Award • P12



# Asian American Press

Volume XXIV: N°7

"BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY"

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18 • 2005

## Asian Americans in Science and Technology Series

By Bruce P. Corrie, PhD  
AAP Contributing Writer

Asian Americans spend larger than the national average on photographic equipment, supplies and services, according to the latest national report on Consumer Expenditures, 2003. What is less well known is the pioneering work of local Asian Americans in the field of photographic equipment, supplies and services.

The Asian Pacific Policy Roundtable continues its Asian

Americans in Science and Technology Series, and features Mr. Oanh Pham, a well-known community leader who played a critical role in the formation of the The Policy Roundtable, the Vietnamese Community of Minnesota and the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce. He was also appointed to the board of the Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco (MPAAT).

What is not so well known

OANH Continued on page 10



Oanh Pham's distinguished career includes three Technical Excellence Awards in a ten-year period as a Research Specialist at 3M and later with Imation.

## Annual IAM Dinner

By Siddharth Damania  
AAP Contributing Writer

The India Association of Minnesota (IAM) held its annual banquet and awards program on February 5 at the Radisson Hotel in Roseville. This year's banquet was significant in that in addition to updating IAM members on board appointments and annual reports, all proceeds from the dinner went directly relief efforts for the tsunami that struck South Asia on December 26, 2004.

The dinner was well attended by over one hundred guests; featured keynote speakers included U.S.

Senator Mark Dayton, KSTP Channel 5 News Anchor Vineeta Sawkar, State Senator Satveer Chaudhary, and Indian Consul General Arun Kumar. The event honored India's Republic Day (Jan. 26) and those lost in the tsunami.

IAM President, Dilip Mallick, welcomed guests and offered a 2004 progress report, and detailed ambitions for the coming year. Currently, IAM is working in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society to document the life of Indian Minnesotans. The first two projects hope to capture the

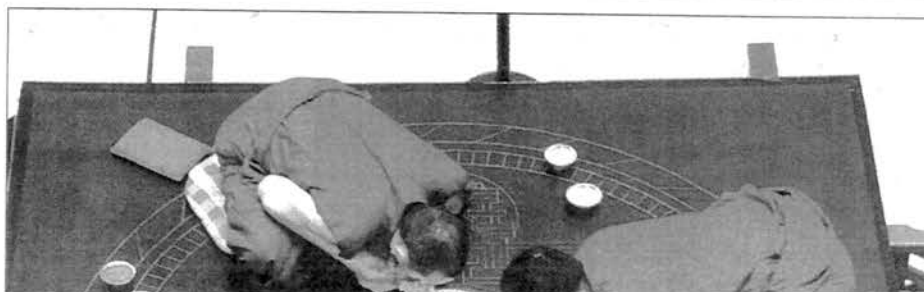
IAM Continued



Photos courtesy of Rob Ramer

Mr. Dilip Mallick, President of IAM, Vineeta Sawkar, Newscaster, and Indian Consul General of India in Chicago, Arun Kumar, at the IAM Annual Banquet in Roseville on February 5.

## Mike Honda elected DNC Vice Chair



Wangden Tashi, a

"President Bush spoke of freedom and democracy for all everywhere. The Cambodian government's response is to intimidate honest politicians and the long suffering people of Cambodia. We here in America must awaken our neighbors and



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## Brazil as an Emerging Global Power



By Patrick Mendis © VOYAGE OF LEARNING

**SALVADOR, Brazil** – This is one of the ABC countries of Latin America that wants to teach a lesson to the American superpower. Argentina, Brazil, and Chili

(regionally powerful ABC countries) do have good trade and economic relations with the United States but the recent US policy on photographing and finger printing of foreign visitors to America did not sit very well with the Brazilian authorities.

Brazil reciprocates in kind to the US Department of Homeland Security's new policy by delaying the custom and immigration process and photographing and finger printing of every American student, faculty, and staff in our Voyage. During our long waiting line, one student sarcastically commented that "Brazil strikes back the Empire." We were humbled by the experience and polite to our hosts in Salvador, the early colonial Portuguese capitol of Brazil, where we docked during our visit to Brazil.

Our first experience with Brazilian people is



Dr. Tin Win (left) and Dilip Mallick (right) welcome the Reverend Egbert and Amy Ayea, an ethnic Karen Burmese couple, who just came to St. Paul from the border region between Thailand and Burma (Myanmar). The two were introduced by Dr. Win, also Burmese, at Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans board meeting Feb. 10 at Lao Family Community in St. Paul. Dilip Mallick is an Council Board member of the Indian community.

## Burmese community welcomes spiritual leaders

AAP News

ST. PAUL (February 10, 2004) – The Burmese community of Minnesota welcomed a new spiritual leader to St. Paul recently as the Reverend Egbert Ayea, an Evangelical Baptist Minister, and his spouse Amy were recently sponsored for a conference in America and were afforded the opportunity to apply for political asylum as ethnic Karen refugees living in the border region between Thailand and Burma (Myanmar). They are being assisted by the Reverend William Englund of the First Baptist Church in Downtown St. Paul.

The two were active with the Karen Solidarity Organization (KSO) and will continue working to improve the condition of ethnic Karen and other persecuted Burmese at the hands of the Myanmar regime.

The Minnesota Burmese community is comprised of approximately 50 families, who are predominantly Buddhist, Christian, and Muslim. The First Baptist church has assisted many of the newly arrived Burmese community with temporary housing, referrals, health issues, and other

**BURMESE**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## HND announces conference speakers

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 16, 2004) –

# "What kind of world do we want to live in?"

## Indian Association of Minnesota Banquet

By David Zander  
AAP Contributing Writer

ROSEVILLE (February 15, 2004) – The India Association of Minnesota Annual Dinner last Sunday evening at the Radisson Hotel in Roseville. Over one hundred guests listened to Congresswoman Betty McCollum, State Senator Satveer Chaudhary, and Pangea World Theatre owners Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan.

### How Should America Direct Its Energy?

The question posed by Congresswoman Betty McCollum "What kind of a world do we want to live in?" served as a link across the evening's varied presentations. She spoke first on the many serious challenges facing the U.S. since 2000 ranging from the budget deficit, health care, job loss recovery, the economic squeeze on the middle classes, and connections with the world. She was critical of the shift in focus from Afghanistan to Iraq. Now there are only 10,000 troops in Afghanistan but 120,000 in Iraq. She



Congresswoman Betty McCollum delivered the keynote address at the annual IAM Dinner last Sunday.

felt that the actions from the White House have undermined our credibility, and have not made us safer. Commenting on her recent trip to Iraq, she said, "I am proud of our troops but they tell me they are confused about their role. They ask me 'are we soldiers, policemen or humanitarian workers?'"

McCollum said the cost of the Iraq War is now four billion dollars a month from an emergency supplementary appropriation and without an item included in the October 2004 budget. She finds herself at odds with Sec. of State Colin Powell over America's standing abroad. "I say it is deteriorating but he says there is no deterioration."

McCollum advocates seeking support from the United Nations. She urged Americans to get in the debate deciding whether we need to continue on a path of preemptive wars in combating terrorism; or to act in concert with other governments? She said that the Bush administration risks political chaos

**IAM**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Immigrant granted last minute stay

NEW YORK (February 16

## Community Anti-Racism Education Team



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## COMMUNITY FOCUS

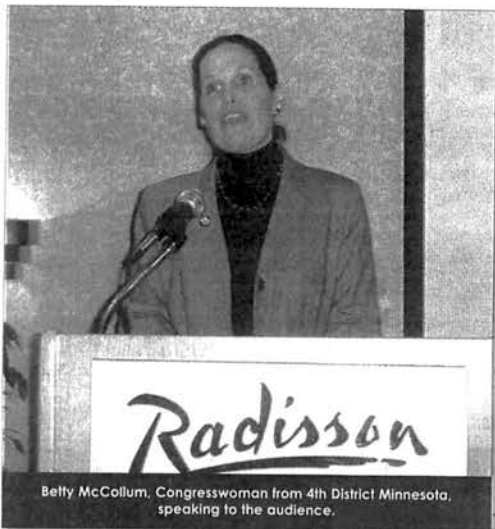
# India Association of Minnesota, Annual Dinner

Text and photos by Hari Gori

"The choices we make as Americans have a tremendous impact on governments, economies, the environment and the lives of individuals throughout the world. So let me ask a question: What kind of world do we want to pass on to the next generation? What kind of a world do we want to help shape with our choices, voices, and votes in this very important Presidential election year?" asked Betty McCollum, Congresswoman, 4th District, Minnesota. She was the

November's election and then come to Congress for an emergency supplemental appropriation! Very clever! They don't want to have the \$50 billion that is projected to meet our troops needs added to their already exploding budget deficits." Explaining how this deception has hurt our nation's credibility, she said that people around the world want to trust U.S. leadership, want to believe our President's words, but much of the world feels deceived and let down.

Comparing this massive expendi-



Betty McCollum, Congresswoman from 4th District Minnesota, speaking to the audience.



IAM President, Rabinder Bains (center), with special guests and Board members.

and academic positions in the UK for several years before moving to the U.S. with her husband, Sarjit, in 1985. Mother of three children, she is a very active member of IAM. She is currently working as a Senior Economic Policy analyst at the State Department of Transportation.

Giving a brief background of IAM, she described how from 1973 it had grown to its present status. "The demographics of Minnesota have changed dramatically over the last ten years. Besides the increase in the number of minority immigrants, the number of people of Indian origin has more than doubled over that period," she said. "One of the missions

The Senator spoke about his recent trip to India where he attended the "Pravasi Bharatiya Divas" (NRI Conference). He said that NRIs around the world had come there to share the heritage and experiences of their Motherland. Quoting an NRI who was a Professor from Harvard School of Business, he said that to attract more investments into India, it must conduct itself like a "brand." A brand is a promise of quality, an expectation of service. If India also adheres to the quality of service, it could attract an abundance of investments.

Each year, the IAM selects an individual who has made significant

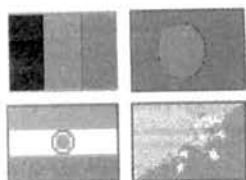
Meena Natarajan, in 2001. For his accomplished leadership and excellence in the field of theater, his contributions and commitment to the community, his involvement with Abhinaya Children's Theater, and the School of India for Languages & Culture, Dipankar was chosen for this prestigious award.

Meena Natarajan spoke about Pangea World Theater and showed a small clip of Pangea's various plays. Since Pangea's formation in 1995, Meena and Dipankar's productions have brought to life the stories and voices of numerous cross-ethnic perspectives. Whether the tale of a

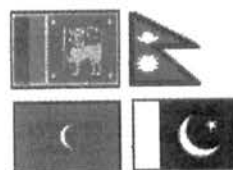


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# The South Asian



One Year Anniversary Issue

www.thesouthasian.org

December 2003

## The Brahmaputra River linking examined

A mega River Linking project is being hatched and actively touted by the Indian government. However, details of the project are lacking and as usual, transparency of the planning process - a critical measure of participation of the people who will be affected by the project, if undertaken - is absent. A number of internet groups are discussing the issues involved, but few are familiar with Assam's particular concerns and needs. It is in the context of this vacuum that I decided to get into the subject, with more questions than answers, hoping that it will generate an interest on the subject among Assam's well-wishers.

As we well know, Assam and the North-East's interests and concerns are rarely heard and heeded even less. I attempt to draw attention to what is at stake in Assam, and thereby be counted in the planning process before a massive fraud is foisted on the people.

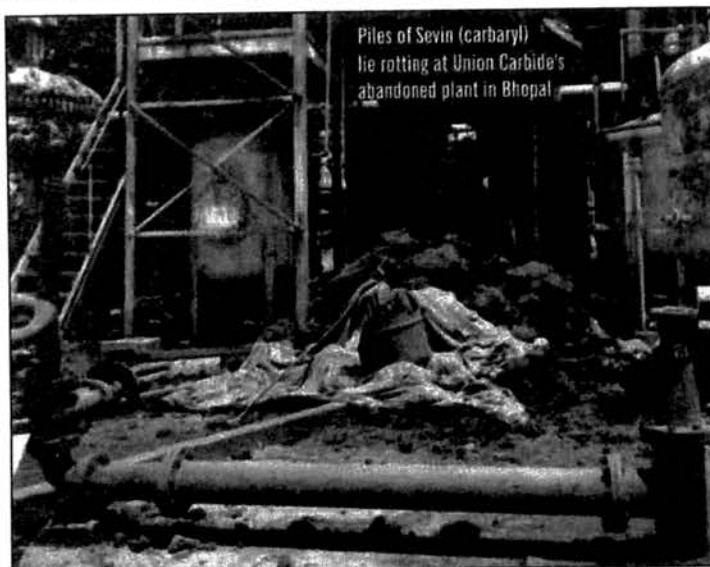
### The Origins

My understanding, which is based on a speech by the President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam, is that the river linking project has been undertaken by the Center on the directive of the Supreme Court, as the result of a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by a citizen.

### The Premise and the Solution

As articulated by the President, the premise of the project is to divert water from flood prone areas, equate to water-surplus areas, to drought affected or water-shortage areas. The solution proposed is to link the river systems in a way to

[continued on page 17]



Union Carbide's plant in Bhopal, India. Deadly gas leaked and killed 15,000 people in 1984 and continues to claim lives to this day. Read report on page 12

## Indians in MN An Oral History

In 1992, Godan Nambudiripad, attended an exhibit about Asians in Minnesota which was developed by the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. Although he enjoyed the exhibit, it was curiously lacking any mention of migrants who came from South Asia. Godan called to mention their oversight, and was eventually connected with Jim Fogerty, the head of the Oral History Department of Minnesota Historical Society.

Out of their conversation was born the Indian Association Oral History Project, which is now entering its tenth year. The project has been pursued in several phases, each of which seeks to capture the spoken

[continued on page 15]

## After Cancun?

The big boys have returned home, this time empty handed. They have vowed they will be back. The failure of Cancun Ministerial only strengthens their resolve to re-emerge with new ruthless manipulations.

Developing countries too, have learned the hard way the dictum of international trade, lobbying, coercion. No wonder, in just a span of four years, two of the WTO Ministerial collapsed. First Seattle in 1999, and now the sudden death at Cancun 2003, has demonstrated that the developing world will no longer take it lying down. Its anger and rebellion has caused the

[continued on page 4]

## Female Migration from Sri Lanka

Women in Sri Lanka are no longer secondary income earners within the family. Globalization, market liberalization and structural adjustment have influenced the increase in the number of women in the labor force and the nature of their employment, both within and outside the country. Women constitute 70% to 90% of the labor force in the top three foreign currency generating industries of Sri Lanka. Yet there is a clear deskilling process in all three sectors as these women are integrated into the labour market on unequal terms and are denied access to the acquisition of new skills that would make them upwardly mobile.

Migrant worker remittances brought USD 1.3 billion to Sri Lanka in 2002. Since it is the country's second largest foreign exchange earner and a major boon to restore Sri Lanka's war torn economy, the government actively promotes such migration. The annual outflow of persons from Sri Lanka averaged over 170,000 from 1998 to 2002. Women's contribution to this income is remarkable: a staggering 70% of migrant workers are women; most of them are employed in the Gulf States, Hong Kong, Cypress and Singapore as "unskilled" domestic workers ("housemaids"). Labor ministry officials say that out of 851,000 Sri Lankans employed in the Gulf states alone, 70.6% are women. In 2002, the total outflow of migrant workers from Sri Lanka was 203,710, of which 132,984 were women.

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## **India Association of Minnesota (IAM)**

*invites you to the*

### **2005 Annual Dinner**

*Join us to celebrate the Republic Day of India and help us raise funds for TSUNAMI  
REHABILITATION efforts*

**Saturday, February 5, 2005 (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.)**

**At Radisson Hotel**

2540 North Cleveland Ave, Roseville MN 55113

**Fundraising for TSUNAMI REHABILITATION efforts**

**IAM achievement awards**

**Keynote addresses**

***Special invitees:*** Sen. Norm Coleman, Sen. Mark Dayton, Sen. Satveer Choudhary, Indian Consulate General and Vineeta Sawkar (KSTP/TV)

For more information, contact:

Sandhya Gupta : (952) 942-6194, sandhya@iamn.org  
Shalini Thadani : (651)-734-0645, shalini@iamn.org  
Ramona Advani : (612)-825-6632, ramona@iamn.org  
Dilip K Mallick : (763) 564-9393, dilip@iamn.org

***Limited seating available! Get your tickets soon!!***

Advance tickets: \$35 (\$30-IAM members, \$20-Students).

Please respond by Jan 29th, 2005

Make checks payable to "IAM" and mail payment to Nitin Patil at  
11185 Anderson Lakes Parkway, Apt 324, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

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## Meeting of Indian Community Organizations

Sunday, January 15, 2006

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Hosted by Geeta Ashram of Minnesota*

*10537 Noble Avenue*

*Brooklyn Park, MN 55443*

*Meeting Coordinator: Ramona Advani*

### *Meeting Coordination Committee:*

*Ramona Advani (IAM)*

*Rabinder Bains (SILC, Sikh Society)*

*Nithya Balakrishnan (Ragamala)*

*Tapan Bhattacharya (Bengali Assoc.)*

*Prakash Chada (Telegu Assoc., IAM)*

*Sandhya Gupta (IAM)*

*Fazel Harris (Katha Dance Theater)*

*Dilip Mallick (IAM)*

*Vivek Radia (NetIP)*

*Ravi Sura (Vibha, IAM)*

### Meeting Objectives:

- Continue to connect with one another.
- Take stock of where we've been and where we hope to go this year.
- Exchange information; learn about and from each other.

## AGENDA

Social Time and Tour of Geeta Ashram	3:00 to 3:20 p.m. (All/Parmar Pranjeevan)
Welcome and Introductions	3:20 to 3:40 p.m. (All)
Opening Remarks by 2006 IAM Board President	3:40 to 3:45 p.m. (Ramesh Muniswamy)
Discussion Items	3:45 to 4:15 p.m. (All)
1. Review of last year's meetings and outcomes; thoughts on where we go.	3:45 to 4:00 p.m.
2. Reaching new community members:	4:00 to 4:15 p.m.
a. Resource List-Completion & Distribution	
b. Other Ideas	
3. 2006 Community Calendar and Announcement of Upcoming Events	4:15 to 4:25 p.m.
4. Volunteer Opportunities	4:25 to 4:30 p.m.
Organizational Presentation: SILC	4:30 to 4:50 p.m. (Raj Menon)
Announcements and Wrap-Up	4:50 to 5:00 p.m. (All)



Completed by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Organization:**

☐ Regional ☐ Arts ☐ Religious ☐ Business/Professional Interests

☐ Student ☐ Charitable/Development ☐ Educational ☐ Social Services

☐ Indian Adoptee-Related ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Specific Description of Organization, Its Mission or Focus, and Its Activities:**

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**Contact Information for Interested Individuals:**

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

**2006 Liasons to Meetings of Indian Community Organizations**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**2006 Board Officers or Other Leaders:**

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting of Indian Community Organizations in the Twin Cities.**

Muslim Community Center, 8910 Old Cedar Ave, Bloomington, MN 55429.

2-4 pm, September 25, 2005.

Meeting Coordinator: Sandhya Gupta.

Minutes Taken By: Prakash Chada.

**Attendees:** Vivek Radia (NetIP-TC), Raju Pai (Marathi Association), Ilean Her (Council of Asian-Pacific Minnesotans), Nithya Balakrishnan (Ragamala), Dilip Mallick (IAM), Sudha Nagavarapu (AID-MN), Dwiji Guru (AID-MN), Ikram-ul-Haq (Islamic Society), Tapan Bhattacharya (Bengali Association), Ravi Sura (Vibha-MN), Ramesh Muniswamy (IAM), Shivanthi Sathanandan (IAM, IMSOM, TAM, HSOM), A Pavan (IMSOM), Prakash Chada (Telugu Association), Sarjit Singh Bains (Sangam), Rabinder K Bains (IAM, Sikh Society of MN, SILC), Raj Chaudhary (SEWA-AIFW), Anoop Mathur (IAM TAC), Syed Ghazi Akailvi (IAM-SHRI), Raj Menon (SILC), Bonn Clayton (Minnesota Council of Churches), Rob Ramer (IAM), Deborah McLaren (PIC—Parents of Indian Children), Sandhya Gupta (IAM).

**Muslim Community Center Tour:** Mr. Ikram-ul-Haq, from Islamic Association gave us a tour of the muslim community center. Explained how the prayer room is structured so that the prayers can be facilitated on time and according to tradition. The room faces Mecca and the carpet is specially designed for prayer.

**Opening Remarks and Introductions:** The formal meeting started at 2:15 PM. Mr. Ikram-ul-Haq made a brief introduction of himself, a little history of the community center and welcomed all the attendees. Also took questions regarding the hours of operation of the center and also protocol that needs to be followed when a devotee enters the prayer room.

All the attendees made a brief introduction of themselves and the Indian organization that they represent.

Dilip Mallick (IAM) welcomed all members and thanked them for taking the time to attend. Expressed condolences for the victims of both Katrina and Rita. Asked the attendees for a moment of silence in honor of the victims.

Thanked the members/associations for making the IAM picnic a success. Attendance was twice of what was expected.

Again, reiterated the positive aspects of various Indian groups coming together, the common calendar of events being one result of this collaboration. Finally thanked the Muslim Association for hosting the meeting.

#### **Review of last meeting and update: (Sandhya)**

- Minutes taken by Ravi Sura.
- Coordination committee met once in person and setup the agenda for this meeting. Reviewed the progress being made by the entire group.
- Remind the group about Indian festival, at landmark Center, on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some of the organizations, including Telugu Asso and RGK Dance studio are new participants at this festival.
- Opened the discussion topic portion of the meeting. Introduced Ilean Her from the Council Of Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

#### **Ilean Her (Council of Asian-Pacific Minnesotans):**

- Explained her organization goals in terms of bringing in resources to the Pan-Asian groups.
- Explained the State of Minnesota's responsibilities.
- Helped forge Pan-Asian efforts. Help different groups come together.
- Plans to build an Asian pacific Cultural center, a 5.5 million-dollar budget project.
- Explained her strengths in marshalling resources. Offered her help.
- Explained the need to have a clear goal for the entire group. A very focussed goal that everybody works at.
- Dragon boat Festival by Pan Asian community. Attendance increased from 2000 to 15000 currently. Marketing aspects from this could be learned by individual associations struggling to raise funds or attendance levels.

#### **A.Pavan (IMSOM):**

- IMSOM started in '73-74. Became official in 1980. Celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
- **Activities:** Chamber music, small and intimate. Small concerts. Workshops. Promote in area schools.
- What IMSOM has done: 250 concerts to date. 475 musicians participated. Almost all of the big names. Annual budget is 50,000.
- **Efforts that worked:** Mission is clearly defined, Indian classical music. Product is extremely of high quality. Each and every single operational process is defined and documented. Pavan offered to e-mail these manuals to whichever org

wanted to see and learn from. Bulk mailing, about 4000 pieces. 15000 cards mailed out. 300 to 500 posters. Maintaining good relations with local radio hosts.

- **Funding:** State of Minnesota is a very large supporter of arts. Write grants for getting funded. Membership drive, 80 to 450 members as of now.
- **How is the budget met:** A third of it from ticket sales. 40 to 50 percent from grants. Rest from memberships.
- **Challenges:** Organizing volunteers who feel those things can be done at a pace that is counter-productive. Problems with attendance. Too many events competing for the same audience pool. IMSOM is trying hard to promote the music outside to the larger mainstream community.
- **Questions:** Does IMSOM make an effort to promote to children? Yes. SILC wanted to know if IMSOM or, more specifically Pavan, could help them setup their processes. Pavan offered to help.

**Festival of India (Sandhya):** She updated us that some of the associations were actually participating. A very good positive sign. Ikram wanted some help from the group in a visa issue that he is having with the Indian Consulate. IAM will try to help.

#### **Open Discussion, Review, and Announcements:**

- IMSOM has their 25<sup>th</sup> ani gala cele on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>. Invitations given out.
- IAM is sponsoring an evening of poetry in Hindi and urdu on Nov 5.
- Ragamala is having their 'From Temple to Theater. Sep 30 to Oct 9.
- Muslim Society offered an open invitation to break Ramadan fast with them.
- It was pointed out that members, within an organization, do not always get communications or renewal forms. Something to work on and improve upon. The sub-committee may take this up as an agenda item for next meeting.
- There was a general consensus that this whole endeavor was getting us some positive results, but we need to have a clear mission of what this group stands for.

#### **Next Meeting:**

- The sub-committee will have a meeting to decide on the agenda.
- Possible items: Membership communications. Mission statement. How to communicate to local papers about upcoming events (cultural event section), what is our goal. Something that the whole group can agree on.
- Sandhya is going to work on setting up the sub-committee meeting.

The meeting ended at 4:15. The Muslim community Center offered snacks. Informal discussions continued.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting of Indian Community Organizations in the Twin Cities**

*Sun Ray Branch, St. Paul Public Library*

*2:00 – 4:00 p.m., June 19, 2005*

**Meeting Coordinator:** Sandhya Gupta

**Minutes taken by:** Ravi Sura

**Attendees:** Ameeta Kelekar (IMSOM), Buddhadev Roy Choudhury (Bengali Assoc. of MN), Debasis Dash (Oriya Community), Dinesh Wahi (MinnTiE), Fazel Harris (Katha Dance Theater), Gummadi Franklin (IAM/TAC), Ikram-ul-Haq (Muslim Community Center), Jaydeep Kokate (Asha), Meena Venkataraman (Asha), Minou Hussain (Muslim Community Center), Narayan Kanikkannan (SILC), Nithya Balakrishnan (Ragamala), Prakash Chada (Telugu Assoc.), Rabinder Bains (IAM), Ramesh Muniswamy (IAM), Ravi Sura (Vibha-MN), Sandhya Gupta (IAM), Sanjukta Mishra (IAM), Sarat Mohapatra (IAM/TAC), Shalini Thadani (IAM), Shambhu Nath (IAM), Shanti Shah (IAM/TAC, Maida, Jain Samaj), Shivanthi Sathanandan (IAM, TAM, IMSOM, HSN), Subha Chandar (NetIP-Twin Cities), Sudha Nagavarapu (AID-MN), Sunil Gopinath (Asha), Syed Ghazi Akailvi (IAM)

### **Opening Remarks (Ramesh)**

- Dilip Mallick (IAM) could not make it due to family emergency and Ramesh is substituting for him
- Welcome to everybody
- Hope for a productive dialog
- IAM supports this initiative and will continue to do so

### **Review Last Meeting Minutes (Sandhya)**

- Minutes taken by Shalini; distributed to all attendees (please refer to minutes in Yahoo-groups)
- Coordination committee met once in person after the last meeting; through e-mails & other discussion, helped in setting up this meeting
- Shalini set-up Yahoogroups mailing list
- IAM has incl. org. info into their website; please contact IAM if any additions/corrections are required
- IAM Newsletter will have the calendar of events
- IAM Newsletter will have an article about one org. in every edition

### **Goal & Mission Statement (Coordinator: Sandhya)**

The following points (paraphrased) were raised by the attendees as part of discussion on this agenda item

- IAM already has a mission statement and this group need not have a mission. IAM's mission can incorporate it But, the group should have goals.
- Do we want to have a vertical or horizontal organization? Should IAM be the "higher-level" organization?
- This group is a platform for getting all orgs. together
- IAM is trying to bring all the orgs. together in a single platform
- Mission of this group is to communicate with each other
- This group has no entity, so, there may not be a reason for a mission statement. But, we should still have goals
- IAM facilitates this group; but, what this group does is up to the members of this group
- This group should strengthen/help the mission of IAM
- This group should strengthen each others mission; not necessarily the mission of IAM only.
- We can have a vision.
- All orgs. represented here are volunteer-driven and have other commonalities (e.g. booking a hall for some event)
- Mission statement cannot be a top-down approach; everybody has to come together to decide what to do
- Motion to decide this later
- What is the goal...why should the orgs. keep coming back together to these meetings ?
- The coordination committee can take up the common issues talked about today and perhaps come up with a draft vision statement
- What is the role of the coordination comm.?
- Statement describing the common reasons for this group to come together
- There are lots of things this group can do together and we should focus on this
- Let's talk to each other and build trust
- Let's move on and not come up with a mission statement at this point; maybe after a few meetings we can work on this
- Further discussions: maybe we should let a smaller sub-committee come up with a draft statement
- No, let's just not decide on anything at present

- Final Summary: The group decided to move on to next agenda item....no specific task or action item.

### **Annual Picnic & Festival of India (Coordinator: Sandhya)**

The following points (paraphrased) were raised by the attendees as part of discussion on this agenda item

- IAM has picnic on Aug 20<sup>th</sup>; Bengali Assoc. also has a picnic on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>
- Would other orgs. be interested in taking charge of some activities at the picnic ?
- Last year, Vibha organized the games; other organizations are welcome to help with the picnic.
- IAM Picnic flyer was distributed to the group
- Festival of India has different booths, has a varied audience etc.
- IAM is looking for organizations to participate in these events (sign-up sheet passed around for Annual Picnic)

### **Other Items**

The following points (paraphrased) were raised by the attendees as part of discussion on this agenda item

- Should we have an organization (e.g. IMSOM) present about their activity at the next meeting ?  
YES
- Muslim Community Center invited the group to have the next meeting at their venue; snacks will be provided
- All organizations are requested to submit their event calendar to Yahoo groups mailing group
- All organizations should check the IAM website for the details of their respective organizations and submit any corrections/changes etc. to Shalini Thadani (secretary@iamn.org )
- Do we have a contact list in Yahoo group? IAM website has a contact list. Maybe we should put it in the Yahoo group mailing list
- New coordination comm.: Rabinder, Dilip, Tapan, Prakash, Sandhya, Vivek, Ravi, Fazel, Nithya

The meeting ended at 4 p.m. and informal discussions ensued among the attendees while partaking snacks (provided by IAM).



**Meeting of India Related Organizations in Minnesota**  
**Richardson Nature Center, 03/20/2005, 12:30 PM**

Attendees: Jayshree Patel (Gujarati Samaj), Amit Marathe (Marathi Association), Narayanan (Tamil Association), Prakash Chada (Telugu Association), Tapan Bhattacharya (Bengali Association), Prabhjit Singh Gujral (Sikh Society), Vinu Patel (BAPS), Asit Waghani (BAPS), Sunil Patel (BAPS), Kamlesh Patel (BAPS), Mayank Patel (BAPS), Ved Sharma (Geeta Ashram), Ravi Sura (Vibha-MN), Vivek Radia (NetIP-TC), Vignesh Nandakumar (AID-MN), Sandhya Joshi (SILC), Deborah McLaren (PIC), Ameeta Kelekar (IMSOM), Ikram-ul-Haq (Islamic Society), Niranjana Srinivasan (Sangeetha Kannada Koota), Tanni Misra (Oriya Association), Tom Mathew (Malayalee Association), Sarjit Bains (Sangam), Atul Shroff (SEWA), Chandni Shroff (SEWA), Raji Chowdhary (SEWA), Sandhya Gupta (IAM), Shalini Thadani (IAM), Shambhu Nath (IAM), Shivanthi Sathanandan (IAM), Franklin Gummadi (IAM TAC), Anoop Mathur (IAM TAC), Shanti Shah (IAM TAC, Jain Association), Preeti Mathur (IAM), Ramesh Muniswamy (IAM), Sanjukta Misra (IAM), Nitin Patil (IAM), Guptan Nambudiripad (IAM), Godan Nambudiripad (IAM TAC), Ramona Advani (IAM), Rob Ramer (IAM), Sarat Mohapatra (IAM TAC)

The meeting began with a welcome by Sandya Gupta and a brief description of IAM's activities by IAM Vice President – Ramesh Muniswamy. Franklin Gummadi, Chair of IAM's Trustee Advisory Committee, then, talked about IAM's history.

Members of each group introduced themselves, briefly mentioned the mission of their group and outlined their expectations from this meeting. Listed below is a summary of expectations mentioned:

- ◆ Being able to work together as one cohesive group
- ◆ Being able to publicize the group's activities to members of other groups.
- ◆ Having information of various groups available to provide upon request from those outside the Indian community
- ◆ Need something that is common to all Indians
- ◆ Need to bring all Indians together for common events
- ◆ Need a link between all organizations
- ◆ Invite other groups to talk about their culture/language
- ◆ Getting to know each other
- ◆ No expectations yet.
- ◆ Raise awareness regarding the existence of our group
- ◆ Want to see some continuity in such activities
- ◆ Start something that will bring together all Indians
- ◆ Networking opportunity
- ◆ Need more communication between groups

The meeting continued with a breakout session of the attendees in three groups. The task for each group was to identify answers to the three questions: How can IAM help regional groups? How can regional groups help IAM? And how can our diverse group help the greater community?

When all the groups convened together again, each presented a summary of the conclusions they had reached during the breakout session. Each group's summary is listed below:

Group 3:

- ◆ Need a web portal that provides information and link to different groups
- ◆ We need an India center
- ◆ Need to establish a first call for help center
- ◆ Need a liaison committee formed from IAM and all the other organizations gathered here
- ◆ The committee needs to meet multiple times a year
- ◆ How do we give back to India?
- ◆ How do we project a cohesive image of India to the media?

- ♦ IAM's Trustee Advisory Committee has created a long-range plan. This could be shared with other organizations for feedback.
- ♦ Can we create a sub-committee to keep the momentum going?

Group 2:

- ♦ Need a website, with directory of all organizations
- ♦ Need a coordination committee
- ♦ Community events with guidelines
- ♦ Need a listserv group with office bearers of various organizations
- ♦ Expand Festival of India and create a mechanism by which parts of it can be owned by various groups
- ♦ Improve inter-organization communication
- ♦ Conduct these meetings on a periodic basis
- ♦ Provide a group of resources to help those who are not technically savvy
- ♦ Interaction with University students

Group 1:

- ♦ We need a mechanism of communication between all organizations – listserv of present group members
- ♦ We need a follow-up meeting. Maybe a different organization can host the meeting each time
- ♦ Link of various organizations on IAM's website. Publicize IAM's website
- ♦ Need clear, all inclusive, mission for this group. What is the value of bringing the groups together?
- ♦ Need one big event for all Indians

Based on the feedback from the three groups, immediate action items decided upon are:

*Create a coordination sub-committee:* 7 volunteers were requested for the sub-committee, whose task would be to organize the next meeting. These include, Sandhya Gupta, Rabinder Bains, Vivek Radia, Ravi Sura, Tapan Bhattacharya, Prakash Chada and Niranjan Srinivasan.

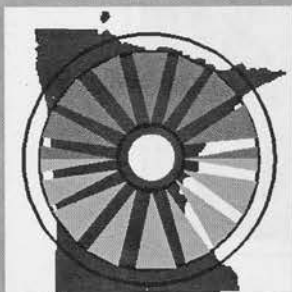
*Create a yahoogroups mailing list:* Shalini Thadani volunteered to set this up.

*Liaison committee:* This would include 1-2 office bearers of the organizations present

*Next meeting:* It was decided that the liaison committee would meet every quarter. The coordination sub-committee would solicit the agenda items from the Liaison committee.

Volume 12, Issue 4

Fall 2005



<http://www.iamn.org>

# IAM News

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

*IAM is a non-profit organization whose aim is to build a strong and cohesive community of Asian Indians in the state of Minnesota, USA. IAM also seeks to represent the Asian Indian population to the society at large.*

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## Calendar of Events

**November 21, at 12:00 p.m.,** Ragamala Dance Theater presents *Bhakti*, an exploration of mystical, musical poetry highlighting the work of two saints: Andal and Hildegard von Bingen, at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Call 612-824-1968 for more information.

**December 10, at 1:30 p.m.,** IAM General Body meeting. See Notice inside.

## From the President's Desk

India Association of Minnesota has been serving Minnesotans since 1973. At the near end of the year 2005, I have a great feeling about IAM's accomplishments.

The year started with an emergency meeting on December 29, 2004, called by IAM to talk about Tsunami relief and rehabilitation efforts. IAM coordinated with PATH (Pan Asian Tsunami Healing) to facilitate the Tsunami relief and rehabilitation effort that has been undertaken by several organizations. Since the beginning of the year, IAM has collected around \$10,000 in donations that will be distributed to a project for Tsunami rehabilitation in India. IAM also is actively involved with other disaster relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita along with the earthquake that has struck the India-Pakistan border.

In 2005, IAM initiated another activity to bring India-related organizations and communities together. IAM facilitated a platform for organizations to build bridges, seek common interests and share information about each other's activities. After three quarterly meetings, around 30 India-related organizations are experiencing the benefits of this Forum. Facilitating this kind of interaction and coordination is one of the long-term goals of IAM as projected by IAM's Trustee Advisory Council.

In addition, IAM organized and managed the following activities this year:

1. The Annual Dinner in February 2005 was a huge success. US Senator Mark Dayton, State Senator Satveer Chaudhary and Indian Consular General from Chicago, Mr. Arun Kumar were the chief guests. Vineeta Sawkar, KSTP TV anchor, was the keynote speaker. IAM honored Vibha-MN and Ramkrishnan with 2004 IAM Achievement awards.

*Continued on page 2*



## From the President Desk (continued from p.1)

2. IAM represented India at the 2005 Festival of Nations (April) through cultural program, bazaar and the food booth.

3. IAM took an active role in the Dragon Festival. This Asian-Pacific American Heritage Festival was celebrated on July 9 & 10, 2005 at Lake Phalen, St. Paul. 15,000 visitors attended the Festival.

4. The Indian Independence day picnic in August was celebrated with a record number of participants at Snail Lake Park, Shoreview.



Kids enjoying the picnic

5. In July and August, we hosted visiting dignitaries from Karnataka, Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda and Sri Sudarshan Koota, presenting both with souvenirs of Minnesota.



6. The annual Festival of India in October was a celebration of India's diverse culture and heritage, showcasing live Indian music, traditional dances, art, food, organizations, and businesses. The festivities this year fell on the auspicious day of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the birthday of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.



Cultural program at Festival of India—from Bharatnatyam (top) to Bhangara (bottom) . . .

Continued on p.4.

## Community Spotlight: Parents of Indian Children (PIC)

For three days this summer, Indian children who have been adopted by Minnesota families enjoyed a chance to connect with the culture of their birthplace. Instead of journeying to Mumbai or Calcutta, however, the kids had to travel no further than St. Paul, where Parents of Indian Children (PIC) held its annual Indian culture camp from July 21 to 23 at Macalester-Plymouth United Church.

The theme of the camp this year, "Folktales from India," was reflected in most of the classes, including Indian folk dance, folk art projects, and an Indian culture class. The parent workshops included adoption specialist, Deborah Johnson, who spoke on the Seven Core Issues of Adoption and traveling to India with your child. There was also a panel discussion about Indian customs and culture and

an Indian cooking demonstration for parents. On the final day there was a display of the children's beautiful artwork, an Indian dance performance, face painting, translation of the children's names in Hindi and an Indian buffet.



Thirty-five children participated in the camp and about 100 people attended the festivities on Saturday. Teachers included Padma Dharnipragada (dance), Nayana Ramakrishnan (culture/history, parents panel discus-

sion), Dipankar Mukherjee (parents panel, youth group), Sheetal Kirtikar (art), Sandhya Gupta (storytelling), Shalini Rai (translation), Emily Holder (preschool), Chinmayee Subash (cooking demonstration), and Julia Phillips (yoga). The camp benefits from an on-going internship program for youth and many volunteers.



(Continued on page 4)

## INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU FOR ITS  
ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

1:30PM to 4:00 PM  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005

at the  
WOODLAKE NATURE CENTER

<http://www.woodlakenaturecenter.org/>  
6710 Lake Shore Dr., Richfield, MN 55423,  
612-861-9365

Refreshments Will Be Served

### Agenda

Welcome by 2005 IAM President, Dilip Mallick  
Treasurer's and President's Reports for 2005  
Reports from IAM Affiliated Organizations  
Election of 2006 Nomination Committee  
Election of the 2006 IAM Board  
Message from 2006 IAM President  
General Discussion  
Refreshments

For more details, contact: Shalini Thadani, [secretary@iamn.org](mailto:secretary@iamn.org), (651) 734 0645

### Members that have been nominated for the 2006 AM Board of Directors:

- |                           |                      |                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ramona Advani          | 8. Aruna Harkadle*   | 15. Guptan Nambudiripad  |
| 2. Syed Ghazi Akailvi     | 9. Paul Kuttikadan*  | 16. Seemakurthy, Venkata |
| 3. Prakash Chada*         | 10. Bhairavi Mahant  | 17. Shambhu Nath         |
| 4. Pranab Chatterjee      | 11. Dilip Mallick    | 18. Nayana Ramakrishnan* |
| 5. Dwijayendra Nath Guru* | 12. Sanjukta Misra   | 19. Rob Ramer            |
| 6. Sandhya Gupta          | 13. Ramesh Muniswamy | 20. Shivanti Sathanandan |
| 7. Soniya Gupta*          | 14. Nagraj Murthy*   | 21. Ravi Sura*           |

\*New Board Members

### Nominating Committee for 2006:

Ram Gada (Chair)	Guptan Nambudiripad
Mary Gupta	Kamal Sahgal
Rita Mohapatra	

### Additional Nominations:

The Board of Directors and the Trustee Advisory Council shall be elected from the nominees submitted by the Nomination Committee and published by the Secretary. However, additional nominees willing and able to serve may be presented by petition signed by at least ten (10) IAM members in good standing (as of July 31st of the year) with all necessary application forms filled and submitted to the Nomination Committee Chair not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of annual meeting. If Nominee's application meets the eligibility requirements, the Nomination Committee shall also include the applicant nominee for the election. The applicant will be informed by the Nomination Committee of its decision and explanation in case of rejection before the annual meeting. For additional nominations contact Nomination Committee Chair: Deep Shikha Gupta at 651-454-2124 for the application form.



## Community Spotlight: PIC (continued from p. 2)

### About PIC

PIC is a fifteen year old organization of parents who have joined together to share the joys of being touched by Indian adoption. We are a non-profit group formed to build a strong community for our Asian Indian children. Our membership of more than 150 families includes children who have joined us from Delhi, Calcutta, Bangalore, Cochin, Patna, Mumbai, Hyderabad and many other areas of India. Families waiting for referral or arrival are also welcome.

PIC plans year-round activities and family support that offer opportunities to learn about Indian culture(s) and to enjoy companionship with other families. Besides bringing families together for fun and camaraderie, many of the activities are also designed to strengthen the connection between PIC families and our Minnesota India community.

If you are interested in volunteering with PIC or learning more about the organization, please contact Deborah McLaren at 651-644-9880 or Alice Ottavi at 763-522-3049.

Contributed by **Deborah McLaren**

## From the President Desk (continued from p.2)

7. Earlier this month, IAM sponsored the second annual Mushaira, a recital of poems in Hindi and in Urdu, bringing together lovers of poetry from many communities. IAM is donating proceeds from the event to earthquake relief efforts in Kashmir.



Poetry in the air—2005 Mushaira.

8. This year, IAM has completed a most important project: the thirty-year history of IAM. It has been recorded through oral narrations, transcribed text and memorabilia. This Oral History Project will be carefully preserved at the Minnesota Historical Society. It will serve as a reflection of our successful migration and the survival of our rich culture in Minnesota. Our present and future generations of the Asian-Indian community will be able to access the IAM Oral History Project from the Minnesota Historical Society.

None of these activities would be possible without the dedication of numerous volunteers, sponsors, and IAM Board Members. I sincerely appreciate all of you for contributing to IAM's extraordinary achievements this year.

Please join us at the General Body Meeting on December 10, 2005.

Sincerely,

**Dilip K. Mallick**  
2005 President of IAM



## 2005 IAM Achievement Award: Nominations Sought

IAM currently is seeking nominations for its 2005 Annual Achievement Award. The award will be presented at the IAM Annual Dinner. Candidates may be nominated under one or more of the following categories:

- Dedicated service to the community;
- Excellence or innovation in the arts;
- Special contribution in leadership and mentoring.

The Achievement Award is intended to recognize individuals or organizations for achieving excellence in their fields, promoting the interests of the Asian-Indian community in Minnesota, and advancing understanding between the Indian community and the community at large.

Submit your written nominations by December 15th, 2005, to Dilip Mallick at: [dilipkmallick@yahoo.com](mailto:dilipkmallick@yahoo.com), or by mail to:

IAM,  
P.O. Box 130158,  
St. Paul, MN 55113

## Community Organizations Meeting Update:

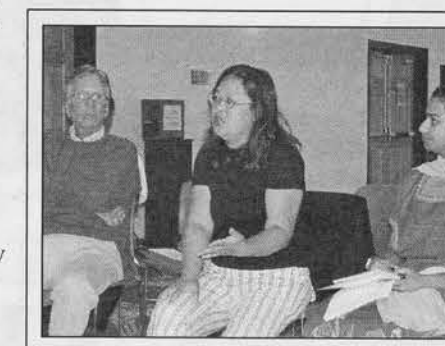
Continuing an IAM initiative to bring Twin Cities Indian community organizations together, representatives from twenty such groups met for the third time this year on September 25<sup>th</sup> to share information, discuss common issues, and explore ways to collaborate. Besides IAM, twenty organizations took part, among them groups centered around the arts, various religions, social services/issues, Indian regions, and charitable activities.

The meeting, hosted by the Muslim Community Center Al-Rahman, began with a tour of the Bloomington facility, followed by a brief overview of the Center's history from Mr. Ikram-ul-Huq. Feedback from attendees indicated that they found much value in the opportunity to learn about MCCR and visit the organization's site. The group hopes to build upon this experience by having future meetings hosted by a different organization each time.



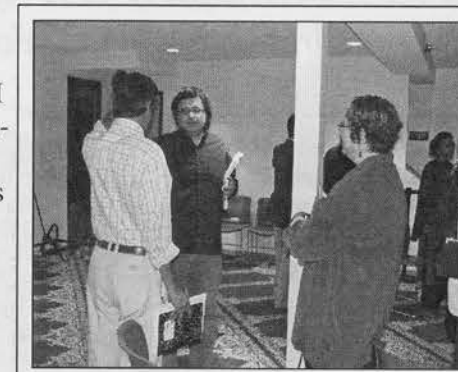
Another feature of the afternoon was a presentation by Ilean Her, executive director of the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans (CAPM). Created by the Minnesota legislature in 1985, CAPM, consists of appointees from the various Minnesota Asian communities. It advises the governor and legislature on issues pertaining to Asian Pacific Minnesotans, advocates on issues of importance to

them, and acts as a broker between the Asian Pacific community and the larger Minnesotan society. Ms. Her shared some of the activities initiated by CAPM to bring different Asian groups in Minnesota. In particular, she talked about the annual Dragon Festival, at which various Asian communities showcase their cultures to the broader Minnesota community.



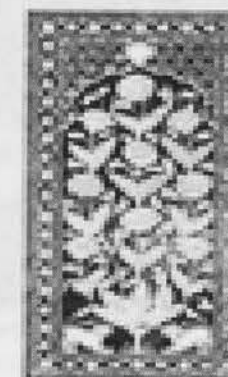
Ms. Her talked about how the festival has grown since its inception in appeal, financial sponsorship, and attendance—from 2,000 attendees to 15,000 last year. The efforts that led to this growth, she pointed out, could be instructive to groups grappling with how to raise funds or event attendance.

Attention next turned to the Indian Music Society of Minnesota (IMSOM), which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and a presentation by one of its members, Mr. A. Pavan. Mr. Pavan talked about IMSOM's focus upon education, promotion and presentation of Indian classical music throughout Minnesota, and he discussed the key aspects of the organization's operational success, among them, IMSOM's creation of expansive and detailed procedure manuals. Attendees expressed great interest in the operational efficiencies to be gained by having such manuals, and Mr. Pavan offered to make IMSOM's manuals available to any of the organizations that wished to look at them more closely.



Besides the formal presentations, attendees discussed the upcoming activities and events of their respective organizations, requested participation from one another, and brainstormed about topics for future meetings. Upon the meeting's adjournment, the energized participants continued informal discussion over delicious snacks, courtesy of their hosts at the Muslim Community Center.

The next Community Organizations meeting will be held in January 2006. Organizations that serve or have ties to the Indian community in Minnesota and would like to participate should contact Sandhya Gupta ([sandhya@iamn.org](mailto:sandhya@iamn.org) or 952/942-6194) or Ramona Advani ([Ramona@iamn.org](mailto:Ramona@iamn.org) or 612/825-6632).





## A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS...

More Scenes from recent IAM and other Community Events:



## Heeding the Call: Minnesotans Go South To Help Katrina-Ravaged Communities

### Go South.

There are times when one feels the urge to do something, and 2005 has seen many of these moments. Responding to a posting on a mailing list, my plans for the long Labor Day weekend started to morph. Sudha and Lithani would be the resource/support team, while Aria, Diana, Lynne and I decided to be the drivers going to Mississippi. The first team of *North Serves South* was in shape and ready to go.

After a successful Friday collecting donations, we set off on Saturday morning in the donated 24' Minnesota Family Project truck and a 10' trailer on a Ford pick up truck. The large truck was about half filled, and the support team back home was working on contacting community groups in other states to set up collection points at which we could fill up the truck.

Driving through the fertile belt of South-East Minnesota, we hit upon the idea of approaching farms along the way for their excess produce—after all, early September is the peak of harvest season. The support team contacted organic farms and farmers' markets in Southern Wisconsin, and within a couple of hours we had 3 bushels (about 3000 pounds) of fresh organic apples, 30 dozen ears of corn and more than a dozen melons and many bags of squash to pick up from family farms across southern WI.

Tired yet excited, we met Brenda at a parking lot in Mt. Vernon at 2 a.m. on Sunday. Our next step was to buy gas cans and fill them up in Memphis. But faced with the news that there were no such cans to be found within an hour of the city, we decided to take the next exit and go asking for them from the small towns and villages in the countryside. An hour later, we were back on the freeway, laden with cans plus two 30 gallon drums.

### The land that saw the hurricane.

ETAs are meant to be estimates, and the events of Monday exemplified that. Our arrival time in Jackson required quite a few revisions, each vindicated by the load of fresh produce and supplies we were able to pick up along the way. If one didn't notice the long lines near gas stations, or the unusual number of trucks and heavy vehicles

on the highways, Jackson seemed like any other city of its size. Pastor Jeff and Dr. Stacy met us off the freeway, and as we drove south, the landscape started revealing scars from the hurricane - billboards ripped into pieces here, blown down there; a direction board here and a huge tree there; and of course, the increasing density of shrub and chopped tree limbs that lined the highway.

Councilman Bill Stallworth, Pastor Jeff's brother, received us in Biloxi, where we welcomed a much needed shower and sleep. On Monday morning, we went to the Missionary Baptist Church in Biloxi. The smell of dead fish and moist everything reeked through the morning air—it wasn't hard to associate it with death. Nor could we miss the many trees that had snapped, the destroyed bridge across the Bay of Biloxi, or the many, many houses that were flattened. A few houses here and there seemed to be untouched; after talking to the locals we realized that almost all of these were either less than two years old or built of brick and mortar ... three little pigs and the big bad wolf?

On the Main Street of Biloxi, we helped unload another truck filled with coal, bread, hot dogs and more. We unloaded the apples pallets from our vehicles, and a human chain sped up unloading of all the smaller items. The elders of the church who were organizing the unloaded items called a halt after we had unloaded about half of the general stuff and less than a third of the water. They now had enough water for more than a week and there were other groups who would be able to use the remaining supplies we carried.

### Lessons brought home.

Talking with a CBS crew, I tried to emphasize that we were not trying to replace or replicate the efforts of big organizations like FEMA or Red Cross; we were concentrating on things they could not do—bringing in fresh produce, linking up with the coordinators on the ground and getting resources that they felt were needed. In the aftermath of disaster, more often than not, agencies large and small concentrate on the worst affected areas,

leaving the badly affected areas, with very little assistance. On reaching Ovett, about 2 hours north of the Gulf coast, our assessment was vindicated.

We started driving back on Tuesday evening, driving through the night. We reached home on Wednesday evening. Hours later, we were at a local fundraiser, showing photographs from our trip and describing our experiences. After that, it was time for some hard-earned sleep!

Since my volunteering with North Serves South in early September, many other volunteers have made multiple trips to Ovett and Biloxi, continuing the relationship that we established.

Contributed by Dwijayendra Nath Guru

### GET INVOLVED!

*Talk to those who volunteer, and they will tell you that the rewards of connecting with and contributing in the community are immeasurable. Here are a few ways in which you can get involved:*

**Volunteer Teachers.** SILC needs volunteers to teach Hindi, Social studies, and Arts/Crafts. Contact Kani Kannan at 763-420-7322 or [kanikkannan@hotmail.com](mailto:kanikkannan@hotmail.com).

**Food Servers.** Help serve food at the House of Charity in downtown Minneapolis on the last Saturday of the month. The work is easy—just dishing out already prepared food from appx. 10 to 11:30 a.m. One also can sponsor a meal by donating \$100. Sunanda Apte-Kakade, who coordinates the IAM volunteers, says, "I have found this almost effortless activity tremendously rewarding and spiritually uplifting." Contact Sunanda at 651/747-6627 or [sunanda\\_apte\\_kakade@yahoo.com](mailto:sunanda_apte_kakade@yahoo.com).

*If you know of a community organization or effort in need of volunteers, please contact Ramona Advani at [Ramona@iamn.org](mailto:Ramona@iamn.org) or 612/825-6632 to post the opportunity in the IAM newsletter.*



INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA  
P.O. BOX 130158  
ST. PAUL, MN 55113

Phone: (763)-546-9393  
e-mail: [president@iamn.org](mailto:president@iamn.org)  
<http://www.iamn.org>

#### IAM 2005 Board Officers

President	Dilip K Mallick (763)-546-9393
Vice President	Ramesh Muniswamy (651)-994-8015
Treasurer	Nitin Patil (952)-896-9780
Secretary	Shalini Thadani (651)-734-0645



#### IAM 2005 Board Members

Bhairavi Mahant	(651)-739-8108
Datta Godbole	(763)-551-1620
Devesh Chandra	(952)-607-2146
Dilip Mallick	(763)-546-9393
Guptan Nambudiripad	(651)-698-0866
Nitin Patil	(952)-896-9780
Pranab Chatterjee	(651)-714-2980
Rabinder K Bains	(651)-735-4322
Raji Shankar	(651)-730-5966
Ramesh Muniswamy	(651)-994-8015
Ramona Advani	(612)-825-6632
Rob Ramer	(651)-644-9890
Sandhya Gupta	(952)-942-6194
Sanghamitra Sahu	(763)-593-1403
Sanjukta Misra	(952)-914-9791
Shalini Thadani	(651)-734-0645
Shambhu Nath	(952)-496-9119
Shivanthi Sathanandan	(651)-698-0774
Syed Ghazi Akailvi	(651)-292-0468

#### Newsletter Committee for 2005

Ramona Advani, Rob Ramer,  
Sanjukta Misra, Sandhya Gupta  
and Sanghamitra Sahu

#### Indian and Other Businesses

If you are interested in advertising in the next issue of the Newsletter, please contact any of the following Newsletter committee members by January 10, 2006.

Ramona Advani	(612)-825-6632
Sanjukta Misra	(952)-914-9791
Sandhya Gupta	(952)-942-6194
Sanghamitra Sahu	(763)-593-1403

Cost of advertising are as follows:

Business Card Size:	\$50/issue
Half Page:	\$150/issue
Full Page:	\$300/issue

Note: Our first issue for 2006 will be published in January.

*Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well.*

*-Mahatma Gandhi*

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA  
2701 BRUNSWICK AVE N APT 209  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55422-2579  
INDIA58\* T551132519 1105 14 12/03/05

RETURN TO SENDER  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55406-1013  
2109 24TH AVE S  
RAMESH AGNES NANCY PTN TO SEND 09 11/28/05  
RAME920 TIME EXP 1604  
FORWARD 551042506

Agnese Ramer

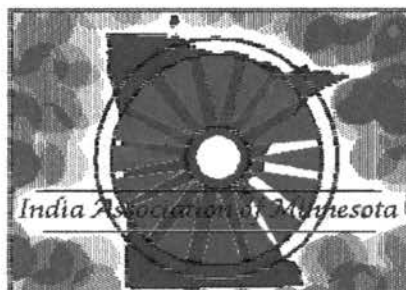


INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA  
P.O. BOX 130158  
ST. PAUL, MN 55113



Press Release  
By Dilip K Mallick

December 29, 2004



[www.iamn.org](http://www.iamn.org)

India Association Of Minnesota expresses its deepest sympathy to the families who have lost their love ones and victims caused by the earthquake in the magnitude of 8.9 rector scale resulting tsunamis in the Indian Ocean on Dec 26.

Today death toll reached 10,850, with many thousands of people still missing, according to official figures as follows,

In Tamil Nadu, 6,073 confirmed dead,

In Kerala, the death toll rose to 106

In Andhra Pradesh nearly 104

Union Territory of Pondicherry reported 506 deaths.

The police chief on the Andaman and Nicobar islands announced on Monday that at least 3,000 people had died and as many were missing.

Relief and rehabilitation efforts are already in full swing in the affected areas.

The armed forces and paramilitary forces and charitable Organizations are assisting in providing relief to all those affected areas.

The IAM will do as much as possible to provide relief to the victims. I am sure each one of us will voluntarily extend help and support to the best of our ability and sprit.

It is an appeal to all of you to join IAM in dealing with this tragedy.

## Long-range Vision and Plan for the India Association of Minnesota

### **Introduction**

The India Association was founded in 1973 (its original name was the India Club) as a non-profit organization to build a sense of community and identity among newly arrived students and professionals from India. The avowed purpose of the organization was to serve as the vehicle for bringing together a diverse group of people who were originally from India or who had an interest in India. Right from the beginning, the Association was committed to non-political, secular interests. The Association has served an important role over all these years. It has become identified with a core set of established events and activities such as the Festival of India in the early fall, participation in the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural Festival of Nations in the spring, an Annual Dinner in mid-winter, and an Annual Picnic in mid-summer. The Association also produced the first telephone directory of the Asian Indian community in 1998.

The Association continually seeks to become a more effective and visible organization within the Asian Indian community. We are also committed to becoming a leader among similar institutions in the entire country. To achieve this end, the Association must be oriented towards tangible results and must demonstrate leadership in bringing cohesion to the Asian Indian population. We must take advantage of our strengths, recognize our weaknesses, and be prepared to seize the opportunities that come our way.

Our principal strength is that we have been in operation for over thirty years; we understand and are committed to our Mission. The Association has a distinctive quality and we have a well-established core set of events that we participate in on an annual basis. We recognize that our community is highly educated and high earning. This is true, by and large, of the immigrant population that came here decades ago, and also true of second-generation Indian Americans.

Our principal weakness is that we are still a small organization with a rather low level of membership. The principal reason for this is that IAM has not been able to sell itself to the community. That is, IAM has not been able to articulate a rationale that would induce more people to become members of the Association. For entirely understandable reasons, the Indian American population continues to identify itself along regional, linguistic or religious lines and that perhaps stands in the way of enhancing a truly "Indian" identity.

But this is what presents us with our greatest opportunity. We are well suited to articulating our values and our strengths, both to ourselves and to the broader population. For example, the IAM held a major event in 1997 marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence. This event brought together many regional and linguistic groups to

celebrate our national heritage and identity. IAM must persist in its efforts to bring together our diverse community.

### **What does our community want?**

Over the past few years several special meetings have been held to understand the types of events and activities that the Asian Indian community considers most critical. The general consensus of these meetings has been that IAM is an important and valuable organization serving a deeply felt need of the community. The community wants an organization that is non-political and secular, an organization that will dialog with all groups and create a cohesive "Indian" identity. People have also noted that IAM must increase its visibility in the community, participate to a greater extent in social service and charitable work, and involve all segments of the community, including youth, young adults, women, and senior citizens. Observers have also noted that IAM must spearhead a fundraising drive to build an "India Center" to house resources for the community and provide a meeting place for members of the community.

### **What do we do with their expressed needs?**

Guided by the priorities expressed by our membership, IAM must focus on all or a subset of the following activities in order to increase its visibility among the Asian Indian population. IAM must make a renewed and determined commitment to undertake in the next three years as many activities as possible from the list below. The list is, obviously, not an exhaustive list and the items below are not presented in any prioritized manner.

- (a) IAM must develop a high quality web page and other electronic resources, including an up-to-date directory of businesses and individuals. The first printed IAM Directory was very well received by the community and became identified as an activity of the Association. We must devote resources to update the Directory. The Directory must be a self-financing enterprise with advertising revenue able to cover the production cost. Perhaps IAM should devote resources to hire a couple of young, experienced database management experts who can undertake the work of updating the existing Directory.
- (b) IAM must take advantage of every opportunity to increase the Association's presence at meetings and other activities typical of other similar ethnic associations in the region. The recent participation of IAM in the Asian community's Dragon Festival as well as other activities of the Asian Pacific Leadership Council is commendable and should be continued.
- (c) The IAM brochure should be made available at all Indian commercial establishments such as Indian grocery stores, Indian restaurants, offices of realtors, etc. This will inform more of our community about the existence of IAM.



- (d) Many regional and linguistic groups have their own regularly published newsletters. IAM should attempt to put a small article or announcements of upcoming events in each of them to raise its own visibility within the Asian Indian community. For example, IAM should commission an article on a profile of the Asian Indian population in Minnesota and publish that same article in the various regional newsletters. Such an article will potentially be of immense interest to all regional groups.
- (e) IAM should make every effort to raise its own visibility in the local news media. This could be accomplished, for example, by submitting op-ed articles with authorship by the IAM President. Indeed, an op-ed article addressing the theme of unity in diversity highlighting the fact that the 2004 national elections in India brought a diverse group into major leadership positions in the country would have brought attention to our community.
- (f) IAM collaborated with the Minnesota Historical Society to record the experiences of Asian Indian immigrants as these immigrants settled in Minnesota in the 1960s and subsequently. The first two stages of this ethnographic history project were completed in 1995. IAM must vigorously pursue the completion of successive phases of the project. Such a project has the potential to appeal to second-generation Indian Americans.
- (g) IAM must take a leadership role in the educational field, starting from elementary school and going to college and university matters. IAM must assign a sub-committee to develop state-of-the-art materials, including PowerPoint files, to be available for presentation at schools. At the higher education levels, IAM must establish connections with the University of Minnesota and with the other smaller liberal arts colleges in the region. At several leading universities in the country local Indian Americans have raised money to endow professorships in South Asian Studies; the IAM must play a leadership role in this endeavor with the U. A few years ago IAM played an important role in the U's decision to expand its Indian language and culture offerings. This role must continue.
- (h) IAM must establish a Liaison Committee for Indian Community Affairs to strengthen its connections with the rest of the Indian community. IAM must spearhead an annual meeting with the leadership of various regional and other organizations to discuss ways of furthering relationships between these groups. IAM must also make every effort to recruit for its Board those individuals who have played prominent roles in various organizations. We recognize that it is a difficult undertaking to get all groups to participate in an annual meeting; nonetheless, a beginning must be made. We acknowledge that participation by all of the various organizations will not be immediately forthcoming, but we are confident that participation will increase over time.

## **Conclusion**

The India Association of Minnesota is a vibrant organization but faces certain challenges. It has been in existence for over three decades but it has struggled to establish a real presence in the Twin Cities. It faces competition for the time and talent of individuals who have a large menu of choices that satisfy their religious, cultural, and social needs. As a consequence, we must seek to redirect and consolidate our energies rather than set out into new initiatives and wholly unfamiliar territory.

IAM's ability to achieve its unique and distinctive mission depends fundamentally on the people who constitute its Board of Directors, its Trustee Advisory Council, and its Membership. The dedication, commitment, and talents of these individuals will lead IAM to more fully achieve its mission. IAM must continue to recruit and retain the most highly motivated individuals from all segments of the Asian Indian community, especially those individuals who are motivated by secular, non-partisan "all-India" concerns and issues. The Trustee Advisory Council is a new body, created to provide long-term perspective to the Association. We anticipate that the Board, especially the Executive Committee of the Board, and the TAC will meet on a regular basis to discuss IAM affairs. Broadly participative governance of the Association will strengthen the organization.



## **Mission Statement: India Association of Minnesota**

The India Association of Minnesota, a not-for-profit organization, represents people with an interest in the culture and heritage of India to **build** a sense of cohesiveness within this community, **represent** the community to the population at large, and **serve** as the focal point for advancing the educational, cultural, and charitable interests of the community.

To realize our mission and vision we conduct the following activitiesⓈnot in this order)

1. Articulate our values and heritage to ourselves and our succeeding generations
2. Establish strong relationships with other Asian-Pacific organizations
3. Raise the visibility of the community in the news media, in matters of public policy, in academic institutions and in businesses in Minnesota and the rest of country to realize the mission of IAM
4. Maintain relationships with organizations of similar interest in other parts of USA
5. Sponsor and conduct community service activities in Minnesota
6. Sponsor and support activities for charitable purposes in India
7. Educate the broader community about India's diverse cultural values and heritage
8. Contribute to the broader understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism and diversity
9. Work towards establishing a India Center
10. Provide a forum where members of the community will enjoy coming together
11. Encourage and support the activities of sister organizations promoting youth education, women issues, and the interests of the elderly (such as SILC, AIWA, 55Plus groups)
12. Demonstrate the community's good citizenship and commitment to the values of a pluralistic society.

**Analyze** how well the current and future activities meet the stated 12 objectives in our mission statement  
The data will be used to evaluate how well each of the activities meet the stated objectives, identify gaps in our stated objectives.

[illegible]

## Ratings of activities

Festival of India	2754
Festival of Nations	2396
Annual mtg of indian community organizations / leaders	2206
SILC	2170
Cultural center	2102
Oral Histroy Project	2100
Interfaith Prayer	2042
Picnic	2000
Minnesota-India relations (eg Gujarat Project)	1986
55 Plus sponsorship	1910
Website	1820
Minnesota-Indian Events (Wellstone for example)	1817
AIWA support	1758
Directory	1722
Annual Dinner	1676
Newsletter	1588
Soup Kitchen	1560
First Call for Help	1498
MN-Indian Business support (eg ?)	1294

## Conclusions

- 7. Educate the broader community about India's diverse cultural values and heritage
  - High importance rating but fewer activities
- 5. Sponsor and conduct community service activities in Minnesota
  - Only one activity; need to improve here
- 9. Work towards establishing a India Center. High in importance and no activities.
  - Only one activity list

## Rating of activities against mission objectives

	Importance Rating	Festival of Nations	Festival of India	Annual Dinner	Picnic	Soup Kitchen	Interfaith Prayer	Minnesota-Indian Events (Wellstone for example)	Oral History Project	Newsletter	Website	Minnesota-India relations (eg Gujarat Project)
<b>IAM Customers</b>												
1. Articulate our values and heritage to ourselves and our succeeding generations	9	45	43	19	37	29	35	8	45	19	19	27
2. Establish strong relationships with other Asian-Pacific organizations	4	21	17	13	11	11	31	17	9	15	19	5
3. Raise the visibility of the community in the news media, in matters of public policy, in academic institutions and in businesses in Minnesota and the rest of country to realize the mission of IAM	9	25	37	27	25	17	41	37	35	21	27	25
4. Maintain relationships with organizations of similar interest in other parts of USA	4	13	7	9	9	5	7	13	21	21	21	27
5. Sponsor and conduct community service activities in Minnesota	7	17	23	13	17	37	21	13	9	11	11	15
6. Sponsor and support activities for charitable purposes in India	5	9	9	7	9	13	7	5	5	9	9	43
7. Educate the broader community about India's diverse cultural values and heritage	9	37	39	13	27	9	25	21	29	15	23	13
8. Contribute to the broader understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism and diversity	7	41	35	15	17	15	31	25	29	19	23	19
9. Work towards establishing a India Center	8	11	19	19	7	5	9	17	15	19	21	15
10. Make it a fun loving organization	10	37	41	31	37	11	11	21	17	19	19	23
11. Encourage and support the activities of sister organizations promoting youth education, women issues, and the interests of the elderly (such as SILC, AIWA, 55Plus groups)	9	19	35	21	23	15	11	23	27	29	31	25
12. Demonstrate the community's good citizenship	7	31	37	25	29	41	43	37	25	13	17	35
<b>Relative Importance</b>		2396	2754	1676	2000	1560	2042	1817	2100	1588	1820	1986

**Green** = High (35 -45), **yellow**= med (25 -35), **pink** = low (15-25), **white** = v low





# July 9th-10th 88 Dragon Festival

Lake Phalen & Park, Saint Paul, MN

Out of the Desire to celebrate their rich and diverse culture, arises an annual festival that brings the API (Asian Pacific Islander) communities in the Twin Cities together. To continue this great annual event Dragon Festival & Boat Races invites anyone to become a sponsor and (or) participate of this unique gathering.

[www.dragonfestival.org](http://www.dragonfestival.org)  
(FREE ADMISSION)



# 2005 Dragon Festival Committee

**Fiscal Agent:**

CAPI (Central American Pacific Islander)

**General Contact:**

Ami Nafzger (drngenfestival@yahoo.com)

**Executive Committee:**

Evelyn Lee

Dilip K Mallick

Ami Nafzger

Pacyinz Lyfoung

*Chair*

*Vice Chair*

*General Manager/Secretary*

*Treasurer*

**Dragon Boat Race Committee:**

Dilip K Mallick

Leo Treadway

Ron Soppeland

Mark La Fon

Kurt Mattsen

*Chair*

*Advisor*

*ADBA Liaison*

*Hospitality*

*Opening/Closing Ceremonies*

**Cultural Arts and Family Entertainment Committee:**

Evelyn Lee

Jennifer Chang

Kim Tran

Pearl Bergad

Dr. Tin Win

Dr. Ba Win

Ying Ying Chen

Bryan Thao Worra

*Chair*

*Cultural Performances*

*Martial Arts*

*Family Entertainment*

*Family Entertainment*

*Family Entertainment*

*Family Entertainment*

*Artist Exhibition*

**General Site, Vendor and Volunteer Committee:**

Ami Nafzger

Somly Sitthisay

Ranjan Goswami

Ko Ko Aung

Yin toon Chen

Amy Twe

Aron Spiess

San Daw

Edmond Vinh To

*Chair*

*Park and Parking*

*Hand Book & Policy*

*Food Vendors*

*Exhibitor/Merchant Vendors*

*Exhibits and Merchandise*

*Publicity*

*Webmaster*

*Graphic/Web Consultant*

**Finance committee:**

Pacyinz Lyfoung

Judy Hohmann

Vong Thor

Ilean Her

Leo Treadway

David Sterling

*Chair*

*Silent Auction*

*Festival Merchandise*

*Grant Application*

*Grant Application*

*Business Liaison*



## Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Requesting

### 2004 ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATION SUBMISSIONS

St. Paul, MN – The month of May is nearly upon us, and together with the spirited overtones of spring, come four weeks filled with exciting and provocative activities celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans is currently seeking a diverse collection of nomination submissions for its *2004 Annual Leadership Awards*. A committee of five Council board members will determine this year's recipients. Depending upon the number of nominations received, four or five awards will be granted. The date, time, and location of the Award Ceremony will be announced soon.

#### THE COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS HONORS INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE:

- X ♦ Achieved excellence in his or her field
- ♦ Contributed to the well-being of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community
- X ♦ Displayed leadership to advance social, economic, or educational spheres for people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent living in Minnesota

#### CANDIDATES ARE TO BE NOMINATED UNDER ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- ♦ Overcoming Personal Adversity
- ♦ Dedicated Service to the Community
- X ♦ Excellence or Innovation in the Arts
- X ♦ Special Contribution in Leadership or Mentoring

#### NOMINATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- ♦ Submit **1 Original** and **5 Stapled Copies** of the nomination materials for a total of **6 COPIES**.
  - > Documents submitted will not be returned (**Items of Personal Value Should Not Be Submitted**)
  - > We suggest the nominator make a copy of the materials for his or her record
- ♦ We must **RECEIVE** nomination materials no later than **THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2004 AT 4:00 P.M.**
  - > Materials may be **Mailed** or **Hand Delivered**
  - > Please enclose all materials in a large **10" x 13"** envelope—or equivalent—and address it as follows:

**2004 Heritage Month Award Nominations**  
**Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans**  
**658 Cedar Street, Suite 160**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155**

**DISCLAIMER:** Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans board members, staff, or their immediate family members **MAY NOT** submit nominations or write letters of support for any nominee. These same individuals may not be nominated for an award, though it is acceptable to have an affiliation with a nominated organization. Nominations for those who have previously won a Council Leadership Award, out of fairness, will not be accepted.

# 2004 Annual Award Nomination Instructions

- \* Call the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans with questions at 651.296.0538 or e-mail [jovita.bjoraker@state.mn.us](mailto:jovita.bjoraker@state.mn.us)
- \* Nominator or Co-Nominators Are Asked to **Compile and Submit 6 Copies** of All Materials Below in the Order Listed

## I. NOMINATION LETTER:

- > **1 - 2 page, type written** letter from the nominator(s)
- > Give a detailed description explaining why the nominee is an excellent candidate for an award
- > Specific examples should be used
- > Please include any personal or emotionally compelling reasons which capture your heartfelt belief in the nominee as a deserving candidate
- > Include nomination category(s) from the list on page one

⇒ At the end of the letter—on a third page if necessary—please document the following for:

### **BOTH the NOMINEE & the NOMINATOR**

1. Full, Correct Spelling of Name
2. Complete Mailing Address (including city, state, and zip)
3. Home Phone Number (including area code)
4. Work Phone Number (including area code)
5. Cell Phone Number (including area code)
6. Fax Number (including area code)
7. E-mail Address
8. If nominating an organization, list information above for two contacts

## II. LETTERS OF SUPPORT: (Please read the disclaimer at the bottom of page one).

- > **1 page, type written letter** from **two** additional people supporting the nomination.
- > It is most helpful if each writer can offer unique perspectives on the nominee
- > It is highly preferable that each know the nominee in distinct capacities
- > Letters should paint a well-informed, thorough testament of the nominee's qualifications; make a case for strong consideration by the committee; and communicate confidence in his or her endorsement of the nominee

## III. **A RESUME** and a **2 - 4 PARAGRAPH BIOGRAPHY** of candidate (nominee may prepare documents)


## IV. **OPTIONAL:** Copies of press coverage, sample work, brief stories, history, etc. (Encouraged if Available)

## V. **PHOTOGRAPH:** Submit **One 3" x 5"** or **4" x 6"** color photo. Black & white acceptable.

### **IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ BEFORE SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS**

1. Co-Nominators are allowed. **It is the nominator(s) responsibility to compile all the nomination materials** and submit them in the manner outlined above & on Page one under *Nomination Submission Guidelines*. **Nominees may not turn in the materials to the Council**—either by mail or hand delivery.
2. A nominee may be chosen for an award in a category other than the one listed by the nominator(s).





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# Pangea World Theater

Pangea World Theater is committed to international works, styles and traditions that illuminate the human condition, end divisiveness and celebrate differences. We strive to bring communities across the world together through theater productions, workshops and speakers. We view the stage as a powerful international forum and a podium for discussion. Throughout our work we employ a cross-ethnic vision of tolerance and human rights through excellence in the arts.

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## PAST PRODUCTIONS

[Conference of the Birds \[1996\]](#) - Written by : Meena Natarajan Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[Silent Children \[1997\]](#) - Written by : David Mura and Meena Natarajan Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[The Winged Seed \[1997\]](#) - Written by : David Mura Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[The Inner World \[1998\]](#) - Written by : Meena Natarajan Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[Freedom Songs \[1998\]](#) - Written by : Susana Di Palma, Seitu Jones, Lizz Cruz Peterson, Luu Pham, Namgyal Purbu, Barb Ryan, U Sam Oeur Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[Playland \[1998\]](#) - Written by : Athol Fugard Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[Ajax \[1999\]](#) - Written by : Sophocles Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[Prayers for the Future \[1999\]](#) - Written By : Meena Natarajan Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[Bearing Witness \[1999\]](#) - Written by : Meena Natarajan, Luu Pham Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[Not in My Season of Songs \[1999\]](#) - Written by : Awam Amkpa Directed by : Awam Amkpa

[Songs of the Heart \[1999\]](#) - Written by : Meena Natarajan Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

[Rashomon \[2000\]](#) - Written by : Meena Natarajan, Luu Pham Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

Journeys [2000] - Written by : e. g. baily, Sha Chase, Ananya Chatterjea, Liliana Espondaburu, Sean LaRocca, Gary Murphy, / Panelli, Kathy Randels, Barbara Ryan, Meena Natarajan Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

Rhinoceros [2000] - Written by : Eugene Ionesco Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

No Longer At Ease [2001] - Written by : e. g. baily Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

✕ Indigenous Voices Series: Mapaki [2001] - Written and Directed by : Dianna Fuemna

Imagining Worlds [2001] - Created by: Dipankar Mukherjee, Susana Di Palma, Shanu Lahiri, Ta-Coumba Aiken and An Chatterjea

— Partitions [2001] - Written by : Meena Natarajan Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

✕ Voices of Exile : South Asian Cabaret [2002]

Indigenous Voices Series : James Luna The Storyteller [2002] - Written and Directed by : James Luna  
Accompaniment : Harold Siva

— Arey! Sharif Log! [2002] - Written by : Jaywant Dalvi Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

— Shelter [2003] - Written by : Dwight Hobbes Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

Pangea World Theater 2003 Benefit featuring Olympia Dukakis


— Voices of Exile : Hmong Community [2003]

Tales From Ovid [2003] - Written by : Ted Hughes Adapted by : Tim Supple and Simon Reade Directed by : Dipankar Mukherjee

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## INDIGENOUS VOICES SERIES

*featuring James Luna, Storyteller*

Intermedia Arts

2822 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN

November 22-24, 2002  
8:00 PM

...


This year, we continued our *Indigenous Voices Series* with national artist James Luna from California. A Lusieño Indian, Luna's works critique the mythology of what it means to be "Indian" in contemporary American society. Often dealing with difficult issues affecting Indian communities, sometimes confronting the situation head-on while at other times incorporating humor and lightheartedness as both balance and salve, his performances and installations are provocative. He employs a variety of media such found objects, audio, video and slides to create environments that function as both aesthetic and political statements. Audiences are



confronted with cultural identity, cultural isolation and cultural misinterpretation, all from a Native perspective. The 2002 *Indigenous Voices Series* was co-produced with Intermedia Arts.

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## Pangea World Theater presents

### Voices of Exile series

Press Release

### Voices from the Hmong community

*"This concrete jungle will not break who I am. I am Hmong and Hmong means free, free to choose, free to live and free to chase my dreams, not yours, but my own. I am Hmong and I will be free"*

*-Excerpt from William Yang's What It Is To Be Hmong*

**Date:** Saturday, August 9, 2003  
6 P. M. Social Hour & Appetizers  
7 P. M. Cabaret Performance  
Dinner after the Performance

**Venue:** Asian Cuisine  
945 Rice Street, Suite A  
St. Paul, MN 55117

Hear the voices of exile proclaim that exile does have a choice. Our daily internal battles may beat us down. But as a collective, we are able to break free. hold on to what we have. and bring about a new

understanding of what it means to be Hmong.

Please join Pangea World Theater in this collaboration of artistic expression performed by rising new talent within the Hmong community.

**Artists:** Youa Chang, traditional poetry  
Tou Saiko Lee, spoken word  
Yeng Lor, visual  
Leng Moua, lyricist  
David Thao, lyricist  
A-yia Thoj, performance  
Saychay Thor, writer  
Hlee Vang, performance  
Victor Vang, spoken word  
Chuekou Vue, lyricist  
Pingsue Vue, lyricist  
May Lee Yang, writer  
William Yang, spoken word


**Curator/ Project Coordination:** Saychay Thor

**Project Advisors:** Lee Vang and KaShia T. Moua

Interested in finding out about future productions?  
Call 612-822-0015 for more info.

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## Performing Artists

- ...**Sraddha Helfrich**, movement, *India*
- ...**Charles Amjad Ali**, narrative, *Pakistan*
- ...**Sachin Patel**, narrative, *India*
- ...**Joy Islam**, rhythm, *Bangladesh*
- ...**Preeti Kaur**, poetry, *India*
- ...**Jaya Shankar Perez**, poetry, *India/U.S.*
- ...**Mir Ali Hussain**, MC, *India*
- ...**Heather Jansz**, music, *Sri Lanka*
- ...**Preeti Kaur**, poetry, *India*

## Visual Artists

- ...**Chamindika Wanduragula**, visual, *Sri Lanka*
- ...**Ali Raza**, visual, *Pakistan*

## VOICES OF EXILE South Asian Cabaret

Tandoor Restaurant  
8062 Morgan Circle South, Bloomington, MN

Sunday, October 27, 2002  
6:00 PM - Tea and Social  
7:00 PM - Performance  
Dinner is included

Pangea World Theater will be engaging new and underserved audiences through this program. Writers drawn from the refugee and immigrant communities, and communities of color will receive support to develop plays in their native language for audiences from their communities. This year, we will work with the South Asian and Hmong communities. On October 27th, the Voices of Exile Cabaret will feature artists from the Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Tibetan and Sri Lankan communities. Pangea World Theater will endeavor to create an environment of intergenerational dialogue through this program to bridge differences so prevalent between generations in these communities. Works

between generations in these communities. Works created by members of the community's older generation will be made accessible to the younger generation and encourage discussion and understanding of their heritage. These works will serve to encourage the richness of artistic expression from within "exile" communities. The event will include poetry, performance art, spoken word, and visual arts.

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**Nomination for 2004 Leadership Award:**

3/25/2004

**Organization - Pangea World Theater**

**Founders: Dipankar Mukherjee – Artistic Director**

**Meena Natarajan – Literary Director**

**Category:**

- **Excellence or Innovation in the Arts**
- **Special Contribution in Leadership or Mentoring**

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the India Association of Minnesota, I would like to nominate Pangea World Theater and its founding directors, Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan, for the 2004 Asian Pacific Leadership Awards.

Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan founded the organization in 1995 with an inclusive vision: "Pangea World Theater is committed to international works, styles and traditions that illuminate the human condition, end divisiveness and celebrate differences. We strive to bring communities across the world together through theater productions, workshops and speakers. We view the stage as a powerful international forum and a podium for discussion. Throughout our work, we employ a cross-ethnic vision of tolerance and human rights through excellence in the arts." The husband-and-wife team has brought this statement of values to life through their dedicated effort to achieve excellence and innovation in their chosen field.

Pangea's stage productions have consistently given voice to minority communities whose stories and perspectives are rarely heard – whether about the difficulties of cultural assimilation as immigrants for an exiled Chinese family in 'Winged Seed'; about the painful aftermath of violent social divisions created along religious lines by political turmoil in India & Pakistan, explored in the original stage presentation 'Partitions'; or about the personal tragedies behind the statistics of homelessness in 'Shelter'. Meena & Dipankar have stayed true to their ideal of creating & maintaining a multi-ethnic space in the world of theater by using local amateur & professional actors from different ethnic groups - such as Kuljit Kaur, David Mura, Luu Pham & e.g. Bailey.

Besides the excellent and varied stage productions, Pangea World Theater has also created ongoing programs called 'Voices of Exile' and 'Indigenous Voices', for new and underserved audiences. Writers drawn from refugee, immigrant & minority communities receive support to develop plays in their own languages, for audiences from their own communities. These programs have featured Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Tibetan, Sri Lankan, Hmong and Native American artists & writers; they provide much-needed support for communities in which there is a dearth of opportunity for artistic expression.



Pangea World Theater's accolades include the 2001 Twin Cities International Citizen Award for its founders, in recognition of their success in creating an intercultural theater that crosses boundaries & traditions, and explores urgent & relevant themes of our times – race relations, freedom, human rights and cross-cultural expression.

In addition to their professional work at Pangea, Dipankar & Meena also find time to make contributions to other organizations which strive to build bridges in society: Dipankar is currently serving on the Board of Directors of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, and Meena is the current President of Women Playwrights' International, an organization that promotes the work of women playwrights all over the world. They have both contributed volunteer time to Amnesty International & the Center for Victims of Torture.

Dipankar Mukherjee & Meena Natarajan have displayed an extraordinary level of leadership and commitment in creating and developing Pangea World Theater. They have succeeded in bringing together people of different ethnicities and backgrounds to create a shared space for engagement & dialogue through their art form; this is evident from a list of their productions and the actors who have brought these productions to life on stage. Their local & international collaborations have consistently focused on artistic organizations & individuals with a humanitarian purpose – they have not only passively put on display the ideas of tolerance and acceptance of diversity, but have actively pursued these ideals and put them into practice in their personal & professional lives. This has been particularly important and uplifting for the immigrant community in the post-September 11<sup>th</sup> world, in which these very ideas have been severely undermined.

As President of the India Association of Minnesota, and as a personal friend, I am proud to put forward this nomination for Pangea World Theater and its two founders, Dipankar Mukherjee & Meena Natarajan, for their special contributions in leadership, excellence and innovation in the arts. These two individuals, who have developed and nurtured this unique organization, deserve to be recognized and honored for their tremendous efforts in promoting a utopian vision of community. I believe we are blessed to have such visionary and energetic leaders in the Asian community, who have managed to build so many bridges in our society through their work at Pangea World Theater – at a time when those bridges have never been more important.

Nomination respectfully submitted by:

Rabinder K. Bains



President, India Association of Minnesota.

Nominator contact details:

Rabinder K. Bains  
2087 Parkview Lane  
Woodbury MN 55125

Tel. (651) 735 4322 (home)  
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Fax: (651) 296 3019

Nominee contact details:

Dipankar Mukherjee, Artistic Director      Cell: (612) 203 2288  
email: [Dipankar@pangeaworldtheater.org](mailto:Dipankar@pangeaworldtheater.org)

Meena Natarajan, Literary Director      Cell: (612) 203 3388  
email: [Meena@pangeaworldtheater.org](mailto:Meena@pangeaworldtheater.org)

Pangea World Theater  
711 W. Lake St., Suite 101  
Minneapolis MN 55408

Tel. (612) 822 0486  
Fax: (612) 822 1070

Home address:

2509 Dupont Ave. S  
Minneapolis MN 55405-3577

Tel. (612) 377 1728



March 24, 2004

2004 Heritage Month Award Nominations  
Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans  
658 Cedar Street, Suite 160  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

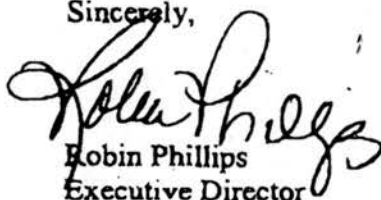
I am writing in support of the nomination of Pangea World Theatre for the 2004 Annual Leadership Award. I have worked with the principals of the theatre, Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan, as Executive Director of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and as a board member of Pangea. Dipankar also sits on our board of directors. Dipankar and Meena embody a personal and professional commitment to human rights, diversity and social justice, and their integrity and values are represented in the work of Pangea.

Pangea's commitment to diversity includes providing opportunities to artists who are not always recognized by more mainstream theatres. Its main stage productions truly represent the multiplicity of cultures in our community and create a new profile for great theatre in the Twin Cities. Pangea's *Voices of Exile* series puts individual immigrant groups on center stage to provide an opportunity for the broader community to experience the depth and richness of the artists from those cultures. In 2002, *Voices of Exile* brought together the South Asian community and in 2003, it showcased artists from the Hmong community.

Minnesota Advocates has collaborated with the Pangea for nearly eight years. Dipankar and Meena have brought their tremendous talents as well as their experiences as first generation immigrants to create powerful works addressing human rights themes. For example, Pangea's production *Shadowlines* was based on Minnesota Advocates' work to dispel anti-immigrant myths and educate the public about the contributions of immigrants to this country. *Shadowlines* brought together 22 artists from different ethnic communities for a performance of music, dance and drama. Pangea also created *Silent Children*, a powerful theatrical piece about child labor that was presented at Minnesota Advocates' annual human rights awards dinner and helped inspire a project to support a school for children at risk for child labor in Nepal. Another production, *Silent Scream*, illustrated the conflict between generations of women in an immigrant family from India. The play dramatized the common experiences of immigrant women following a panel of women from Mexico, Haiti, Laos and India.

Pangea is building a stronger community through excellence in the arts and creative advocacy for important human rights and social justice issues. I hope you will recognize Dipankar and Meena with this award for their leadership and commitment to these important values.

Sincerely,



Robin Phillips  
Executive Director

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650 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, #550 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-1940 USA  
TEL: (612) 341-3302 FAX: (612) 341-2971 [HTTP://WWW.MNADVOCATES.ORG](http://www.mnadvocates.org)  
EMAIL: [hrights@mnadvocates.org](mailto:hrights@mnadvocates.org)

# Appendix 1

## Biographies & Resumes

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE**

Dipankar Mukherjee is a professional director originally from Calcutta, India. He brings with him international experience and intensive training in both classical literature and directing. He was one of the founding members of a professional theater in India and has directed plays in English, Hindi, Bengali and other Indian languages. His credits include *The Birthday Party*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Millionairess*, *Look Back in Anger*, *Five Finger Exercise*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *The Little Clay Cart*. At the Young Vic in London, he worked in the production of Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. In the United States, he worked with the South African playwright, Athol Fugard in his production of *Playland* at the Alliance Theater in Atlanta. In 1992 he was invited to be the Resident Director at the Guthrie Theater where he worked in the productions of *Nagamandala*, *Othello*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *The Rover*, *The Broken Jug* and *K- Impressions of the Trial*. Other credits include Fugard's *The Island* and *Hello and Goodbye*, Vaclav Havel's *Protest*, Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Badal Sircar's *Procession*. He is the artistic director of Abhinaya Theater, a vehicle for South Asian artists and has conducted leadership workshops for youth. He also works with adopted Indian children by conducting workshops that help create bridges between children of Indian origin and adopted Indian children in Minnesota. He has directed landmark productions of *Mother Courage* at the Guthrie Theater, Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* at the Nevada Arts Council and *Nagamandala* at New World Theater in Amherst, Massachusetts. Since the founding of Pangea World Theater in 1995 he has directed its productions of *Conference of the Birds*, *The Winged Seed*, *The Inner World*, *Ajax*, *Bearing Witness*, *Playland*, *Rhinoceros* and *Tales From Ovid*. He has been commissioned by Amnesty International, Minnesota Advocates of Human Rights and Centro Legale to create original works and address issues of human rights such as child labour and issues of racism. He has been working with Praxis International, an organization that addresses issues of domestic violence for the last few years to create performances that help in training police, judges and policy makers about the issues surrounding domestic violence. He has previously held positions as Co-director of Direct Media Theater Company in Madras, India, Resident Director at the Guthrie Theater, and Artistic Director of Abhinaya Theater. He is in the board of the Minnesota Advocates of Human Rights, the Irwin Andrew and Porter Foundation and has served in the cultural pluralism committee at the Minnesota State Arts Board. Dipankar has received the 2001 Twin Cities International Citizen's award for his work in human rights and social activism and has been named Best Director of the Year by City Pages in 2000. He has also been awarded the Jerome Travel and Study Grant, The State Arts Board Cultural Collaborations and Video Documentation grants.



## Dipankar Mukherjee

Artistic Director  
Pangea World Theater  
2509, Dupont Ave. SO. #209  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
(612) 377-1728  
dipankar@pangeaworldtheater.org

### PROFESSIONAL DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

#### Pangea World Theater, Minneapolis, MN

<i>Conference of the Birds</i>	Meena Natarajan
<i>The Winged Seed</i>	David Mura
<i>Silent Children</i>	David Mura and Meena Natarajan
<i>Playland</i>	Athol Fugard
<i>The Inner World</i>	Meena Natarajan
<i>Ajax</i>	Sophocles
<i>Bearing Witness</i>	Meena Natarajan and Luu Pham
<i>Rashomon</i>	Meena Natarajan and Luu Pham
<i>Rhinoceros</i>	Eugene Ionesco
<i>No Longer At Ease</i>	e.g. bailey
<i>Partitions</i>	Meena Natarajan
<i>Shelter</i>	Dwight Hobbes
<i>Tales From Ovid</i>	Tim Supple and Simon Reade from Ovid's Metamorphosis
<i>Osiris</i>	Meena Natarajan

#### USA: Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, MN

<i>Mother Courage</i>	Brecht	
<i>K-Impressions of the Trial</i>	Garland Wright	Assistant to:
<i>The Broken Jug</i>	Heinrich Kleist	Garland Wright
<i>The Rover</i>	Aphra Behn	Liviu Ciulei
<i>A Woman of no Importance</i>	Oscar Wilde	Joanne Akalaites
<i>Othello</i>	Shakespeare	Garland Wright
		Laird Williamson

#### U.K.: The Young Vic, London

<i>All My Sons</i>	Arthur Miller	David Thacker
--------------------	---------------	---------------

#### Abhinaya Theater

<i>Oh Decent People</i>	Jayant Dalvi
<i>In Search of A Story</i>	Meena Natarajan
<i>Procession</i>	Badal Sircar (adapted by Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan)

#### New World Theater, Amherst, MA

<i>Nagamandala</i>	Girish Karnad
--------------------	---------------

**Theater Mu (Asian American Theater), Minneapolis, MN**

*Destination*

Minh Nguyen

**Nritya Jyoti Dance Theater (Indian classical Dance Theater), Minneapolis, MN**

*Hungry Stones*

Tagore

*Kathak Flamenco: Shared Roots*

*Shared Traditions*

Meena Natarajan

*Abhinaya: Expressions through Dance: Multimedia Show with video and sculpture*

**Teatro Latino, Minneapolis, MN**

*Noche Latina: An evening of dramatization of poetry, fiction and plays*

*Dreaming with El Coqui*

Lizz Cruz Peterson

**Teatro Del Pueblo, St. Paul, MN**

*Don Quixote*

Anne Garcia Romero

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV**

*Raisin in the Sun*

Lorraine Hansberry

**Great Lakes Theater Festival, Cleveland, OH**

*Mother Courage*

Brecht

Gerald Friedman

**Alliance Theater, Atlanta, GA**

*Playland*

Athol Fugard

Athol Fugard

**New World Theater, Amherst, MA**

*Nagamandala*

Girish Karnad

**Independent Theater Company, Athens, OH**

*The Protest*

Vaclav Havel

*The Island*

Athol Fugard

**INDIA:**

*Ashwaha*

Mohan Narayanan

*Birthday Party*

Pinter

*Dramatization of Indian Love Poems*

A.K. Ramanujam

*The Glass Menagerie*

Tennessee Williams

*Sons*

K.S. Narayana

*Look Back in Anger*

John Osborne

*Silence, the Court is in Session*

Vijay Tendulkar

*Chandalika*

Tagore

*Twelfth Night*

Shakespeare

*Tartuffe*

Moliere

*No Exit*

Sartre

*The Zoo Story*

Edward Albee

**Theater Group**

Madras Players

American Embassy

Direct Media

Direct Media

British Embassy

Madras Players

Peoples Theater

Bengal Association

Direct Media

Direct Media

Direct Media

Direct Media

*Five Finger Exercise*  
*Postmaster* (Bengali)  
*Tughlaq* (Language: Hindi)  
*Bhagwadajjuka*  
*The Little Clay Cart*  
*Shakuntala*

Peter Shaeffer  
 Tagore  
 Girish Karnad  
 Mahendra Varman  
 Sudraka  
 Kalidas

Direct Media  
 Bengal Association  
 Kalakar  
 Direct Media  
 Abhyudhay  
 Kalakar

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

1995- : Artistic Director, Pangea World Theater, Minnesota  
 1995- : Artistic Director, Abhinaya Theater, Minnesota  
 1993-1995: Resident Director, Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 1993-1995: Associate Director, Nritya Jyoti Dance Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 1990-1991: Artistic director, Independent Theater Group, Athens, Ohio  
 1988-1989: Artistic Director, South Asian Theater Group, Davidson, North Carolina, U.S.  
 1983-1988: Artistic Director of Direct Media, a theater company in Madras, India.

## EDUCATION

<b>MFA</b>	Professional Directing Program	Ohio University, Athens Ohio, USA	1992
<b>MA</b>	English Literature and Language	Madras Christian College, Madras, India	1988
<b>BA</b>	English Literature and Language	Madras Christian College, Madras, India	1986

## HONORS AND SOCIETIES

### U.S.

Award for Excellence and achievement in the Arts, India Association of Minnesota, 2004  
 Twin Cities International Award, 2001  
 Panelist, Minnesota State Arts Board Institutional Grant, 2001, 2003  
 Best Director, City Pages, 2000  
 Panelist, National Endowment of the Arts, Creation and Presentation Grant, 2000, 2003  
 Jerome Travel and Study Grant 2000-2003  
 Minnesota State Arts Board Career Opportunity Grant 2000  
 Minnesota State Arts Board Video Documentation Grant 1999-2000  
 Member of Committee, Ordway Cultural Pluralism Committee  
 Board Member, Irwin Andrew and Porter Foundation  
 Board Member, Center for Arts Criticism  
 Board Member, Southern Theater 1995-1996  
 Board Member, Teatro Latino 1996  
 Board Member, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights  
 Board Member, India Music Society of Minnesota, 1998-2001

### India

## Biography: Meena Natarajan

Meena Natarajan is a professional playwright from India whose scripts have been produced professionally in India and the United States. She is one of the founders and the Executive and Literary Director of Pangea World Theater, a theater committed to bringing people together from different backgrounds and ethnicities from the U.S. and across the world. She has guided the theater's growth and vision since its founding in 1995. In India, Meena was the Managing Director of Direct Media Theater Company in Madras. In the U.S., she adapted Farid Ud-din Attar's 12<sup>th</sup> century poem *Conference of the Birds* into a dramatic script for Pangea World Theater's inaugural production in 1996. She adapted *The Inner World* based on two-thousand year old Tamil poems of love and war produced in 1998. Her most recent production was *Osiris*, a play based on The Egyptian Book of the Dead and the myth of Isis and Osiris. Other plays she has written include *Rashomon*, *Bearing Witness*, *Partitions* based on the anti-Sikh violence of 1984 and the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. She wrote *Shadowlines* which was commissioned by the Minnesota Advocates of Human Rights and dealt with the bias against immigrants, *Prayers for the Future* which was commissioned by Amnesty International and performed at their annual meeting in Minneapolis in May 2000 and dealt with war and refugees and *Silent Children* with David Mura, which dealt with child labor. Her play *Without My Country* was selected to be read at the Women Playwrights International conference in Greece in October 2000. She recently received a Many Voices Cultural Collaboration Grant from the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis and a Minnesota State Arts Board Career Opportunity Grant in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. She received a TCG Observership grant in 2001 to travel to Amherst and Los Angeles. Meena is the past President (2000-2003) of Women Playwrights International, an organization that promotes the work of women playwrights all over the world. She successfully convened the sixth Women Playwrights International conference in the Philippines in November 2003 that was attended by a 150 women from across the globe. One of her main concerns was the attendance and participation of Asian American and African American women at the conference and she raised funding from the Asian Cultural Council in New York to invite keynotes such as Jessica Hagedorn, Alice Tuan and Ellen Stewart from the United States. Meena is part of the Traveling Council of the American Festival Project, an organization that is deeply concerned with art and social activism and strives to place art in the midst of the communities it is a part of. She is also in the Steering Committee of the Network of Ensemble Theaters where she is striving to include and invite participation from ensembles of color to the festival. Meena serves in the advisory committee of SAATH, a South Asian American Theater collective in Boston, Massachusetts. She was recently invited in the capacity of a delegate and observer to the Asian Women Director's Festival in India in 2002 by the Ford Foundation. She has been awarded the Twin Cities International Citizens Award in 2001.

Awards for Direction and Choreography at National Theater Festivals, 1986/1987/1988

### **Workshops/Programs**

2001, 2000, 1999: Pangea World Theater: Acting, Breath and Movement Workshop  
2001: Women In Motion: Kalaripayattu ( South Indian Martial Arts Workshop)  
2001: New World Theater, 2050 Project, Play Creation and Workshops  
2001: Abhinaya Theater, Workshop with adopted Indian children – Identity and self  
2000: Praxis International – Duluth, MN – Domestic Violence Workshops  
2000, 1999: Chennai, India – Acting and Movement Workshop  
2000: Common Grounds Theater Festival, Northampton, England – Working in Ensemble  
1998: Minnesota Advocates of Human Rights: Street Theater Workshop  
1999, 1998, 1997: Hamline University, Workshop with Lawyers – Points of View  
1997: Teatro Latino: Audition Workshop  
1996: Guthrie Theater: Directing Workshop  
1996, 1994: Nritya Jyoti Dance Theater: Movement and Dance Workshop  
1995, 1994, 1993: Theater Mu: Voice and Acting Workshop

### **Lectures presented in professional theaters, colleges and schools**

- ◆ Oral Culture and Folktales of India
- ◆ Natyashastra: Dramaturgical Text of Performing Arts
- ◆ Poetics and Natyashastra: A comparative study of Eastern and Western Theater processes
- ◆ Modern Indian Theater at Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota
- ◆ Oscar Wilde: His theater and social impact at Hennepin Community College, Minnesota
- ◆ Shakespeare's *Othello* in 1995: A symposium presented at the Guthrie Education Conference dealing with race and politics in *Othello*. Discussion of the "outsider" and "insider" in modern day political and social structure
- ◆ Aphra Behn and the 17 th century. Gender and Sexual Politics- Educators and Arts Conference at the Guthrie
- ◆ Modernization of the Classics: *Rover* : Does it speak to us today?
- ◆ Profiteering in War: Post-play symposium to Guthrie artists and audience members
- ◆ The role of arts and artists in today's society: Keynote speaker, Commencement at the Department of Fine Arts, University of Wisconsin, Eau-Claire
- ◆ Theater as a tool of social change at the Ohio University Theater Department



Meena Natarajan  
2509 Dupont Avenue South #209  
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(612) 377-1728

## Writing Credits

### USA:

- Osiris** (2004) Full Length play, produced by Pangea World Theater and the Playwrights Center
- Partitions** (2001) Full Length Play produced by Pangea World Theater
- Without My Country** (2000) Excerpt read at Women Playwrights' International Conference at Eros Teatrou in Athens and Delphi, Greece
- Journeys** (2000) 35 minute dance theater piece combining dance and narrative created in collaboration with choreographer and dancer, Dr. Ananya Chatterjea and produced by Pangea World Theater.
- Rashomon** (2000) full length play, co-written with Luu Pham, produced by Pangea World Theater
- Songs From The Heart** (1999) short piece, produced by Centro Legale
- Bearing Witness** (1999) full length play, co-written with Luu Pham, produced by Pangea World Theater
- Prayers for the Future** (1999) short piece, produced by Amnesty International
- The Inner World** (1998) full length play, produced by Pangea World Theater.  
Dramatizes ancient Indian poems of love and war.
- Silent Children** (1997) written with David Mura, produced by the Minnesota Advocates of Human Rights  
Dealing with the issue of child labor in the world
- Procession** (1997) produced by Abhinaya Theater  
Adaptation of Bengali Playwright, Badal Sircar's play *Michil*
- Conference of the Birds** (1996) produced by Pangea World Theater  
An adaptation of Farid Uddin Attar's Sufi epic poem of the same name
- In Search of A Story** (1996) produced by Abhinaya Theater  
An original children's play dramatizing the consequences of stories and memories being lost and an adventure filled search to recover them.
- Shadowlines** (1995) Produced by Asian American Renaissance and Minnesota Advocates of Human Rights.  
A celebration of the contributions of immigrants to America
- Silence: A Woman's Scream** (1995) Produced by Mahila and for the Minnesota Advocates of Human Rights International Women's Festival

### INDIA

- Brides of Fire** (1987) Commissioned by Zontas Women's Organization  
Scripted and choreographed Street Theater addressing dowry deaths
- The Myriad Wanderers** (1986) Produced by Direct Media  
A theater piece about the lives of gypsies of the desert areas of India
- The Rubber Stamp** (1985) Presented at various festivals and in outdoor venues.  
A scripted Street Theater project that addressed issues such as corruption and bureaucracy presented in and around Madras, India.

### AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2003-present: Steering Committee and Board, Network of Ensemble Theater
- 2001-present: Advisory Committee of SAATH, South Asian Theater Collective

**Meena Natarajan**

2509 Dupont Avenue South #209  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
(612) 377-1728

2001-present: Traveling Council, American Festival Project  
2000-2003: President, Women Playwrights International  
2002: U.S. Delegate, Asian Women Director's Festival  
1997: Many Voices Residency from the Playwright's Center  
1998: Playwright's Center Core Member  
1998: Many Voices Cultural Collaboration Grant from the Playwright's Center  
1999: Many Voices Cultural Collaboration Grant from the Playwright's Center  
1999: Minnesota State Arts Board Career Opportunity Grant  
2000: Minnesota State Arts Board Career Opportunity Grant  
2001: Newsmaker of the Year, Minnesota Women's Press  
2001: Twin Cities International Citizen's Award  
2001: TCG Observership Grant to visit New World Theater and East West Players

**PANELS AND BOARDS**

1998: Minnesota State Arts Board Career Opportunity Grant Panel  
2001: Minnesota State Arts Board Series Presenter Panel  
1998-2001: Indian Music Society of Minnesota Board of Directors  
1998-present: Loft Board of Directors  
2003-present: Board of Network of Ensemble Theaters  
1995-present: Pangea World Theater Board of Directors

## Appendix 2

### Press coverage

s, Dance,  
Music, and  
Twin Cities.

# ARTS

AANEWS@AAPRESS.COM



Hong Kong singer Joey Yung performs during the Music Pioneer award ceremony in Shenzhen, southern China, March 13, 2004. Yung was named the "Best Female Singer, 2003".

Week of March 19, 2004



Ray C (Amanda Granger, Madison to Minneapolis of Silhouette at The

## shot nette



(Amanda Granger, center) as her mother (Marie-  
clise Theodore, left) tries to  
Najma (Sonja Parks, right),  
all refugee, feel welcome in  
ome in the world premiere  
pshot Silhouette at The  
en's Theatre Company.



e.g. balley

# OSIRIS



(Amanda Granger, center) as her mother (Marleolse Theodore, left) tries to Najma (Sonja Parks, right), all refugees, feel welcome in home in the world premiere snapshot Silhouette at The Twin's Theatre Company.

collide. Rebellious Tayum with Najma, a reserved culturally, socially and anger and loss the two girls friendship, which results

re four different events to give insight into the tures. From food and ents will celebrate cultural build bridges between

m.) Free try a little bit of rali poetry, African dance class led by Rickie .all of this and more will y night after the 2:00 pm performance of Snapshot n get a henna tattoo, n American goods and . See it. Learn about it.

1 Autograph Night p.m.) rali dinner: \$5 for s are invited to come



Shá Cage performs a dance in OSIRIS, which is based on the Egyptian Book of the Dead. Osiris opens March 20 and continues through April 11, 2004 at the Waring Jones Theatre at The Playwrights' Center. (Photos by Marc Norberg)



# OSIRIS

e.g. bailey

MINNEAPOLIS – Pangea World Theater and The Playwrights' Center present the world premiere of *Osiris* by Minneapolis playwright Meena Natarajan, as part of the NewStage Directions series. Pangea World Theater's Artistic Director Dipankar Mukherjee will direct this production.

Based on the Egyptian Book of the Dead, *Osiris* opens March 20 and continues through April 11, 2004 with performances Thursday through Sunday at the Waring Jones Theatre at The Playwrights' Center, 2301 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis. A post-play discussions follow each Friday and Saturday performance.

Pangea World Theater and The Playwrights' Center present Meena Natarajan's new adaptation of the ancient Egyptian myth of *Osiris* this spring, resurrecting a Middle-Eastern god originally restored from death by his sister and wife Isis, the nature goddess.

*Osiris* (oh-SIGH-ris) was the ancient Egyptian god of the underworld and judge of the dead. He was often associated with fertility and its sources, the Nile and the sun. Isis revived him after being killed by his brother Seth, symbolizing the yearly renewal of the natural world. Combining music, movement, poetry, and striking visuals, Pangea World Theater illuminates the heroic journey of Queen Isis as she sets out on a mission to find the body of her murdered husband Osiris and avenge his death.

provokes an epic way of telling a simple truth. Diverse, international casting brings to light the global impact of specific issues through this world of Egyptian mythology."

Members of the cast include e.g. bailey, Shá Cage, Katia Guentzel, Jodi Kellogg, and Joe Thomas. The artistic team includes Ta-Coumba Aiken (Set Designer), Faye Fisher-Ward (Costume Designer), A. Pavan (Music Arranger), and Mike Wangan (Lighting Designer).

In 1995, Artistic Director Dipankar Mukherjee, Executive/Literary Director Meena Natarajan and then, Development Director Luu Pham, came together to form Pangea. Since that time, they have produced artistically excellent and challenging work, bringing in notable international artists to collaborate with the Twin Cities' artistic community.

Previous Pangea productions include and presentations include: Partitions, Kathakali, Conference of the Birds, The Winged Seed, Silent Children, The Inner World, Freedom Songs, Playland, Ajax, Prayers for the Future, Bearing Witness, Not In My Season of Songs, Dah Teatar's Minneapolis Residency, Rashomon, Journeys, Ionesco's Rhinoceros, No Longer At Ease, Arey! Sharif Logi, Shelter, and Tales from Ovid. Pangea is the name given to the single land mass that existed on earth before the continents separated.

Meena Natarajan is a professional playwright





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<http://www.startribune.com/stories/389/4667609.html>

**Theater spotlight: 'Osiris' opens at Pangea**

Published 03/19/2004

OPENING: Pangea World Theatre opens this new work by Meena Natarajan, who has adapted the ancient Egyptian myth of the god of the underworld. Often associated with fertility, Osiris was revived by his sister/wife Isis, symbolizing the annual return of the growing season. Dipankar Mukherjee directs. Pangea explored the world of ancient myth last fall with Ted Hughes' adaptation of Ovid's "Metamorphosis." The cast of "Osiris" includes E.G. Bailey (pictured), Jodi Kellogg, Sha Cage and Hlee Vang. Twin Cities artist Ta-coumba Aiken designed the set. (2 p.m. today; 8 p.m. Thu.-Sat., Playwrights' Center, 2301 E. Franklin Av., Mpls.

*<http://www.startribune.com/stories/1555/3778295.html>*

**Playwright brings his homeless experience to the stage**  
Graydon Royce, Star Tribune

*Published March 28, 2003 STAG28*

Eleven years ago, Dwight Hobbes fell through the cracks of his life and ended up with only sky over his head and pavement beneath his feet.

The itinerant Minneapolis writer and office worker drifted into the Francis Drake, a once-posh downtown hotel that in 1992 was one of the largest homeless shelters in Minnesota. For several weeks, Hobbes survived the lawless and sometimes brutal atmosphere of the streets and the stultifying atmosphere of the Drake. Eventually, he got his head above water, found a furnished room and slowly began to rebuild what his personal demons and hard times had torn down.



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<http://www.startribune.com/stories/1372/38777.html>

## **Pangea World Theater**

Star Tribune

Published 09/24/1999

The essence of Pangea World Theater reflects off the four faces gathered in a small south Minneapolis apartment: Japanese-American poet David Mura, Indian director Dipankar Mukherjee, his playwright wife, Meena Natarajan, and Vietnamese-American actor and writer Luu Pham.

All are from vastly different cultures, brought up under diverse traditions, yet all are working together closely in an American theater on a project they hope will connect to everyone in this nation of immigrants. "In this theater, everyone can be who they are," said Mukherjee, founder of the two-year-old theater. "We celebrate differences, yet try to do work that illuminates the human condition, which is universal."

Mukherjee says the vision of Pangea is, "to leave, encounter, reestablish yourself." Pangea World Theater aims to help "create a podium for everyone," said Mukherjee. "It's not, 'You should be like this or you like this.' It's that you can contribute as you are, bring yourself and your experiences and help us create."

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**All the world's onstage // Artists of diverse cultures have gotten together in Pangea World Theater to work on illuminating the human condition**

Mike Steele

Star Tribune

Published 10/22/1997

The essence of Pangea World Theater reflects off the four faces gathered in a small south Minneapolis apartment: Japanese-American poet David Mura, Indian director Dipankar Mukherjee, his playwright wife, Meena Natarajan, and Vietnamese-American actor and writer Luu Pham. They are gathered here to ponder the Chinese-American poet Li-Young Lee's evocative memoir of immigration, "The Winged Seed," which Pangea will bring to the stage next week at the Guthrie Theater Lab.

All are from vastly different cultures, brought up under diverse traditions, yet all are working together closely in an American theater on a project they hope will connect to everyone in this nation of immigrants.

"In this theater, everyone can be who they are," said Mukherjee, founder of the two-year-old theater. "We include everyone, including the Caucasian community. We celebrate differences, yet try to do work that illuminates the human condition, which is universal."

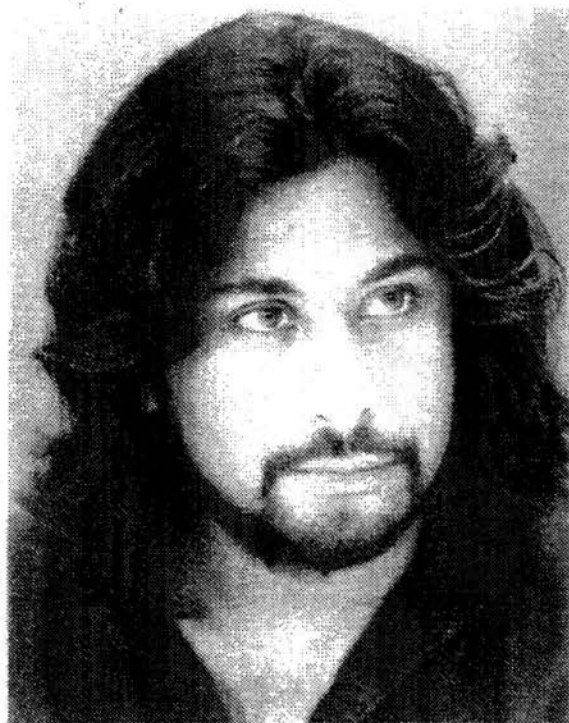


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## Appendix 3

### Photos



Dipankar Mukherjee



Meena Natarajan