

<http://www.iamn.org>

India Association of Minnesota is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Minnesota for educational, cultural and charitable purposes. It is operated by the volunteers from the community.

Mark your calendars Final IAM Event for 2004!

IAM's Annual General Body Meeting will be held on December 4th 2004 at the International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Avenue, St. Paul (651-647-0191) from 1:30pm to 4:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Snacks will be served.

In addition details for the IAM Annual Dinner will be published in our January Newsletter and on our website at www.iamn.org.

President's Final Report for 2004:

The U.S. has just participated in the most fiercely contested election in history. Even the Asian vote in Minnesota became important - Kerry's campaign sent staff from Washington to get out the Asian vote. The most important thing for us to do as a community is to actively and diligently participate in policy discussions as they arise, so that our policy makers are aware of our concerns. We need to contact our representatives, irrespective of party affiliation, if policies are proposed that are not conducive to the well-being of our community. Senator Coleman is a member of the bipartisan Friends of India caucus in the U.S. Senate; Congresswoman McCollum is also a strong supporter of our community - both have been guests at IAM's annual dinners in the past. We need to develop our relationships with other elected officials as well, to ensure that our collective voice is heard in policy considerations important to us. Although the IAM is a non-political organization, it can advocate on behalf of the community in a non-partisan manner.

The IAM board has been ex-

tremely busy organizing various events over the last three months. The IAM Independence Day Picnic took place in August; it was a success thanks to Govind Shah, the chairperson, and all the other volunteers who helped (a special thanks to members of Vibha who organized the games). The Festival of India, held at the Landmark Center in late September, was a huge success thanks to the hard work of the planning committee under the chairmanship of Dilip Mallick. I want to acknowledge the tremendous support of the community in the stage program, the exhibits and the sponsorships, without which this event would not have been possible. IAM sponsored a new event in October: a Mushaira, an evening of poetry. Dr. Kamal Sahgal, with help from other community members, organized this event to provide an opportunity for a segment of our membership whose interests have not been addressed in IAM's other events. It was also an opportunity for all people from the Indian sub-continent to enjoy our shared heritage of Hindi and Urdu poetry. From a personal perspective, it was mesmerizing

to be enveloped in the beauty of our language for the first time here in Minnesota.

Another first this year will be the creation of the IAM Book Club, which will have its inaugural meeting in December. The focus will be on the works of South Asian writers - the first book will be "Family Matters" by Rohinton Mistry. Please contact me if you would like to participate - more details will be forthcoming on our website & in future newsletters.

IAM will be holding its General Board Meeting on December 4th at the International Institute of Minnesota from 1:30pm to 4pm. This is an opportunity for all members to get an overview of IAM's activities throughout the year, and to participate in the selection of the new board. It is also an opportunity to interact socially with other IAM members - refreshments will be provided. I hope many of you will take the time to attend this important meeting.

- Rabinder Bains

Festival of India 2004:

The India Association of Minnesota celebrated the 21st Festival Of India on September 26th, 2004 at Landmark Center, St. Paul. The Festival was a great success. More than one thousand festival goers attended the festivities.

It showcased enchanting live music, dances of Indian culture and heritage. Four Master of Ceremonies and more than 30 participants took part in the cultural program.



Photo: Tamil Folk Dance



Photo: Children's Folk Dance



Photo: Children's Classical Dance

The authentic Indian spicy food made the festival even more enjoyable and tasty. The long line of customers was noticeable at the food stall.

The thirty-three merchandise vendors reserved all the booths. This was highest numbers of vendors in attendance in the recent history of the festival. It was a



Photo: Bhangra

remarkable colorful display of booths decorated by the vendors.

The Indian Consulate General of Chicago staffs facilitated "door to door" service to issue Indian Visas and accepted Passport applications in emergency cases. More than a hundred people benefited from the service.

On the behalf of organizing committee of FOI and IAM Board, I would like to thank all the volunteers, participants and organizations who dedicated their time and efforts to make the 21st Festival Of India possible. It was an extraordinary accomplishment.

- Dilip Mallick
(Vice President IAM and Chairperson for Festival of India 2004)

Nominations for the 2005

IAM Annual Achievement

Award

The India Association of Minnesota (IAM) is currently seeking nominations for its 2005 Annual Achievement Award.

A committee of five members: three board members, and two-at-large community members, will determine this year's recipients. Depending on the number of eligible nominations received, one or two awards will be granted. The awards will be presented at the IAM Annual Dinner (Look for details in our January Newsletter and our website at www.iamn.org).

IAM honors individuals or organizations who have:

- Achieved excellence in his or her field;
- Contributed to the well-being of the Asian Indian Community in Minnesota;
- Displayed leadership to advance an understanding between the Indian community and the community at large in Minnesota.

Candidates are to be nominated under one or more of the following Categories:

- Dedicated Service to the Community;
- Excellence or Innovation in the Arts;
- Special Contribution in Leadership and Mentoring;
- Overcoming Personal Adversity.

Please submit a written nomination (with a brief bio and supporting details) by January Jan 5th, 2005 to

president@iamn.org or or mail to:
India Association of Minnesota,
P.O. Box 130158,
St. Paul, MN 55113.

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU FOR ITS

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

1:30PM – 4PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2004

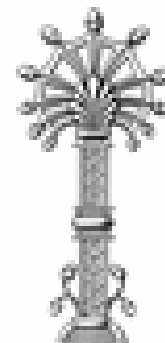
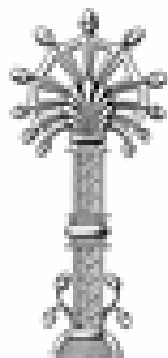
at the

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA

1694, COMO AVENUE, ST. PAUL

(651) 647-0191

Refreshments Will Be Served



Agenda

Welcome by 2004 IAM President Rabinder Bains
Treasurer's and President's Reports for 2004
Reports from IAM Affiliated Organizations
Election of Nomination Committee for 2005
Election of the Officers by the 2005 Board
Message from 2005 President
General Discussion
Refreshments

For more details, contact:
Rabinder Bains (651) 735-4322

Members that have been nominated for the 2005 IAM Board of Directors:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Dilip Mallick | 12. Raji Shankar |
| 2. Ramona Advani | 13. Sanjukta Misra* |
| 3. Nitin Patil | 14. Kavita Iyer* |
| 4. Shalini Thadani | 15. Bob Ramer* |
| 5. Ramesh Muniswamy | 16. Datta Godbole* |
| 6. Rabinder Bains | 17. Bhairvi Mahant* |
| 7. Guptan Nambudiripad | 18. Sandhya Gupta* |
| 8. Shivanti Sathanandan | 19. Pranab Chatterjee* |
| 9. Shambhu Nath | 20. Syed Ghazi Akailvi* |
| 10. Sanghamitra Sahu | 21. Sudhir Singh* |
| 11. Indushekar Nair | |

*New

Nominating Committee for 2005:

Deepshikha Gupta (Chair)
Saila Rao
Bankim Desai
Nayana Ramakrishnan
Franklin Gummedi

Additional Nominations:

The Board of Directors and the Trustee Advisory Council shall be elected from the nominees submitted by the Nomination Committee and published by the Secretary. However, additional nominees willing and able to serve may be presented by petition signed by at least ten (10) IAM members in good standing (as of July 31 of the year) with all necessary application forms filled and submitted to the Nomination Committee Chair not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of annual meeting. If Nominee's application meets the eligibility requirements, the Nomination Committee shall also include the applicant nominee for the election. The applicant will be informed by the Nomination Committee of its decision and explanation in case of rejection before the annual meeting.

For additional nominations contact Nomination Committee Chair: Preeti Mathur at 651-483-0793 for the application form

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Mushaira 2004: Shayeron ki Sham, Aapke Naam

October 10th 2004 is an important date for the Hindi Urdu speaking immigrants in the twin cities. We have shared our culture and heritage using various venues. A number of very talented teachers have brought the ancient traditional dances from India including Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Kuchipudi. A theater has been established to share the theatrical talent of the immigrants representing the south Asia. A musical society holds regular recitals of classic music from our part of the world. What was lacking was the representation of literature and poetry.

India Association of Minnesota in association with the Pakistan Students Association, Indian Students Association, South Asian Newspaper Group and Geetmala TV presented Shayeron Ki Shaam, Aap ke Naam (Mushaira), a recital of poems in Hindi and Urdu language on October 10th, 2004 at the St. Paul Student Center. The Mushaira was presided by a very accomplished poet and author Shekh Moiz Khan Saheb. There were two very distinguished guests of honor, Dr. Naresh Jain, professor and former head of the

department at the University of Minnesota and Mr. Anand Narayan Mathur. Mukhtar Thakur, the talented host of Geetmala TV program and equally versatile and talented Vandana Mangalick were the masters of the ceremony. There were a number of people behind the scene, who worked day and night to make this program a success. Among them were Mr. Iqbal Kazi, Mr. Iqram Ul Haq, Rabinder Bains, Raheel Sajid and Ismail-Sohel Ahmed.



Photo: Kamal Sahgal at the Mushaira

There were over twenty poets of both who recited their poems in Hindi and Urdu. Over one hundred people attended the Mushaira.

The poems were so good that the majority of the attendees stayed over 4 hours on Sunday night, knowing very well that they had to get up and go to work early on Monday morning. South Asia Foods provided the refreshments during the short break.

The Mushaira brought in the real community spirit. There was no Indian, Pakistani or Bangla Desi among the poets or the audience. They were all lovers of poetry. Based on the success of this program India Association of Minnesota has decided to make it an annual feature.

The spirit of Mushaira can be summarized in the following poem:

Rang hamara ek hai, Ek niyam vyavhar
Seema ke iss paar ya, Seema ke us paar
Dooth jalebi har subah, Roj sham ko chaye
Rahmatullah naam ho, Ya ho Ramsahai
Coat pain aur tie ko, Din mein liyo charhai
Kurte pajama bina, Neend inhen na aaye
Saalan biryani na ho, To daavat nahin suhai
Kavita aour shayeri ho, To char chaand lag jaye

- Kamal Sahgal

VIBHA:

As the Indian population in Minnesota has increased, so, too, has the desire of Indians in the Twin Cities to give of themselves, both to the communities they left behind in India and also to their new communities in the U.S. One organization devoted to that end is Vibha-MN, the local chapter of a national, non-profit group whose mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of underprivileged children. Vibha, which in Sanskrit means "inner radiance" or "brightness" when used in the context of children, meets this goal by funding projects that address the health, education, safety and many other essential needs of disadvantaged children. A few projects currently receiving Vibha support include:

- A trust that provides basic literacy to children, ages 3-5, in the villages of Tamil Nadu;

- An organization in California that provides clothing and school supplies to impoverished children in San Jose;

- A clinic that provides health care services including nutritional programs, immunizations/vaccinations, health education, disease treatment and water purification programs to village children in the Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh;

- A shelter in Austin, Texas that provides emergency refuge for abused, abandoned, and neglected children;

This child-centric organization is run entirely by volunteers, who take part in every aspect of its activities, including the evaluation, selection, and monitoring of the programs that it funds. As a result, unlike many organizations in which there are multiple layers of management and bureaucracy, Vibha gives its volunteers the opportunity to become directly engaged in its mission and to witness up-close its impact.

Vibha volunteers also plan the fundraising and community awareness events necessary to keep the organization going. Here in the Twin Cities, the volunteers have done so through a number of interesting, creative and fun events, including the annual Bowl for a Child bowling event, free brunches with delicious Indian food and lots of information about Vibha, a 5k Walk/Run, and most recently, the Bollywood Hungama, featuring such loved Hindi films as *Shole*, *Munnabhai MBBS*, and *Mohra*.

Those interested in learning more about Vibha projects, events or in becoming involved should visit its website at <http://minnesota.vibha.org>.

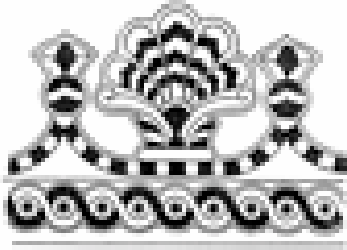
- Ramona Advani (IAM Board)

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

Phone: 651-735-4322
e-mail: president@iamn.org
<http://www.iamn.org>

IAM 2004 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



IAM 2004 Board Members

Balki Radhakrishnan (763)-416-4722
Deepshikha Gupta (651)-454-2124
Dilip Mallick (763)-546-9393
Gita Sitaramiah (651)-487-6648
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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*

2004 Festival of India Raffle Winner

Prudential Financial, one of the vendors at the 2004 Festival of India had a raffle and the winner was Mr. Raj Aroskar from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, who won a DVD player.

