



ICS Tracker

Annual General Body Meeting

Who's invited: All ICS members and their families

What: General Body Meeting 2000

When: Sunday, Jan. 14th, 2000, 3:30PM – 7:30PM.

Where: Antioch Lutheran Church: Tel: (248) 626-7906.

33360 W 13 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48334.

Socialization: 3:30 P.M.– 4:30 P.M.

Executive Committee Report: 4:30 – 5:30 P.M.

President Election : 5:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Dinner: 6:00 P.M. –7:00 P.M.



Executive Committee 2000

President: Satyendra Bhamra

Vice President: Swatantra Sud

General Secy: Harvinder Singh

Cultural Secy: Neena Malhotra

Jt. Cultural Secy I: Manoj Prasad

Jt. Cultural Secy II: Sailaja Yadavalli

Treasurer: Chyawan Bansil

Const. Advisor: Suneel Sekhri

Youth Committee 2000

Jaspreet Malhotra	810-323-0415
Naalti Vats	248-642-6088
Perna Suri	248-852-4165
Navu Singh	248-489-3146
Darleen Saini	248-828-4174
Avish Bhamra	248-540-9458
Malika Kaushal	810-323-2916
Neil Banerjee	248-335-6614
Zoya Singh	248-489-3146
Ashish Batra	248-528-3265
Raashi Kapoor	248-978-7077
Mehak Bansil	248-553-6758
Kavita Srivastava	734-455-3159



President's Corner

Dhoom Dhamaka has ended and we have taken a flying leap in the 2001. The year 2000 was a very exciting year for ICS and was a year full of experiences of all sorts, most of them good and some bad. Overall I think we did really well in terms supporting each other in the difficult times. We intended to jumpstart the year with the ski trip which unfortunately was canceled due to weather conditions. The next events included a very well attended and well organized Holi Function, Cricket outing, camping trip to Traverse city bay, summer picnic, etc.

As you all know, Dhoom Dhamaka, the remarkable 2000 Diwali Show was attended by a spectacular audience of about 400 people in the esteemed Millennium Center Theater having a capacity of about 1000 people. My thanks to all the choreographers, participants, and committee members for their hard work and sincerity in making this event



the most amazing of the year.

At some point, we will have to make choice between self sustained ICS activities vs. guest/Ads sponsored activities. This change will involve either shifting focus to increasing membership or Improving quality.

Teamwork is very critical in any organization for its success and therefore is also vital for ICS. If you bring in an individual who's a skilled dancer or musician, but can't work as part of a team, she or he is actually a liability. His/her skill means very little if he/she can't share it or uses it to disrupt the things the team is trying to put together.

In a democratic world, a team decision always overweighs individual decisions. No one is invincible. People should be judged based on the credibility of their actions rather than on their caste or religion.

A person who has nothing to contribute has no right to criticize.

The best way to improve a situation is to get yourself involved in contributing to it. Facts not presented with the right background could convey the wrong message to listeners.

As we are approaching the end of the year, I would like to take a moment to thank and congratulate the members of my executive committee. I have been blessed to work with such an amazing group of people. They have persevered through all the challenges that were thrown at them and it has been very rewarding to work side by side with them. They are dynamic colleagues and passionate individuals. I hope that you all will have the opportunity to get to know them as well in the near future as I have this year.

Thanks for all your help and continued support. Wish you all a very happy new year!! I am looking forward to seeing you all on January 14th for the General Body meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Satyendra Bhamra

ICS website

We will post the details of various activities and the ICS Tracker issues on our web site. Please do visit the site for the upcoming events in the near future.

www.ics-onweb.com

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Guardian Angel

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead the angels were given a small space in the old basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things aren't always what they seem."

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field. The younger angel was infuriated and

asked the older angel how could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him, she accused. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die.



"Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied.

"When we

stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall.

Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it." "Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him

the cow instead.

Things aren't always what they seem." Sometimes that is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way they should. If you have faith, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You might not know it until some time later...

Some people come into our lives and quickly go..

Some become friends and stay a while...leaving beautiful footprints on our hearts.

And we are ~ never ~ quite the same because we have made

a good friend!!

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present! I think this is special...live and savor every moment... This is not a dress rehearsal!

Source: *"Subodh Vats"*

...Things aren't always what they seem...

Dhoom Dhamaka in Retrospect

Dhoom Dhamaka, in retrospect, turned out to be the perfect name for the 2000 Diwali celebration for the Indian Cultural Society! Perfect, because there was dhoom dhama both, on stage for the audience, as well as backstage for the organizers and participants, with fights and threatened walk-outs, to name just a few. However it was the resilience and the dedication of every member and participant and the inherent DHOOM DHAMAKA cohesiveness of ICS as a whole, that brought everyone together to present this well received show.

The venue was the newly renovated Millennium Theater in Southfield, which took this annual event to the next level. The evening started with a sumptuous Indian dinner buffet, set in the very well decorated lobby of the theater and was extremely well presented and organized. The organizers had also arranged for some steam in gh at pizza and pop for the children to enjoy.

After dinner and cups of steam in gh at tea, the audience settled down in the comfortable seats of an auditorium with perfect lighting, decor and a well positioned audio system. The show started on time

and ended on time, breaking a very long tradition of late starts and unbearably long and late shows!



The show itself was very smoothly run with a variety of program reflective of our rich culture. The main highlight was the preparation by the participants was clearly evident in the show. The show contained an aarti performed by ICS children followed by a classical dance recital, children's fancy dress show, dances from the various states of India, a comedy skit, several dance enactments from hindu movies and a spoof on hindu movies to wrap up the show.

Overall it was a very enjoyable evening. The event was very well organized in spite of the obvious time constraints on the part of participants and their families as well as the organizers. Congratulations are in order for a job well done to everyone who had anything to do with the show. I am confident that the show will continue to evolve into a professional quality presentation in the years to come.

- Manoj Prasad

Editorial Note: A New Year's Resolution

After completing a semester in college, I can confidently say that independence is usually the greatest change one has to endure in the transition from high school to college. The role of independence is inherently followed by many responsibilities: Buying your own books, doing laundry, waking up in time to get to class... At this age, the responsibility is already included in an individual's character to varying degrees. Of course, it can be further developed throughout college and the rest of one's life, but a decent foundation is generally already established.

So where does a child acquire such characteristics? They can learn from enforced discipline or

roles they play earlier in their lives, but a huge influence is their parent's behavior. Even if it is not evident from a child's mannerisms, they idolize their parents and follow their actions. Children subconsciously watch their parents and form their morals and ideals by the things their parents say and do. In that sense, parents lead their children by example.

What happens when children only hear bits and pieces of a conversation don't know the context of a story? They begin to formulate inaccurate ideas because they have just made connections between unrelated events. I think this concept is something that applies heavily to

ICS. In the past few months, too many adults have been focused on individual desires and they have not considered the overall effect on others. Lately, the ICS vision is being forgotten as too many politics are involved in the mission. The general idea is to spread culture to the children rather than irrelevant personal issues. My suggestion is that this organization should refocus its energy to being a positive influence rather than a troublesome burden in the coming year. It's time to reflect on our intentions and make an effort to redirect them. On a lighter note, good luck to you all and have a great new year!

Sameeksha Bhama

The Election 2001

From the Desk of Arun Batra, Chief Election Officer

Dear ICS Members,

The nominations for the election of ICS President for 2001 are invited. All nominations should be duly proposed, seconded and received by **January 7, 2001**. No new nominations will be accepted on the election day. All members who have paid their dues by **October 1, 2000** are eligible to cast a vote. Each member shall be entitled to one vote. The husband and wife in a family will constitute two votes. The election will be conducted via secret ballot, or via mail ballot in special circumstances as specified by the executive committee. Election for the President will be held at the first ICS meeting of 2001.

Absentee Ballot: The following are the rules for casting the vote in absence.

- The member seeking the absentee ballot should contact the Chief Election Officer (CEO) by email/phone and should request for the absentee ballot.
- After receiving the request, the duly signed ballot will be made available to the requesting member or his nominee. The ballot in sealed envelope should be returned to CEO on the election day or before though the same nominee.
- No voting through email is acceptable.

If you need any question, you can email me at mailto:hemkund@home.com. Thanks.



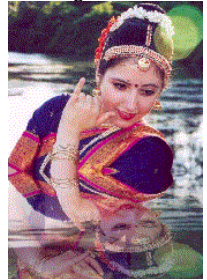
Arun Batra, CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER 2001

A Charitable Cause

Dear ICS Members,

I'm sure you all remember Naalti. She actively participated in the ICS Diwali function 2000. In response to our feedback request regarding the function, we received many letters complimenting her performance.

Here is another aspect of Naalti's life I wish to share with you. Naalti is very active in community giving. She is having a cultural show in conjunction with an art exhibition and sale organized by her sister's charity. The second annual LSF event will be held on **January 21, 2001** from 4-8 PM at Detroit Community Days beautiful, newly built auditorium. Anjali, her sister, painted all summer long, often 10-12 hours a day, and donated the artwork to the Lupus Scholarship Fund (LSF). Naalti's sister and mother both have lupus. The LSF scholarships are intended for students with chronic illness who show promise in academic achievement and leadership. More importantly, the scholarships honor the youth's courage and strength in facing their disease. Here is an opportunity for the Indian Cultural Society to support one of their children. We all know how difficult and time consuming it is to organize a show. We need you to be there to support their cause. The event will be held at a 750-seat auditorium, so please tell a friend and bring them in. By being there, we can show these children that we appreciate how important and special their work is, and that we support them in their effort.



I would also like you to visit the LSF website at: www.msu.edu/~vatsan/ja/lsf/. For more information, write lupussscholarshipfund@hotmail.com.

- Swatantra Sud



Diwali Function as Viewed by Our Audience

"I really appreciate the stand taken regarding the solo show as some items can not be performed in groups- as was in the classical dance. I suggest we should encourage our traditional dances, may be in solo so that the kids who work hard can be recognized in the community. I was surprised to note that not even a single person said anything in our mother tongue. Overall, the show was excellent, the participants performed to their maximum, food was good."

- Anil Sakuja

"This was our first time watching the ICS Diwali show and I felt that as compared to other Diwali shows and other major Indian cultural shows, ICS show fared pretty well. It was obvious from watching the show that there was a tremendous stress on quality in selecting the items. It makes perfect sense to have that focus for such major and 'expensive' event for any organization. Holi, Basant or camping are fine for 'cute' impromptu all-inclusive

'whatever goes' shows. Song recording I know ended up being tough and the 'safety' guards you had to throw in will permit me to give it a whopping NINE. Bravo Dr. Manoj Prasad!"

- Subodh Vats

"The skit was well-received and provided humor element in the show. The singing as usual became a time when most people headed for the lobby. The guest artist's songs were not suitable for this event. The show was really helped by some good items like dholna, Mast Mast from Fiza, Naalati's dance, Prerna suri's dance, Bam bam dumroo Baje, Haryanvi dance, Bhangra.

Overall function: The highlights of the evening were that the venue was Excellent. The dinner arrangements were very pleasing and set the appropriate mood. The theatre was Excellent. The comm did a good job of keeping the show going smoothly from one item to the next. MC handled sudden pressures and crises splendidly by sticking to the program and not caving in to demands. That is very laudable and absolutely essential during a show. Manoj Prasad should be given credit for carrying the show on his shoulders and juggling a lot of

roles. He did a great job in back stage management.

There is a lot of potential in ICS and for future shows to improve in quality you need good leadership, less politics and a passion for excellence!!"

I must also thank you, Satyen, for doing a wonderful job with the ICS this year. "

- Anonymous

"Lights were not focused on the speakers. Reception and the place was extremely good. Skit was good, nice and short. Dances were good. Tamil Sangam had a real good performance for "Dhola"

Fancy dress for kids could have been better with dresses from different parts of India. Bollywood was stretched little longer. Didn't we give too much emphasis on Films? MCs could have avoided background noises, More songs could have been requested from Shree and Mona, they are good singers and it was disheartening to hear only one song. Ms. Sharma's classic songs could not do the justice. Bhangra was good and refreshing."

- Arun Batra

Life... in Perspective

If you have food in the refrigerator,
Clothes on your back,
A roof overhead and a place to sleep,
You are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank,
In your wallet,
And spare change in a dish someplace,
You are among the top 8% of the
world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more
health than illness,
You are more blessed than the million
who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger
of battle,
The loneliness of imprisonment,
The agony of torture, or the pangs of
starvation,
You are ahead of 500 million people in
the world.

If you can attend a church meeting
Without fear of harassment, arrest,
torture, or death,
You are more blessed than three billion
people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married
You are very rare, even here in Canada.
If you hold up your head with a smile on
your face
And are truly thankful,
You are blessed
Because the majority can, but most do
not.

If you can hold someone's hand,
Hug them or even touch them on the
shoulder,
You are blessed because you can offer
healing touch.

If you can read this message, you just
received
A double blessing in that someone was
thinking of you,
And furthermore, you are more blessed
Than over two billion people in the world
that cannot read at all.

Happy new year, count your blessings,
And pass this along to remind everyone
else How blessed we all are.

- Source: Miru Bansil

RECOGNITION

ICS executive committee
would like to recognize
the following individuals
for their leadership,
dedication, and commitment
for upholding the
ICS vision for 2000.

Perna Suri
Navu Singh
Naalti Vats
Malika Kaushal
Jaspreet Malhotra
Kavita Srivastava
Sameeksha Bhama
Jyothi Raman
Manjula Lall



ICS TRACKER Staff

Editor-in-chief
Sameeksha Bhama
Staff Writer:
Neil Banerjee
Manoj Prasad
Advisor:
Satyendra Bhama

Contact Sameeksha at
bhama@purdue.edu

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Ayush Batra, the elder son of
Arun & Dolly Batra, who will be
graduating from Troy High School,
got an early admission acceptance
to Johns Hopkins University. Congratu-
lations Ayush and we wish
you all the best. By the way, Ayush
is considered an excellent soccer
player and represented his Troy
team at the state level. Keep up
the good work!



The Generation Gap

For decades, Indians have been immigrating to America in search of many things: better lives, joining their relatives, or even the simple hope of money, and the majority of us have been satisfied. There is a rapidly growing Indian population in America: in every one of my classes at school, there are at least two Indians, and in other schools the concentration is even greater. There are entire neighborhoods of Indians; nearly all of us know of the Gerard Street of Toronto, where it seems as if someone dropped a piece of India into Canada. Overall, Indians have been successfully integrating themselves into Western society, but there is a second factor that has not been carefully considered.

"Second-generation" Indian immigrants, those of us born in America, are in a curious predicament. In a situation similar to that of the Irish, Slavic, and German immigrants of the late nineteenth century, a "generation gap" of sorts has formed, where parents and children frequently clash. Parents want their kids to hold onto Indian culture, Indian ideals, and Indian ways of life, whereas the children look about themselves at a seemingly utopian culture, that in their eyes makes India look like a thing of the past. The parents throw fits when they get word of anything less than an "A+" and the children take pride

in B's. Parents listen to Indian music that children see as a miraculous cure for insomnia, whereas children listen to modern American music that makes the parents gag. Parents chatter back and forth in their native languages of India when children speak English with the distinctive accents of an American. I am not saying that the situation is a constant war between the generations— it is anything but, as there are numerous common grounds upon which children and parents alike agree— yet there are conflicts that need to be resolved.

First, the grading situation. Sometimes, it is true, that kids get lower grades than their ability allows, and in this case parents are justified in disapproving, but the other situation is the true problem, the situation where the child "gives it his all" and still ends up with a B or C. Instead of shouting, complaining, or any other forms of expressing displeasure, work constructively, trying to isolate the problem and devising a method for solving it. And kids: try harder, instead of giving up.

Second, the culture situation. Parents need to understand that American culture is just as worthy of being a part of as Indian culture; kids need to understand the reverse. Believe it or not, there actually IS good Indian music out there. And if kids have an American accent and don't speak an Indian language, it's the

language we grew up with, the language we speak in school, the language we use with our friends— just about everywhere. It's understandable if we have a difficulty using the Indian languages as well as English. Conversely though, kidsshouldn't shy from learning an Indian language and using it. It's worth it, in more ways than one. I am not saying that kids should "Indian-ize" themselves, and I am not saying that parents should "American-ize" themselves. A third point, a compromise of sorts, is the best situation to this problem. Parents need to recognize that a 4.0 GPA is not everything; kids need to recognize that school is an extremely important part of childhood. Parents need to see that American culture is a fascinating and rapidly changing phenomenon; kids need to see that Indian culture is an ancient and rich tradition, dating back thousands of years. While neither culture is superior to the other, adhering solely to one is denying oneself experiencing the other.

In conclusion, while neither country has a superior way of life, merging the Indian way of life with the American way is an excellent method of integrating oneself into American society while retaining your individual uniqueness.

Neil Banerjee

INDIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY
4061 Country Club Drive
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301



Happy New year!!

