

STICA Newsletter Q1, 2007

Welcoming Spring with Holi

The Southern Tier Indian Community Association (STICA) celebrated the Festival of Color, Holi on March 24th, 2007 at Elmira Free Academy School. The Holi program was well attended by the Indian community with their friends from Elmira, Big Flats, Horseheads, Corning, Painted Post, Bath, Hornell, Mansfield, Ithaca and Sayre.

The evening started with networking spiced up by Indian snacks like Bhel, Kachori, Halwa etc. As people entered the venue they were greeted by a simulated "Holi" fire with greetings for Holi, bright Holi colors and syringes of colored water which served to enhance the Holi atmosphere. Following the networking, the entertainment program started with a slideshow summarizing the STICA activities in 2006. The entertainment program consisted of group items with both adults and children performing. This year's theme had a balance of items emphasizing the cultural heritage of Indian through dance dramas like: Brindavan Ka Natkhat Nandlal a two part play on the life of Lord Krishna, Panchatantra (Five strategies) a unique set of stories where by empowering animals with the power of speech a distinct moral is conveyed in a manner appealing to a universal audience. In addition to emphasizing the cultural heritage the program brought out a more modern perspective to Indian entertainment through: A light dance item "Excuse Me, Kya Re", Holi Rangrang, an energetic dance of couples and finally some haunting melodies. The entertainment program was a big success due to a lot of forethought from the entertainment team which is committed to delivering quality programs to the community. Three young adults in the community served as MC's for this event. Further, senior members from the Indian community were invited to honor the performers. The entertainment was followed by dinner which consisted of a carefully planned combination of homemade delicacies and Thali of India's catered food. The STICA Board would like to thank all the volunteers without whose enthusiasm and energy the event would not have been possible. We have tried to list the volunteers/donors responsible for making Holi a big success, at the end of this newsletter. We apologize for any inadvertent omissions.





STICA Notes

Charity: Milan Patel, Rishi Patel and Parth Shah, young adults from the community formally closed the fund-raising campaign which raised \$20,000 for the Surat Flood Victims. The funds will be used to re-furbish a flood-damaged school in Surat.

Recognitions:

- Vascular surgeon Narayan Deshmukh, MD, FACS, recently was recognized for his many years of service to Guthrie, the community and the country by having a vascular operating room in the Surgery Building dedicated in his name at an event held in his honor.
- Hemant Patel was recognized by the Corning Area Chamber of Commerce for his entrepreneurship and community service. He is the youngest businessman in the area to have received this recognition.
- Dr. Raja Wusirika received the People Development Award..

STICA movies: 2007 has seen the revival of the monthly STICA movie showing at the Corning Library thanks to T.P.Mathur and Suman Mehta.

STICA Health: STICA has started a new health series lectures with reputed Doctors from the community talking on health issues. This effort is being spearheaded by Dr. Mahendra Shah.

STICA Communications: The communications team is transitioning from the current website to a more user friendly web interface. The team invites the community to play an active role in helping the team serve its community better. The communication team welcomes Rajendra Modi who is committed to helping STICA bring out its newsletters regularly.

STICA Upcoming Program

India Day Event: On August 19th STICA is organizing its annual outdoor event at Centerway square. Please mark your calendars and come prepared to have a day of fun. STICA is planning an exciting set of events like: Dialogue between M.K.Gandhi and M.L.King, a Science Corner, Excellent Food and many other attractions.

Feedback

We take this opportunity to invite feedbacks from you the community that STICA aims to serve to its best. What did you like about this year's Holi? How could we have been done better? Would you be interested in attending an evening of good quality entertainment without children participating in it? Would you like to participate in STICA event organization? Do you have a skill that you would like STICA to showcase? Please share your ideas, thoughts and sign up to participate in some of our upcoming events. Please send in your feedbacks to STICA1995@hotmail.com.

Volunteers who made Holi2007 a success

Team	Sub-team	Volunteers	Recognition of Performers
MC	Coach	Lakshmi Bhagavatula	
	MC's	Geetha Bhagavatula, Hetal Patel and Dave Patil	Mrs. Vibhuti Shah and Mr.Suresh Shah
Indian and U.S. NationalAnthems	Coach	Ruchi Tandon	Mrs.Terry Gulati and Dr.Suresh Gulati
	Performers	Trisha Bhatia, Sriram and Jairam Hathwar, Juhi Kekre, Aarthi and Divya Krishnakumar, Vasu Maisuria, Sanjana Pai, Jahnvi Patel, Janak and Kush Shah, Esha Soni, Shivani Tambi and	

		Pranav Tandon	
Invocation		Lakshmi Bhagavatula and Jaya Sashidar	
Variety Entertainment	Brindavan Ka Natkhat		Mrs. Rohini Deshmukh and Dr. Narayan Deshmukh
	Direction	Roopa Hathwar	
	Assistance	Sujata Pai, Rugmani Kutty and Parents of children listed below	
	Artistes	Trisha Bhatia, Jayram and Sriram Hathwar, Aarthi and Divya Krishnakumar, Maya Kutty, Aum and Tatsat Parekh, Surya & Nila Shankar, Sharda Shashidhar and Esha Soni	
	Panchatantra		Mrs. Sarla Patel and Mr. Hasmukh Patel
	Direction/Choreography	Vani Akula	
	Costumes	parents, Hetal & Kalpana Patel and Vani Akula	
	Music/ Light	Mona Gajiwala. Alka Shah, Swati Sharan, Ketan Maisuria	
	Backstage Direction	Merilyn Tiwari	
	Artistes	Abhisek & Sruti Akula, Namitha & Vivek Borusu, Dhruv, Dhvani & Nandish Gajiwala, Arvind Kandala, Neela & Anil Kharkar, Vasu Maisuria Jahnavi, Shiv, Arjun, Bhumi, Milan, Rishi, Kalpana & Arun Patel, Nidhi, Parth, Alka & Mahendra Shah, Ishani Sharan, Simran Singh, Adesh Tiwari, and Asha Thuraisamy	
	Excuse Me Kya Re		Mrs. Radha Wusirika and Dr. Raja Wusirika
	Direction/Choreography	Mona Gajiwalla	
	Artistes	Nandish, Dhruv and Dhvani Gajiwalla	
	Holi Rangrang and Raas		
	Director	Heena Shah	
	Artistes	Neela & Anil Kharkar, Kalpana & Arun Patel, Nina & Hemant Patel, Alka & Bhupendra Shah, Heena & Kashyap Shah and , Sarojini & Suresh Shah	
	Musical Nite	Awantika Dixit and Ashi Bharati	
	Vote of Thanks	Anil Kharkar	
Entertainment	Team Leader	Alka Shah	
	Team Members	Vani Akula, Sita Baliarsingh, Roopa Hathwar, Kalpana Patel & Shital Shah	
Stage	Lead	Hema Zala	

Decorations			
	Assistants	Parul Bhatia, , Neela Kharkar, Suman Mehta, Jyoti Modi, Rajeev Sharan and Neena Shah	
Food Team	Lead	Nina Patel	
	Contributors	Sarla Patel (Gaajar Halwa, Kachori, Railta, Pickles, Chutney and Papad), Heena Shah (Bhel Puri) and Thali of India	
Reception		Hasmukh Patel, Kashyap Shah, Narendra Shah	
Communications		Aravind Rammohan and Amith Saxena	
Newsletter		Rajendra Modi, Aravind Rammohan, Alka Shah, Lakshmi Bhagavatula and Anil Kharkar	
Donors		-Wegmans (\$50.00) -Jubilee (\$20.00) -Polly O (String cheese and Mozzarella sticks) -Dunkin Donuts (Donuts)	