

şamachar

JAN - MAR 2015

Official Newsletter of the India Association of Memphis

MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We can't believe it's already May! The first quarter of the year went by in a flash. With a few events already conducted successfully including Republic Day and Holi, we do have several more on tap for the coming months that will provide ample opportunities for all members to participate and especially provide our kids a window to plethora of Indian cultures, and learn about our rich heritage.

At times, every organization encounters challenges, issues and difficulties including succession issues. And ours too endured this recently. We are disappointed and saddened by the email sent by the Executive Committee 2015 regarding their resignation that cast doubt upon the commitment to the mission of IAM. We apologize for this email that was sent to the community without our prior knowledge or review.

Board of Trustees has voted with regret to accept the resignation of all the elected members - Pinaky Chakravarty (President), Dr. Ritin Bomb (Vice President), Anurag Pagoria (Secretary) and Ramki Padmanabhan (Treasurer).

It is important for you to know that as a non-profit community organization, IAM is still active and functional. And we, as board members, strive hard to connect the community with our organization's mission, vision and values and continue to encourage our members to share their views, ideas and suggestions towards building a stronger and better community. We request your understanding and patience as we make efforts of moving the organization forward. It is heartwarming to see the support we have received from so many and sincerely hope we will be worthy of the confidence you have bestowed upon us. At times, it is tough as we may have less resources but yet our spirits are high.

To keep the momentum of IAM going forward, an Executive Committee has been formed to carry out the activities and we are glad to let you know that we are slowly but progressively starting to build a great team. Leena Wagle, Simanti Chatterjee and Maya Nair have agreed to continue their duties from last year. Ramkumar Ashokkumar and Sandeep Manocha have also joined the team as Marketing Director and IT Director respectively. Youth Committee, led by Vidya Venkatesh, has also been formed in an effort to nurture and build the leaders of tomorrow and to provide our kids a chance to develop community spirit, complete volunteer work for their college application while also having some fun.

Now, as we embark on the upcoming activities for the year 2015, we look forward to your continued support and active participation...now, more than ever, your support matters! Let's come together and contribute to the prosperous existence of our India Association.

Thank you, Board of Trustees

"Coming together is a Beginning; keeping together is Progress; working together is Success!" - Henry Ford

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Board of Trustees:

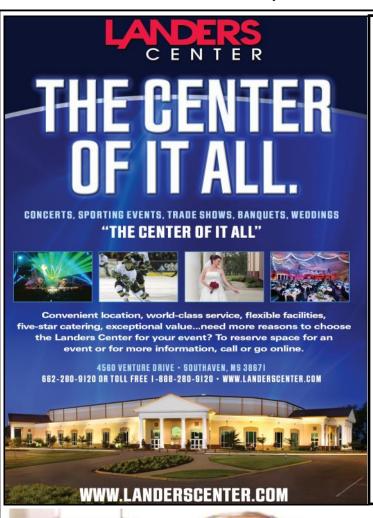
- Anil Menothuparambil *
- Manjit Kaur
- Vishal Chheda

Executive Committee:

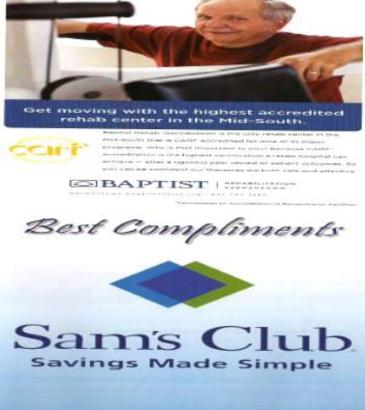
- President: Manjit Kaur
- Vice President: Leena Wagle
- Secretary: Simanti Chatterjee
- Chief Editor: Maya Nair
- Marketing Director: Ramkumar Ashokkumar
- Youth Director: Vidya Venkatesh
- IT Director: Sandeep Manocha
- IT Advisor: Sridhar Sunkara

Upcoming Events:

- Self Defense Workshop May 9th
- Youth Financial Workshop TBD
- Independence Day Celebration -Aug 15th
- India Night Sep TBD
- India Fest Nov 7th







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MEET OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The year 2015 marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for IAM and with this we say good-bye to trustees who have served their community well and welcome new board members who were elected at the GBM in Jan 2015.

We are delighted to welcome three new representatives on our board of trustees:

Anil Menothuparambil, Manjit Kaur, & Vishal Chheda.

Congratulations and all the best to them in their new roles! Meet the people who guide and represent the best interest of our community:

TRUSTEE / CHAIRPERSON: ANIL MENOTHUPARAMBIL

Anil Menothuparambil has been in Memphis since the last 15 years. He originally hails from Thrissur, Kerala and is married to Hemalatha. They have two cute kids Naidhrua and Srihavish. Anil has been actively involved with various non-profit organization as a volunteer or board member. He has previously served IAM as treasurer in 2012 and 2014 and has also provided his time and effort with managing IndiaFest finance. He is the chairperson of the board of trustees for 2015.



TRUSTEE: MANJIT KAUR

Dr. Manjit Kaur, her husband Dr. Sridhar Shankar and their kids Nikita & Rohan moved to Germantown 5 years ago from Boston. Manjit is a former Research Scientist DFCI, Harvard Med-School, and currently contributes part time at Methodist Healthcare. She also serves on Germantown Public Safety Commission. She served as President IAM -2014, Vice President IAM-2013, President MS Punjabi Heritage Foundation 2012-13. She has worked as a radio announcer, a theater artist, and hosted several cultural programs. Manjit holds a first degree black belt in Shotokan Martial Arts and enjoys painting, gardening, wood-working, cooking demos and maintains a blog-Zaikabharat.blogspot.com.

TRUSTEE: VISHAL CHHEDA

Vishal Chheda, originally from Bombay (Bandra), did his Engineering from Bombay University in Electronics & Telecommunications and been working in US since 2000. He moved to Memphis in 2002 from Orlando and since then is working for FedEx as Business Advisor. He is married to Premlata, lives in Germantown and has a 10 yr old daughter Anjali studying in Dogwood Elementary. He is passionate about sports and is the current President of Arkansas-Tennessee Cricket League (ATCL - a Non-Profit League) and also a member of Memphis Cricket Club. He has served IAM as Sports Director in 2014 and is the founder of Memphis Premier League (MPL).









TRUSTEE RESIGNATION

Nataraja Krishnaraju, trustee since Jan 2014, has resigned from the board in Feb 2015.

Arjun Sardar, trustee since Feb 2015, has resigned from the board in April 2015.

Editorial - 2015 comes with a buzz!

I never really thought about continuing as editor this year. But since our last newsletter in December, some significant changes have happened that diverts all of our minds on the challenges that IAM seeks to address. The beginning months in 2015 turned out to be different for IAM than we all had imagined to be. What to do and where to go from here? These questions - and no doubt countless more - have been on our minds for some time now. These are extraordinary times for IAM. Perhaps some of us are looking towards future of this organization with trepidation and others with mixed feelings. Who can blame that?

With the current circumstances, it just felt right to me to pitch in and continue as Chief Editor, even though it was not in my plans for the year. I truly believe that every action and decision is already made by the almighty and we wouldn't always necessarily know "how?...and why?". Every day may bring some newer unfolding opportunities and challenges. Overcoming them and fulfilling commitments enriches our life's journey. Some choices that we make may have enough imperfections to make them a combination of good and not so good. All we can do is take it one day at a time and rejoice the simple joys.

Going back to its beginning years, this publication called 'Samachar' was started to fill a news void and with the ultimate goal of letting our Indian community stay connected. Now, since the birth of this newsletter, it has moved from the old-fashioned print to the modern age of web publishing! We are glad to introduce the first online version of our newsletter.

In this issue, you will read an overview about developments that happened at IAM in the past months. In case you missed attending, you can read a recap to those events. We introduce you to the new team that is working hard to get things on track. We also welcome our new Youth Committee, comprised of 21 high school students from across Memphis, who are excited to be on board with IAM and are energized to help make events happen.

To make it more interesting, informative and entertaining, I welcome your articles and input. Tell me about something you would want to see in Sa-

- Maya Nair



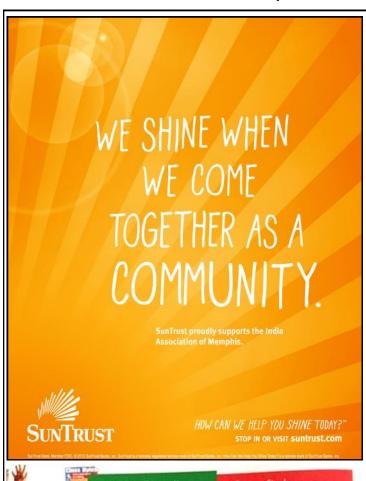
machar, whether it be news or achievement or happenings. If you happen to attend any events of interest, please send your notes and experience from those events. It need not be something new that you write specially for this newsletter. It can be anything that you have written in the past. This is your platform to share and engage!

As you might know, an Executive committee has been formed, but we still have a long way to go. IAM has always strived to promote the cultural aspect of India but at the same time it also has a higher goal of promoting the brand "Indians" to the other international communities, local communities and businesses. To achieve this, we need to come together and work in unison. We have very active regional organizations....and we also have some of the best businessmen, doctors, engineers, teachers and scientists and if everyone comes together to join hands, we can create a stronger community. Certainly more can be done if we get together as Indians.

Through past years, we have seen that the enthusiasm of volunteers is what keeps IAM going forward. It is the willingness of people to come forward to help that makes events happen. We still have the position for Sports Director and Creative Director open. With India Fest coming up, we have requirements in Marketing, Operations, Sales & Finance, Business Development, Creativity and Décor tracks. The emphasis is not to overburden anyone but make work lighter with more hands. Please take a glance and see if any of these areas interests you. We are in need of more helping hands.

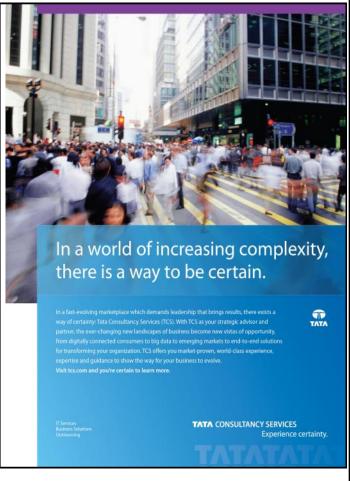
On an ending note, now that the sweetest of seasons has arrived to town...have you noticed the green grass and trees bursting with blooms? Apparently, spring that was held captive by old man winter has managed to escape. It is said that spring erases all traces of winter blahs thereby rejuvenating the spirit. With that same spirit, let us join hands and make a positive difference respecting the spirit of the institution.

May your spirits soar high...Have a happy and blessed spring!









2015 Republic Day Celebrations

Indian Republic Day is a day worth commemorating. It is the day on which India not only became an independent republic, but the world's largest democracy. This year, Barack Obama, visited India as Chief Guest for celebrating 66th Republic day and witnessed a dazzling parade of India's cultural diversity. But we at IAM also did not miss out on celebrating our version of the Indian Republic Day. This was an opportunity to pay respect to our homeland, and to re-discover it for the younger ones. We gathered at the Cordova Community Center to celebrate Republic Day on Feb 7th 2015. Considering that this event was organized within a very short span of time, we applaud the support shown.

A short and simple program line up included local talented singers rendering the US and Indian national anthems. Audience hushed to listen to the patriotic songs starting from Humko Man Ki Shakti Dena, Nanna Munna Raahi and Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon. The event was emceed by Pushpa Sunder and a couple of dances followed the talk by Guest Speaker Madan Birla. The smell of Indian food wafted the hall as the celebration wrapped up with Chai, Samosas and Gulab Jamuns making their way into hungry tummies.

Thanks to India Palace for sponsoring snacks for the event. We also extend heartfelt thanks to all IAM team members, host of the show, coordinators, invited speaker, sponsors, and to entire community for their support. Let's continue to keep our cultural identity strong and united. Jai Hind!!



Meet the 2015 Executive Committee

Board of Trustees has appointed an Executive committee to organize and orchestrate the activities of IAM. **Manjit Kaur** will assume the role of acting President in addition to performing her role as Trustee.



LEENA WAGLE - VICE PRESIDENT

Mumbai-girl, Leena Wagle, moved to Memphis after her graduate studies in 2005. Leena has a passion for dance, music and performing arts. She has volunteered at several IAM events since 2005 and also has performed at several diversity events like the River arts festival, Mid-South fair and the Pink Palace museum. When not rehearsing for the next performance, she designs and implements software of FedEx Services. A very passionate Indian at heart, she loves watching movies, reading and going for long drives.

SIMANTI CHATTERJEE - SECRETARY

Simanti has called Memphis home since 2009. Dance is her "shortcut to happiness". She started learning Indian Classical Dance at the age of 3, and over the last 20 years she is trained in Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Thangta Martial Arts and Shiamak Davar's Bollywood Style. Simanti loves teaching dance to her kiddie students and is a voracious reader, blogger & movie-buff. She works for Syntel Inc. as a Project Manager. She was the Cultural Director of IAM 2013, Secretary in 2014 and seeks to contribute to the community in every little creative way.



MAYA NAIR - CHIEF EDITOR

Maya has been involved in IAM events since she moved from Mumbai almost 11 years ago. She is not new to the cultural circuit as she has been choreographing Bollywood dances for quite a while now. Juggling time between the role of a busy mom of two cupcake eating kids, and working full time at CTSI Global, Maya still finds time to devote to dancing as her hobby. She has served IAM as Chief editor in 2014 and also served in Cultural Track for IndiaFest 2014. She can also be found volunteering at other charitable non profit orgs.

RAMKUMAR ASHOKKUMAR - MARKETING DIRECTOR

Raam is an open and broad minded, fun loving, and ambitious person who loves to explore new things, seeking new challenges and tries to get best of everything in life. He loves traveling, hiking, ballroom dancing, working out, photography, cooking, etc. Raam works for St. Jude as Program Manager and has been in Memphis for 3.5 years now. He has been in USA for 10 years and did his MS in Management & Computer Engineering (Dual) from Portland State, Oregon.





SREE VIDYA VENKATESH - YOUTH DIRECTOR

Sree Vidya Venkatesh has been involved with IAM and IndiaFest since moving to Memphis. She has previously served IAM as Secretary in 2012 and currently as Youth Director. Sree Vidya also served as Youth Corner Lead for IndiaFest in 2011. She lives in Collierville and works for United Health Group.

SANDEEP MANOCHA - IT DIRECTOR

Sandeep Manocha, originally from Punjab, completed his Masters from Chandigarh's Regional Center Muktsar, Punjab. He came to US in July 2010 and moved to Memphis in March 2012. After working 4.5+ years with HCL, in 2012 he moved to Veraction in Memphis and currently he is working with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as ETL Developer. He is always excited about the new tools and technologies. He really loves to play Cricket. He is quite excited to work with IAM as IT Director and very happy to serve the community with his efforts.

Meet the 2015 Executive Committee

Continued...



IT ADVISOR: SRIDHAR SUNKARA

Sridhar loves technology strategy and innovation. With 16 plus yrs of experience under his belt, he assists businesses in creating a technology road map. Sridhar's love for innovation does not stop there: he co-founded Launch Memphis and is a Mentor for Seed Hatchery. He also co-founded eBiz Solutions, is the Board Chair for Clean Memphis, a board member for Healthy Memphis Common Table, Start Co., and Sales & Marketing Society of Mid-South. He is also a Mentor at NEXUS (a mentor/protégé driven leadership program). He previously served on the board of NEXUS and MPACT Memphis. Sridhar is constantly working on ways to better the community.



2015 IAM Event Calendar

Event	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	Location
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Republic Day Celebrations	Feb 7	2:30-5:30 pm	Cordova Community Center
Holi Celebrations	Apr 4	1:00- 4:00 pm	ICCT
Self-Defence Workshop	May 9	2:30- 3:30 pm	Karate 612 Poplar Av
Independence Day Celebrations - by Youth committee	Aug 15	TBD	TBD
Youth Financial and Leadership Workshop	TBD		
Youth Picnic	TBD		
India Night (India Unlimited)	Sep	TBD	White Station Auditorium
Sports Events / MPL	Sep-Oct	TBD	Bartlett & Hickory Hill
India Fest	Nov 7	10:00- 7:00 pm	Agricenter
General Body Meeting	Dec TBD	1:00 - 4:00 pm	Cordova Community Center
-550+235- -550+235-			

We will duly communicate detailed information regarding every event on IAM website, Facebook page and will also be emailed to all a few weeks before the actual date of the event .

Become an IAM Member Today!

When you become a member, you support all events and activities that IAM organizes and at the same time gain a better perspective of our community as an individual or as a family, and simultaneously help the community to remain connected and united. IAM provides many opportunities for social, networking, community and cultural development, express their talents and expose them to Indian culture. You can become a member at http://iamemphis.org

There are numerous round the year events for Indian community to stay in touch with the Indian Culture:

- INDIA REPUBLIC DAY
- HOLI
- INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY
- INDIA NIGHT/ DIWALI SPECIAL
- INDIA FEST
- SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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India Association of Memphis

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Community Organization - 341 like this

Kitchen Couture

KALE FRITTERS

KALE FRITTERS - A SUPER TEMPTING APPETIZER !!!

Kale fritters is a wonderful snack and a great party appetizer. If you love kale, this is a must try recipe and I am sure you will keep doing this munchies often. It is wonderful party appetizer and I guarantee the crispiness will last for few hours. You can do this snack ahead of time for parties and I am pretty sure it will be a crowd pleaser dish. You can use the same batter and substitute kale with Spinach, baby corn, paneer, par boiled potato and cauliflower. If you use a vegetable that has more water content the crispiness will not last for long hours, but for kale it stays absolutely crispy. Taste wise everything rocks.... Do try it out:)

Ingredients:

Kale - 1 medium sized bunch
Chickpea flour (Garbanzo flour) - 3/4 cup
Rice flour - 1/2 cup
Corn flour - 1/2 cup
Garlic - 4 pods (medium sized)
Ginger - 1/2 inch piece
Baking soda - 1 generous pinch
Lime Juice - 1 tbsp
Red chilli powder - 1 tbsp
Salt - as needed
Oil for deep frying

Powder:

Saunf - 1 tsp Cinnamon - 1/2 inch Piece Cloves - 2

Powder the above ingredients using coffee grinder. If you don't have these ingredients just substitute them with $1\ 1/2$ tsp of garam masala. But fresh spices give wonderful flavor:)

Method:

- 1. Combine all the ingredients chickpea flour, rice flour, powdered spices, ginger garlic paste and red chilli powder in a large bowl.
- 2. Add a pinch of baking soda and squeeze fresh lime juice.
- 3. Add water to make the batter smooth.
- 4. Now add salt and mix well. The batter should not be too thick or too thin, it means if you dip a kale it has to stick to the greens but it should not be too lumpy. The right consistency makes the fritter super crispy.
- 5. Work carefully in batches to dip each kale in the batter and drop immediately to the hot oil.
- 6. How to check the oil temperature ??? Put a small piece of kale or little batter to hot oil(180 c) if it sizzles and rises to the top then it means your oil is ready.
- 7. Fry the kale on both the sides until they are nice golden brown in color. Another trick is when the bubbles that sizzles will get reduced it means the fritters are ready to take it out from the oil.
- 8. Now drain them in the paper towel.
- 9. Sprinkle with some chaat masala (optional) and serve hot with mint chutney, tomato ketchup or yogurt dips.

ENJOY HOT AND CRISPY KALE FRITTERS WITH YOUR FAVORITE CONDIMENT !!!

Recipe contributed by Pavithra from <u>www.dishesfrommykitchen.com</u>

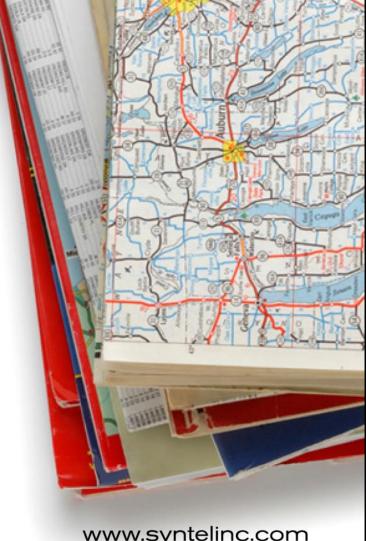


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Leaders of Tomorrow - 2015 IAM Youth Committee

This year, the Youth Committee is comprised of 21 high school students from across Memphis. IAM has been lucky to find a great group of youth, filled with passion and energy. The goal of the Youth Committee is to offer leadership and training opportunities to our youth who in turn will work together to implement a series of activities. Introducing our Youth Committee members:



PRESIDENT: SWATHI PRASAD

Swathi will be a senior at Houston High School and takes AP and honors classes. She is active in several volunteer based clubs (National Honor Society, Beta, Honors Academy, Environmental Club, etc.) She has been working with the IAM Youth Committee for about 2 years but has always participated and volunteered at India Fest. Her older sister was also IAM youth committee President during her senior year. She has a job at Baskin Robbins. Swathi is a people person and tries her best to be patient. She tends to be organized and has a great work ethic.

VICE PRESIDENT: KAVYA JAWABNAVIS

Kavya Jawabnavis is a rising junior at White Station High School. She loves being involved in school activities and enjoys participating in various clubs such as Model United Nations and Multicultural Club. Kavya is the current Vice President of Activities in her school's Executive Board and the previous Freshman Vice President and Sophomore Class Commissioner. Being born and living in Memphis her whole life, IAM has been an integral part of her cultural upbringing and she hopes as Vice President of the Youth Committee she can help to create the same environment she grew up in.



SECRETARY: VISHVESH RAVVA

Vishvesh Ravva is a sophomore at White Station High School. He has volunteered in various IAM events and for organizations like AAICT. He enjoys Indiafest and admires the amount of work that goes into it, from peers and adults alike. Vishvesh enjoys meeting and working with people. Some of his interest includes tennis, reading, public speaking and debate.

TREASURER: ANJALI SINDHUVALLI

Anjali Sindhuvalli is a rising junior at Houston High School, and has enjoyed participating in various IAM events, from volunteering at India Fest to performing classical dances. She is highly involved leader in her school and community, and is proud to be a member of numerous honors and volunteer organizations, including the National Key Club and the HHS Honors Academy. A few of Anjali's hobbies are learning Kuchipudi and Bollywood dance, playing the violin, hiking, and traveling. She hopes to use her abilities to create greater appreciation for Indian culture and traditions throughout Memphis.





EDITOR: SNEHA MITTAL

Sneha Mittal is currently a junior at Collierville High School. Sneha has been a member of IAM since she was four years old and has participated in Indian dance events since she was six years old. She is the president of her school's UNICEF Club and the Science and Technology Editor of her school's newspaper. Sneha participates in her school's Science Olympiad, Knowledge Bowl, Model United Nations, and Wordsmith teams and volunteers at Page Robbins and with her school's Key Club. Sneha aspires to become a doctor one day and help change the lives of many individuals.

Leaders of Tomorrow - 2015 Youth Committee

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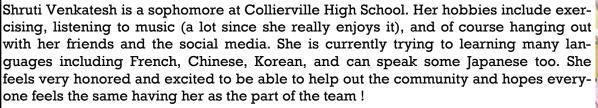
SPORTS TRACK



YASWANTH VASILI - DIRECTOR

Yaswanth Vasili is a rising junior who attends Houston High. He is born and raised in Memphis all along. Yaswanth enjoys playing a variety of sports such as basketball, football, soccer, and tennis. He has joined IAM to share his interests and learn more about the community.

SHRUTI VENKATESH





ANISHA DASH

Anisha Dash is a sophomore at White Station High. She likes to play tennis and volley-ball. She participates in the Make-A-Wish Club, Model UN, Mock Trial, Science Olympiad, and various other clubs at her school. She is new to the committee this year and looks forward to working with everyone and mark 2015 as a year of success for the IAM Youth Committee.

CULTURAL TRACK

TANYA TANDON - DIRECTOR

Tanya Tandon, a rising junior at White Station High School, is a travel enthusiast who appreciates and promotes diversity. She is an advocate for the Indian culture and has started an Indian Club at her school to teach others about her culture. She is part of the Multicultural Club, Bridge Builders, and her school's newspaper staff. She dances Kathak & Bollywood. Her passion for solving social issues and promoting social justice has led her to become an active delegate in Model United Nations and a regular volunteer at the Humane Society. Her passion has led her to start her own blog to discuss social is-



sues. She dreams to become a photojournalist and work in the UN, as well as to travel to every single country.

ADHYA ANNAPUREDDY



Adhya Annapureddy is 15 years old and in 10th grade at Collierville High School. She is also the TAM Youth Secretary. She loves to dance and has been learning classical dance, Bharatanatyam, for the past 8 years. She is also on the Collierville Tennis Team and the Collierville Dragon Band. She feels excited to be a part of IAM Youth and is looking forward to a great year.

SANJANA KOSURI

Sanjana is an upcoming sophomore at White Station High School. She participates in many extracurricular activities including Model UN, Student Council, and Science Olympiad. She is learning Indian classical dance, Kuchipudi, and also performs at many events. Sanjana also enjoys playing volleyball and running during her free time. After living in Kentucky and Nebraska for a few years, she moved to Memphis in 2007. She is very glad to be able to help contribute to the IAM community.



Leaders of Tomorrow - 2015 Youth-Committee

continued

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TRACK

SHASHVATH PATRA - DIRECTOR

Shashwat Patra is currently a junior at White Station High School. Shashwat is a black belt in Taekwondo and an entrepreneur-in-training with DECA. His interest in math, physics, and economics fuels his dream of becoming a successful engineer and businessman. He is a Bridge Builder and is active in his community by tutoring refugees through the Refugee Empowerment Program (REP). Because of his experiences with REP, Shashwat wishes to become more active in global affairs and politics to make a better world for the kids that he tutors.



SARTHAK BANSAL



Sarthak Bansal is a sophomore at White Station High School. He is an archer, plays guitar and chess, loves to read. He dreams of going to a good college and becoming a mechanical engineer so that he can work on cars, which he would love to do. He volunteers at the Memphis Zoo because it is very fun to help around animals and helping is something he likes to do.

REEVA KEDIA

Reeva Kedia is a student at White Station High . She likes art, reading, and taekwondo. She is also a second degree black belt and instructor in taekwondo. Reeva enjoys working with kids. She is excited to part of the Youth Committee this year and looks forward to working with people as a part of IAM.!

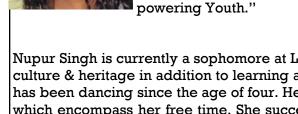
CREATIVITY & DECOR TRACK



HANNAH JOHNS - DIRECTOR

Hannah Johns, a sophomore at Houston High School, enjoys anything related to sports, including playing volleyball for Houston High and cheering on her Memphis Grizzlies. Her interest in math as well as medicine prompts her interest in becoming a biomedical engineer. Her passion for volunteering and community service has led her to join organizations such as Key Club International and Bridge Builders. Her enthusiasm for giving back to the city of Memphis allows her to be an active member in her community by tutoring kids at Boys and Girls Club of Memphis through the program "Youth Em-

NUPUR SINGH



Nupur Singh is currently a sophomore at Lausanne Collegiate School. She loves Indian culture & heritage in addition to learning and experiencing new things every day. She has been dancing since the age of four. Her favorite hobbies include tennis and violin, which encompass her free time. She succeeds in Public Forum Debate, Model United Nations, Science Bowl, Math Club, HOSA, and enjoys volunteering at local hospitals. She dreams to be an accomplished, well-educated doctor with a good heart. She is extremely grateful to have her parents and sister helping her along the way.



SHARON THOMAS



Sharon Thomas is a sophomore at White Station High School. She likes to read, do puzzles, learn new crafts, and help people. She is excited for the coming year and hopes to be involved in the many activities offered by IAM.

Leaders of Tomorrow - 2015 Youth-Committee

continued

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS TRACK

NITHYA VEMULA - DIRECTOR

Nithya Vemula is a rising senior at White Station High School. She believes that her years in high school has helped her find her niche, which is getting involved with leadership activities and community service. At school, she is currently the President of Executive Board in addition to the countless other activities. She is also involved in Model United Nations Club and Science Olympiad. In addition, she enjoys being immersed in cultural events. As a result, she is excited to be a part of this year's IAM youth committee and cannot wait to see what this year has to offer.

BETSY IOHN

Betsy John is in 10th grade at Collierville High School. She is on the speech and debate team at her school. She enjoys singing and playing instruments, and she is very involved in the Indian community. She is in numerous clubs at her school, and she enjoys volunteering and giving back to her town. She loves to interact with others and help people voice their opinion. Betsy is very excited to be on the IAM Youth Committee this year and hopes to gain a number of skills, including leadership and better communication.



SHRUTHIVANI VELRAJAN



Shruthi Velrajan is a sophomore at White station high school. She was born in India but has been brought up in Memphis. In school, she is the treasurer of the Multi cultural club and is actively involved in the Model United Nations club. In Model UN, she won some awards this year. As a rising junior she ran for the "Junior Commissioner" role on White Station's Executive board and this job holds a lot of responsibilities for her grade. She feels being on YC has given her an opportunity to use her skills to help the community.

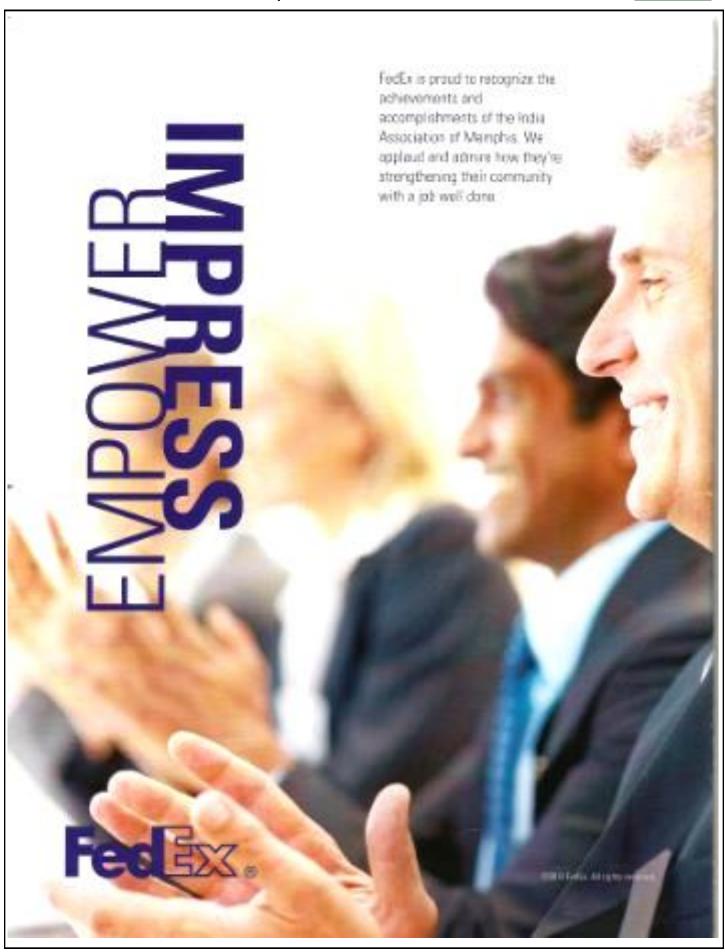
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRACK

NILAI VEMULA

Nilai Vemula is an incoming 10th grader at White Station High School. Ever since he was little, Nilai has been deeply passionate about IT. In fact, he built his own computer at the age of nine. As the IT director, he hopes to further the mission of the IAM. In addition to being in the IAM Youth Committee, he is actively involved in Math Team, Science Olympiad, Robotics, and Quiz Bowl. By serving on the Youth Committee, Nilai is determined to increase the levels of community and cultural involvement, and he looks forward to working with everyone.









The success of IAM and its many events is made possible with the help of the many volunteers who donate their time. Every year presents new and exciting challenges as we set out to organize and promote our events. Volunteering with IAM is a great way to meet new people and contribute to your community.

Come join us, show us your support and be a part of something that brings us together.

Please email <u>iam.committee@gmail.com</u> or any of the IAM Committee Members (contact details on the website) and we will call you to discuss where would you like to contribute. Visit us at <u>www.iamemphis.org</u> and keep yourself updated through our <u>facebook page</u>.



Indian Food Word Search

Find the names the tasty dishes hidden below.



Holi Celebrations - Thanks for being there !!

In USA, many welcome spring with colorful dresses and fresh flowers, but IAM welcomed spring by celebrating Holi, the festival of colors. On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, April 4th, the ICCT temple grounds saw lot more colors than the green lawn and revelers had a fabulous time celebrating the bright cheery colors of Holi.

This festival marks the departure of winter and the beginning of the new season. Sometimes we tend to overlook the significance of the season of spring. This is the season when fresh flowers bloom and the earth seems to come to life again. Similarly, everyone's life needs some color and it is said that Holi is a reminder to color it with love, faith, and a generous spirit. The festival symbolizes the victory of good over evil and is a day to play and laugh...a day to forget all worries and past feuds and douse anyone that come across with color. Everyone, adults and kids alike, shared in the fun of tossing colors on anyone around them and transforming them into a walking human rainbow. Every face had varied hues of red, yellow, pink and green and were barely recognizable but still were seen clicking selfies.



Did you know another story behind Holi? The word Holi is derived from Holika, the sister of the demon king Hiranyakashyapu. Holika tried to kill her nephew Prahalad in a bonfire; instead, the flames consumed the evil Holika and left the virtuous Prahalad untouched. The bonfires lit on the day across India symbolizes the destruction of all that is negative and the growth of all that is positive. The dead wood and leaves of winter serve as fuel for warmth and light, the universal symbol of positivity.

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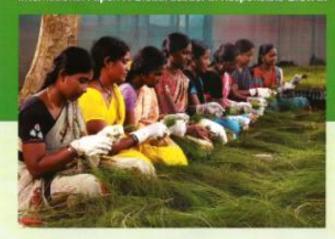
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