

July 2004
Volume 2, Issue 2



Sandesh

A Newsletter From IndUS of Fox Valley

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Please visit our website at
www.indusfoxvalley.org

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Appleton WI 54914
(920) 749-4911
indusfoxvalley@yahoo.com

IndUS Future Fund

IndUS has joined hands with Community Foundation of Fox Cities (CF) to establish IndUS Future Fund. Each year, IndUS will be able to use the investment income generated by this fund toward charitable causes. Sixty percent of the income will be devoted to local causes. IndUS aspires to reach a target of \$ 100,000 by the year 2008. This should enable

IndUS to make a substantial and sustained contribution to the community. Further, IndUS has identified education as the focus for its charitable donations for the years 2004-2005. We once again appeal to our friends to extend their generous support as IndUS pursues this noble cause. We need donors and promoters who can help achieve our target.

IndUS 2004

For the past five years, the annual IndUS banquet has become an established tradition in the Fox Valley. This year the event will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2004 at Reeve Memorial Union, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Oshkosh.

Like in the previous years, IndUS 2004 also has a distinctive theme: *Architecture of India*. IndUS volunteers, from among several equally exciting themes, chose the theme during our annual "Volunteer Recognition Dinner" held in January.

Once again, an exhibition and a multimedia presentation will take you through a journey providing the glimpses of architecture of India from north to south, east to west, and from antiquity to the present day modern India. If you have enjoyed the previous IndUS events, this year's event will surpass your experience and expectations. "The annual banquet has become one of the hottest events of the year. By showcasing the splendors of

Indian architecture and featuring professor Peter D'souza's culinary magic, IndUS-2004 promises a veritable feast to all our guests!" says Dr. Sridhar, President of IndUS of Fox Valley.

The Steering Committee for IndUS-2004 consists of: Badri Varma (Chair), Aruna Shet (Banquet), Ruth Mansukhani (Exhibition), Ritu Tannan (Decoration), B. S. Sridhar (Cultural Program), Sandhya Sridhar (Reception), Ram Shet (Sponsors & Donations), Viju Rao (Ticket Sales), Mahendra Doshi (Publicity), Vivek Kulkarni (Finance), Jennifer Larson (Participant Feedback). Please contact any of the above to be a part of the exciting team of volunteers!

Every IndUS banquet has been a sold out event! To avoid disappointment, please contact Ms. Viju Rao, 920.989.8458 for tickets, at the earliest opportunity.



From Editors' Desk

Sandesh is happy to announce its new and improved look for the October Issue, as well as a more ambitious scope for its online edition. The editors feel that *Sandesh* can be more than a purely informational newsletter, and invites suggestions and short articles of 250-300 words from its readership. These pieces should be of general interest, and should also avoid extreme views! Since Architecture is the theme for IndUS 2004, articles on any aspect of architecture—travel, historical significance, aesthetics, restoration, and even personal reminiscences may be appropriate.

Sandesh

**AN IndUS Of Fox Valley
Publication**

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News...

Welcome to New Board and Executive Committee Members

During the Annual General Body Meeting of IndUS of Fox Valley on March 27, 2004, the biennial elections were held. The members of the new Board and the Executive Committee are listed on the first page. *Sandesh* congratulates them and looks forward to another two years of productive era.

Recognitions

IndUS is pleased to congratulate two of its members on receiving well-deserved prestigious awards.

Dr. Ram Shet, a founding member of IndUS, was recently honored by the Rotary Club of Appleton with its Rotarian of the Year award for the year 2003-2004 “in sincere appreciation and recognition of distinguished service, loyalty and devotion to the ideals of Rotary”. The citation further reads “his tireless efforts on behalf of so many both here and abroad”.

In addition, Ram, was awarded ***Paul Harris Fellow*** (Rotary Foundation of Rotary International), “in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world”. As a part of this recognition, Rotary Club of Appleton has donated \$ 1000 to Rotary International in Ram's name.

Ram, a tireless worker, has served various community organizations in different capacities as: President of Fox Valley India Association, treasurer of Toward Community, board member of Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center, and many more His involvement with the founding of and collaborative work with Rotary Clubs of Goa, India, are noteworthy.

As one of the founders of IndUS, Ram serves on the Board, besides being an enthusiastic fundraiser, a dedicated volunteer for Seva and SAMP, and doer of anything needs to be done! Congratulations on a richly deserved honor, Ram!

Dr. Mahendra Doshi, another founding member of IndUS was named TAPPI Fellow for his outstanding contributions in the area of paper recycling technology. Founded in 1915, TAPPI is the world's largest professional association serving the pulp, paper, and converting industries. Mahendra, who has more than 25 years of experience in research, training and consulting, is the Executive Editor of Progress in Paper Recycling. This award was in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the profession. Hearty congratulations to Mahendra who received the award on May 4, 2004, at TAPPI Conference in Atlanta.

Participation in the Namaste event

Namaste, an organization of families who have adopted children from India had a one-day camp at Best Western Hotel, Appleton on February 29, 2004. IndUS of Fox Valley and India Association NEW were invited to share the Indian culture and traditions with the children and parents.(continued on Page 3)

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय
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We are a

*Non-profit organization under
Section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS Code*



More News ...

Asia Awareness Month at UW Oshkosh

IndUS joined hands with Asian Students Association of University of Wisconsin Oshkosh to celebrate Asian Heritage Month during April 2004. Following ***The Kick Off Event*** held on March 31, 2004, IndUS presented was a dance recital based on the mythology of Krishna and Shakti, Ms. Meenakshi Ganesan and

of her disciples from Kalaanjali School of Dance, Madison entertained the audience with a range of classical and folk dances. On April 19, IndUS

screened a critically acclaimed movie, "Mr. & Mrs. Iyer" an award winner from Locarno film Festival. IndUS thanks Ms. Imelda Druke and Asian Students Association at UW Oshkosh and several IndUS volunteers, for making the celebration of Asia Awareness Month a huge success. (Report by B.S. Sridhar)

Art Educators From India!

IndUS, in collaboration with Professor Themina Kader, Department of Fine Arts, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, organized a series of workshops, and presentations on puppets and mask making by Purnima Sampat and Shital Mehta, two renowned art educators from Mumbai, India. During April 22-28, workshops and presentations were held at: Jefferson Elementary and South Park Middle School, Oshkosh; Paine Art Center, Oshkosh; Fox Cities Children Museum, Appleton; University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh and UW Fox Valley Center, Menasha. We thank Professor Kader and all the collaborating institutions for making it a unique learning experience. (Report by B.S. Sridhar)

Movie Night

On April 22, IndUS in collaboration with Towards Community and Appleton Public Library screened *Roots in the Sand*, a documentary on the somewhat neglected history of Indian pioneers in the U.S. The film (Dir. Jayashri Majumdar Hart) portrays the early 20th century life of Punjabi (Sikh) farmers in the Southern California Imperial Valley, and their struggles with restrictive covenants on race, property ownership, and marriage. A lively discussion ensued exploring, among other topics, issues that have historically concerned all immigrant groups, America's changing and evolving policy on immigration, and the bittersweet joys of assimilation and adaptation. (Report by Manjari Chatterji)

Diversity Fair at Neenah High School

IndUS members participated in the Diversity Fair held at Neenah High School on May 14, 2004. The students enjoyed a variety of foods, crafts, and entertainment. The fair seems to get bigger and better each year. Even the rain this year did not dampen the enthusiasm of thousands of students. A lively dance performance by Nikki Bhalla, Paayal Sridhar Joban Vaishnav, Ashish Shah, Deven Ravel and Harjinder Bedi was a great hit. Other performers included kite-flyers, Native Americans, Hmongs and Mexicans. Long lines were seen all day at the IndUS stall for getting Mehendi designs (aka "tattoos, bindis) and for viewing cultural artifacts. Ruth and Ishwar Mansukhani led a team of volunteers that included Rosemeen Jiwani, Susan Kulkarni, Naina Patel, Kavita Shet, Sandhya Sridhar and Ashi Tannan, making it a success. (Report by Sandhya Sridhar)

India Night at Harmony Café

On June 11, 2004 IndUS and India Association NEW participated in *India Night* at Harmony Café, Appleton. Harmony Café is a safe and peaceful place for young, old and in between, to celebrate diversity of people, ideas and activities. The focus was to introduce Indian culture to American people. There were about 80 audiences of all age groups. Kathak, a classical dance from north India was performed by a young guest artist Monica Singh from Minneapolis. Paayal Sridhar, Neha Tannan and Joban Vaishnav performed a dance, based on a Bollywood movie. (Continued on Page 4)

Naina Patel, Nila and Dinesh Vaishnav, Shrikant Shah, Dilip Tannan, and others presented folk dances such as Bhangra from Punjab and Dandia Raas from Gujarat, encouraging audience to participate. There was a short sitar recital by Shrikant Shah with Dilip Tannan on tabla.



India Night at Harmony Café (left) Kathak Dance by Monica Singh (below).

Michael Pinto sang several songs from different parts of India. A display of Indian clothing, art and craft, and jewelry, arranged by Ruth Mansukhani, generated great interest. During a Question & Answer session, Aditi Shet,



Sandhya Sridhar, and Badri Varma fielded questions from the audience. The audience had their taste buds tickled with *pakor*as (deep fried vegetable fritters) and *chatni* (sweet and sour sauce). Yet another highlight of the evening was the *Mehendi*. Naina Patel, Kavita Shet, among others, spent hours applying henna tattoos on eager and willing participants. This enjoyable event was organized jointly by a team of dedicated volunteers from IndUS and India Association NEW, led by Kamal Varma and Nila Vaishnav. (Report by Kamal Varma)

Midwest iChild Heritage Camp

Midwest iChild Heritage Camp was held July 16-18, 2004 at Green Lake, Wisconsin. The camp brought together families from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota who have adopted children from

India. Approximately, 50 children, ranging from 3–11 years of age and some 70 family members took part in the camp. IndUS and India Association NEW organized the Indian heritage component on Saturday, July 17, 2004. The morning session introduced the campers to Indian outdoor games such as *kabbadi*, *lagori*, *langdi* and of course, cricket! The afternoon session was devoted to presentations and hands on workshops devoted to *rangoli*, *mehendi*, cooking, basic Hindi and storytelling.



Cooking Demonstration at Midwest iChild Heritage Camp



A family with adopted children

Following a sumptuous Indian dinner, our volunteers got the children and parents to take to the dance floor, dancing Dandiya Raas and Bhangra. Hungama provided the music. Twenty-six of our volunteers were responsible for this very pleasant and rewarding collaboration that prompted Mrs. Beth Peterson, Founder – ICHILD, to write: “thank you for making our MWIHC Heritage Camp most memorable! We all enjoyed ourselves and the participation of INDUS made the difference in this year’s camp.” Thanks to all the volunteers from our two organizations! (Report by B. S. Sridhar)



Up Coming Events

IndUS Programs Ahead:

The Hungry Stones (by *Katha Dance Theatre of Minneapolis*)

Saturday, August 14, 2004

6:30 p.m.

Grand Opera House, Oshkosh

Written and composed by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, and choreographed and directed by Rita Mustaphi, *Hungry Stones* is a theatrical blend of Kathak dance and literature. Set in the realm of fantasy, the story paints an ecstatic portrait of passion where ancient stones come alive as witnesses to history. Saturated with rich hues it explores the obsession of two lovers trapped in worlds apart!

Hungry Stones was conceived by Tagore during a visit to Shai Bagh in Ahmedabad, where his brother Satyendranath Tagore was posted. The haunting tale evokes the bygone Moghul period, and is redolent of every trope and image associated with the opulence and romance of the *Arabian Nights*. Narrated as a story-within-a-story, *Katha* will undoubtedly make the most of its dramatic possibilities.

Ms. Rita Mustaphi, the award winning artistic director, choreographer and the lead dancer of *Katha* will be assisted by a multiethnic group of talented dancers.

For tickets call Grand Opera House Box Office (920.424.2350) or call

APPLETON: Naina Patel (725.0666), Kavita Shet (722.2001), Sandhya Sridhar (749.4911), Kamal Varma (731.0834).

GREEN BAY: Priya Damodar (497. 5025)

FOND Du LAC & OSHKOSH: Ritu Tannan (231.6764)

IndUS 2004

November 6, 2004 at Reeves Memorial Union, UW-Oshkosh. (*Please see Page 1*).

India Association NEW Events

Cricket Match: Saturday, August 14, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., Menominee Park, Oshkosh.

Annual Picnic: Saturday, August 21, 2004 at 2:00 PM, Doty Park, 701 Lincoln Street, Neenah.

For more information contact Nila Vaishnav (920.738.6875; sribaba@new.rr.com)

Other Community Events:

Foods of All Nations

(Theme: Diversity: The Spice of Life)

Co-hosted by Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center and Toward Community: Unity in Diversity

Saturday, September 18, 2004, 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Center 1 Plaza, Appleton (Behind Avenue Mall)

For tickets or to volunteer to assist, please contact Ram Shet (tfishet@new.rr.com and Co-chairs: David Tyrrell (954.1272) and Nancy Heykes (NNHeykes@msn.com)

Multicultural Concert

Presented by Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center
Monday, September 20, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Performing Arts Center, College Avenue, Appleton

It will feature Irish instrumental music and dance, and Japanese Taiko Drummers. It is a fundraiser to aid various programs run by the Multicultural Center for the community.

Tickets will be available at the PAC Box office as of August 6. You may also contact Nancy Heykes at (NNHeykes@msn.com) or Ram Shet (tfishet@new.rr.com)

Festival of India (Organized by Shama Inc.)

Saturday, October 9, 3:30 p.m.

Stevens Point Area High School, Stevens Point.

For more information contact Jyoti Chander (715.341.1538; jlchande@uwsp.edu)

Annual Membership Dues

(Per calendar year)

Please select your preferred category of membership and place an "X" in the appropriate box.

- Individual Member \$ 10.00
 - Family Member \$ 20.00
 - Benefactor \$ 100.00 to
 \$ 499.00
 - Patron \$ 500.00 or more
 - Any Donation \$
- Total \$

Please make your check payable to IndUS of Fox Valley and mail it to: IndUS, 3600 North Shawnee Avenue, Appleton, WI 54914.

Join the IndUS Team!

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
E-mail	
Would you like to volunteer?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! Please contact me! <input type="checkbox"/> No. Not now.

IndUS
of
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3600 N. Shawnee Avenue
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