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## Annual Calendar of Events for 2003

**Annual Dinner**, February 9, Radisson Hotel, Roseville, 5:00pm to 8:30pm (details, Page 3)  
This is an annual event held early in the year which brings the community of those sharing a common Indian origin together. It represents the interests of the community. At this occasion IAM honors a person who has excelled at his/her chosen field of profession or expertise.

**Festival of Nations**, May 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> at the River Center in downtown St. Paul.  
IAM operates a food booth that sells Indian Food and also organizes cultural programs and a bazaar featuring Indian artifacts.

**Independence Day**, August 16 at Snail Lake Park, 12:00pm to 5:00pm.  
Held in mid-summer to celebrate the Indian Independence Day followed by picnic with food and games.

**Festival of India**, October 5th at the Landmark Center  
This is an annual event held in early Fall at the Landmark Center in St. Paul, showcasing music, dances, cultural entertainment programs and food stalls from India.

**\*\* Volunteers are needed for each of these events. So if you are interested, please contact any of the board members (Page 6).**

## Volunteer with IAM and Related Organizations

In addition to hosting a variety of events as noted above, there is ample opportunity for everyone in the larger community to get involved, volunteer and give back to the community..... Here are some of the exciting opportunities.....

- Community Service
- Speaker's Bureau
- Host Family Program
- Youth Activities
- 55+ Club
- Asian Indian Women's Association
- Newsletter
- Oral History Project

**\*\*Please let your interest be known either through the membership form (Page 4) or by contacting any of the board members (Page 6).**

## Annual General Body Meeting Report

Indian Association of Minnesota held its annual general body meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the International Institute of Minnesota. Mr. Ashoke Mandal, the President of the IAM Board gave an

overview of the activities and events that the association has engaged in 2002.

Notable among the events of the year, was the IAM annual dinner, where the

late Senator Paul Wellstone was the chief guest, and Minneapolis Mayor Randy Kelly was the keynote speaker. State Senator Satveer Chaudhary also attended the dinner. Fred de Sam Lazaro from Twin Cities



*Outgoing President for 2002, Ashoke Mandal being presented with a plaque from Deepshikha Gupta, the new President for 2003.*

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given the achievement award by the Association.

Other events of IAM included the Festival of Nations, Independence Day celebration and picnic and the annual Festival of India in October. At the Independence Day celebration, several local political leaders attended the event and participated in the celebration.

In the social work area, the IAM in collaboration with the Gujarati Association raised \$235,000 for the victims of the earthquake in Gujarat. The donations were used to build 117 houses and to restore the infrastructure for irrigation. The association also expressed its concern through a resolution about the communal violence in Gujarat which took place in February and sent \$2000 for relief for the victims of the violence.

Locally, an important volunteering effort of some Board members is to assist the House of Charity's Soup Kitchen. Five or six volunteers serve food at the Soup Kitchen every last Saturday of the month. This is an example of the way our community can give back to the larger twin cities community and also learn firsthand, the reality of the problems of poverty in the state.

The last important item of the meeting was the introduction of the new President and the new Board members of the association.



Deepshikha Gupta, Professor of Economics at the College of St. Catherine's is the new president.

The new Board is eager to publicize our

*New President Deepshikha Gupta addressing the meeting*

community's positive contributions, which was felt to be necessary, in light of the negative fallout of events of Sept 11, 2001 on immigrants around the country. There were also other valuable suggestions, highlighting our shared concerns with the mainstream America, to increase awareness of the Association's activities and programs among the Indian community and to attract more members especially from the younger generation, and to provide a bridge among the various other associations of the Indian community.

- Manju Parikh

## Message from the Outgoing IAM President....

It has been a great privilege and honor for me to serve as IAM President for the year 2002. As I write this and reflect back on 2002, I am overwhelmed by the tragic course of events both here and in India. The violence in Gujarat took many innocent lives. IAM sent a resolution letter to the Government of India and the government of Gujarat. IAM also sent monetary donation towards the relief activities for the victims of this violence. In Minnesota we were all shocked by the tragic and untimely death of U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone. He was the Chief Guest at our Annual Dinner in February of last year. He also took the time to attend our most recent event, the Festival of India, on October 6 at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. His voice and presence will be greatly missed within our community.

The year 2002 was very significant in many aspects. IAM became more visible among the broader community and the policymakers. We continued and reinforced our contacts with Minnesota Attorney General's office, U.S. Senate and Congress offices. IAM was also in

touch with the University of Minnesota during our dialog about the South Asian Language and Literature program. IAM took an active supporting role during the formation of Minnesota Indo-American Education Forum (MIEF). The primary objective of MIEF is to educate the policy makers, media organizations and community at large on issues about India.

Our successful events of last year were the Annual Dinner in February with a record attendance of 170 people. Our participation at the Festival of Nations was characterized by record sales in the café and the enthusiastic participation of youth volunteers in different events such as café, dance, and cultural exhibits. The Independence Day Celebration Picnic was held at Snail Lake Park on August 25. The Chief Guest, Deputy Attorney General Ken Peterson, The Guest of Honor, Mr. Godan Nambudiripad, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, State Senator Satveer Chaudhary, House Representative Geri Evans were part of the 200 plus attendees in the celebration. Festival of India was a huge success with a turnout of more than 800 people, a four-hour enter-

tainment program, food and presence of many special guests.

Towards the end of the year a strategic planning meeting was held with community leaders and board members to discuss the short-term and long-term goal of IAM. Financially IAM had done very well by finishing the year with more money than what we started the year with.

I am thankful to the Board of Directors and all the volunteers for their support throughout the year. Their diligent efforts were at the heart of the success of all our events. My best wishes to the new President, Ms. Deepshikha Gupta and the Board of Directors for the year 2003.

- Ashoke Mandal

# Oral History of the 30-year History of IAM

2003 is a special year for IAM in many aspects. IAM has started celebrating its 30th Anniversary. The 30th-year history of IAM is going to be recorded through narrations, transcripts, and other memorabilia. After completion of the Oral History Project in two years, it will be carefully preserved at Minnesota Historical Society. It would be the evidence of our successful migration, prosperous lifestyle and rich culture that IAM portrays through its various programs and activities in the last 30 years. Our present and future generations of the Asian-Indian community would be proud of the Oral History Projects, that are priceless historical contributions to the State of Minnesota.

As of today, three Oral History Projects have been completed and preserved at Minnesota Historical Society. The first project emphasizes on the first-generation Indian immigrants in Minnesota. The second project focuses on the next-generation youth of Indian

Origin in Minnesota. The third project narrates the 20-year history of School of India Language and Culture (SILC).

The thousands of years of traditional story telling skills through generations - 20 narrators will unveil the 30-year History of IAM in the fourth Oral History Project. It is a partnership between Minnesota Historical Society and IAM.

IAM is urging your participation in this fourth Oral History Project and towards the 30-year Anniversary Celebration this year.

If you have any questions, comments or would like to volunteer, please contact Dilip Mallick, the Chairperson of the Fourth Oral History Project at (763)-546-9393.

- Dilip Mallick

## From the New President's Desk...

I would like to wish you all a happy new year. This year, 2003 is a year of celebration for the India Association of Minnesota (IAM) as we have completed 30 years of operation this year. It will be a common theme of celebration throughout this year for IAM. For the new board, this year has started on a high note with a half-day board retreat that took place on January 5. The board has started thinking strategically about the future direction of IAM. We are looking at different ways to streamline the regular board operations so that significant energy and time can be devoted to new initiatives and causes. My vision is that within the next ten years IAM should be a major organization in the Twin Cities promoting the interests of the Indian-American community.

Recent demographic data reports that the Asian Indian population in the United States has doubled during the last decade. According to the 2000 census report, 1.7 million people in the US identify

themselves as Asian Indians or

Indian Americans. The Asian Indian population in Minnesota is estimated to be 18,000 strong. This increase in population over the last decade is in response to the high demand for hi-tech visa workers. IAM would like to grow and change as the number and composition of our community changes.

A strong and effective IAM will be in a position to promote the interests of our community. In order to make this community organization more effective I will turn to you, the community, time and again to seek your advise, input and support. Please make sure that you bring your concerns, ideas and energy to your representatives on the board of directors. You will be asked to volunteer for one or more events, and attend different programs organized by the IAM. Ask your friends, and co-workers to attend with you. The annual calendar for these events is given in

### Indian and Other Businesses

If you are interested in advertising in the upcoming Issues of the Newsletter for '2003, please contact any of the following on the Newsletter sub-committee members by March 1, 2003:

Anil Kaul	(763)-449-6910
Manju Parikh	(612)-623-0160
Prem Khera	(651)-483-2272
Sanghamitra Sahu	(763)-593-1403

Advertising your business card would cost you \$50 per issue or \$150 for rest of the three issues combined

this issue of the newsletter.

We will seek community volunteers to participate and co-ordinate regular IAM activities. These programs consist of an annual dinner (February 9), Independence Day picnic (August 16), Festival of India (October 5), and the Festival of Nations (May 2-4). If you are interested in participating in the planning process, please call Bankim Desai or Rabinder Bains.

Another initiative undertaken this year is the history project for the IAM. Dilip Mallick has started collecting information about the past activities of the IAM which has been in operation for 30 years. We now are in the process of recording the history of IAM through historical documents and oral interviews. This collection will become a permanent part of the Minnesota Historical Society collections. If you have information that you will like to see included in this project, please contact Dilip Mallick (763) 546-9393.

- Deepshikha Gupta

# India Association of Minnesota (IAM)

*cordially invites you to our*

## **Annual Dinner** *on* **Sunday, February 9th, 2003**

*at the*

*Radisson Hotel, Roseville*

*2540 Cleveland Ave. N, Roseville, MN 55113*

*5:00pm to 8:30pm.*

*Remembering 30 years of IAM*



- **Keynote Speaker:**  
Mr. Gopal Khanna  
*"Indian Americans in Public Life"*

### ■ **IAM Achievement Award Presentation**

#### **Full-course Indian Dinner**

##### **Advance Tickets:**

\$25 IAM members

\$30 Non-IAM members

\$20 students

- **All tickets \$5 extra at the door**
- **Make checks payable to IAM**
- **Mail before *Jan. 31, 2003* with  
Vegetarian or Non-vegetarian selection to:**  
Govind Vatassery  
756 Syndicate St.  
St. Paul, MN 55116

#### **For more information, contact:**

Deepshikha Gupta: (651)-454-2124

Rabinder Bains: (651)-735-4322

Bankim Desai: (651)-784-8916

Kumud Sahgal: (952)-401-7548

Govind Vatassery: (651)-699-9498

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

#### **Directions to Radisson Hotel Roseville:**

##### **From I-35W South**

Take exit 24, left on Long Lake Rd, Left on  
County Road CW, Right on Cleveland Ave. N

##### **From I-35W North**

Take exit 24, stay Left at fork on ramp,  
Right onto Cleveland Ave. N

**Phone: 651-367-3967**

# IAM Membership Application/Renewal Form

1.  NEW  RENEWAL

2. Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

4. Last Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

5. Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

6. Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_

7. E-Mail Address : \_\_\_\_\_

8 Profession/Business : \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

9. Children living with you :

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

10. Membership Type : Check One

Individual (\$15.00- 1 Year)

Family (  \$20.00 - 1 Year,  \$40.00 - 3 Years,  \$200.00 - Life)

11. Yes ! I want to be an active member. Please contact me for the following activities

Community Service  Festival of India  Newsletter  Speaker's Bureau  Host Family Program

Festival of Nations  Youth Activities  Web Page  History Project  55+ Club

Asian Indian Women's Association

**Please mail your form to:** India Association of Minnesota  
P.O. Box 130158  
St. Paul, MN 55113

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

Phone: 651-454-2124  
e-mail: [dshikha@stkate.edu](mailto:dshikha@stkate.edu)  
<http://www.iamn.org>

**IAM 2003 Board Officers**

President	Deepshikha Gupta (651)-454-2124
Vice President	Rabinder Bains (651)-735-4322
Treasurer	Govind Vatassery (651)-699-9498
Secretary	Bankim Desai (651)-784-8916



**IAM 2003 Board Members**

Anil Kaul	(763)-449-6910
Ashoke Mandal	(763)-478-8163
Atul Shroff	(763)-370-6125
Balki Radhakrishnan	(763)-416-4722
Bankim Desai	(651)-784-8916
Deepshikha Gupta	(651)-454-2124
Govind Vatassery	(651)-699-9498
Hatim Carim	(651)-736-1638
Indushekhara Nair	(952)-881-4847
Ketan Gada	(612)-823-2247
Kumud Sahgal	(952)-401-7548
Nitin Patil	(952)-896-9780
Preeti Mathur	(651)-483-0793
Prem Khera	(651)-483-2272
Rabinder Bains	(651)-735-4322
Rajinder Singh	(651)-205-1525
Ramesh Muniswamy	(651)-994-8015
Rohit Jalali	(201)-491-1538
Sanghamitra Sahu	(763)-593-1403
Sanjeev Parikh	(651)-894-6431
Sumita Mitra	(651)-457-2107

**Newsletter Subcommittee**

*Manju Parikh, Prem Khera,  
Sanghamitra Sahu and Anil Kaul*

**FESTIVAL OF NATIONS**  
**May 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003**  
**River Centre, St. Paul**

IAM will be participating in the Festival of Nations again this year. Volunteers are needed to help at the Café & Cultural exhibit booth during the festival. Please contact Festival Chairperson, Ramesh Muniswamy at (651)-994-8015 to sign up as soon as possible.

**Indian businesses** - If you are interested in hiring the Café (to sell ethnic food) or a stall at the Bazaar during the Festival of Nations (to sell ethnic items), please submit a **sealed bid** for consideration by IAM.

Depending upon the space allotted to IAM, the bazaar stall may be single- or double-size, and **bids should indicate the offer amount for each size**. Minimum bids acceptable are: \$1200 for a single stall, \$2000 for a double stall.

**Send bids by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 2003** to:  
Govind Vatassery, Treasurer  
The India Association of Minnesota  
P.O. Box 130158  
St. Paul, MN, 55113

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