



I A BEE



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Mar. 15: Dance Recital by Natya
 Mar 29: Joint IAB/HCS Indoor Sports Tournament at HCS
 Mar 29: Music Recital – Thyagaraja Society
 Apr 19: Kavi Sammelan – Hindi Samaj

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

2007 MEMBERS – 237
 2008 MEMBERS – 117 (YTD)

Please use the membership form insert and mail-in your completed form with payment.

IAB Executive Committee:

President	Raj Bansal	634-9231
Vice President	Jagtar S. Rajput	837-3979
Secretary	Dinesh Sukumaran	689-2835
Treasurer	H. Raghu Rao	636-8866
Cultural & Youth	Geeta Sethi	741-9453
Public Relations	Rajiv Kishore	689-2424
Membership	Hakim Sojar	689-3060

Board of Directors:

Ravi Aalankeel	Anil Bansal	Satnam Basra
Shanti Bedmutha	V. Gunasekharan	V. Loganathan
N. Rao Marella	Rajnish Mittal	Jashbhai Patel
Dipak Pravin	Nandita Sharma	Dipak Shastri
Rajiv Singh	Rakesh Verma	

2007 IAB Annual Dinner Dance was held at the Millennium Hotel. The event was well attended and enjoyed by over 300 people. IAB recognized the contributions of Dr. Shanthi Bedmutha to the Indian community with its Person of the Year award. The outgoing executive committee presented its Annual report, followed by swearing in of the new executive committee. Raj Bansal in his capacity as the current and incoming President, gave an account of the year gone by, and his vision for the coming year. Contributions of Pravin Suchak were recognized. IAB celebrated its 25th anniversary with a huge cake, cut by members of various community groups. The hors d'oeuvres and dinner were delicious and were provided by Taste of India restaurant. The guests and children danced to the songs and Bhangra well into the night. Rajen Mehta provided the entertainment and all at attendance were provided with portrait pictures. By all accounts, the event was a big success with everyone having a great time!

Republic Day 2008 IAB celebrated India's 59th Republic Day on Saturday, Jan. 26 at the Transit Middle School in East Amherst. An estimated audience of 650 watched a colorful display of Indian music, dance and ethnic diversity. IAB President, Raj Bansal, welcomed the gathering and introduced the Guest of Honor US Representative Brian Higgins. Rep. Higgins spoke of the efforts to revitalize the Greater Buffalo Community, contributions of the Indian Community and the warm Indo-US co-operation.

The cultural part of the evening began with a song in praise of the motherland, Vande Matharam, sung by the children of Alankar School of Music, and rolled into many dances and songs performed by our children. The performances included colorful classical and folk dances, and classical and popular songs. The participants, numbering over 75, included children in all age groups. The event was coordinated by Geeta Sethi, hosted by Abha Jain and Sanjay Sethi. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dinesh Sukumaran and the singing of the National Anthems of India and the USA. IAB thanks all participants, volunteers and our guest of honor for making this event a big success.

Indoor Tournament will be held at the HCS Youth Center on March 29, 2008 from 10 AM to 5 PM. Please mail/call/email your registration as soon as possible. You may use the included insert to send-in your registration. Carrom, Chess and Table Tennis tournaments will be organized for different age groups

Message from the President We had an excellent year behind us with your active participation in various events. We exceeded all expectations in surpassing previous attendance records in all our events. We have observed increased interest in IAB activities over the past few years. Our main focus this year would be to induct more new members into IAB and promote growth. Your membership is very valuable as it provides us the moral support and helps sustain our growth. IAB extends its friendship and spirit of cooperation to various community organizations within the Greater Buffalo region. IAB is proud to support and work with all community organizations in their efforts to promote our culture and heritage. Finally, I would like to thank all our Board members for their commitment and hard work in making IAB successful.

Upcoming Events

Natya Dance-Drama Presentation: Kadirkama Kuravanji – March 15, 7 PM, Drama Theatre, Center for the Arts. Contact – Teja Rao (639-0902)

HCS-IAB Indoor Tournament – March 29, 10AM to 5 PM – HCS Youth Center. Contacts: Dinesh Sukumaran (689-2835); Nitin Jain (616-6818)

St. Thyagaraja Society Music Recital by Chitraveena Ravikiran– March 29, 7 PM – Baird Hall, UB North Campus. Contact: Anuradha Sridhar (639-8780)

Kavi Sammelan (Hindi Samaj) – April 19, 6:30 PM – Transit Middle School, East Amherst. Contact: Sujata Kishore (689-2424)

The divine art of dancing – Origins of Indian dance forms

Everything was stabled (inertia), out of inertia sprang forth movement, the life force (prana), the constellations danced, the world moved, the nature (prakriti) danced in exuberance and the entire universe resounded with a joyful cry "I am" ---Rig Veda

It would seem that dance came into existence at the beginning of the universe embodying in it the poetry and power of movement. Inspired by the sheer magic of motion observing the dance of nature, the flight of birds, the flutter of the leaves, the gusts of winds, the energy of the waves, primordial man danced expressing his joy of existence. Dance in India can be traced back to the Indus valley civilization (3300–1700 BC) with the evidence of the beautiful bronze dancing girl figurine unearthed in the ruins of Mohenjodaro and Harrappa. In India, dance became an important ritual for the appeasement of gods in the Vedic period and subsequently became highly stylized, structured and codified laying the foundation for the modern day classical forms. Sanskrit drama and the literary contributions of India's great poets and dramatists like Kalidasa, Bana, Jayadeva and many others over the centuries influenced the style and presentation of classical dance in different regions of India. Dance was also perceived as an expression of joy, abundance and celebration of the bounty of nature for the common man. People danced to harvest seasons, marriages, and other social events and this gave rise to the folk forms of dance imbibing the culture, variety, costumes, religion and philosophy of different regions in India. Over 5000 years of India's long illustrious history, both the classical and folk forms borrowed ideas and enriched each other subsequently leading to the more defined classical and folk traditions.

The dance traditions recognized as classical forms by the government of India are Bharatanatyam (TamilNadu), Kuchipudi (AndhraPradesh), Odissi (Orissa), Mohiniyattom (Kerala), Gaudiya Nritya (West Bengal), Sattariya (Assam), Manipuri (Manipur) and Kathak (Northern region of India). There are also innumerable colorful folk traditions to name a few Bhangra (Punjab), Garba (Gujrat) etc. Whatever may be the style or tradition, Indian dance embodies in itself the very spirit, religion and philosophy of life.

The presiding deity of dance is Shiva and he is called as "NATARAJA" - meaning the lord of dance. The image of Nataraja is a visual representation of the intangible and cyclic entity of life, wherein the Damru (the drum) represents Shabdha and Vayu (Prana) or creation, the Water (the Ganga) represents sustenance, Fire represents Destruction, the Foot trampling the demon Muyalaka represents man's ignorance and vices, his earthly desires while the lifted foot with the hand pointed at the demon symbolized ether or "Anugraha" benovelence and liberation from the cycle of birth and death. Attainment of "Moksha" or liberation of the soul and the journey to the very stillness, formless abstract ethereal state "Shunya" forms the main quest of the "dance of life" which we all experience bound within the mortal frame of the body and world around us.

--- Neelima.R.Kakarlapudi & Sarada Jammi

Procrastination

As I sat down to write this article I was reminded of this Seinfeld episode about procrastination. I was really wondering how much it applied to my life or even to those who surrounded me. So before starting to think about what to write about procrastination, I thought, let me check with god first and I went to www.wikipedia.org. Procrastination has been categorized as a behavior and people actually suffer from the chronic version of this 'behavior' which maybe a sign of other psychological problems. After about 10000 something words on procrastination, my stomach was growling for food, and while eating I absolutely have to check the most awaited mails of the day, forwards, which I might have already read, but a joke never stops being funny does it? By the time I finished doing that, my mom called and we spent a fascinating hour exchanging recipes, talking about the weather and gossip in the colony. By that time my friends called me and we decided to meet up for some shopping which of course lead to dinner. After the usual chat and fights about the best way to go about achieving world peace, it was sleep time and the article writing was postponed to next day morning and after three weeks I wrote this.

-- Swathi Ramakrishnan

IAB Congratulates Raj Bansal on being named as one of HSBC's 'Best of the Best'. Raj was named the recipient of the 2008 Presidents award. This award was bestowed on 209 among over 60,000 across North America. The citation reads: "Your achievements have truly brought our global pillars and brand values to life, and have shown how a commitment to these tenets can lead to tangible, positive impact on our business – with external customers, sales results, internal customers, productivity, cost-efficiency, or by impacting our local communities." -- Paul Lawrence, President & CEO, HSBC Bank, USA N. A.

Kudos to India Student Association Dancers on being placed ***First*** in the International Fiesta 2008 Dance Competition.

Message from the Editor

Our next big event is the Annual Indoor Tournament. Please use the registration form (insert) to confirm your participation.

Our next newsletter publication is scheduled for June/July 2007. ***To ensure your spot in our newsletter subscriber list, please become members of IAB.*** We thank you for your interest in our newsletters and welcome news articles, poems, editorials and other publication grade materials for future publications. We also publish accomplishments of our community members in the newsletter. Please forward your creative work by email to sdinesh@adelphia.net or info@iabuffalo.org.

2008 IAB Republic Day Celebrations



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