



Indo-American Center

NEWS LETTER

SPRING 2009

6328 N. California

Chicago, IL 60659

Phone (773) 973-4444

Fax (773) 973-0157

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Generosity to IAC 2

Diwali Celebration 2

Holiday Party 3

Meet the Staff 4

Golden Diners Program Begins

Beginning the first week of February, the city of Chicago began its funding of the Golden Diners Program at the Center, providing senior citizens ages 60 and older with hot lunches. This funding covers only part of the costs of the program.

The menu includes traditional South Asian regional foods, the typical meal including lentil soup, rice, mixed vegetables, and flat bread. Coming from a specified menu, the meals span three months and have been approved by a City of Chicago dietician. Patel Brothers, a Devon Avenue grocer, supplies free or greatly discounted groceries in support of the program.

Cooking for the Program are sisters Javnika Parikh and Yamini Chokshi, who still work part-time at Uru Swati, a local Indian restaurant.

Gita Chawla, Seniors' Program coordinator, and Loknath Agarwal, Civics Program Coordinator, noticed the program's success in its first week of implementation. "On Monday, there were about 20 seniors who attended; by Thursday, there were 40," Chawla commented.

In comparison to the food that was formerly



Sisters Yamini and Javnika cooking for Golden Diners

served at the Center, the seniors are more content with the food from the Golden Diners Program. "That was restaurant food, this [the food from the Golden Diners Program] is a traditional, home-cooked meal; and it's warm," said Snehlata Shah, a senior who has been attending the Seniors' Program for five years.

Donations to the Program are most welcome and will help the Center serve many more seniors!

Thank you for your Support

Thank you for your support at the Indo-American Center's Banquet in October, 2008.

For those who attended, the cost of the meal provided was \$40.

This information will prove useful as it is that time of year when you are preparing tax returns.

Indo-American Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. FEIN: 36-3689665

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*Ned Gauri, President**Prem Balani, Vice-President**Sher M. Rajput, Treasurer**Ralph Nicholas, Secretary**Bapu P. Arekapudi**Rajeev Bahri**Basanti Banerji**Netta D'Souza**Ranjit Ganguly**Ashref Hashim**Ann Lata Kalayil**Shalini Gupta Lulla**Rohit Maniar**Peter Noronha**Mafat Patel**Rajendran Raja**Shobhana Sanghvi**Lisa Thakkar***STAFF***Loknath Agarwal**Syed Ahmed**Ritwik Banerji**Susan Chaudhri**Gita Chawla**Yamini Chokshi**Sunitha Doma**Naureen Fidai**Marisol Finch**Kemal Huric**Madhulika Kapur**Lakshmi Lakshmanan**Govindbhai Limbachia**Jay Luthra**Shaila Mehta**Javnika Parikh**Bhartiben Patel**Raj Prakash**Chirag Shah**Hetal Shah**Dinesh Tamasi**Terri Thompson**Taina Torres**Rekha Wadhwa**Humaira Zafar*

IAC sees Continued Generosity

Through the economic recession that is affecting all of us, Indo-American Center is still seeing the generosity of our patrons. As one example among many, Dr. Gerard Aranha, a consistent contributor to the Indo-American Center, continues to donate regularly every month to the Center.

Personally feeling the effects of these hard times, the Indo-American Center sincerely appreciates Dr. Aranha's

continued donations, and we encourage you to continue as well. The Center's services are needed more than ever during this recession, and any contribution would go far.

We hope that you will conclude that the Center is deserving of your contributions. Please take a moment to use the enclosed envelope to make your donation. Thank you very much for your continued support!

Center goes Green on Diwali

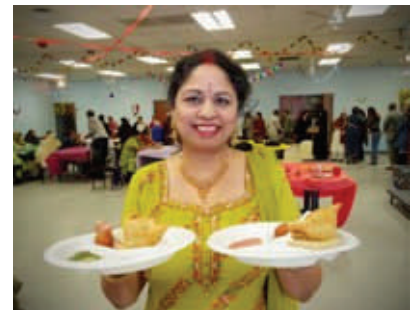


Diwali Celebration at Indo-American Center

In October 2008, the Indo-American Center celebrated Diwali. Over 50 community members came to enjoy the festivities put on by the Center.

Brightly colored table cloths, streamers, and lights decorated the center's main hall, and attendees came dressed in formal garb.

This year, the Center partnered with Commonwealth Edison and received strings of energy efficient lights in order to celebrate Diwali. While using these lights, the Center used up to 90% less energy. ComEd Energy Doctor was on hand to discuss energy efficiency tips, and explain the benefits of using LED holiday lights. Go Green and save some green!



Gita Chawla, Seniors' Coordinator, Celebrating

Annual IAC Holiday Party Celebrates Peace

On December 19th, the Indo-American Center hosted its 6th Annual Holiday Party. A community event whose goal is to help families in the community partake in celebrating the holiday season, the IAC provides presents and a hot meal. Nearly 200 guests were in attendance, many of which are active participants in the Center's regular programs.

With the generous support of the WGN Neediest Kids Fund, the Center was able to provide gift packages for 150 children and their families. These gift packages included

gift certificates to Patel Brothers, a local grocer-cum-institution that was generous enough to subsidize this gift. The Ekya Foundation donated toys that were raffled off at the event, to the great delight of kids.

Due to the generous assistance of Indian Garden Restaurant and Jai Hind Foods, a warm holiday meal was provided to guests. Volunteers from Loyola University and Mather High School played a vital role in the event as they worked with staff to prepare for and host the occasion.

“Peace in the East, peace in the West, peace for you, peace for me” - IAC Youth Program Participant.

Artwork of Peace displayed at Holiday Party



Youth face Painting at Holiday Party



Opening Presents from Santa



NEWS LETTER
SPRING 2009

INDO-AMERICAN CENTER

6328 N. CALIFORNIA AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60659
PHN: (773) 973-4444
FAX: (773) 973-0157

www.indoamerican.org

SERVING SOUTH ASIAN
IMMIGRANTS IN CHICAGO
SINCE 1990.

Meet the Staff

The Indo-American Center is pleased to welcome Marisol Finch as the new Development Assistant. Marisol joined the IAC originally to coordinate our special events after completing her studies at the University of Illinois.

Her hobbies include reading, trying as many good restaurants as she can, and spending time with family and friends.

Marisol would like to see the IAC's development program expand and develop in order for the IAC to be a self-sustaining organization.

Questions about your donations? Please contact Marisol at: mfinch@indoamerican.org



THE MISSION OF THE INDO-AMERICAN CENTER IS TO PROMOTE THE WELL BEING OF SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANTS THROUGH SERVICES THAT FACILITATE THEIR ADJUSTMENT, INTEGRATION AND FRIENDSHIP WITH WIDER SOCIETY, NURTURE THEIR SENSE OF COMMUNITY, AND FOSTER APPRECIATION FOR THEIR HERITAGE AND CULTURE.

Indo-American Center
6328 N. California Avenue
Chicago, IL 60659
PHN: (773) 973-4444
FAX: (773) 973-0157
www.indoamerican.org