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## Annual Calendar of Events for 2004

**Annual Dinner**, February 15, Radisson Hotel, Roseville, 5:00pm to 8:30pm (see 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**, April 30<sup>th</sup>-May 2<sup>nd</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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**, September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Landmark Center  
This is an annual event held in Fall at the Landmark Center in St. Paul, showcasing music, dances, cultural entertainment programs and food stalls from India.

**\*\* If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please contact any of our board members (see Page 6).**

## Become a volunteer

In addition to hosting a variety of events as noted above, there is 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	Newsletter Articles
Speaker's Bureau	Oral History Project
Host Family Program	Youth Activities
55+ Club	Asian Indian Women's Association

**\*\* Please let your interest be known either through the membership form ( see Page 4), our website ([www.iamn.org](http://www.iamn.org)) or by contacting any of our board members (see Page 6).**

## From the President

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, with a hope for peace in the world. Talks between India & Pakistan are already a big step towards that goal for a part of the world close to our hearts.

The India Association of Minnesota is also starting a new year, with a new board elected in December. I am looking forward to working with this group of enthusiastic and energetic individuals. The events of the last two years have made it critical that we strengthen relationships both within and outside the Indian community. This will be done through an expansion of our

normal events and reaching out to other organizations. For IAM to achieve its goals, the involvement of the membership is crucial. One step in this regard will be a survey seeking your thoughts about what areas and activities you would like IAM to make a priority, as well as what information you would like to receive from the organization through its newsletter. Please look for and complete this survey, which will be available shortly on our website, at the Annual Dinner, and at other IAM sponsored events.

Speaking of the Annual Dinner, it will be held on February 15<sup>th</sup> (see details inside). We are very excited that Con-

gresswoman Betty McCollum will be our Chief Guest, sharing her thoughts on US Foreign relations. Our Keynote speakers will be the founders of Pangea World Theater, Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan. I hope you will all make a special effort to attend this important annual event.

Finally, a word of thanks to Deepshika and the outgoing board for their dedicated service to IAM. They have laid the foundation for us to continue to build and strengthen the organization.

- Rabinder K Bains

# IAM Annual Dinner 2004

Features Rep. Betty McCollum, Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan

The start of the new year means new hopes, new resolutions and the IAM Annual Dinner just around the corner. This year is no different! Mark your calendars now for the 2004 IAM Annual Dinner, to be held on Sunday, February 15, 2004, from 5.00 pm – 8.30 pm, at the Radisson Hotel in Roseville (see Page 3 for details).

This year's event promises both informative speakers and savory foods. Our Chief Guest will be Congresswoman Betty McCollum, whose address will highlight "U.S. Foreign Relations in the 21st Century". From affairs of the State, we will move to affairs of the Spirit with Keynote Speakers Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan, founders of the Pangea World Theater. Dipankar and Meena will speak about "Art as a Reflection of Life." Additionally, State Senator Satveer Chaudhary will bring us "home" by sharing with us his recent experiences in India, where he participated in the "Parvasi Bharatiya Divas" celebrations. A full course, sumptuous dinner from one of the finest Indian restaurants in town promises to make this year's IAM Dinner a feast for both the mind and the body.

Tickets for the dinner have been priced as follows: IAM Members - \$30, Non-Members - \$35, Students - \$20. Advance reservations are strongly recommended, as all tickets will cost an additional \$5 at the door. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Rabinder Bains at (651) 735-4322, Balki Radhakrishnan at (763) 416-4722, or Nitin Patil at (952) 896-9780. Checks payable to "IAM" may be mailed to Nitin Patil, at 4480, Parklawn Ave. #109, Edina, MN 55435. Tickets can also be purchased from one of IAM's Board Members near you.

Resolve now to join us for this wonderful evening and start 2004 as an active and engaged participant in Minnesota's Indian community. We look forward to seeing you and your family on February 15<sup>th</sup>!

## About 2004 Annual Dinner Speakers

### Chief Guest: Congresswoman Betty McCollum

Congresswoman Betty McCollum represents the 4th District of Minnesota in Congress and is only the second woman in Minnesota's history to be elected to the United States House of Representatives. Her constituency, the 4th District, is home to the state capital St. Paul, all of Ramsey county, and parts of western Washington and northern Dakota counties.

Congresswoman McCollum has built her career from the grass-roots level. She began her public service career by representing her neighborhood on the North St. Paul City Council, from 1986 through 1992. She continued her commitment to the community in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1992 – 2000, representing North St. Paul and St. Paul. During her tenure in the State Legislature, she served as an Assistant Leader in the House Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) Caucus for six years. She has represented the 4th District in Congress since 2000.

Though this is her first term in Congress, Congresswoman McCollum has clearly established her commitment to the families in her community by fighting for education, international human rights, the environment and the arts. She secured two key committee assignments in the House Education and Workforce Committee and the House Resources Committee. These committees are in the forefront of domestic policy-making, being responsible for establishing K-12 and post secondary educational standards and assessment and for legislation impacting our environment, and natural resources.

Congresswoman McCollum is a graduate of the College of St. Catherine in St Paul. Prior to her career in public service, she worked as a high school social science teacher.

### Keynote Speakers: Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan

Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan are founders of Minneapolis based Pangea World Theater, a theater committed to international works and styles. Dipankar is the artistic director and Meena is the literary and executive director of Pangea, which has strived to bring communities across the world together through theater productions, workshops and speakers.

Originally from India, Dipankar and Meena are pioneers in the Twin Cities' arts community: through Pangea's varied productions, they have shown the unique role that theater can play as a forum to discuss distinct social issues and present cross-ethnic perspectives of the human condition. Their work also has forged new ground by embracing an ethnically diverse artist base through the "Voices of Exile" series, a project that has generated greater interest and participation in the arts by Twin Cities immigrant communities.

Dipankar Mukherjee is the recipient of the Minnesota State Arts Board Video Documentation award (2003), City Pages Best Local Director award (1999) and other recognitions. He is also a past resident director of the Guthrie Theater and a current member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights.

Meena Natarajan's scripts have been professionally produced both in the United States, as well as in India. She currently serves as President of Woman Playwrights' International and is also a recipient of grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, and other prestigious organizations.

- Balki Radhakrishnan

## 2003 IAM Annual General Body Meeting

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003 India Association of Minnesota (IAM) held its Annual General Body Meeting at the International Institute of Minnesota. The meeting gives IAM members the opportunity to hear about the organization's activities over the past year and to elect the new Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

This year's meeting was presided over by Deepshika Gupta, IAM's 2003 board president. She briefly summarized IAM's activities throughout the year, thanking the many volunteers who had helped. Among the many accomplishments of 2003 was the revision of IAM's Mission Statement and By-Laws (available on IAM's website, [www.iamn.com](http://www.iamn.com)), completed through the hard work of Ram Gada, Vasant Sukhatme, Sarat Mohapatra and Anoop Mathur. The revised governing documents help to ensure that IAM will be able to grow and meet the changing needs of its membership. Representatives from IAM-affiliated organizations – the School of India for Languages & Culture (SILC), the Asian In-

dian Women's Association (AIWA) and the 55-Plus Club – also reported on their groups' activities. SILC has had such a successful time that they are near capacity for student enrollment.

After a review of the 2003 activities, Ram Gada, as chairperson of the Nominating Committee, conducted the election of the Board of Directors for 2004.



*Photo: On the left is outgoing President Deepshikha Gupta and on the right is incoming President Rabinder K Bains.*

All nominees were asked to briefly introduce themselves and say why they wished

to serve on the Board. The slate of nominees were then elected. Following this, the new Executive Committee was proposed and ratified by the new Board. A Trustee Advisory Council, consisting of seven members selected from the pool of IAM ex-presidents and committee chairs, was also nominated and elected. This is a new addition to IAM's organizational structure introduced in the revised By-Laws. The Advisory Council will:

- facilitate the transition of the new Board;
- act as the audit committee;
- lead long term planning activities; and
- provide advice to the Board if requested.

Following the acceptance speech from the incoming president, Rabinder Bains, on her goals for 2004 (see *From the President* in this edition), the General Body meeting was adjourned.

- Rabinder K Bains

## Festival of Nations: April 29-May4, 2004

Festival of Nations – 2004 is fast approaching, and I am pleased to announce that India Association of Minnesota (IAM) will continue our community's long-standing tradition of participating in this event. Organized by the International Institute of Minnesota, this annual event offers Minnesotans of all origins a glimpse at the rest of the world. Besides promoting cultural awareness and understanding, the event serves to strengthen ethnic group relationships and build close friendships among people of diverse backgrounds, as participating groups work side-by-side.

Each year, the approximately 100,000 visitors to the four-day Festival are greeted with displays of each participating country's language, art, culture, food and other vital information that makes up the social fabric of that nation. Groups present information about their native countries through individual display booths; ethnic foods are sold through

country-specific cafes, and each country also can set up booths to sell native artifacts, dresses, and other articles in a bazaar. Exhibitions, such as dance, give participating countries another way to share their heritage. All participants in this event dress in their native traditional clothing. It's no wonder that many schools sponsor trips to the event for their students—the Festival offers an opportunity for hands-on, interactive cultural learning and exchange that one cannot receive in a classroom or through books.

The Festival is a chance for us to celebrate and accurately depict the richness and complexity of our Indian origin with our fellow Minnesotans, and it gives us a chance to increase our awareness and understanding of their multi-faceted backgrounds and heritages, as well. It also is a chance to establish our presence as a diverse, but cohesive and fully participating ethnic segment of Minnesota.

I encourage all Indians living in Minnesota to take part in this colorful event, whether as visitors, volunteers or both.

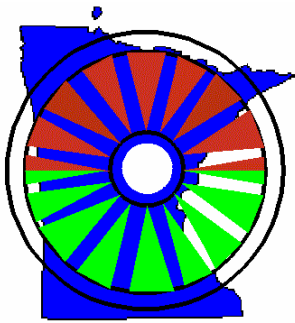
While several individuals already have contributed significant time in organizing our participation in this event, we need at least another 100 volunteers for the actual Festival. Volunteers can work in different shifts on different days. If you would like additional information about the Festival and/or are interested in volunteering for this very fun and rewarding event, please contact me.

Looking forward to your participation and hope to see you at the Festival of Nations.

Ramesh Muniswamy; Indian General Chairperson, Festival Of Nations; (651) 994-8015; [Ramesh\\_iam@att.net](mailto:Ramesh_iam@att.net)

**Note:** Business people interested in either setting up the Bazaar or running the café at Festival of Nations can contact

# India Association of Minnesota (IAM)



## IAM Annual Dinner

**Sunday, February 15, 2004**

**5.00 pm to 8:30 pm**

**Radisson Hotel, Roseville**

2540, Cleveland Avenue N, Roseville, MN 55113

**Chief Guest: Rep. Betty McCollum**

*Congresswoman, MN 4<sup>th</sup> District*

**“U.S. and International Relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”**

Keynote Speakers

**Dipankar Mukherjee & Meena Natarajan**

*Pangea World Theater*

*“Art as a Reflection of Life”*

Special Invitee

**Sen. Satveer Chaudhary**

*“Parvasi Bhartiya Divas Celebrations”*

Tickets: \$30 IAM Members, \$35 Non-Members, \$20 Students

Full Course Indian Dinner - Buy Your Tickets Today!!! All Tickets \$5 Extra at the Door

**For Tickets Please Call:**

Rabinder Bains: (651) 735-4322

Nitin Patil: (952) 896-9780

Balki Radhakrishnan: (763) 416-4722

Shambhu Nath: (952) 496-9119

Please Mail Checks payable to “IAM” by **Feb. 8:**

Nitin Patil

4480, Parklawn Ave. #109

Edina, MN 55435

**Directions to the Radisson Hotel, Roseville**

**From I-35W South**

Take exit 24, left on Long Lake Rd.,

Left on Cnty. Rd. CW, Right on Cleveland Ave. N

**From I-35W North**

Take exit 24, stay Left at fork on ramp

Right into Cleveland Ave. N

**Phone: (651) 367-3967**

Visit [www.IAMN.org](http://www.IAMN.org) for more information

Publicity Sponsored by: SunStar Mortgage (952) 445-0764 [www.loan-123.com](http://www.loan-123.com)

# 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: 651-735-4322  
e-mail: [president@iamn.org](mailto:president@iamn.org)  
<http://www.iamn.org>

#### IAM 2003 Board Officers

President	Rabinder K Bains (651)-735-4322
Vice President	Dilip Mallick (763)-546-9393
Treasurer	Nitin Patil (952)-896-9780
Secretary	Ramesh Muniswamy (651)-994-8015

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[geetmalatv@comcast.net](mailto:geetmalatv@comcast.net)

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#### IAM 2004 Board Members

Atul Shroff	(763)-370-6125
Balki Radhakrishnan	(763)-416-4722
Deepshikha Gupta	(651)-454-2124
Dilip Mallick	(763)-546-9393
Gita Sitaramiah	(651)-487-6648
Govind Shah	(651)-633-0363
Guptan Nambudiripad	(651)-698-0866
Hatim Carim	(651)-736-1638
Indushekharan Nair	(952)-881-4847
Kamal Sahgal	(952)-401-7548
Nitin Patil	(952)-896-9780
Rabinder K Bains	(651)-735-4322
Raji Shankar	(651)-730-5966
Ramesh Muniswamy	(651)-994-8015
Ramona Advani	(612)-825-6632
Sanghamitra Sahu	(763)-593-1403
Saurabh Pandit	(651)-493-7671
Shalini Thadani	(651)-734-0645
Shambhu Nath	(952)-496-9119
Shivanthi Sathanandan	(651)-698-0774
Sumita Mitra	(651)-457-2107

#### Newsletter Committee for 2004

*Ramona Advani, Shalini Thadani  
and Sanghamitra Sahu*

#### Indian and Other Businesses

If you are interested in advertising in the upcoming Issues of the Newsletter for '2004, please contact any of the following on the Newsletter subcommittee members by March 1, 2004:

Ramona Advani (612)-825-6632  
Shalini Thadani (651)-734-0645  
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: We publish four issues a year in January, March, July and October.

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