



# India Community Center Newsletter

ICC Scheduling: 737-3148

Visit India Community Center Website: [www.iccrochester.org](http://www.iccrochester.org)

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**BOT Chair's Report**

By Ramnik Vora

Greetings from your India Community Center.

I hope all of you are doing well. The weather has been nice lately. Rochester indeed has beautiful summers. Meanwhile, the Board of Trustees have been busy conducting several programs. This newsletter summarizes the Spring activities held at ICC.

We had our annual banquet on March 25, 2017. Dr. Satish Tripathi, Dr. Satish Tripathi, President, University at Buffalo, State University of New York SUNY was the Keynote speaker. He was well received. We also inaugurated a brand new audio visual room. This was possible by generous donation by Dr. Dinesh Nanavati and his family. The Board of Trustees are really thankful of this donation. The A-V room will be used for many many years to come.

Nagin Shah was awarded the ICC Service excellence award. Then we were entertained by Dr. Kishan Pandya playing Jal-Tarang, accompanied by Mishkat Bhattacharya on Tabala. This was a blast. Everyone enjoyed this program. Hopefully we will get them again to perform at another event.

CMD fund raiser banquet was on April 8, 2017. Thank you to all who donated generously. Mother's Day celebration at ICC was on May 13, 2017. We had lots of delicious food prepared by volunteers for the brunch. Kalidas play was on June 2,3, and 4. Kalidas became part of ICC this year. We thank all participants for their hard work. The latest event was the annual HS graduation celebration held on June 9, 2017. You will find details for all these programs in this newsletter.

As you can see we have been very busy with all these activities. The Board of Trustees and many of community volunteers donate several hours of their time and energy. We really appreciate their efforts. It takes also some money to run the programs. Besides ICC has monthly expenses to maintain the building. Your membership dollars goes a long way. We thank you if you are a member of ICC. Please become a member if you are not. We count on your support for your beloved India Community Center of Rochester.

Best of regards.

**Editor**

Jayanti Venkataraman

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**ICC's United Way Number 1137**

ICC uses United Way funds that it receives, for charitable activities. Please consider directing your United Way donations to ICC.

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**ICC Calendar**

- March 25:** ICC Banquet
- April 29:** Saathi Banquet
- April - May:** CMD Spring Concerts
- May 13:** ICC Mother's Day Celebration
- June: 2, 3, 4:** Kalidas Play
- June 9:** ICC HS Graduation Celebration
- June 25 - July 30:** HHSC
- Aug 2 - Aug 6:** Vedanta Retreat
- October 14:** ICC Diwali
- November 18:** ICC AGM
- December 1, 2, 3:** Kalidas Play
- December 31:** ICC New Year's Eve Party

## ICC Annual Banquet March 25, 2017

By Vinyas Patel

The 2017 India Community Center Annual Banquet was held on March 25th. The beautiful evening brought together 125 attendees to revel in the past year's accomplishments, celebrate new beginnings, and discuss the contributions of several Americans of Indian origin to our community.

The Banquet kicked off with a moving dedication of ICC's new Audiovisual Room to Neena Nanavati, Dr. Dinesh Nanavati's late wife, whose love of live music inspired Dr. Nanavati's donation. This new Audiovisual Room, sits atop the back of the auditorium, equipped with state-of-art controls for the auditorium sound and light systems. We have already started enjoying the improvements in our stage performances and look forward to many more.



Our keynote speaker was Dr. Satish Tripathi, the President of The State University of New York in Buffalo, an institution close to 30,000 students strong. His speech included glimpses into his path to success, and he shared the fact that a significant number of promising applicants to SUNY Buffalo hail from the Greater Rochester area.



We are glad to know we represent well in the academic arena.

This year's Service Excellence Award was given to Nagin A. Shah, a longtime supporter of ICC as well as founder of the Gujarati Samaj and the Jain Society of



Rochester. Though he wore many hats in the ICC Board of Trustees through the years, his most recent contributions were the instrumental roles he played in procuring funding for and repairing ICC after its water damage from a burst frozen water pipe and completion of the new Audiovisual Room. We are sure to still see Mr. Shah's assistance at future ICC events.

This Banquet, we were also treated with an unique entertainment program of classical and Bollywood instrumental music. Both largely self taught



musicians, Dr. Kishan Pandya played jal tarang and Dr. Mishkat Battacharya played tabla. And while satiated by the scrumptious food from Tandoor of India, we delighted in the ambiance created by the beautiful decor provided by Amrith Kamath. In all, we enjoyed yet another amazing ICC Banquet.



# 2017 ICC Banquet



# 2017 ICC Banquet



# Dr. Dinesh Nanavati

By Nagin Shah & Vandana Caplash



Born on September 15th, 1935 at Junagadh, India. He did his elementary school education in Karachi (Pakistan) and migrated to India in 1947. He did his high school education in Alfred High School in Bhavnagar. After finishing Inter Science at Shamaldas college in Bhavnagar, he joined Bapalal Ayurvedic college in Surat for one year. He then joined Kasturba Medical College and finished his MD in 1962. He worked at Vadilal Hospital in Ahmedabad for one year and went on to work as a medical officer in Medicine in Mahuva Municipal Hospital. After one year, he joined his father's practice as a Family Physician in Kutiyana ( a town near Porbandar). While practicing medicine, he also worked as the President of Municipality and managed the township of Kutiyana. While in office, he encouraged people to maintain cleanliness, and use modern toilet. He also got approval for pipeline so that every house had water.

After several years, he resigned and handed over the clinic to his brother and moved to America in May 1974. He went on to complete the required coursework at St. Barnabas Medical College in NJ and passed his exams to get license to practice medicine in the US. While studying, he worked as a Surgical Assistant in Nassavadox Hospital in Virginia for a year and as a medical officer in Joseph H. Ladd Hospital in Rhode Island.

He then moved to Rochester, NY in June 1978 and joined Rochester Psychiatric Center where he worked for 11 years. He then continued his practice of Psychiatry at Clifton Springs Hospital for the next 11 years and finally joined Unity Hospital until his 80<sup>th</sup>

birthday when he retired. He received many awards including Best Psychiatrist from the APA, and was honored by the AMA for completing 50 years of Practice in Medicine. His hobbies include playing cricket, volleyball, Field Hockey and Tennis. He likes to pass time by watching movies and socializing with friends.

Neena Nanavati, Dr. Dinesh Nanavati wife whose name is on sound room was born on November 23, 1943 in Ajmer Rajasthan. She finished High school and completed BA with honors from Ajmer College. She participated in NCC and received the award for Best Cadet from the President of India. While in college, she was active and played Field Hockey on the college team.

Dr. Nanavati and Neena got Married in May 1964. She was very spiritual and religious minded and used to read Tulsikrut Ramayan everyday. She possessed lot of general knowledge by her love of reading. She got interested in watching Baseball and Football after coming to the United States and Dallas Cowboys were her favorite team. She was a great housewife and managed household . She raised 7 children ( 3 of her own and 4 of her brother in laws') and provided norms and values to all of them. She also managed to work as a teller in a bank. She helped me physically, mentally (emotionally) and financially. She was very family oriented and was loved by all. She was very fond of cooking and would make variety of foods.

*'Her love of live music inspired me to donate for the AV room.'* Neena lost her life in October 1994 after a car accident



**Nagin Shah**  
**ICC 2017 Service**  
**Excellence Awardee**



Nagin Shah was born in Village of Koperli in Gujarat in 1939. He was one of the ten children, seven brothers and three sisters. He was married to Shaku in 1967 in Toronto, Canada. They have a daughter Sejal who is married to Charles Warney, and have one-granddaughter Monica who is 26 years old.

After finishing Mechanical & Electrical Diploma in India in 1964, he graduated in Mechanical Engineering from University of New Mexico in 1967. He moved to Rochester to work for Xerox in 1967. After 36 years at Xerox, he retired in 2003.

During his career at Xerox, he received many patents. He was also twice the recipient of Xerox Team Excellence Recognition twice, in 1988 and 1996.

Nagin's contributions to Rochester Indian Community are many: He was the Treasurer 1991-1992. He served again on the ICC Board of Trustees 2001-2004 and 2014-2016. During the past year he made it his task to finish some of the needed work such as repairs to the deteriorated front entrance to the building and the upper parking lot lights. During three years as Director of Operations position, he did a very successful fund raising for the Desai Hall, reconstructing the front steps and installing decorative lights and awning at the front door. Nine LED lights with white globes have been installed in upper parking lot. Generous donors provided any funds needed to complete these projects.

In addition, 2016 was a very challenging year because of the water damage to the building during the February freeze and snow during which time the kitchen water pipe burst. With help from the Community we made "ICC whole again" by June that you see today. Last project for Nagin was Neena Nanavati Sound room completion that was funded by Dr. Nanavati Family Trust and dedicated today March 25, 2017.

During his service to ICC, Nagin has received the ICC Service Excellence award in 1992 and 2005. He truly deserves the award again for this continued and consistent service to ICC

**Jaltarang at the ICC Banquet**  
**March 25, 2017**



**Musicians:**

***Kishan Pandya***                      ***Jaltarang***  
***Mishkat Bhattacharya***           ***Tabla***

**Songs:**

***Kamalajadala***  
***Ode to Lord Vishnu***  
***Abhi na jao chhodkar***  
***Lute Concerto in D Major, RV 93***  
***Take Five-an Indian Interpretation***  
***Aajaa sanam***

**About the Musicians**



Dr. Kishan Pandya is a self-taught musician. He started playing jal tarang at age 12 using the aural Indian tradition. He stopped playing for about 30 years as he got busy with his career in oncology and took it up again upon his retirement in the summer of 2009. He is exploring different genres of music including Indian classical, Bollywood, pop, Latin, jazz and baroque. He performed in the Percussion Rochester Festival in 2010, and played with Publick Musick, a baroque period music ensemble, at the Rochester Fringe Festival in 2014.



Mishkat Bhattacharya was introduced to tabla in middle school and has since persisted as a largely self-taught amateur percussionist, receiving for a while critical guidance from Ustad Irshad Khan, the sitar player. While he was a graduate student at the University of Rochester, he performed as an accompanying artiste at the ICC. More recently, in 2015, he played at the Eastman School of Music in collaboration with Glenn West's Mbira ensemble.

## CMD Fundraiser

Indian

April 8, 2017, 30 years after the India Community Center was born, marked the first time ever of a fundraising gala for the Classical Music and Dance Society of the ICC. Guru Parvatha Chidambaram and the senior artistes of the Bharata School of Indian Classical Dance and Music premiered the Production “Shakthi- The Universal Energy” on center stage at the ICC. Shakthi is choreographed by Narendra Kumar and Parvatha Chidambaram. “Shakthi” exemplifies the essence of the three forms of the divine mother as Saraswathi, Lakshmi and Durga.

The evening commenced with mouth-watering appetizers and socialization amongst the 250 attendees and supporters of CMD.



The beautiful and graceful dancers awed the audience with their amazing talent, precisely choreographed rhythmic movements and excellent coordination as a group. The auditorium was filled with vibrant energy that pervaded the spectators' heart and mind bringing tears in the eyes of some. It was a heart-warming experience to see the

Guru and Shishya (students) sharing the same platform and bringing to realization that music and dance is universal, uniting people of all ages and diverse communities.



The overwhelming support from the Rochesterians is reassuring that the CMD of ICC will continue to bring such quality performances in the future. Over 30 supporters of classical music and dance generously donated for future events resulting in raising over 30,000 dollars in total. The event concluded with



CMD of ICC would like to thank Bharata, the volunteers (Chetna Chandrakala, Jyothsna Ponnuri, Jose Maliekal, Padmanabh Kamath, Purvaja Kamath, Nidhi Dontula) and the generous supporters who contributed to making the event a huge success.



“A picture is worth a thousand words” is best depicted in the photographs of the event that is beyond description.



*“A Little Murder Never  
Hurt Anybody”*  
*by Ron Bernas*

A Kalidas play  
directed by Vithal Sanapala

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of 2017, Kalidas, the Indo-American Community Theater Group of Rochester, staged their 25<sup>th</sup> production. The delightful comedy opens with the rich, bored Mathew Perry (played by Atul Gupta), making a New Years' resolution to murder his wife, Julia Perry (played by Bijal Thakkar), so he can become a jet setter. Atul, in his stage debut, plays the master of the mansion perfectly. Bijal as Julia with obvious prior acting experience, showed a range of emotions foiling Matthews' plans.

At the same time, Perry's lovely but dim-witted daughter Bunny (played by Shilpa Singh) comes home with her fiancé, Donald (Naveen Shetty) to set their wedding for the next New Years' eve. Julia, who is always ahead of Matthew, makes her own resolution to stay alive for Bunny's wedding and the following scenes through summer and Halloween take the audience through a hilarious yearlong match of wits and the witless. There was no way to tell that this was Naveen's debut on stage and Shilpa brought a brilliant balance of charm and innocence to Bunny's role.

The cast also included a butler, Buttram (Bhupinder Rana). Buttram is using the Perry funds to amass a fortune while also searching for his long lost son! While Julia cleverly dodges Matthew's devious murder attempts, the Perry friends and staff continue to die mysteriously. As the bodies fall, Bunny contemplates calling off her wedding.

Enter Detective Plotnik (Anil Menon) – a Sam Spade type character (and our local Rajnikanth), who suspects everyone but does not have a clue. Donald stumbles upon Julia and Buttram in what he perceives as a compromising situation. Donald jumps to the conclusion that Julia is the murderer - trying to murder Matthew! It ends in a nice bang – Shakespeare or Bollywood could not have imagined a better ending with a twist!

The entire cast played off each other's energy beautifully. Four out of the Six cast members were on stage for the first time. Buttram was great as a first timer in a critical role and Anil proved the audience favorite. All in all a great ensemble performance by the

cast; a wonderful fun time for the audience and a well-deserved outcome for their 100s of hours of practice and for the Director, Vithal Sanapala, the validation for his work and faith in the cast.

We should also acknowledge the entire Kalidas team led by Baal Bhagat, comprising Nilesh, Jyothsna, Vithal and Abhas supported by Dr Kamath on lights, Sanjay for makeup, Vineeta on audio, Rinku & Mrudula on sets and other volunteers including Chetna, Job, Jose, Swaroopaa, Sharada, and Nidhi. As they say, it takes a village – Kalidas is a community theater and it is heart-warming when its work and faith in the cast creates an almost – professional level production.

*2017 Mother's Day  
Celebration*

On May 13, 2017 ICC family came together and celebrated the unconditional love and devotion of all mothers worldwide. Since this celebration is for all mothers, this year ICC celebration included ICC members as well as non-members.

Year 2017 happened to be year of change for how the event is celebrated. Mothers and children were pampered and many different activities were planned. Some children volunteered to give mini manicure to moms, some beautified mom's hands with henna. Some children learned and made jewelry for moms. There was also makeup demo/practice, 'Lips & Tips' for moms, offered by Mary Kay. The student volunteers were also able to get volunteer hours credits. Some children wrote poems or short stories for their moms which they shared by reading in front of the large audience.

In addition to all these activities which provided lots of entertainment and bonding for moms and children, of course there was lots of delicious food to satisfy hungry stomachs and top the event. Many started with made-to-order omelets and waffles, continued with sev-puris/ dahi-puris, pav-bhaji and ended with ice-cream and fresh fruits.

The event was very successful, attended by 41 moms (36 members, 5 non-members), 23 family members and 21 children older than 5 years. Many asked if ICC would have similar celebration for Father's day. This event gave chance to non-members to visit ICC facility and experience the event celebration.

ICC BOT thanks all the members and volunteers who worked hard to make this event successful.

## ICC HS Graduation Celebration

"Opportunities won't come and fall on your lap, so you have to go seek them", is the message that was delivered alongside many other practical life lessons that our panelists, Swetha Sathasivam and Adya Kumar, learned while in high school and college.

On June 9th, XXth High School Graduation Ceremony was held at the ICC, attended by 80 people, including high school students, parents and friends. At this event, the ICC recognizes graduating high school seniors in the community, and invites panelists to share experiences in high school preparation, selecting a major in college, life in college, and career choices both during and after college.



Swetha Sathasivam is currently in Dental School at the University of Buffalo, and emphasized the importance of being all-rounded and making meaningful contributions to life. She also cautioned students to be ready to face the future, in which a few things will inevitably not go as

planned. Additionally, she is very happy with her ability to use what she has learned in the past, from activities such as Bharatanatyam, and apply it to Bhangra, in college.

Adya Kumar, a rising junior at Tufts University, spoke to the sometimes overlooked importance of mental health. She spoke eloquently about life, of which she says, "does truly offer a lot". Furthermore, balancing good grades and involving oneself in the community at large, is of the utmost importance, and can be achieved in numerous ways, such as through volunteer work.



Another important point brought up by many was the risk behind social media activity, wherein a single lapse in judgement can lead to detrimental and lifelong consequences, in both college admissions and career opportunities.



Lastly, our local Creative writing faculty, Sejal Shah, was the guest speaker. She shared tangible examples of what a good essay entails, whether it be for college admissions, personal statements, or simply an assignment. A Brighton student and resident herself, she was able to connect well with the audience and pass along a well-intentioned message.